

Branch Diary

Forthcoming Events

29 Oct Kent Pub of the Year Presentation
The Mogul, 1pm onwards

Branch Meetings

(All start at 8pm):

18 Sept *Crispin Inn*, Sandwich
16 Oct *Admiral Penn*, Deal
20 Nov *Royal Oak*, River
11 Dec *The Mogul*, Dover

The branch *normally* meets on the third Monday of each month. Please consult 'What's Brewing' to confirm venues if travelling.

Pub Events

5-7 Oct Sandgate Ale Festival
Chichester Hall,
Sandgate

21-22 Oct Clyffe Inn Beer Festival
Clyffe Inn, St Margarets

27-29 Oct The Mogul Beer Festival
The Mogul, Dover

Items for the Pub Events section will be accepted from Pubs/Clubs that adhere to the spirit of the Campaign. Please check directly with the venue before travelling or visiting.

CAMRA / *Channel Draught* will not accept liability for any errors or omissions.

Channel Draught is Published and © 2000 by the Deal Dover Sandwich & District Branch of the Campaign for Real Ale. The Branch supports the campaign to retain Real Ale in pubs in White Cliffs Country.

Please drink sensibly!



Printed at Adams The Printers, Dour Street, Dover



Channel Draught



The Newsletter of the Deal Dover Sandwich &
District branch of the Campaign for Real Ale

Issue 5 Autumn 2000

The Admiral Penn Free House

This tastefully Dutch Style decorated Pub
Can be found on the Seafront of Deal

While enjoying your Traditional Real English Ales
Bombardier, Bass and London Pride

There are also
Heineken, Amstel and Grolsch Lagers

Specials are Dutch Kopstoot and Jagermeister cold from
the fridge

Open Monday - Saturday 6 PM - 11 PM

Closed on Sunday (Gone to the Pub)

YOUR HOSTS
ART, LINDA & NATALIE OUWERSLOOT

PHONE: 00 44 (01304) 374279

FAX: 00 44 (01304) 381460

E-MAIL ADDRESS

ADMIRALPENN@VIRGIN.NET

79 BEACH STREET

DEAL

KENT CT14 6JA

UNITED KINGDOM

Good Beer Guide 2001
On Sale Now

Good Beer Guide 2001
On Sale Now

Branch Contacts

If you have any queries about CAMRA in White Cliffs Country then please contact **Martin Atkins** (Branch Chairman) on (01304) 872484 or 201870 or **Dave Routh** (Area Organiser – East Kent) on (01304) 201743

Editorial Team: Paul Turvey, Dave Routh & Martin Atkins
Editorial Address: 33 East Street, Dover CT17 0DS
 Mobile: 07966 155316 (editor only)

Advertising & Distribution Martin Atkins
 (01304) 872484 or 201870
E-mail: dds.camra@topsy.demon.co.uk
Web: www.topsy.demon.co.uk/dds_camra
www.camra.org.uk

Channel Draught is the Newsletter of the Deal Dover Sandwich & District Branch of CAMRA.

Please note that views expressed herein are not necessarily those of CAMRA Ltd.

Advertising rates:
 (please contact Martin Atkins for details)

3"x3" (approx) box - £12
 Full Page - £30 – ½ Page - £16
 (other rates on application).
 front page +50% / back + 30%

Format: Microsoft Word/Publisher or any common graphics format plus printed copy.

Copy by 15/11/00 for Winter/Xmas issue.

In this Issue



Welcome to the fifth issue of Channel Draught. This issue celebrates our first birthday!

More congratulations to Charlie and Frank at *The Mogul* for winning the 2000 **KENT Pub of the Year**. The presentation is in the afternoon of the 29th October at *The Mogul*.

The 2001 **Good Beer Guide** was officially launched on 18 September and should be in all good bookstores by now! Price is £11.99, reduced to members if buying from CAMRA. Please buy this to support CAMRA.

Topsy
 Editor

The Cabin English Restaurant

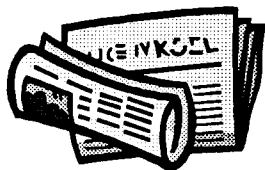
Fully Licenced

Traditional & Game Dishes
Choice of Vegetarian

*Selection of Draught Ciders, Perry & Bottle
 Conditioned Beers. Over 100 Different Wines*

Open Evenings Tuesday to Saturday
 Open from 6.30pm Last orders 9.30pm

91 High Street Dover
Bookings Dover 206118
Roger & Pauline Marples



The Local News

As always there is plenty going on around the district – here's a summary of what we know. Any further information gladly received. So if you know of any recent changes (owners, beer range, etc.) then please tell us in time for Issue 6. Use any means from a quick word over a pint to e-mail.

For those interested (in whatever way) in pubs which are due to be sold or offered for lease/tenancy then a good source of reference is the trade press, e.g. *Morning Advertiser*, etc. which carry classified ads from estate agents and auctioneers. Many local sales of pubs and other commercial property are handled by a firm based in Maidstone.

So, onto this month's selection.....

Yew Tree, Barfreston

Closed for 2 ½ years. Last time we reported that this had been sold to River Caterers/Nu-Age with the intention to open, probably as a food-led pub. Since then some doubt has been cast on this and there is certainly no apparent progress. Those who have looked at it recently say that its condition is deteriorating, but what is particularly frustrating is that there are any number of potential customers who are expecting it to reopen.

If anyone has any local info then please let us know so we can put the word about. As one of the best real ale outlets around there is plenty of scope for another entrepreneur to make a good go of it. Prior to closure the beers on offer included Landlord from Tim Taylor in Yorkshire and Greene King plus guest ales and real cider.

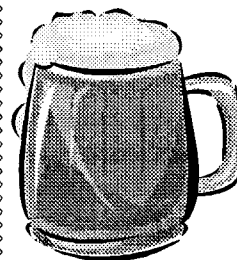
Dew Drop, Tower Hamlets

Having sold "Ales of Kent" from Chatham for a year or so, the lone handpump is now disused.

Fox Inn, Temple Ewell

Having reopened in June, comprehensive adverts have appeared in the local press. Initially prices were high but have now come down to somewhere around the local norm. Spitfire and London Pride are regular brews.

PICKWICKS



London Road, Kearsney

Telephone 01304 822016

11am-11pm, Sundays 12pm-10.30pm

Four Real Ales - inc. Flowers,

Abbot Ale & Wadworth 6X

Large Car Park at rear & Beer Garden

New menu from October

Families welcome to 8pm

Sorry no dogs

THE LYDDEN BELL

Canterbury Road, Lydden

Telephone 01304 830296

12-3pm & 6-11pm Sundays 12-4pm & 7-10.30pm

Join us for a theme night! Booking essential! Please phone!

Sunday Traditional Roast

Monday "Eat all pay ½"

Tuesday Curry & Ale - cask ales £1.50

Wednesday Steak Special

Thursday Mexican Specials

SIX Real Ales! Including

Old Speckled Hen, Greene King IPA,

Abbot Ale, 6X, Youngs Special / Brains SA



Francis & Catherine welcome you to both of our pubs

Pickwicks, Kearsney

This one changed hands abruptly a few weeks ago, having traded as a "Wayside Inn" for years. The lack of any obvious local connection with Charles Dickens is explained by the décor! At the time of refurbishment in the 1980s Whitbread were starting to go overboard on bare floorboards, exposed wooden beams and brickwork at the expense of the hideous non-matching carpets and wallpaper so favoured in the 60s and 70s and were looking to invent new "Olde Worlde" names and images. So now you know (?).

Having been a managed house, it is now a tenancy. CAMRA members have just introduced themselves to the new people and we wish them well. They run the Lydden Bell (Pubmaster) and see Pickwicks as complementing it in style. The Bell is very much food-led but they assure us that the existing mix at Pickwicks will essentially remain.

As for that name, it used to be the *Railway Bell* for obvious reasons and we are told that there is a chance of it reverting to that to complete its new image. The Kentish ales previously sold disappeared during temporary management leaving just the predictable Flowers and Boddies. However, Greene King Abbot Ale was due on at the time of writing (08-Sep) and all four handpumps should be in use fairly soon with the possibility of a local brew or other guest ales. Under Whitbread, the "one guest ale" rule applied, but since they are now out of brewing this might no longer apply (at least without Whitbread's say-so).

Roman Quay, Dover

Real ale in the form of Courage Best disappeared some time ago but this pub now has a unique distinction locally. A replacement handpump dispensing of all things – Cider! *Addlestone's* used to be a fake factory concoction masquerading as "traditional" but giant cider-makers Matthew Clark have reinvented it in "Cloudy" form. Despite its alarming appearance it tastes much more like the clear *Stonehouse* than the rough stuff of dubious legend.

Eight Bells (Wetherspoons)

If anyone doubts the power of advertising, then here is a good example of what can happen. Greene King Abbot Ale was heavily promoted by the company and sold at a discounted price alongside Spitfire and Directors. However it is now due to be replaced by Wadworth 6X, which is in numerous other local pubs. Good news is that guest ales are much more in evidence these days, usually 3 or 4 at a time and are not affected by a general price increase, which hits the so-called smooth-flow keg!

Mogul, Dover

Two or three ales which can be almost anything from anywhere with one exception. No big brand names here! The lower strength beer can be either a dark mild or a "session" bitter whilst some of the brews recently on sale are virtually unobtainable for miles around, e.g. Goachers, who rarely leave sight of the River Medway and amazingly Bathams Mild from a similarly parochial Black Country microbrewery with just a few of its own pubs. The cider varies in name and strength and is available most days. It is invariably chilled (but not so far as keg cider) but never served under gas pressure.

THE MOGUL



Chapel Place, Dover Tel. 01304 205072

Award winning Pub.

*Constantly changing range of
Real Ales, Mild & Real Cider.*

*Sandwiches & Ploughmans
available daily.*

Sunday Lunch to Order.

Winner - Kent Pub of the Year 2000

!! Beer Festival !!

Fri 27- Sun 29 October

Primrose, St.Radigund's

A first and very welcome appearance in these columns. This is one of three in the town sold by Whitbread to Avebury Taverns a couple of years ago. Two handpumps now installed – one has the well-known 6X from Wadworth, the other the lesser-known EKB from East Anglia (Tolly Cobbold).

King Edward VII, Tower Hamlets

Also Avebury Taverns, but sadly they announce their presence by the "Lease for sale" sign. Any takers? In a densely populated area there must be potential here for a go-ahead tenant. No real ale within living memory.

Voted pub of the year 2000 by DDS CAMRA members, it went on to win the award for East Kent and now has the distinction of being voted the best real ale pub in Kent. Criteria for winners are not just the beer range and quality but other considerations like standard of service, ambience, etc. So well done Charlie, Frank & Melissa. Also thanks to the local press for their coverage in the papers. For the record, the runner-up in Kent was the *Tudor Rose* which is at Upnor Castle on the Isle of Grain.

Golden Lion, Dover Priory

The third Avebury pub continues to offer 2 or 3 ales from a list including Greene King, Marstons, King Alfred & Brains. Top drawer beer every time.

Royal Oak, Capel-le-Ferne

The ever-changing guest beers have included local brews from Rother Valley (E. Sussex) and those from farther afield, including Batemans (Lincs Fens) and the Cottage Brewery (West Country) which makes regular delivery runs up through the south-east coastal area.

Lighthouse, Capel-le-Ferne

Greene King IPA & Abbot are often joined by a third ale. After Everards Tiger the Ruddles County, now a Greene King brew has been equally good.

Endeavour, Wootton

Free house – recently offered for sale and now believed to have found a buyer. Beer range unknown at present (has anyone tried it lately?).

Admiral Penn, Deal Pier

Draught Bass, London Pride and Wells Bombardier are as good as ever. “..... the one fixed point in a changing age” (Holmes referring to Watson). Three classic English ales complemented by an esoteric collection of continental liqueurs. Open evenings only (6-11) Mon-Sat.

The Clyffe Inn (Cliffe Tavern Hotel), St.Margarets

Note the spelling! Reopened at the end of June by the owners of the Royal Hotel (Deal) who have changed the décor to old-fashioned alehouse style with bare wooden floors. The impression is that it should look good once it has been “lived in” for a while. Beers from Shepherd Neame including Spitfire and Goldings with the autumn brew Late Red to follow, usually on handpump. On a recent CAMRA visit there was also Fuller’s London Pride. This was served straight from the cask but was kept under a blanket of low-pressure CO². Once again we have a choice (or stroll) of four good pubs within a few yards of each other.

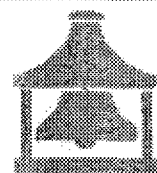
THE ROYAL OAK



CAPEL-LE-FERNE

01303 244787

**SELECTION OF 3 ALES
FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE
FOOD AVAILABLE
G.B.G. ENTRY FOR 10 YEARS**



The Clyffe Inn

High Street

St Margarets-at-Cliffe

Tel. 01304 852400 Fax 01304 851880

www.characterinns.co.uk

Open 11am-3pm & 6pm-11pm (Mon-Sat)

12pm-2.30pm & 7pm-10.30pm (Sun)

The Clyffe Inn is a Pub, a Restaurant and has Accommodation, with a good range of Real Ales and Wines. There's an excellent Bar Menu and an even better Restaurant Menu specialising in local Seafood and Game. We have a large car park and garden

The Clyffe Inn dates from the 16th Century and has been a Granary and a School House. There are original ships timbers in the ceiling of the Bar.

Ravens, Tilmanstone

Closing on 24 September. Peter & Janet are retiring to East Anglia and the new occupier (a former publican) has no apparent intention of keeping it as a pub. We wish Peter & Janet well for their retirement. See page 20 for more details.

Flagship, Dover Port

After Smiles Best from the West Country comes Adnams Broadside from East Anglia. Makes for an interesting comparison with the *Cullins Yard* opposite.

Sandwich Arms

A first mention here but for sad reasons. This one is usually closed until late afternoon after which one or two ales were on sale. However we now learn that it is likely to close with plans to convert from pub to private use having been put forward. Sandwich may have only a third of the bars it had a century ago but there are still a dozen or so in competition so there is absolutely no chance of preventing closure on the grounds of total loss of amenity (as would apply to the last pub in a village). The only hope is that the owners/operators would be prepared to sell it as a going concern.

Antwerp, Deal Pier

Reopened after a refit and also selling Adnams. First impressions were very favourable, especially the Broadside.

Diamond, Buckland

This Pubmaster outlet, hidden away off the A256 one-way system has been selling Wadworth 6X recently.

Dover Drinks Mart, Buckland

This off-licence used to sell bottle-conditioned beers from the Swale Brewery (Sittingbourne). The range dropped to a single brew, being the impressive *Whitstable Oyster Stout*, but even this has gone. The brewery has moved and changed its identity but is very much in production after a brief hiatus, so it remains to be seen whether its beers will reappear here. The supermarkets and multiple off-licence chains do other bottle-conditioned beers but not local ones.

Eagle (Olde Irish Times), Dover

Finally, after several months, some positive information at last. During August an auction sale notice was fixed to the side gate but then disappeared in a few days. It now transpires that the only bit to have changed hands is the short-lived Thai restaurant which once formed part of the original 19th century Eagle Hotel. This is now co-owned with the chippie just up the road.

As you can see from the notices now outside the pub itself is up for grabs. Owners are Unique Pub Company which is controlled by Japanese bankers Nomura which also owns other pub chains including Innpreneur. The latter took over the former Courage pub estate a few years ago, but under Nomura most of its pubs (the "better" ones according to our Good Beer Guide) were switched to Unique who now offer the lease on the Eagle.

Anyone who takes on the lease will no doubt call for a thorough inspection of the building, parts of which were disused, including the work involved in converting to the Irish theme bar. One thing is for sure – the unofficial Irish tag, for once genuine, is unlikely to survive a change of lessee.

Dave Routh



Lost Pubs of Dover

Remembering the River Pubs

In my previous article I was meandering around past and present pubs in the Buckland area of Dover. From there, I'll carry on through to River and Temple Ewell (pronounced Youel', not 'Eewell' as I have heard it on radio and television) which, although villages in their own rights, are in effect suburbs of the town. All of the pubs presently existing in River were still there when I commenced my interest in beer just over forty years ago; although mostly altered in many respects. Sadly, in Temple Ewell two out of three have gone!

I did mention briefly the Bull in London Road, Buckland. This is by Buckland Bridge, where the road kinks over the mighty River Dour. This small pub, very much a locals' local, has not altered a great deal over the years and has, happily, survived when other seemingly more likely establishments have gone. Even the verse on the inn sign has been there for as long as I can remember.

Across the road from the Bull is a path leading between Buckland Paper Mill (sadly, recently closed) and St. Andrew's churchyard. If you follow this path past mill and churchyard and under the railway, you will emerge opposite the lower gate of Crabble Athletic Ground. En route you might notice the chain-girt yew tree near the church. This is one of the oldest in the country, reputedly mentioned in Domesday Book, and survived being moved when the mill was built.

Going right along St. Andrews Terrace will take you into River. The Cricketers is at the edge of the village by the junction with Lewisham Road. Before the massive explosion of modern houses around the western edge of the village Lewisham Road went mostly through open country and was, in fact, the route of the Dover Corporation Tramway extension which opened in 1905 to the River Terminus at Common Lane. It closed on New Year's Eve 1936. Hereabouts, at the bottom of the dip, is where the most serious accident in the history of British trains occurred when, in 1917 a tram overturned, killing 11 passengers and injuring 59.

The Cricketers, originally the Cricketer's Arms, is relatively modern and was opened in 1897 by Leney's of Dover, the same year as the adjacent Crabble Athletic Ground. It is a spacious pub, and has altered very little in my memory. Incidentally, most of the Dover trams seemed to carry advertisements for Leney's beers!

One of the most attractive parts of the stroll comes next, after crossing Lewisham Road into Lower Road. You follow the River Dour, past the mostly wooden Crabble Corn Mill with the river first on one side, then on the other until, just after the Dour disappears behind some houses, you come to the Royal Oak.

The Royal Oak looks to be a very old pub. In fact, it was just a beerhouse until 1950 when a full licence was obtained. It is unknown for how many years it had existed as a beerhouse. When I used this pub on a very regular basis from about 1974 to 1983 the late Jim Percival was landlord, ably assisted by his wife, Clara. They had met many years before as driver and clippie on London Country buses. He was a great character with a dry sense of humour. No lager was on sale, and when a stranger, learning this, asked for 'the next best thing', Jim solemnly pulled him up a pint of water! Complain about his beer (if you durst) and he would remark 'You're lucky. You've got a pint. I've got a cellar full!' Or about the clarity of the beverage, 'Cloudy? What do you expect? Thunder and lightning?' Jim was always dressed in a tweed suit with waistcoat, topped with a flat cap whenever he went out. The Royal Oak at that time was very much the village local, and was used by a broad cross-section of the local inhabitants. A description in a Good Beer Guide of the time read, 'Flint pub, three bars and a parrot'. The latter was a friendly African Grey, but after a successful escape bid this was replaced by a green parrot who enjoyed trying to entice customers to poke a finger through the bars of the cage so that he could bite it!

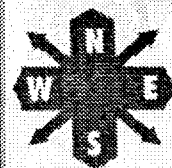
The ceiling and walls were festooned with memorabilia, including a cavalry lance which had been carried by one of the customers when he (like Corporal Jones) had been fighting the "Fuzzy-Wuzzies". Once a Gardner's pub, it passed on via Thomson and Wootton to Whitbread who transferred it to Shepherd Neame. The Royal Oak remains a Shepherd Neame house, but on Jim's retirement in 1983 the cottage next door was incorporated, the inside was completely gutted and although there seems little change externally, inside it is a very new pub. I sometimes consider the proverb about 'putting new wine into old bottles'!

A little further along Lower Road, opposite the junction with Minnis Lane and the start of the grounds of Kearsney (pronounced 'Kersney') Abbey, is the Dublin Man o' War. It is said that the pub opened on this site in about 1907, and it replaced another with the same name a few yards up Minnis Lane. It was originally owned by Flint's of Canterbury, and there is, in fact, a fine Flint's sign cast into the front wall, but this, today, is obscured by the picture of a naval battle. Flint's brewery passed to Fremlins in 1923, and with it their pubs. I used it occasionally in the early 1960's before Whitbread took over. The landlord then was Wally Goodman and, even though it is a large building, the bars were then very small. Covering the bare boards was an ancient red mat which Wally referred to as his 'Persian Carpet'.

The few normal chairs were strictly reserved for regular customers; for the rest of us there was a row of tilt-up ex-cinema seats under the window. Heating consisted of a cast-iron radiator in front of the bar. Firmly glued to the floor below this was a half-crown, put there for the amusement of the locals and the discomfiture of strangers thinking (let's be charitable) that they had dropped part of their change! Now part of the Pubmaster chain, the bars of the pub have been greatly extended and opened up over the years.

Friendly rivalry has existed between the above two pubs for many years, culminating in an annual tug o' war match, teams from each establishment pulling from either side of the River Dour!

The quickest and, in daytime, most attractive, route to Temple Ewell, is across the grounds of Kearsney Abbey. This was a well trodden path once upon a time when River came under Dover town for pub licensing and the rural pubs, including Temple Ewell, under Wingham. The reason for this was that pubs in one or the other district (I forget which) remained open for half an hour longer in summer. There would be a made rush across the Abbey grounds in the dark for 'last knockings'! This tradition ended when the whole of Dover District came under the same licensing authorities.



CARDINAL COACHES

*We are a local bus and coach operator, and experts
in operating wheelchair accessible vehicles*

*16, 25 & 53 seater coaches for hire, some with wheelchair access
All occasions catered for-*

*Whatever your travel needs are we are here to help
We appreciate that you have a choice so why not give us a call*

**AIRPORTS – WEDDINGS –
PARTIES – HOLIDAYS – EXCURSIONS**

We would be delighted to quote for contract work

Telephone: 01304-212859 Evening & Weekend 01304-830314

E-mail: cardinal.travel@btconnect.com



The far gate of the park leads out to the Alkham Road, and directly across this is Lower Road, but this time Lower Road, Temple Ewell. Looking at the line of this road, and that of Lower Road, River, leads me to suspect that, before this bogus abbey was built (it never had any connection with a religious establishment), Lower Road ran directly across the present park.

Lower Road, Temple Ewell, follows a small tributary of the River Dour to the little village centre. Here were three pubs; now there is only one, the Fox, which has recently suffered alterations. Just around the corner, opposite a former water driven flour mill, was the Donkey, presided over, when I used it, by Hilda Stevenson. The gardens of these two pubs were adjacent, and the skittle alleys were very near; so near that it was not unknown for a ball from one alley to end up in the other. We always reckoned that the Donkey had the best skittle alley in the league, and the worst team! Hilda told me that she recalled Bat and Trap being played there, but they gave it up as the ball ended up in the river too often. Incidentally, I know that Bat and Trap was certainly played in the vicinity of Dover at one-time as I once purchased some old equipment from the Bell at Lydden.

Over what was then the busy A2 at the top of Lower Road was the other pub, the George and Dragon. I cannot recall ever using this pub, but I think that it closed a little before the Donkey, which must have been in the late sixties. All three village pubs ended up as Fremlins owned houses, and when Whitbread took charge there is little doubt that the decision was made that they only needed one outlet for their products in the village.

The Plough Inn

Church Lane, Ripple

Tel: 01304 360209

Your hosts Lyn & Brian

Real Ales, Country Wines

Full weekday menu plus traditional Sunday lunches

Two en-suite Twin Rooms available

Ales usually available are:

Fullers ESB & London Pride, Shepherd Neame

Master Brew & Spitfire plus Guest Ales

Listed in the 2001 CAMRA

Good Beer Guide



If you walk back towards Dover along the main road you will go over a small rise and in the dip on the other side, opposite the junction with the Alkham Road, is our final pub of the route. This is currently known as Pickwick's, and has been now for quite a few years. It was originally the Railway Bell Hotel and, with a recent change of licensee, there has been a hopeful rumour that that name may be restored. It is said to originate from the fact that a few yards down the Alkham Road is Kearsney railway station. For the benefit of potential passengers a bell was rung at the pub to herald the arrival of a train. It dates from about 1861 when the station, then known as Ewell Station, was built by the London, Chatham and Dover Railway Company. When I first knew it, it was a Whitbread house.

You could, of course, varied your walk somewhat by taking Lower Road, River, from the Dublin Man 'o War to the junction with Alkham Road, then turning right to Pickwick's. From here you could either take the main road to Temple Ewell or, from Alkham Road turn into the station forecourt and continue along a path which leads into Lower Road, Temple Ewell. Two other pubs, the Pear Tree and the Vine, are said to have existed in River, but these are way beyond living memory!

Jim Green



Anvil

Fabrications

Wrought Iron Specialists

- ❖ Safety & Security Grills ❖ Railings
- ❖ Mirrors ❖ Weather Vanes
- ❖ Gates ❖ Single to Four-poster Beds
- ❖ Hanging Baskets ❖ Curtain Poles
- ❖ Candlesticks ❖ Plus much more

Work: (01304) 371606

Out of hours (01304) 371418

Proprietor: Stewart Armstrong

Country Pub Walks No.2

Beery Ham Sandwich Stroll

(Incorporating Eastry & Worth)

Sandwich - Eastry 5km;
Eastry - Ham - Worth 4.2 km;
Worth - Sandwich 2km

If preferred this walk can be done in sections, using buses to or from Eastry, or Worth. (Note no direct bus connection between Eastry and Worth, and no bus service to Ham)

From Sandwich station arriving from Dover/Deal leave by gate from platform (to not cross footbridge) and turn right along track to Dover Road, and turn left. Where road forks, take right fork, still on Dover Road, though now a becalmed cul-de-sac. After nearly ½ mile you reach grassy mounds blocking the end of the road. Take path on left for a few yards, and emerge on Sandwich bypass, with mini roundabout on your right. Cross road to a gate with bridle way sign and follow path through orchard.

This brings you on to Felderland Lane. Cross the road to a track a few yards on the left. Follow this bridle way past two cottages, then with hedge left, orchard right until you reach a path T junction at the bottom of a slight descent. Now turn right with woods on the left, orchard now on your right, later open fields on the right. (The square tower of Eastry church can be seen in distance ahead) The path might be somewhat overgrown with nettles during summer months, shorts wearers beware! Follow your nose past the sewage works (right) and you will soon reach the Eastry bypass. Straight across to path opposite. Soon you will have a wire fence on your right and when path starts to bear right, look for another path leading left through trees. Follow this, trees on right, open land on left at first, then between trees as you go gently uphill. At the top of the incline you will see Eastry church along a road to the left.

Continue ahead on the path between garden fences and you will emerge in Eastry car park by the *Bull*.

Open Mon - Sats 11-11; Suns 12-10.30
Food served every day between 12 and 5, except no food Mondays
Bass and Brew XI (H)

A little way along the road to the left is the *Five Bells*

Open Mon - Sats 11-3 & 7-11; Suns 12-3 & 7-11
no food; Bass (H)

Coming out of the *Five Bells* turn right and head along Church Street to the church and take path through the churchyard, alongside the church on the left. At the end of the path go through a gate to a field then take right hand path to gap in hedge (just to the right of white house) Through gap and straight ahead to gate on to road. Turn left, follow lane round bend then after Old Lynch Cottage look for footpath sign on right.

Follow path uphill (the only real climb on the walk!) At top of slope keep ahead through belt of trees then follow path with fence on left and open field right. Go down steps and cross main road, and up steps the other side. Straight on along path through fields. Landscape is now rather featureless but continue straight ahead. The white building over to the left is the *Blazing Donkey*, but this must be approached on paths around field edge as detailed. Continue to a cross-path along crop break. Looking to the left, this is at a point about half way between the *Blazing Donkey* and a belt of poplars.

BLAKES

of Dover

Castle Street, Dover
Tel. (01304)202194

- *Real Ales include*
Bass & Bombardier
Full lunch & evening menus

Accommodation available.

Regular GBG Entrant

Here turn left and continue past farm buildings (right) to hedge in front and through gap on to lane. Turn left a few yards to the *Blazing Donkey*:

Monday - Friday 7 to 11 only; Sat and Sun 12 to 11
Food available during opening hours.
Tetley and East Kent Bitter (H)

On leaving pub turn left for a few yards then take the lane on the left (Hay lane). Continue along this narrow road for about a mile, hopefully meeting very little traffic. After crossing Hum Bridge and reaching the 'Worth' sign you will see two paths on the right. Take the path off the road which leads more or less straight ahead, slightly uphill with garden fence on your left. Then follow this straight on across field until you reach the main road. Across road path continues straight on with Upton Lodge grounds on your left. Keep straight ahead and after passing another house and garden to the left the path turns left between hedges reaching Worth churchyard.

Continue and go through a gate then turn left, still in churchyard. Follow path on to road and you will see the *Blue Pigeons* opposite:

Monday to Wednesday 6 to 11 only
Thursday and Friday 12 to 2.30; 6 to 11
Saturday 12 to 11; Sunday 12 to 10.30
Food during opening hours until 8.30, except Sun & Mon evenings
Benskins and Bass + one guest (H)

For the *Crispin* turn left coming out of *Blue Pigeons* and follow road and path straight on, with duck pond on the right:

Open Monday to Saturday 11 to 2.30; 6 to 11 Sunday 12 to 10.30
Food every day until 2 and until 9.15
Large ale selection: Masterbrew, London Pride and Adnams bitter (H)
several other beers on gravity

Emerging from *Crispin* turn right and then immediately right again on path alongside pub wall. Follow this pleasant path between orchards, past a house with duck pond on the right. Go over a bridge, then alongside the stream on approaching Sandwich. When you arrive at Dover Road, turn right to Sandwich station. (about 35 minutes steady walk from *Crispin*)

John Pitcher



Eight Bells



19 Cannon St
Dover
10am - 11pm
Sun 12 - 10.30



The Ravens

The closure of the Ravens at Tilmanstone, a casualty of declining local support and high house prices, is the latest in a long line of rural and village pub closures. Many were lost in the seventies when Whitbread, who had a near monopoly over large areas, decided to prune what they considered to be an excessive estate, but over the last five years the trend has started again. As well as the Ravens both the Newcastle at Ewell Minnis and the Crooked Billet at Ash have gone and the future of the Yew Tree at Barfreton (currently closed) is doubtful. The current loss is particularly sad, because under Peter and Janet's ownership (pictured below), it has offered a consistently interesting and varying range of beers, and been a regular entrant in the Good Beer Guide.

The District Council opposed the closure, but it was allowed on appeal to the Department of the Environment, the existence of a second pub (the Plough and Harrow) nearby being an important factor. However, equally critical, was the lack of support, because, well patronised, it is unlikely that closure would have been considered. Country pubs are a precious asset and many, especially those off the beaten track, need all the help they can get. At a time when a pub is often worth far more as a house, it is up to all of us who value their existence to show our appreciation by using the places. Just an occasional trip to somewhere you would not normally go is of benefit, and if you live in a village and the village pub is not your local think of visiting it occasionally -because if you don't it might well not be there when you want to.

Martin Atkins



A Short History of the Swale Brewery Co and its Successors

In 1995, John Davidson CAMRA member erstwhile plasterer and home brewer, opened the first commercial brewery in Sittingbourne since Style & Winch took over Vallences' brewery in 1905 and then closed it. The name of this new brewery was the Swale Brewery Co. and its location, a small industrial estate, a short walk from Sittingbourne Railway Station and an even shorter walk from the Sittingbourne & Kemsley Light Railway. The address was Periwinkle Close and therefore the beers were marketed as "Periwinkle Ales".

The setting of the brewery was slightly less sylvan than the address would suggest. The brewery was housed in a building which resembled a large garage nesting amongst car repairers, panel beaters and other of similar artisan pursuits. How so much brewing and ancillary equipment could be accommodated in such a small area together with a large mound of aluminium casks was a source of wonderment to the casual visitor.

It was no surprise therefore that John moved his brewery to larger premises in 1997 having outgrown the original premises in a mere two years. The new address was rather more prosaic than that of his original brewery, Unit 1, D2 Trading Estate, castle Road, Eurolink, Sittingbourne was the address to which the brewery was moved and was approximately a mile to the east of Periwinkle Close. Unfortunately the distinctive "Periwinkle" brand was discontinued but "D2 Trading estate" was not adopted as a brand. The new brewery, although still in an industrial unit, was much larger than hitherto and a greater height enabled an extra level to be constructed which provided the wherewithal for gravity brewing to be introduced.

As Swale Brewery was still expanding its trade and an injection of capital was needed, John took on a partner, Alan Bolton, in 1998. Alan had a financial background having been employed previous to his arrival at Swale brewery by one of the clearing banks. Earlier this year the most momentous move in the short history of The Swale Brewery Co. John and Alan had realised that yet again more space was needed for his brewery.

Betwixt Sittingbourne and Faversham lies Teynham which famous for nothing in particular. Approximately three miles due south of Teynham one can find the small rural village of Newnham. This small community supports one Public House which is owned by beer producer Shepherd Neame. According to CAMRA's "Guide to Kent Pubs" the draught beers in this house are all sold from containers in which blanket pressure is used. By the time this article is published there will be another Public House which will offer a choice of beers for the discerning drinker of "real ales".

In addition to the aforementioned tavern there are a small number of local attractions which vary in importance according to ones own inclination but to be found amongst these is one which is germane to this chronicle, namely Syndale Valley Vineyard. The Abbs family has farmed in the region of one hundred acres at Newnham for many a year. Latterly they have grown both black and white grapes in order that they could make Syndale valley wines.

Owing to recent family retirements only one member of the family was left to manage Syndale Family vineyard, Jonathan Abbs with his large acreage was therefore considering retrenchment whilst his near neighbours at Swale Brewery at their cramped premises were looking for expansion. Unsurprisingly, these two businesses have now merged their interests with the former Swale Brewery now located within the premises of the former Syndale Valley Vineyard at Newnham. The first brew at the new premises was in August and very good it was too.

The name of this combined operation is Tun, Vine & Press Ltd., not a name that rolls so easily off the tongue after a few glasses of their beverages. I look forward to hearing drinkers asking for a "pint of Tun, Vine & Press Light the Blue Touchpaper and Retire Bitter, please" (should this excellent November seasonal ale be brewed again). Unfortunately owing to legal and financial regulations there seems to be no possibility of using the trading names of Swale Brewery and Syndale Valley and these names will gradually disappear. Collectors of Breweriana please note!

A large house was built in the grounds of the vineyard in 1990 which used building materials recovered from an ancient building in the Horsham area. Kent Peg tiles at 14 pence per tile were used for the roof and the overall effect is very impressive. The top floor is used as living quarters by Jonathan Abbs whilst the a large part of the ground floor will be used as a Public House from which it is the intention to sell beers from the adjoining brewery, wines from the adjoining winery and, once production starts, ciders and perries. Food will be served and will be sourced locally as far as possible with, so I am assured, no frozen chipped potatoes.

The bar itself has an almost Teutonic feel to it with solid wooded furniture and with the tables covered with heavy-duty tablecloths. The bar counter is equipped with six beer engines which will dispense six different Tun, Vine & Press beers, including draught Whitstable Oyster Stout. The name of this tavern will be "The Tun, Vine & Press" and it opened on 2nd September with the official opening due on 3rd November. The hours are 1200-2300 (2230 Sundays). As these premises were already licensed for the sale of alcoholic beverages at wedding receptions, after the celebration of nuptials which could take place at the same location, the liquor licence presented no problem. The new brewery is of an impressive size for a "micro" and is currently producing 50 barrels with a maximum of 100 barrels.

Tun, Vine & Press

Bar & Bistro

Newnham Kent

01795 890931

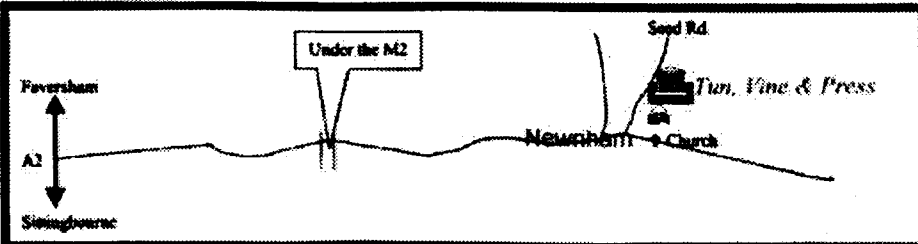


OPEN ALL DAY

Saturday

12 noon

2nd Sept.



The draught beers which are currently produced are Kentish Admiral @ 3.5%, Kentish Pride @ 3.8%, Silver Knight @ 4.0%, Indian Summer @ 4.2% and Mad Tom Courtney @ 5.0% with Marigold Dark Mild as an occasional brew. Other beers are brewed as required. The range of bottle conditioned beers are Whitstable Oyster Stout @ 4.5%, Kentish Gold @ 5.0% and Old Dick @ 5.2%. The hops that are used are all whole as opposed to pellets and are Goldings, Fuggles, Challenger, Cascade, Bramling Cross and Admiral. The malt is Maris Otter.

Tun, Vine and Press beers can be purchased and delivered from the brewery should one be located in Kent and environs. The postal address is: Parsonage Farm, Seed Road, Newnham, ME9 0NA. Telephone 01795-890931. Wholesalers who stock the beers are "East West Ales", "Oliver Hare", "AVS" and "The Beer Seller". The beers are also exported to the USA and are stocked by an importer based in New York. Chicago, Boston and Virginia are places in which they can be found to name but a few. I understand that the Grand Central Bar in New York classes these Kent-brewed ales as their best and most prestigious account.

Plans for the future include the production of ciders and perries as previously mentioned. A cider press of robust construction languishes toward the back of the brewery and Jonathan plans to "dust it off" and put it to use once he has bought sufficient stocks of apples and pears. He also plans to grow his own fruit and this should be ready for harvest in three years time. In addition to the black and white grapes, apples and pears a dwarf Kentish hop variety, Admiral, is soon to be planted.

Lastly, should you want to sample a pint of Tun, Vine & Press ale, Alan informs me that this can be found within your local CAMRA branch's area at the Ship which normally carries three of the draught beers, the Alma which often stocks one or other of the beers (both are in Deal); also the Royal Cinque Ports Yacht Club (Dover) which is a private members' club - to gain admission you need to be introduced as a guest by a club member. The club's house beer is Kentish Pride, sold as RCPYC Ale.

Alan also assures me that the Cabin English Restaurant, an esoteric and small establishment in Dover High Street, sells the complete range of bottle-conditioned beers. Licensing conditions dictate that a main meal must be consumed with alcohol when purchased in an establishment such as this. Many other outlets sell TV&P beers on an occasional basis.

Roger Marples

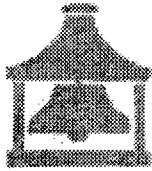


THE CLASSLESS SOCIETY

The upbeat profile of many of the independent brewers combined with innumerable beer festivals and ever increasing numbers of micro breweries might give the impression that the real ale side of the industry is fit, well and looking forward to expansion and growth in the new century; and superficially, if you live in the more affluent or traditionally minded areas of southern England, this is a very understandable misconception.

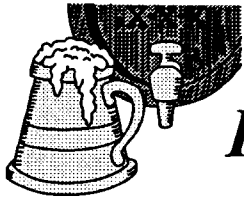
The truth, however, is rather different. For the first time, last year, sales of cask conditioned beer fell below 10% of the total beer market, continuing a decline that has been evident for some time. In particular, the large brewers have been busy converting their premium brews to nitrokeg, to the extent that they now, according to WHAT'S BREWING, produce 20% less real ale than the regionals. And the independents themselves are not entirely blameless - a recent trip to Lancashire found a wide selection of Thwaites and Burtonwood pubs selling nothing but nitrokeg and lager. Yet, the ranks of the micro breweries continue to swell, as do the range and variety of their brews, while many of the established independents are aggressively expansionist, heavily promoting their real ales and showing increased sales and profits. This might appear totally contradictory but in fact what seems to be happening is polarisation, brewers are becoming either international concerns or small "craft" producers, while pubs are increasingly seen as real ale or non real ale.

Since its revival in the 1970s most pubs have at least paid lip service to cask conditioned beer, even if the choice has often been one of the major's national brews in dubious condition. Particularly, served by hand pump, it was viewed as more traditional and authentic than pressurised dispense, and was an image that the industry was keen to promote. However the re-organisation following the beer orders has seen many pubs end up in the hands of non-brewing pub companies, or brewers who have quit brewing; and with the link between brewing and pub owning broken there is no longer the need to establish your credentials as a brewer of fine ales for several centuries if your business is running pubs and buying beer from someone else.



The Clyffe Inn Beer Festival

Saturday & Sunday 21st / 22nd October



*Selection of
Kentish Real Ales*



Traditional Kentish Fare



*Live Folk music Saturday
afternoon & evening
Jazz on Sunday*



**The Clyffe Inn is on the High Street
in St Margarets-at-Cliffe
Open 11am-3pm & 6pm-11pm (Mon-Sat)
12pm-2.30pm & 7pm-10.30pm (Sun)**

And then there is Nitrokeg, the brewing sensation of the nineties, or so some parts of the industry would have us believe. Presumably there is a certain demand for this product, especially from those parts of the country where they already like their beer dispensed through a swan neck and tight sparkler (a practice which many of us feel leaves it bland and lifeless), but at least it was real and you could normally get the sparkler removed. Now, in many places, especially large parts of the north, and accompanied by all the usual advertising hype, nitrokeg is seen as the standard, with large brewers and pub groups converting pub after pub to pressurised dispense only. No doubt they would cite customer demand, as explanation, although their smaller competitors, the likes of Hydes and Holts in Manchester, have no problem in selling the cask conditioned product, as locally, neither do Shepherd Neame. Nor does there seem to be a problem in village pubs or in what are generally regarded as more affluent areas.

What the big players in the industry seem to be developing is a kind of beer drinking apartheid based on their definition of pub and customer type; young, working class and urban equals keg, middle aged, middle class and rural equals cask. Much easier to divide the market into large blocks of clearly defined pub types, to decide in advance what kind of beer a pub sells rather than tailor it to customer demand and to handle a lifeless, pasteurised product which can be heavily promoted as new, smooth and cool.

A very depressing prospect and one which we hoped had disappeared, or at least been curtailed, in the seventies. We know from first hand that such definitions are false. Our annual winter ale festival attracts all "classes" and all ages, many of whom, interestingly, normally drink lager, and who regularly drink us dry. All they want is good ale, well kept and naturally dispensed -which is what they get, and the same story is repeated at beer festivals up and down the country. An instructive point to any brewer or pub operator, you may think, except that they seem unable, or unwilling, to get away long enough, from the concepts of mega brews, mass advertising and international brands to consider it.

Martin Atkins

Where to find your Channel Draught

All of our current pub advertisers (highlighted below) regularly stock Channel Draught, please pick up your next copy (1st week of Dec) when you pay them a visit. Don't forget to say you saw them in Channel Draught!

The following list is not exhaustive, copies of Channel Draught are regularly found all over Sussex, Surrey, Hants, Berks, Middlesex, Herts, Essex and London (thanks Barry!) as well as in France, Belgium & the Netherlands.

<u>Dover</u>	<u>River</u>	<u>Rural</u>	<u>Deal</u>
Mogul	Pickwicks	Lydden Bell	Alma
Blakes	Royal Oak	Plough Inn	Admiral Penn
Eight Bells	Dublin M O W	<u>St Marg's</u>	Ship
Firkin	<u>Capel</u>	Clyffe Inn	Deal Hoy
Golden Lion	Royal Oak	Hope	Antwerp
Louis Armstrong	Lighthouse	<u>Sandwich</u>	Royal Hotel
RCPYC	Valiant Sailor	Crispin	Saracens Head
DHBSC	<u>Kingsdown</u>	Admiral Owen	
Boars Head	Zetland Arms		
	Kings Head		

1999 Pub of the Year

(Deal Dover Sandwich & District CAMRA)

THE ALMA

West Street Deal

300 yds north from Deal Station

Traditional street corner local with varying selection
of four real ales from small & micro breweries

Open Mon-Sat 10-3 & 6-11 Sun 12-3 & 7-10.30
Telephone (01304) 360244

Free House & Regular GBG entrant

Local Information

If you have a dispute concerning ale bought in Dover, Deal or Sandwich, please bring it to the attention of Martin Atkins or Dave Routh, telephone numbers under Branch Contacts. You may want to take the matter up yourself and we advise you to contact any (or all) of the following:

Trading Standards Office (East Kent)	01843 223380
Gwyn Prosser MP (Dover)	01304 201199
Dr. Steven Ladyman MP (Thanet South)	01843 850315

Useful numbers

Dover Tourist Info	01304 205108
Train times (Connex)	08457 484950
Buses (Stagecoach)	0870 2433711
	01304 240024
KCC Bus/Train line	08457 3696996
Kent Police	01304 240055

Dover Taxi Firms:

Taxi (A1)	01304 202000
Taxi (A2B)	01304 225588
Taxi (Central)	01304 240441
Taxi (Club Travel)	01304 201915
Taxi (Heritage)	01304 204420
Taxi (Star)	01304 228822
Taxi (Victory)	01304 228888

Deal Taxi Firms:

Taxi (Deal Cars)	01304 366000
Taxi (Jacks Cars)	01304 372299
Taxi (AI Cars)	01304 363636
Taxi (Castle Taxis)	01304 374001

Sandwich Taxi Firm:

Taxi (AM Cars)	01304 614209
----------------	--------------



CAMRA

Membership of CAMRA is open to everyone who supports the campaign to keep Real Ale.

To join CAMRA, please complete the form below

Application Form to join CAMRA

I/We wish to join the Campaign for Real Ale and agree to abide by the Rules

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Signature _____ Date _____

I/We enclose the remittance for:

Single £14 ☐ OAP Single £8 ☐
Joint £17 ☐ OAP Joint £11 ☐
Unwaged/ ☐ Under 26* £8 ☐
Disabled £8 ☐

*Date of birth required

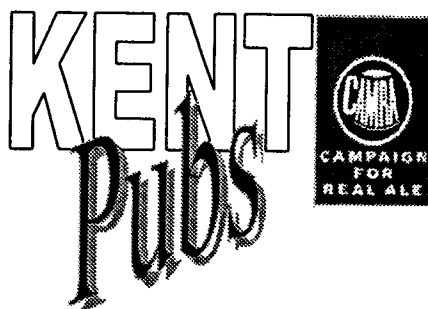
Send your remittance (payable to CAMRA) to:

The membership secretary, CAMRA,
230 Hatfield Rd, St Albans, Herts,
AL1 4LW.

For enquiries, phone 01727 867201

Channel Draught 5

The 10th Guide to



Over 1900 pubs surveyed,
including 1500 Real Ale pubs.

Information includes:

- ♣ Mild, Stout & Porter
- ♣ Cider & Perry
- ♣ Pubs with Accommodation
- ♣ Disabled Access
- ♣ Town maps

and lots more

Available now to CAMRA
members at Branch
Meetings

CAMRA members: £4.50
Cover price: £4.95

Adams Printers

*Working with Business
and the Community*



PRINTERS IN DOVER SINCE 1888

THE PRINTING HOUSE • DOUR STREET • DOVER

Telephone: (01304) 211202 • Fax: (01304) 208441

E-Mail: robert@adamsprinters.co.uk