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Channel Draught

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Endeavour at Wootton Re-opens



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

Issue 15 Spring 2003



Events Diary

14 April 2003	Annual General Meeting	Royal Cinque Ports Yacht Club, Dover
3 May	Deal Wander	Meet Eagle, Deal 1200
19 May	Branch Meeting	Admiral Penn, Deal
6 - 7 June	Rare Breeds Fest	Woodchurch, Tenterden
16 June	Branch Meeting	Flagship, Dover
21 July	Branch Meeting	Royal Oak, Capel-le-Ferne
24 - 26 July	Kent Beer Fest	Merton Farm, Canterbury
5 - 9 August	Great British Beer Festival	Kensington Olympia London
18 August	Branch Meeting	Admiral Owen, Sandwich

Updates to the diary are available on the branch website
www.topsy.demon.co.uk/ddc_camra

Meetings start at 8pm unless otherwise shown

The branch *normally* meets on the third Monday of each month.

If you are interested in joining CAMRA come along to one of our meetings!

Please consult 'What's Brewing' to confirm venues, especially if travelling to meetings/events.



Channel Draught is Published and © 2003 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!

In this Issue



Welcome to the Spring 2003 issue of Channel Draught.

A smaller issue this time, I'm expecting a large Beery Boaters article in the Summer issue! In the meantime, lots of interesting articles for you to read.

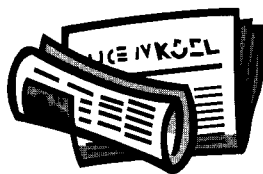
There's lots going on in the area and the news reflects this. The news itself has been redesigned slightly, please let us know what you think of the changes.

I welcome any original articles on White Cliffs Country, it's pubs, former (and future?) breweries, and people. See page 45 for how to contact me.

Topsy
 Editor

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The Local News

Headlines this issue:

- ♦ *Smallest Pub turned into bistro.*
- ♦ *Chequers closed as tenant leaves.*
- ♦ *Endeavour stays in business.*
- ♦ *Sheps investing in Folkestone*

Dover's **Arlington** in Snargate Street had long been billed as "Kent's Smallest Pub", an accolade which would have been challenged by very few other pubs in the county despite a small rearwards extension in recent years. Any argument about relevant size is rather academic, although its new owners now proclaim it as being the smallest bistro! Owner Jeff Reynolds had made clear his intention to sell up several months ago at least and finally closed it down after many years serving a small but loyal band of regulars and the occasional tourist.

Originally "The Avenue" (amazingly with two bars) it would once have had plenty of local trade living nearby but the wholesale destruction of the area culminating in the re-routed A20 trunk road together with new and rejuvenated competition nearby made trading difficult. We wish Jeff and Kim well in their new life but shall all miss the relaxed ambience of their bar, not to mention having to guess "What's on the Old 'Ard pump this week?" when they wouldn't tell us!

We were also all too aware of the impending closure (for the third time at least) of the **Chequers** at West Hougham. Readers of our winter issue will know of the basic reasons for this, viz. a large pub in a small village well away from main roads and other habitation but crucially lacking in sufficient local support to provide a living for the tenant who duly moved out during March. Now boarded up, the only glimmer of hope here is the fact that being owned by a pub chain (London Inns) there is the possibility of either another tenant being interested in a business here or maybe installation of a temporary manager pending a final decision on its future. Received wisdom is that any intending takers would probably need to combine a pub operation with a second business.

The good news comes from the **Endeavour** at Wootton, between the A260 and Lydden circuit. The previous owners had been adamant in their bid to close it down as a pub and sell it as a private residence; indeed there



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	Sunday	12 - 10.30pm

Evening	Mon-Friday	5-11pm
	Saturday	6-11pm
	Sunday	12 - 10.30pm

was a certain amount of friction when CAMRA raised objections to the "change of use" proposals put to DDC. It has now been sold but the new owners are to continue its existing use as a pub/restaurant, and they are planning alternative uses for redundant outbuildings presumably to underpin the main operation. Hopefully the opening hours will be restored to full normality instead of just weekends and (some) evenings only.

Last summer Shepherd Neame spent around £100k on the **Market Inn** by Sandwich Guildhall. This was part of its programme of upgrading selected outlets, the results of which are (for the consumer) a matter of taste, in line with its stated intention of making pubs more food- and family-oriented whilst preserving varying degrees of heritage and community focus. That is their policy – don't blame us for any hackneyed marketing language!

Now they have turned their attention on Folkestone. The **White Lion** in Cheriton certainly needed some improvements (is there Real Ale yet?) but they are also focusing on two others. The **Earl Grey** is right in the middle of a grant-aided "regeneration" area (as defined by Shepway DC) and like much of the Old High Street had become run-down and increasingly shabby, in short a definite turn-off for most visitors (and no Real Ale either). Now, along with adjacent sites, is has been

given a fresh look and is hopefully back on track as a pub which seeks to attract passing trade to this hitherto neglected street.

Sheps are also spending money at the **Master Brewer** in Broadmead "village" (i.e. modern housing estate), itself barely twenty years old. Clearly this was built with the food-and-family trade in mind and with all mod cons too, so quite why they see the need for a revamp is something of a mystery to us. This rather begs the questions "Where were they going wrong before?" and "What do they now expect from it?" The only competition in the bar/diner stakes anywhere nearby comes from Whitbread's Brickfield (no Real Ale though) or maybe the Black Bull. However it would be churlish to complain about lack of investment in a town that certainly needs some – perhaps there is some cash left over to make some modest but useful improvements to some of its more traditional pubs?

Dover News

There is plenty going on in the southwestern quarter of town. At the **Priory Hotel** the two disused hand-pumps are now back in use, albeit a bit irregularly. Fuller's London Pride was first to appear, to be followed by Shepherd Neame Spitfire. The **Renaissance** has had either Greene King IPA or Worthington 1744 but a pleasant surprise has been the regular ap-

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UNITED KINGDOM**

pearance of a beer not otherwise available locally: Elgood's Cambridge Bitter is a darkish, well-balanced brew from Wisbech, Cambs. Also from East Anglia (Essex) is Ridley's EKB.

Adnams and Pedigree are always on the **Golden Lion** menu, and usually a guest ale. Recently there has been another, different, East Anglian bitter in Wherry from Woodforde's, a classic pale ale with a real hoppy twang. Otherwise it is business as usual with one important change, now that Rab and Theresa have taken on a long-term lease with owners Avebury Taverns.

Boar's Head has just changed hands. The pumps dispense Greene King IPA and Ansells Bitter and often a third ale (e.g. Courage Directors). Tenant Chris Page is making the very short move to the **Dew Drop Inn** in Tower Hamlets with previous landlord "Del Boy" taking on the local chip shop instead. This Free House did have a handpump for a short time, and with beer from a short-lived brewery: Ales of Kent (Medway area). CAMRA hopes for a renewed attempt at selling Real Ale in this back-street local.

Still no news on SFI's **Litten Tree** – planning permission to open is valid until 2007. The pump clips at **Bar Elle** now face the wrong way but those at the **Prince of Orange** now show either Directors or Greene King IPA. No more Spitfire at the **Lord Nelson**, just Master Brew but nothing

at all in the **Britannia**. As to **Lloyd's** N°1 there had been rumours of setbacks or even cancellation (JD Wetherspoon is scaling back on new openings nationally) but the best information to hand is that work is about to restart with opening planned for late summer.

Problems with beer quality at the **Eight Bells** continued into the winter. Local management tell us that this was due to malfunctions or inefficiency of the cellar equipment, mainly temperature control. This would explain such traits as "chill haze" and poor conditioning. We now understand that the problems have been fixed. Certainly quality is back on par, which is just as well not just for the customers but the company too since Cask Marque have been in for their six-monthly check-up. Also seen lately has been MD Tim Martin who approved of his half of Abbot. One oddball guest ale was Salopian Lemon Dream, a tangy citric wheat beer, The *bright green* Stonehenge Sign of Spring is now on order.

A rolling range of guest ales as ever at the **Mogul**. Favourites including Black Cat Mild, Summer Lightning and Oakham White Dwarf vie for blackboard space with others including St.Austell HSD (Hick's Special Draught), Ossett Quicksilver, and the occasional drop from Goacher's of Maidstone. However a recent twist in the Oakham tale has been JHB *Extra* which unbelievably packs in even

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more hops than regular JHB but is only a shade or two stronger. Medal winners at CAMRA's Olympia GBBF appear here as they become available.

Redecoration at the **Flotilla & Firkin** is taking place as we went to press. It is losing its brand-imaged Firkin tag, but staying as the **Flotilla** instead. Beer range should also not change – Punch Taverns does not take the new-look Dogbolter (see Ramsgate Brewery under Local Brewery News).

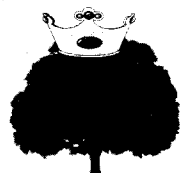
Blake's always has London Pride; but also had Davenport's Bitter, a re-creation of a lost brew, for a recent branch meeting (yes, we drank it all). More London Pride plus Abbot Ale at the **White Horse** which has new tenants. Lease of the **Castle** is on offer (no Real Ale), so too **Harleys** (ditto), and also the **Cherry Tree** which has Greene King IPA.

It was "happy first anniversary" at the **Eagle Inn** where Mick Murphy has signed for an extended lease. He also smartened up the loos (beware the room swap!) and settled for Kent-only ales, mainly from Hopdaemon with Golden Braid and either Incubus or Skrimshander plus bottled Greendaemon. Variation is usually provided by Old Kent Brewery, with the dark, heavy Full Pitch giving way to the fruity Opener bitter. Old Kent

has an ownership link with the Grand Union Brewery of Hayes, Middlesex which brews a cask-conditioned lager described as German in style. This has a softer, smoother taste than lager-pale ales made elsewhere and was much appreciated at the **Louis Armstrong** which has since had Hopdaemon's Skrimshander. Jackie is promising a couple of exceptional ales for the special jazz evening on 20 May.

At the **Prince Albert** the Ringwood Best may have been dropped, but Adnams stays. Pedigree is an established regular at the **Park Inn** but all six beer engines are kept in full time employment. A subtle Kent connection is provided by Everards 'Perfick' - "Darling Buds of May" featuring Pop Larkin was filmed around Pluckley whilst the beer is dry-hopped with East Kent Goldings.

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Hardly any reports at all from anyone living in or visiting the town.

The only news was gleaned from a couple of personal visits earlier in the year, so a round up of the town centre pubs below:

Prince Albert has changed hands and has been selling beers from Flagship brewery, Chatham whilst the range at the Ship has changed slightly.

Meanwhile the **Jolly Gardener**, closed many years ago, is still disused despite proposals at that time for re-use as a "community centre" (surely a fair definition of "pub"?),

Pub Name	Regular Beer Range (at last visit)
Admiral Penn	London Pride, Wells Bombardier, Draught Bass * <i>open evenings from 6pm but closed on Sunday</i>
Alma	Beer Range varies * <i>Enterprise Inns</i>
Brickmaker's Arms	Greene IPA, Abbot Ale
Cambridge Arms	TBA * <i>beer range varies</i>
Deal Hoy	Master Brew, Spitfire, Early Bird, Bishop's Finger
Dunkerley's	Spitfire * <i>restaurant but with full pub licence</i>
Eagle	Greene King IPA * <i>Young's Bitter discontinued</i>
Green Berry	Greene King IPA, Ruddles County
Hole in the Roof	Courage Directors
King's Head	Courage Best, Wadworth 6X
New Inn	Draught Bass, Stones Bitter
New Plough	London Pride
Port Arms	Pedigree, Wadworth 6X, Old Speckled Hen
Prince Albert	TBA. Flagship Ales? * <i>may still open eves only</i>
Royal Hotel	Spitfire * <i>may be dispensed by gravity?</i>
Saracen's Head	Master Brew, Spitfire, Best Bitter/Bishop's Finger
Ship Inn	Bass, Master Brew, Hook Norton, Summer Lightning
Star & Garter	Master Brew & Best Bitter
The Strand	Courage Best, Old Speckled Hen
Walmer Castle	Flowers Original



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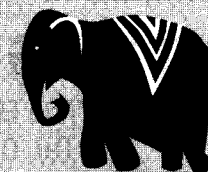
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Sandwich

The GBG-listed **Admiral Owen** now has new tenants after the previous incumbents left early in the New Year, Stuart and Louise Walter taking over within a few days. Stuart's father ran the **Red Cow** for over twenty years which takes us back to the gravity-fed Fremlins/Trophy days, especially Thursdays when all the farmers seemed to be in! .

I mention gravity dispense because the stillage at the **Owen** has been restored running in tandem with the handpumps. Still a Greene King tied house with IPA & Abbot plus brews badged as Morland or Ruddles but certain other breweries' beers as supplied by GK can also appear, e.g. Caledonian 80/- (Edinburgh) or Bate-

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mans XXXB. Also in new hands is the **Greyhound** which has been looking run-down for far too long. Watch this space (or call in and report back please).

At the **Fleur-de-Lis** (Verini Taverns) the landlord has been putting in his guest ale orders well in advance. London Pride and Greene King IPA are the two regulars but the third pump should see (amongst others) at various times Beckett's, Hog's Back, Burton Bridge, Enville and O'Hanlon's. Flagship delivered here in Feb.

Villages

Charity, Woodnesborough has Ansells *Mild* on all of the time, plus Pedigree etc. **St. Crispin, Worth** has trimmed its large ale range but the quality is much improved. Master Brew and Spitfire are hand-pulled with two or three guest ales on stillage. Summer Lightning or Taylor's Landlord taste remarkably different that way!

Butcher's Arms, Ashley has a second ale alongside Master Brew. Due in during April were Hydes Copper Hopper, Harviestoun Ptarmigan and Jennings 'JJ' N°1.

Yew Tree, Barfrestone continues largely with a Kentish line-up, examples being Hopdaemon Dominator, Ramsgate Brewery Gadd's N°3,



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Swale/North Weald India Summer or Old Kent Full Pitch. *Dark Mild* is always there – it could be Elgood's or Moorhouse – plus other "imported" beers as guest ales.

Coastguard, St. Margaret's Bay also favours local brews but here the strengths tend to be at the modest end of the scale. Expect Hopdaemon Incubus, Gadd's N°7, Old Kent Opener or Harvey's Best alongside the Adnams Southwold.

Swingate, Guston has also had beer from Flagship, here Friggin' in the Riggins. **Marquis of Granby, Alkham**, – we have heard reports of it being sold. Confirmation?

Lighthouse, Capel-le-Ferne makes use of all four handpumps at busy times. Greene King IPA & Abbot plus one or two others from the GK portfolio, e.g. Old Speckled Hen, Ruddles County, Everards Tiger or Batemans XXXB.

Royal Oak, Capel-le-Ferne has had, amongst many others, White Adder from Mauldons which despite its name is a deep copper colour!

Fox, Temple Ewell has had beers from Robinson's and is now selling Abbot. A real treat was Deuchar's IPA from Caledonian.

Cricketers, River now does Pedigree on a regular basis. This can be served with or without a tight sparkler – please ask for your preference. **Royal Oak, River**, changes here are expected shortly, more news next issue.

Endeavour, Wootton (see headlines) previously had London Pride and/or Ridley's EKB. Has anyone been out there yet to see if the new owners prefer something else?

Jackdaw, Denton now takes beers from some of the better known micros in addition to nationally available regional brands. Spitfire is permanent – the WW2 connection?

The Fox



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Folkestone Area

East Cliffe Tavern with its period décor and old tram prints has been something of a revelation since returning to Real Ale after nearly three decades of top-pressure. Cask beer such as Wadworth 6X, Taylor's Landlord, GK Abbot and Old Speckled Hen have all sold well but for a real treat recently there was Skrimshander. Expect one beer at a time, maybe two.

The saga of the **Lifeboat** (see last issue) still goes on with various issues yet to be resolved. Local CAMRA members have had no option but to formally notify deletion of this one from the 2003 Good Beer Guide due to unreliable beer quality, quite apart from the reduction in range. Impressions are that there has been an improvement lately but more is needed.

East Kent (ex-East Kent Arms) usually has Bass and either Hancock's or Worthington Best, but 1744 has not been seen there yet. **Pullman** does just one beer despite having seven pumps – previously Spitfire but now Bombardier.

The Bayle duet of **British Lion** and **Guildhall** continue with their permutations from Pubmaster's list, the latter having secured a supply of Jennings Cumberland Ale.

Wetherspoon's is into the 59-strong spring list with an in-house festival due in May whilst **Chambers** contin-

ues with London Pride, Adnams Broadside and a third ale. **Harvey's** has had Opener and Full Pitch from Old Kent as well as the accustomed offerings from Cottage Brewery plus the ever present Everards Tiger.

Earl Grey and **Master Brewer** have reopened (see headlines) – are you impressed?

Meanwhile the **Richmond** continues with Master Brew, **Railway Bell** also has just Master Brew, having previously offered one or two from Bishop's Finger, Spitfire and Porter.

For a full range of Shep's ales travel down to Sandgate and the **Clarendon** – Early Bird should be on by now. The **Ship** has had Harvey's Old Ale and Armada and usually has Summer Lightning whilst majoring in Greene King.

Finally, away from the Channel Draught area: -

Red Lion, Stodmarsh, is reported as having Kent ales. Details, anyone?

Three Horseshoes, Lower Hardres is still closed, future thus uncertain.

Railway, Appledore, has sent its advance guest ale list to us. On order in mid-March were beers from Goffs, RCH, Freeminer, York Brewery and Oakham. Also Hopdaemon Greendae-mon Organic Pilsner – not normally available in cask form (being bottle-conditioned).

Editorial Note – “Marsh Mash”

We have been covering the Folkestone area since the Marsh Mash magazine which covered the Ashford, Folkestone and Romney Marsh areas last appeared. Recently the local branch (AFRM) has moved to revive a Marsh Mash newsletter to cover their area with the first new issue due out shortly after Easter.

At present we are sharing news coverage, along with any features, concerning Folkestone pubs so for the time being you may find both publications in local pubs! Please support Marsh Mash with your reports, etc.

Finally

As ever, we can't write the news without a lot of help. Thanks this time go to Johnny Lewis, John Pitcher, Alan Beecham and our usual spies.

If we haven't mentioned something relevant, chances are that we haven't been told! If in doubt, please contact me and let me know. I'd rather hear it twice than not at all!

Phone or text 07932 525345
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*Dave Routh –
Area Organiser East Kent
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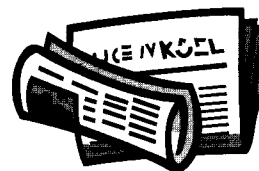
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Louis Armstrong



The National News

Last time I remarked that the “fall out” from the Interbrew saga had started. What I did not realise at the time is this is also impacting on both **Six Continents** (surviving ex-Bass pub, etc estate) and **Whitbread** as well as both **Interbrew** and **Coors** who effectively split the breweries and beers between them.

Six Continents has been the subject of unwanted bid attention from Hugh Osmond who will know the company as well as any given his recent past dealings in the industry. He wanted the lot but at a shareholders meeting the company determined to split in two. The pubs, including brands like Harvester, O’Neills and All Bar One have adopted the recently lost brewery name of Mitchell & Butler. The fight might not yet be over though and other financial institutions could still tempt the shareholders with an attractive bid of around £3000M.

Whitbread is not free from predation either, despite being

almost out of the industry. It is rebranding some of its Brewer’s Fayre and Beefeater branded pub-diners (and taking out the surviving Real Ales too) but is also attracting attention from possible buyers who would relieve it of its last remaining link to the pub trade.

Interbrew has broken the link with Heineken, with the so-called “cold filtered” 3.4% ABV UK version being ditched without direct replacement. Pubs are being offered Castlemaine XXXX @ 4.1% instead while the Heineken name now stands alone on the former “export” 5.0% version. As yet, we have no further definite information on the future of Draught Bass, Flowers or Boddingtons so the uncertainty remains.

Coors is pushing Worthington 1744 as its intended replacement for Bass with varying degrees of success but it is too early to predict the eventual



outcome of a sales battle. Meanwhile it is content to put up its wholesale prices which it did in March.

Refresh UK has announced ambitious plans for production of up to twenty seasonal ales during the course of the next year. Since it now either brews (Wychwood) or controls (Ushers & Brakspear) brands it is using all three names. Most will be familiar brews from 2002 (e.g. Bee Sting for Brakspear) but there are some new ones. East Kent locals might get mighty confused in November when Wychwood's contribution is due to be "Hop Demon" – note the spelling! Has anyone told Tonie Prins over at Canterbury?



Last year's Hop Demon clip

Laurel is altering its Hogshead brand image bringing it more into line with other high street outlets, i.e. less adventurous than the original Whitbread concept and with fewer (more reliable?) beers. More thoughts on that one on page 34 in this issue.

Meanwhile ex-Laurel pubs going to **Enterprise Inns** are gradually changing over to that company's strictures, for better (usually) or worse (sometimes) – *tenants'* choice of beers seems to have increased.

The whole pub sector seems to be going through a crisis of confidence right now with most shares slipping or even sliding and even the strongest reining back on spending. Just as well that most of the established regionals are holding up well. Speaking of which I think I'll go out now and hold up an Early Bird or a Honey Dew!



Dave Routh

Sources: What's Brewing, The Publican & Daily newspapers

Andy & Charlotte

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Come and enjoy The Frenchman Cask Ale Club – Offering you the finest in small and micro-brewery beers.

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It's also worth noting that we are now recognised as Folkestone's premier live music venue, with live band at least three nights a week. On top of which we have darts, two pool tables and a 7ft Big Screen TV showing all Sky Sports, including Sky Sports Plus!

Kent Small Brewery News



Hopdaemon Brewery 01227 784962 – Tyler Hill, Canterbury
Contact: Tonie Prinz

Tonie has been informed by the Soil Association that he is welcome to advertise his Greendaemon organic lager as Organic. He takes great care to use only top quality organic ingredients in this brew. There is, however, the matter of a small consideration of £500 being paid to the said association before Tonie is allowed to mention this commonly used English adjective in conjunction with his product. New labels show Greendaemon Natural Lager. (To my knowledge the British Naturalist Society have not yet approached him for a donation).

Greendaemon has occasionally been sold as a cask conditioned lager and has been taken by the Yew Tree at Barfreton amongst others. A new outlet for Skrimshander I.P.A. is the East Cliff Tavern in Folkestone where they alternate this ale with other brews.

The Ramsgate Brewery 07967 660060 - Ramsgate
Contact: Eddie Gadd

A new brew is Gadd's No.5 Ramsgate Best Bitter at 4.4% and this has been taken by a number of free houses in the Ramsgate Area. This beer will be a permanent addition to the range and will complement Gadd's No.3 and No.7.



Shortly after the last edition of Channel Draught went to print, Eddie decided to decrease the bitterness of his beers as *some* people had found them to be *too* hoppy. Shame on them.

A mild will be produced for the month of May.

Swale & North Weald Brewery 01622 851996 – Grafty Green
Contact: John Davidson

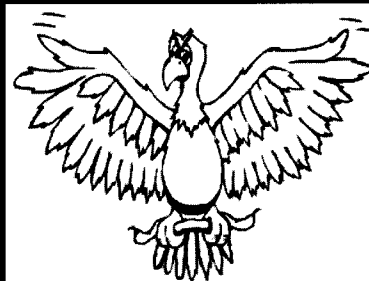
I'm afraid the news from this brewery is, contrary to normal policy, not supplied

directly from the "Horse's Mouth" or first-hand experience, in this edition of Channel Draught. It would seem that the "horse" is to defect to France. (We all know what happens to horses in France).

I do know for a fact that John has often spoken of retiring from brewing and joining our friends across the English Channel with whom he would wish to spend his years of retirement. It does seem likely that a Whitstable Oyster & Fish Restaurant will buy the bulk of the brewing equipment and retain John as a consultant until the equipment can be moved to Whitstable and brewing commences there.

It is said that the brewery will supply a few existing accounts whilst the moves are taking place. This would be feasible as there are three sets of brewing equipment. The smallest of these is of 2.5 barrels capacity and I have heard that John plans to take this to France with him. Whether to keep himself in traditional English ale or to educate the French in the delights of his beers I do not know.

Unfortunately it has proved impossible to contact John Davidson over the last three weeks, for his comments, but it is hoped that an accurate report can be given in the Summer issue of *Channel Draught*.



The Eagle Inn

324 London Road

Dover

01304 212929

Hopdaemon Ales available

Watch this space for more guest ales

Regular theme & quiz nights

Check out the window posters

Open all day every day



A new beer from this brewery is Deep Crimson a mid to dark brown hoppy beer of 4.6% ABV. This was available at the Cinque Ports Yacht Club as *Channel Draught* went to press.

Flagship Brewery 01634 832828– Chatham (by Jeff Tucker)
Contact: Jeff Tucker

Spring Pride has replaced Moby Dick as the seasonal ale. A special beer, Pieces of Eight (3.8%), was brewed to celebrate the eighth birthday of the brewery in February.

Outlets in the DDS area are (some only occasionally), the Yew Tree at Barfreestone, the Louis Armstrong in Dover, the Swingate at West Cliffe, the Fleur de Lys in Sandwich and the Prince Albert in Deal.

Old Kent Brewery 01732 882111 – Borough Green
Contact Sara-Jane Anderson

I can state that there is no truth in a recently heard rumour that Sara-Jane is to leave O.K.B. Another rumour that the brewery is to be closed at Borough Green and relocated adjacent to the Grand Union Canal is equally false. How do these rumours start?



A recent delivery from O.K.B. was to the King's Head at Kingsdown. The Cabin English Restaurant, Dover will, by the time you read this article, be stocking O.K.B. beers in their bottle conditioned form.

All of the breweries that are featured in this article will be pleased to supply direct to any eligible licensee in East Kent at wholesale prices.

Roger Marples

Stop Press: An article in the 28th March 2003 issue of the "Canterbury Extra" newspaper confirms the sale of Swale Brewery to the Green family of Whitstable. Additionally, one of Swale's customers has been informed they cannot obtain any more casks. This matter continues in our next issue.



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*At La Cuisine Paysanne
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**Just the thing to soak up
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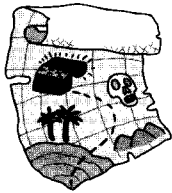
*Menus are seasonal,
reflecting the fresh produce available
at that time of the year!*

Hearty fayre, Happy service

*Look forward to seeing you
John et Florence*



**La Cuisine Paysanne
269 London Road, Deal, Kent Tel: 01304 373238**



Lost Pubs of Dover

Jim Green

Many of the pubs around the Wellington and Granville docks as well as Lord Warden Square, no longer exist.

The following article dates from the early 1970s and recalls how the area was a century ago.

The Good Old Days

By Ernest F Stokes

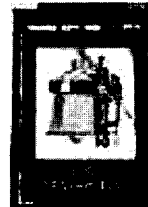
Looking at the Pier District today one would be surprised if he saw it as it was, at the turn of the century (1900), and wonder how so much habitation and business could be sited in such a small area from the Western Docks gates to the Lord Warden Hotel, renamed Southern House (and now using the Lord Warden name again).

Now for the men-folk, they could have half a pint of beer without using the same public house twice, and get drunk on 3/0d. Here is a list of Public Houses in that area in 1900. We start at the Western Docks entrance with 3 shillings, and have half a pint at each stop:-

Prince Imperial	Strond Street
Ship Inn	Strond Street
Royal Mail	Strond Street
Green Dragon	Strond Street
Swan	Strond Street
Hotel de Paris	Strond Street

Then just round the corner to Billie Mutton's where you could buy a packet of 'fags' for a penny, or a pennyworth of 'Shag' tobacco. How he could sell it at that trice is nobody's business. From there we go and see Mr Minoletti at the Pavillion at Custom House Quay. We will now cross the railway line to the Shakespear in Clarence Street, to save going over the same ground twice we will call at the Fleur-de-Lys in Council House Street. Then back to the Rose and

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Four Real Ales, currently inc. Abbot Ale

London Pride & Greene King IPA & 1 guest*

Large Car Park at rear & Beer Garden

Food available all day

Families welcome to 8pm

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*Ales are Subject to availability

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Restaurant quality food served 7 days a week. Booking essential

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Tuesday	Steak Special
Thursday	Around the world
Friday	Fish specials
Sunday	"Weekend Recovery" with drinks promotions



Up to five Real Ales! Including Charles Wells Bombardier, Greene King IPA, Youngs Special, Greene King Abbot Ale, Courage Directors*

Reopened with a fresh look, new menu dishes daily, improved Wine List and renewed enthusiasm. This will ensure that our dining or drinking customers will have the best service possible. I look forward to meeting you all soon..

Jason

* Ales are Subject to availability

Crown in Clarence Street and the Cinque Ports, also in Clarence Street, round the corner to:

Silver Dragon	Middle Row
Railway Bell	Beach Street
Sceptre	Beach Street
Miners Arms	Beach Street
Deal Cutter	Beach Street
Pier	Beach Street
Brussels	Beach Street
Terminus	Beach Street

Having consumed one gallon plus, we will call on Bert Marbrook, father of Bert Marbrook who in 1970 has the Pier Coffee Stall and who incidentally is 85 years of age. Marbrook Senior was landlord of the Hope Inn in Council House street, where we will also have a pennyworth of bread and cheese to soak it up, then to the:-

Endavour	Bulwark Street
Archcliffe (the old one)	Bulwark Street
Granville Arms	Limekiln Street
Two Brewers	Limekiln Street
Exeter Arms	Limekiln Street
Kent Arms	Limekiln Street

Then round the corner to:

Lion	Elizabeth Street
Oak	Oxenden Street
Princess Maude	Hawkesbury Street
William and Albert	Oxenden Street
Duke of Connaught	Oxenden Street
Neptune	Hawkesbury Street
Albion	Hawkesbury Street
Railway Inn	Hawkesbury Street
Scotch House	Limekiln Street
Three Compasses	Finnis Hill

Now, all of these were open twenty-four hours, or near, as it was common to see who could drink a half a pint at each house. I do not remember anyone going the



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Fullers London Pride & Flowers Original served

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The Village Pub next door to
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lunches are very
popular. Please
book to avoid
disappointment

whole thirty-six, only twenty-eight, but that was only a practice run. One could get a pennyworth of gin, or two pennyworth of rum, or four pennyworth of brandy. Ale was 3d a pint, beer 2d, and porter was 1d.

Wages being 15 to 18 shillings per week I think you will find the percentage about equal, but from the number of public houses in such a small area you will understand where the poverty arose and why it was called the 'Poor Pier'.

Up to the first few years of the 20th Century children would go to the pub to buy liquor, but then a law was passed to compel landlords to seal bottles, and jugs became unlawful, so landlords just stuck a piece of gummed paper over cork, which easily came off. Children were forbidden to go into the bars with their parents and restrictions were tightened considerably with the result that many houses provided gardens for children, as is evident at the Cricketers, Dublin Man'o'War, the Donkey and many other houses which were then outside the borough.

Incidentally, the hours of closing were tightened up, and one could only get a drink on Sunday outside three miles of the borough. As I lived in the Pier District, going through the town to the Plough was well over three miles but over the hills was much less.

So on Sunday mornings Dad would say, "Come on, Son. We will go for a walk over the hills". When I asked dad where we were going he would say, "I must see my old friend Mr Could at the Plough. Do you think that you could walk?" Could I? It meant ginger beer, a large biscuit and broken rock!

Good old days for some, but what of those whose fathers did not say "Come on Son". It's nice to look back on those days, good for some, but much more could be written of the 'Poor Pier', but like everything else it gets old, and in the not too distant future nothing will be left.

Oh, and by the way, we did not use all the 3/0d. Assuming only 28 half-pints were consumed, that still left 8d, so what can we do with that without making gluttons of ourselves? Well, let's see a show at the Pheonix for 2d. I know I feel just about too full to walk, so on the tram for 1d. Well, what about a half pint at the Swan? For he's a jolly good fellow!

Written by *Ernest Stokes*

Champion Beers of Britain

The following beers were appointed Champion Beer of Britain by CAMRA since the competition started. It's interesting to note which beers made regular come-backs:

1978 1st	Thwaites Mild/Fuller's ESB	1979 1st	Fuller's London Pride
1980 1st	Thwaites Best Mild	1981 1st	Fullers ESB
1982 1st	Tim Taylor Landlord	1983 1st	Tim Taylor Landlord
1984	No Event	1985 1st	Fuller's ESB
1986 1st	Bateman's XXXB	1987 1st	Pitfield Dark Star
1988 1st	Ringwood Old Thumper	1989 1st	Fuller's Chiswick Bitter

From 1990 the judges awarded prizes to the top three beers.

The Plough Inn

Church Lane, Ripple

Tel: 01304 360209



Real Ales, Country Wines

Full weekday menu plus traditional Sunday lunches

Accommodation, One Double Room & One Twin Room - Both en-suite

Ales usually available are:

London Pride, Shepherd Neame

Master Brew & Spitfire plus Guest Ales

Listed in the 2002 CAMRA

Good Beer Guide

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1990 1st Ind Coope Burton Ale | 1991 1st Mauldon Black Adder |
| 2nd Taylor Landlord | 2nd Fuller's ESB |
| 3rd Robinson Old Tom | 3rd Brains Dark |
| 1992 1st Woodforde's Norfolk Nog | 1993 1st Adnams Extra |
| 2nd Taylor's Landlord | 2nd Taylor Best Bitter |
| 3rd Bateman's Salem Porter | 3rd Woodforde's Headcracker |
| 1994 1st Tim Taylor Landlord | 1995 1st Cottage Norman's Conquest |
| 2nd Coachhouse Blunderbus | 2nd Harvey's Porter |
| 3rd Woodforde's Headcracker | 3rd Hadrian Centurian |
| 1996 1st Woodforde's Wherry | 1997 1st Mordue Workie Ticket |
| 2nd Cheriton Digger's Gold | 2nd Bateman's Dark Mild |
| 3rd Butterknowle Banner Bitter | 3rd Hobson's Best Bitter |
| 1998 1st Coniston Bluebird Bitter | 1999 1st Timothy Taylor's Landlord |
| 2nd Mordue Radgie Gadgie | 2nd Oakham Jeffrey Hudson Bitter |
| 3rd Moorhouse's Black Cat | 3rd Caledonian Deuchars I.P.A. |
| 2000 1st Moorhouse's Black Cat | 2001 1st Oakham JHB |
| 2nd Hogs Back TEA | 2nd Hop Back Summer Lightning |
| 3rd York Brewery York Terrier | 3rd Brains Dark |
| 2002 1st Caledonian Deuchars IPA | |
| 2nd RCH East Street Cream | |
| 3rd Triple fff Moondance | |

Champion Winter Beer of Britain

- | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1996 1st Hambleton Nightmare | 1997/98 1st Nethergate Old Growler |
| 2nd Branscombe Vale Yo Ho Ho | 2nd Shepherd Neame Porter |
| 3rd Theakston Old Peculier | 3rd Daleside Monkey Wrench |
| 1999 1st Dent T'Owd Top | 2000 1st Robinsons Old Tom |
| 2nd Woodforde's Norfolk Nog | 2nd Theakstons Old Peculier |
| 3rd Daleside Monkey Wrench | 3rd Wye Valley Dorothy |
| | Goodbody's Wholesome Stout |
| 2001 1st Orkney Skullsplitter | 2002 1st Wye Valley Dorothy |
| 2nd Sarah Hughes Dark Ruby Mild | Goodbody's Wholesome Stout |
| 3rd O'Hanlon's Port Stout | 2nd Bath Ales Festivity |
| | 3rd Robinsons Old Tom |
| 2003 1st Nethergate Old Growler | |
| 2nd Gale's Festival Mild | |
| 3rd Wentworth Oatmeal Stout | |

A list of winners at the White Cliffs Festival, anyone?

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At Finglesham

Free house - 16th Century Restaurant

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5 Real Ales

Including

Theakston - Old Peculier
Morland - Old Speckled Hen
Shepherd Neame - Master Brew
Plus 2 Further Guest pumps.

By the Bottle

Banana bread beer	Fiddlers Elbow
Wadworth 6X	English Ale
Manns Brown Ale	Light Ale
Young's Extra Light	Mackeson Stout

Draught Beers, Cider & Stout

Kronenbourg	Dark Mild
Carlsberg	Courage Best
Foster's	John Smith's Smooth
Strongbow	Guinness

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Viewpoint

There's real ale, and Real Ale, says Martin Atkins

In an entertaining article in the Spring issue of Draught Copy (newsletter of Maidstone, Bexley, and Gravesend and Darent Valley branches of CAMRA), Jeff Tucker outgoing editor and Area Organiser West Kent lambastes much of the real ale that is commonly found on pub bars, which he considers poor or boring, or in the case of John Smith's dire.

All the usual suspects are there, the national brews from such as Scottish Courage, Tetley or Flowers; the more widely distributed output from the regional/family brewers such as London Pride, Wadworth 6X, or Greene King IPA and even includes Harvey's and Adnams. Broadly he considers much of the national output poor and many of the regional brews boring owing to their wide availability, with relief only being provided by the micros whose output may be "weird" but can often be superb.

Many people I suspect will agree with Jeff's point of view, which is probably an accurate reflection of much of CAMRA's current membership, and it does raise several issues. Firstly CAMRA as an organisation supports all real ale irrespective of quality or any other factors. This, it can be argued, is in line with freedom of choice and individual taste, but it does allow all kinds of brews, sometimes not very good, to be included within the umbrella term real ale. This suggests a certain level of quality and respect. Secondly many of the national brews (and to my mind many of the regional beers as well) while providing a reasonable pint are not particularly inspiring and provide little to enthuse about.

It was not always so. Whitbread, for example, continued to run a number of local breweries around the country for many years after its considerable acquisitions of the 1960s, with beers such as Fremilins (while brewed at Faversham) and Castle Eden receiving widespread respect. From the same brewery Fuggles Imperial and Winter Royal were both excellent, and one year about ten years ago, there was a superb winter porter. Whether any of

these are still brewed I don't know; Fremilins certainly isn't, and I don't recall seeing any of the others lately. Similarly Ind Coope Burton, one of the stalwarts of early CAMRA, appears to have suffered a similar fate, and has seemingly disappeared after being altered a few years ago; while Courage Directors, although still to be found, bears no comparison with the brew of a few years ago. The regionals are not necessarily any better. I find it hard to believe that Fuller's ESB has now the same unique flavour I first tasted twenty five years ago, while Ruddles County, another original CAMRA favourite and now part of the Greene King stable, has been "repositioned" at 4.3% ABV from 5% ABV – adding one more beer to the crowded 4-4.5% bracket, and losing much of its original character. Locally, Shepherd Neame's Bishop's Finger and Spitfire have both been reduced in strength, and, many would say taste, since their introduction. Some, such as King and Barnes Festive, Adnams Extra, and the very distinctive springtime brew, Mr Harry from Fullers, have gone all together. Sadly, much of what we see from the larger brewers, is a range of somewhat pedestrian beers, sufficient to satisfy their real ale quota, but not to go out of your way for. How very different from many microbrewers where a beer is often brewed just because its right.

As well as referring to quality Jeff also comments on availability, considering the wide distribution of certain beers leads them to becoming boring. Superficially this seems an odd argument; if a beer's any good why not want it as widely available as possible? I don't recall any complaints when bottle conditioned Guinness was sold in every pub and Worthington White Shield could be found in very many. However both these were very distinct, characterful brews, and I feel his real target here is simply the sameness of many modern ales. Since the disappearance of the large tied estates (and their replacement) over much of the industry by "free" trade, both the national and regional/family brewers have been funnelled into supplying a narrow market for low to medium strength bitters, not too heavily hopped and mid-brown in colour. Whether or not this is what the public wants, its what it gets.

Under the old, much criticised, tied house set up most draught beer was sold via a brewery's estate which, while it may have restricted choice in individual pubs gave breweries greater scope to pursue distinctive and

individual styles, without having to keep one eye on what the free trade required. Certainly when the choice locally was dominated by Fremlins, Charringtons and Shepherd Neame whatever you thought of them, each was immediately recognisable; and the same could be found right across the country with beers tailored to suit local tastes and conditions. Today modern marketing concepts require a brew to be acceptable everywhere, with obvious consequences for variety. How often do you find a porter, stout, mild, pale bitter or any other variation from the standard bitter format widely distributed by one of the larger brewers? Not often, but these are widely available from the micros.

Real ale accounts for approximately 10% of beer output, but for many of us it will be the 1-2% from the microbrews and smaller independents that will be sought out. I do not unreservedly like all such brews; some are not to my taste or as Jeff says, "are weird", and some are frankly not very good, but they do offer range and variety and give the impression of being brewed by brewers rather than accountants.

Martin Atkins

Coming Soon

Real Ale Guide
To Deal, Dover, Sandwich
& District

Watch This Space!



Caught on film!

Images from the White Cliffs Festival of Winter Ales



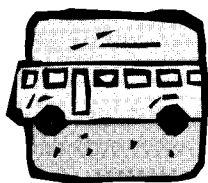
The Connaught Hall was busy both days



Branch member Paul Skelton
serving a pint



Roger Marples takes a break



Country Pubs by Bus

"We'd like to go without the car and not worry about restricting our intake, but how do we know if a bus goes there?" Bus information is unfortunately rather hit-and-miss, and not helped by our county council's failure to produce local public transport timetables. This would at least help potential users see what's on offer and plan journeys.

But some places are accessible so don't give up completely. **The Marquis of Granby**, at Alkham, for instance is worth making an effort. This is set in the midst of fine walking country so you could consider a walk out there and a bus back, but on second thoughts the timetable is more suited to bussing out there and walking back!

From the Dover direction bus 591 (operated by KCC not Stagecoach) starts from Pencester (Bus stop A) and serves stops up London Road to Buckland Bridge passing the Railway Bell and the Fox then along Alkham Valley Road. Mon-Fri suitable departure times from Pencester would be 1150, 1310, 1805. Sats 1150,

1310. From Folkestone Bus Station Bay E suitable departures Mon-Fri are 1110, 1230, 1735. Sats 1110, 1230.

Returning from Alkham to Dover buses stop outside the Marquis at 1244 and 1514 Mon-Fri and 1244 only on Sats. Heading back to Folkestone 1329 is your allocated time Mon-Sats. Sorry, no buses on Suns

Somewhere else in the middle of nowhere but well worth checking out is the **Jackdaw** at Denton. Again in good walking country, so

PIPS

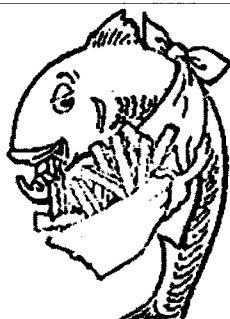
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worth using as a base. This is on the main road between Folkestone and Canterbury.

Mon to Sat Stagecoach service 116 leaves hourly from Folkestone bus station at 35 mins past the hour, last one 1835. On Suns at 1125, 1325, 1525, 1825 Mon to Sat back from Denton buses for Folkestone call at the Jackdaw at 6 mins past hourly until 1906, with evening buses at 1936 and 2309. Connecting buses from Folkestone will get you back to Dover, except for the late bus but if you get off at Central Station at 2330 you can reach Dover and even Deal by train). Alternatively if you are returning from Denton to Dover, get the 16 at 2225 to Canterbury where change on to the 115 home at 2330. On Suns buses from Denton go back to Folkestone at 1434, 1634 and 1844.

Don't forget this bus journey is more economical if you buy a Stagecoach 'Dayrider Plus' ticket. On Mon to Fri it must be bought before 3pm though it is valid all day. Who else could think up a rule like that?

Not far away about one mile uphill is the **Endeavour** at Wootton, another of our rural pubs which is now open again after recently changing hands. Sorry details unavailable at time of going to press.

Finally somewhere really remote but well worth the effort is the **Yew Tree** at Barfrestone, well away from any buses, but a brisk 1½ mile walk from Shepherdswell station never hurt anyone, did it! This pub serves varying beers, concentrating on local Kent micro-breweries

Marquis of Granby:

Mon/Sats 1130 to 3; 5.30 to 11; Suns 12 to 3, 6 to 1030.
London Pride, Abbot, Speckled Hen on handpump

Jackdaw:

Mon/Sats 11 to 11. Suns 12 to 1030.
Ringwood Best Bitter and Spitfire on handpump, and guest beers

Yew Tree:

Mon 7 to 11; Tues, Wed, Thurs 12 to 3 and 5 to 11; Fri, Sat, Sun 12 to 11 (winter)
Beer selection varies, many Kentish micros plus a real mild.

John Pitcher

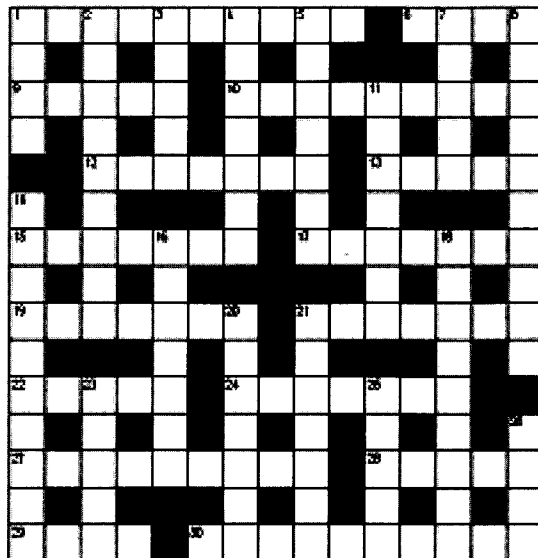


Crossword

Just for fun By 'Boggle'

Beesword

By Boggle

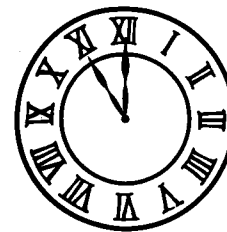


Across

- 1 One mad European is on construction site of Winter Ales Festival (6,4)
- 6 Age of Bob Malton's beer? (4)
- 9 Illuminate ale (5)
- 10 Drink Harriestown's Old Engine Oil to do this to conversation! (9)
- 12 Spirit is little Alan's company on short holiday (7)
- 13 Counted the seconds when pub closes down (5)
- 15 Agamemnon loses top of mash for family name (7)
- 17 Rugby player, head off after pub out South (7)
- 19 See 18 down
- 21, 29 Naval officer and new love back Sandwich inn (7,4)
- 22 Visit many pubs on hands and knees (5)
- 24 Makes foamy and gets plastered with Queen of the South (7)
- 27 Giving free rein to consuming (9)
- 28 Action hero finished skimb after Young's brewery (5)
- 29 See 21 across
- 30 Miss Manners brewed out South, shows examples of ideosyncratic behaviour (10)

Down

- 1 Beer ingredient with many alternatives (4)
- 2 Made indelible impression, rearranged Eastern gin drain (9)
- 3 Eye drink dispenser (5)
- 4 Firstly drink our lager, then hear fin, flipper perhaps (7)
- 5 Man, 50, with some Beamish, preserves body (7)
- 7 Remove weapon with mixture of sodium and rum (5)
- 8 Output from Radeberger Brewery bombed headless whale? (7,3)
- 11 In time between, one man after maker of Bass with no brew (7)
- 14 A drink with a good head? (10)
- 16 Lots of love after mail from French sculptor (7)
- 18, 19 A Young's ale traditionally served after turkey? (9,7)
- 20 No love in Galliano cocktail for Asiatic wild bird (7)
- 21 Produces antibodies against some Genever (7)
- 23 Add the French for effect of alcohol on brain (5)
- 25 Mistake to confuse third wiesbier with love as taught at school (5)
- 26 Jumps on one leg in pocket? (4)



LAST KNOCKINGS

Much time is currently being spent by Parliament discussing the new licensing bill, and in due course the new regulations will emerge, including among other things a liberalisation of opening hours and the transfer of licensing responsibility from the licensing justices to the Local Authority. Horrendous rumours abound about the final consequences of the proposed legislation particularly with regard to Local Authority involvement, with many in the industry anticipating additional bureaucracy and cost. However as things stand at the moment there appear to be no plans by the Government to investigate the accumulation of pubs by large pub companies, which in terms of concentration is now reaching similar proportions to the situation that existed before the beer orders of the late eighties. These imposed a requirement on brewers to relinquish control on half their estate in excess of 2,000 and gave landlords rights with respect to the sale of guest beers.

As a result, and added to an existing policy of selling off pubs by the large brewers many were turned into free houses or formed into small chains. Along with the now reduced estates of the national brewers, and the remaining regional and local brewers tied estates, they offered considerable diversity of choice for both consumers and suppliers of beer. However, of late, and particularly since most of the large brewers split pub owning from brewing we have seen a trend towards amalgamation into a few large pub companies. Gordon Brown's tax break for small breweries last year was most welcome, but will the market exist for their products if much of the industry is back in the hands of a few large chains sourcing their supply from a handful of large combines.

Rather muted congratulations to Shepherd Neame for their introduction of porter as their winter seasonal brew after an absence of several years. As reported in the winter issue this was a somewhat weaker version (it actually weighed in at 4.8% ABV) of the 5.2% ABV brew that was available during the winter for many years in the 1990s; and although much opinion considered it excellent, I have to admit that while I liked it, I personally found it thinner and less gutsy than I remember it. Nonetheless, I hope it has sold well and maybe proved to Shepherd Neame that there is a market for dark beers.

The March edition of "What's Brewing" comments on Laurel's proposals for the Hogshead chain, acquired, along with many other pubs from Whitbread. Admittedly I was never greatly enamoured with Hogshead, which like so many other themed chains, seemed intent on heading down the "leisure experience" road, but they did adhere to the original concept of providing a variety of real ales, often from smaller producers, even after this policy had been cut back a couple of years ago. However under the new arrangements the brand name (somewhat altered) is being retained, and not much else. Real ales will be limited to Fuller's London Pride and Caledonian Deuchars IPA, the chain will be called Hog's Head (with a hog's head logo), and will employ staff called *Hoggers* who will wait at table. It is anticipated there will be substantial sale of alcopops and shots and a greater emphasis on entertainment. A spokeswoman from Laurel neatly sums up the new philosophy by referring to a new and improved brand (Hog's Head), rationalisation of beers to allow staff to understand them, and shifting of focus from local brews to "quality" (my inverted commas). Sounds like a serious case of consultants.

Leaving aside that the new format is obviously targeted at a certain type of younger drinker, to the exclusion of most of the rest of us, why do pub owners insist on trying to theme and brand their outlets? Many of them never seem particularly successful or of particular interest to most drinkers, and offer the total opposite of individuality and character which many of us regard as the essence of a good pub. I suspect the real reason for theming is that it is the language that bankers, accountants and marketing people understand. Read any of the financial pages in the press, and reference to a brewery or pub chain will normally include their more prominent themed and branded outlets, thus Whitbread was the Beefeater and Brewers Fayre chain and Six Continents is All Bar One. Much easier to deal with, if pubs are slotted into a number of convenient pigeon holes with pre-determined formats for which staff can be corporately trained, rather than relying on a landlord's individual initiative and enterprise.

I've never been much of fan of Jennings from Cockermouth, their beers not being to my taste. However a recent introduction, 1828, celebrating their founding, is spot on. A well hopped, strongly flavoured bitter it is surprisingly only 3.8% ABV and would see off many stronger and more prestigious brews. Unfortunately with so much effort being concentrated on the "flagship" brews in the 4.5% ABV region, good ordinary bitters seem often to have been relegated to the status of poor relation; thin bodied and short on flavour. Let's hope that 1828 is not just a one off, and that more brewers can be encouraged to follow Jennings's example.

Local Information & Useful Numbers

If you have a dispute concerning ale bought in Dover, Deal or Sandwich, please bring it to the attention of Martin Atkins (see Page 53). You may want to take the matter up yourself and we advise you to contact any (or all) of those on the right:



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Old Wort



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