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Channel Draught

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take a copy



Sandwich - not just there for the golf!



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

Issue 16 Summer 2003



Events Diary

12-13 July	Beer Festival*	Duck, Pett Bottom
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
29-31 August	Beer Festival*	Hare & Hounds, Northbourne
15 September	Branch Meeting	Yew Tree, Barfrestone
13 October	Branch Social	Games evening at The Mogul
20 October	Branch Meeting	Venue tba

Updates to the diary are available on the branch website
www.topsy.demon.co.uk/dds_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.
Events marked with * are not organised by CAMRA but by the venue indicated

Front Cover : Admiral Owen and Crispin pubs, Sandwich
Photo by Martin Atkins

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 Summer 2003 issue of Channel Draught.

Summer has truly arrived and the rural pubs in White Cliffs Country will become very busy—at least that's what the landlords hope! The presence of The Open in Sandwich will certainly lead to an increase in trade at the pubs in and around Sandwich and Deal. For those who value the quiet pint, take a look at the rural section of the news and in particular some of the pubs to the West of White Cliffs Country, bordering Canterbury. You might even like to try the vintage bus service running every Sunday until September 7th, details are on page 42.

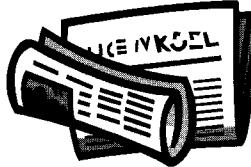
We bid happy retirement to Alan & Pat Mash of the Royal Oak, Capel le Ferne this issue. Fifteen years as landlords of the pub, and thirteen continuous years in the Good Beer Guide. Cheers!

Congratulations to Charlie and Frank at The Mogul for winning the Branch Pub of the Year award for 2003.

Topsy
Editor

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The Local News

Headlines this issue:

- ◆ *From Antwerp to Bohemia*
- ◆ *Work starts on Lloyd's N°1*
- ◆ *Black Horse Blaze*

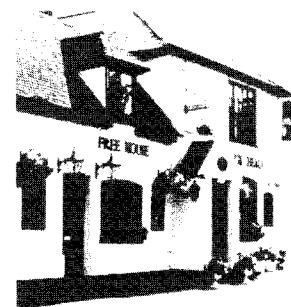
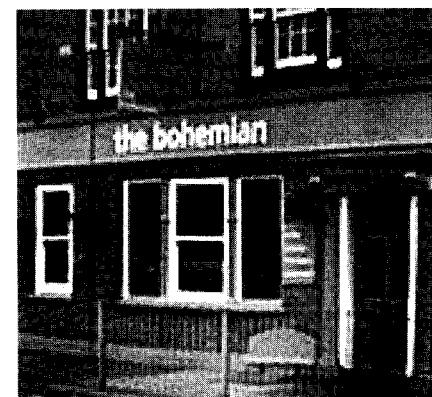
Friday 20th June saw the grand opening of the *Bohemian*, formerly the *Antwerp*, on Deal seafront. The pub has been taken by former Shep's tenants from the Deal Hoy and they were kind enough to give *Channel Draught* a sneak preview while the paint was still drying. The work was finished just in time, and with a newly arrived baby to tend to as well, quite some task. Our congratulations!

The décor has changed quite drastically and is in keeping with the new name, including some modernist prints on the walls. The basic layout remains intact, but looks very different with its new furnishings whilst the patio/garden is due to open soon (when ready!).

John is a fellow beer nut (remember the BBQs at his last pub?) and with a genuine Free House to run there is of course an interesting selection of ales, plus imported beers in place of the usual UK lager brands. Regular beers are expected to be Woodfordes Wherry, Adnams Broadside and Hop Back Summer Lightning. The fourth ale is a guest which on day one was Harviestoun Bitter & Twisted.

Normally we would not mention the lager selection, but here there is Czech Budvar from the town the Germans named Budweis. The others are Amstel, brewed by Heineken in Holland, Leffe Blonde and Brune from Belgium, Liefmanns Kriek (with its cherry infusion), as well as Hoegaarden (the intentionally cloudy one) and remarkably Anchor Steam from San Francisco.

Work your way through that lot and finish off with a real ale in a bottle – Cooper's Sparkling Ale from Melbourne, South Australia or Chimay "Capsule Blanc", the white-capped version of this Trappist brew (harder to find than the red or the blue). All in all the style is that of a city centre or university town bar, so is quite a radical departure for Deal!



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Saturday 6-11pm

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Deal News

Also hard at work are sub-contractors for JD Wetherspoon who are now converting the former Snoops disco club into the area's first *Lloyd's Nº1* bar. Originally due open earlier this year, plans had to be delayed due to structural difficulties uncovered by building inspectors. Finding asbestos in the roof is bad enough, but having a leaky river running under the site really caps it. After all it was once part of a brewery site!

Word from JDW sources indicates a fairly standardised format with plasma-screen music and (we believe) a rear conservatory or patio – if so a nice view of a designated redevelopment area! Expect few ales though, but a late-night licence with no particular restrictions on entry and obviously targeted at the 18-30 age bracket. It is now due open in late summer at the earliest.

Friday the 13th of June was particularly unlucky for Pubmaster whose *Black Horse* at Densole on the A260 north of Hawkinge caught fire that night. TV and local press reported that nobody was injured in the blaze but the pub was extensively damaged. With an expanding community at the old aerodrome nearby and only two competing pubs within anything like walking distance we assume that the company will be keen to rebuild as soon as it is able to do. Beers had been Directors and Bass.

Our thanks to those who responded to our plea for fresh information.

Shepherd Neame's programme of upgrading selected pubs continues. Having completed projects in Sandwich and Folkestone it has now turned its attention on Deal, including Walmer. There the *Railway*, originally a hotel of course, has become the latest beneficiary of investment which is aimed at increasing the attraction of prominent community local pubs.

Changes here have been described as "a complete transformation". Not surprisingly the old two-bar layout has been opened up into a single bar, being the industry standard these days, and the old function room is now a dining area. The original floorboards have been exposed and varnished and new wooden furniture installed. The garden has been restored to full use and there is a possibility of Bat and Trap here if the right equipment can be found (big garden!). The beer is Master Brew, now served by new tenants Woody and Ann who are ale drinkers themselves. Our best wishes to them in their new venture.

Shepherd Neame is also refurbishing all three of its seafront hotels. At the time of going to press the *Royal* was closed for major work but should reopen in July – the others are the *Star & Garter* and the *Clarendon*.

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UNITED KINGDOM

The *Prince Albert* is now owned/managed by Michael Harlick and Colin Vurley who have begun to make some changes to what had been essentially a restaurant where drinkers were welcomed but not encouraged. It is still food-led but is to have B&B rooms and garden whilst drinkers have their own space in the bar.

From the CAMRA standpoint the best news is the improved choice of beer – it is a genuine Free House. Master Brew is the house bitter with two guest ales alongside. Recent visitors have found Taylor's Landlord, Deuchars IPA or Henry's IPA from Wadworth; the latter is a classic West Country pale ale and very different to 6X. However please note the opening hours: evenings only (from 6pm) except Sunday when it is open all day.

Nearby the *Saracen's Head* has been selling the Shep's seasonal ales, so should have Summer Goldings by now. However we are told that there are now no Real Ales at all in the brewery's *Lord Clyde* – fizz-only Shep's houses seem to be on the increase again. The *Telegraph* offers a fuller range with both Spitfire and Early Bird during the springtime. The *Stag* has Bass and Broadside with the former also at the *Lord Nelson*. The *Deal Hoy* does a varying range from Shep's. *Green Berry* stays with a Greene King duo – usually IPA and "Ruddles" County. The same GK IPA at the *Eagle* but the Young's has gone

for good. The *Cambridge Arms* is a Punch Tavern with Bass, Adnams, London Pride and Bombardier. Business as usual at the *Admiral Penn* with more Bass, London Pride and Bombardier – strangers to the town should note the hours (evenings only from 6pm and closed on Sundays).

The biggest beer range in town is still at the *Ship* with 5 on, including Hook Norton Bitter and Hop Back Summer Lightning to give a big range of strengths too. The beer range in the refurbished *Port Arms* reflects its former Whitbread ownership so expect Old Speckled Hen, Pedigree or Wadsworth 6X.

Extra reporting by Stuart Gerrard, Anne & Julian McIlroy.

Dover News

The Real Ale scene in many the smaller, traditional pubs can best be summed up as "swings and roundabouts" whilst larger managed pubs tend to be more predictable with either a good steady throughput or none at all. That said, there are of course some notable exceptions.

Bad news first. The little-used hand pumps at *Bar Elle* have been ousted by more fizz taps whilst those at the *Orange Tree* are once again disused. Availability of Directors or GK IPA at the *Prince of Orange* is unpredictable which is a shame since quality

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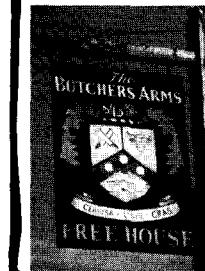
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12-3 & 7-11 Sat, 12-5 Sun



has been very good. The short-lived *Cruisers* looks like a permanent closure with some building conversion work nearing completion – it had the dubious distinction of selling the keg version of Young's "Ordinary". Also closed (lease on offer) is *Harleys*.

Restoration work of a positive kind at the under-used *Britannia* which now offers Pedigree and/or Bass. The same beer combination appears at the *Priory Hotel*, replacing the previous selection. Perhaps it is no coincidence that management here are making more of an effort to attract (stranded?) commuters as well as their regulars. Also back to Real Ale is *Sir John Falstaff*. Once a Whitbread alehouse with a mix of big names, regional and seasonal beers, it had lost all 5 pumps but now has one for Courage Best.

Shepherd Neame Summer Goldings has now displaced Early Bird from the *First and Last* – it is good to see Real Ale adverts at both ends of East Cliff! Elgood's Cambridge continues to be popular at the *Renaissance* and is on most days, occasionally giving way to, or accompanying, another ale such as Worthington 1744 or Ridley's EKB. The latter has long been a "house beer" in the *Prince Albert* but until recently was badged by its wholesaler as "East Kent Brewery" despite being an East Anglian bitter then brewed by Tolly Cobbold. However Ridley's of Chelmsford (who bought out Tolly) have come up with

a new pump-clip which shows its true origin and even mentions that it is brewed for wholesalers Andrews of Margate.

The *Park Inn* offers two guest ales alongside four regulars with all six apparently selling well. During the spring there was another first for Dover: Old Mill Bitter is a very pleasant traditional-style pale ale from Buxhall in Suffolk – those East Anglian brewers certainly value the Kent coastal trade.

The sad demise of the Old Kent Brewery (see page 24) came as a bit of a blow for local choice but the related Grand Union Brewery of Hayes (Middx, not Kent!) now supplies some at least of its former outlets. At the *Louis Armstrong* the Cologne-style cask-conditioned lager Koelsch has proved popular, perhaps appealing to two sets of beer fans. Guest ales here are normally timed to be conditioned and ready for busy sessions including the regular music nights (jazz on Sundays), quizzes and special events. Bass is the house ale.

So no Old Kent at the *Eagle* now, with Hopdaemon becoming sole supplier. Golden Braid remains the house ale, usually with Incubus alongside or maybe Skrimshander. The "natural" (believed organic) bottled Green Daemon Pilsner throws a light sediment but is actually quite easy to pour given a steady hand.

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Adnams Southwold and Broadside at *Cullin's Yard* but no sign of the spring/summer Regatta this year. Wells Bombardier made a guest appearance at the *Flagship* during our recent branch meeting, but this Pubmaster outlet is best known for its Tetley Imperial. It is a sad comment on Carlsberg-Tetley that very little effort is put into marketing this impressive pint to the point that it can be hard to find even in its native Yorkshire. CAMRA in Leeds tell us that some C-T tenants do not even realise that they can get it (more on Tetley in the National News).

The *Golden Lion* is being redecorated. Apart from the regular Adnams and Pedigree, there have been ales from Thwaites of Blackburn, viz. Thoroughbred and Lancaster Bomber.

The *Mogul* retains its title of Branch Pub of the Year and the ever-changing trio of ales has appropriately enough included winners from the Great British Beer Festival. With beers being judged in several different categories (then an overall winner) this by itself gives a comprehensive range of styles to try. One hard-to-find style is of course Dark Mild, but Moorhouse Black Cat does well here as does Goacher's Dark Mild from Maidstone. Definitely unusual (for the UK) is De Koninck, a Belgian copper-coloured ale with a subtle, "moreish" taste which belies its 5% strength.

Being summer now (and pushing 30°C as I type this) JD Wetherspoon has a new list with 57 varieties this year. As usual an eclectic mix of well-known brands (good to see "Ind Coope Burton Ale" even if it is brewed in Leeds), various regionals, seasonal offerings from established micros plus the downright unusual (Schiehallion Cask Lager or St. Peters Lemon & Ginger Ale). Customers at the *Eight Bells* tend to favour the stronger brews (e.g. Ringwood Old Thumper) but expect most of the list to appear here.

Finally, a real surprise at the *White Horse* just as we were going to print. Alongside the London Pride and Abbot Ale was a beer which may be familiar in bottles but is normally available locally only in Canterbury in its draught 4.5% form – the splendid Hobgoblin from Wychwood.

Folkestone News

By now readers may have come across "Marsh Mash", the newly relaunched newsletter of our neighbours Ashford, Folkestone & Romney Marsh Branch. This gives a full summary of the Folkestone area, but given the close ties with our area we shall continue to keep you posted on the ale scene there.

Since our last issue there have been a few changes. The most startling development is at *Mustang Sally's*



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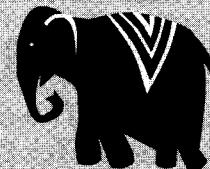
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which is getting yet another facelift – this must be in danger of setting a new record for changes in name and décor in its short life! Will the name change or the Cask Tetley's survive?

The **Earl Grey** looks a lot smarter now but without being totally revamped, and sure enough there is Spitfire as well as Master Brew now. The other refurbished Shep's house, the **Master Brewer** over at Broadmead should have Summer Goldings alongside the regular duo. Real Ale is back in the **Royal Standard** for the first time since in living memory – Wadworth 6X or Greene King. The **Two Bells** next door now has two ales which will normally be Pedigree with a varying second, such as Worthington 1744.

THE GUILDHALL

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Guest ales are now established in the **East Cliff Tavern**. GK Abbot and Taylor's Landlord are favourites here, but when *Channel Draught* called in during a rainstorm we were treated to Red McGregor, a dark red and strongly flavoured ale which hails from the Orkney Isles. Guest ales may be returning to the **Lifeboat** too, which keeps at least one Summer Lightning fan happy.

Strong dark ales are also a feature of Jennings Brewery of Cumbria, but its Cumberland Ale is less well known in these parts, so thank you Stuart at the Guildhall for a timely reminder of what we are missing. Stronger beers seem to be the forte of the **British Lion** with GK Abbot and Old Speckled Hen, alongside Pedigree and Young's Special on a recent visit.

Beers from Cottage are often on at **Harvey's**, but also Wye Valley Over the Sticks for a change. Ringwood Old Thumper at **Chambers**, and good news for Cider drinkers here – the fake pump has given way a real one with Biddenden Bushels which is 6% (compared to the usual 8.4% of Biddenden Dry). The **Pullman** usually has Bombardier or Spitfire available.. Not previously mentioned is the **Castle** which has Tetley Cask.

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Speaking of Mild, the **Cherry Pickers** in Cheriton has Ansell's on permanently – the only pub in the Shepway area to do so. **Wetherspoon's** is a grand pub from a heritage standpoint but it is not so good in the guest beer stakes which is a bit disappointing given the range at Dover or Canterbury. Often there is just one guest, and a well known one at that.

P.S. Not all Folkestone pubs have been visited by Channel Draught – further coverage in **Marsh Mash** which was in several of those pubs listed above.

Sandwich News

Not many changes in Sandwich since the last issue, indeed very much "business as usual", with real ales in virtually all Sandwich pubs. By now the **Market Inn** should have moved on from Early Bird to Summer Goldings. The **Crispin** is a Punch Tavern, Everards Tiger or London Pride alongside Bass. The handpumps in Greene King's **Admiral Owen** are normally devoted to IPA and Abbot with the rest of the GK range on stillage behind the bar – it's the wrong time of the year for Strong Suffolk, so expect Morland Original or Ruddles County.

Always a guest ale in Verini Tavern's **Fleur-de-Lis** for example Gadd's of Ramsgate for a local taste or Sharp's Cornish ales for variety. We are told that the **Greyhound** has been/is being refurbished.

The Fox

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Village News

The five-beer range at the **Jackdaw** (Denton) changes frequently with only the Spitfire being a permanent fixture as befits this pub's well-known WW2 connection. A real surprise was Tetley Mild in June – at the same time the others were all from Hants, viz. Gales HSB, Ringwood Best and Ironside from Hampshire Brewery.

There's always a Mild at the **Yew Tree** (Barfrestone) and also local brews. Currently the Mild is local too, being brewed by Eddie Gadd at Ramsgate Harbour. Peter Garstin's intention is to keep this a permanent basis, provided that the brewer can accommodate this. On my June visit, Triple fff Moondance and Hopdaemon Incubus were on sale for variety. Forthcoming attractions are Sharp's Doombar, RCH Double Header and the Lemon & Ginger variant from St.Peters brewery.

Always a guest ale alongside the Master Brew at the **Butcher's Arms** (Ashley), one at a time to ensure tip-top condition. Seasonal ales from, say, Jennings or Bateman contrasting with the regular Master Brew. Another pub with a guest ale is the **Hare & Hounds** (Northbourne) which is otherwise known for its Harvey's Best, surprisingly hard to find at this distance from Lewes. A beer festival is scheduled to be held here from 29th to 31st August.

Since becoming a Free House a few years ago, the **Kings Head** (Kingsdown) has had a wide variety of guest ales too. The "Koelsch" (Cologne) lager from Grand Union Brewery slakes a summer thirst, but a major feature so far this year has been a succession of ales from Archers of Swindon. These have included Around the Maypole and Thirst Quencher. Note that Archers also retail beers from Wolverhampton & Dudley (Banks & Marston).

Down at the **Coastguard** (St. Margaret's Bay) Adnams Southwold Bitter is a regular offering. Local ales are regular features, and on a balmy June evening there was Gadd's N°7 bitter to savour. There's another reason to switch those mobiles off too – beware the "Welcome to France" texts! The **Fox** (Temple Ewell) has two regular ales and two guests, one of the latter will be a "session" ale, i.e. below 4%. The **Railway Bell** nearby is best known for its Abbot Ale and London Pride.

Alan and Pat Mash are due to leave the **Royal Oak** (Capel-le-Ferne) after fifteen successful, and we trust happy, years there. We are assured that the pub which they have built up will pass into good hands. Meantime, Flagship Brewery have been in again – this time with the 5.2% Shipwrecked. Your correspondent got shipwrecked at 447 feet above mean sea level.

Still buoyant are ale sales at the **Lighthouse** just up the road. Up to four from Greene King, including the occasional "guest" supplied through GK from another regional (e.g. Tiger or Tanglefoot). The **White Cliffs Inn** may be closed, having previously been open only during the summer.

The **Marquis of Granby** (Alkham) did change hands but we do not have a report on beer range yet. The **Plough** (Church Hougham) is still a Whitbread Beefeater, although the company is believed to be considering further bar/diner disposals – London Pride and Flowers OB are to be found here. Meanwhile the **Chequers** (West Hougham) remains boarded-up awaiting a decision on its future.

Other rural pubs have already closed, notably out at Rhodes Minnis where the **Gate** and the **Prince of Wales** have gone to other uses, whilst the **Three Horseshoes** at Lower Hardres stays closed despite at least one expression of interest.

In the same area, the **Hop Pocket** at Bossingham now has Bass and Greene King IPA. The **Duck** at Pett Bottom has long had Greene King beers but has since added Shepherd Neame, with supplies of local ales coming from Flagship and Hopdaemon. Dispense is both by handpump and on gravity. A house beer festival is due over the weekend of 12th & 13th July.

The **Rose & Crown** (Stelling Minnis) has 4 or 5 ales on, including Adnams, Greene King and Pedigree.

At the **Crown** (Finglesham) there is a fine combination of Old Speckled Hen and Old Peculier plus Master Brew and 2 guest ales.

Finally, one of the very few pubs in the area offering real mild is the **Charity** (Woodnesborough). The selection of bitters has included Pedigree and Greene King.

Endpiece

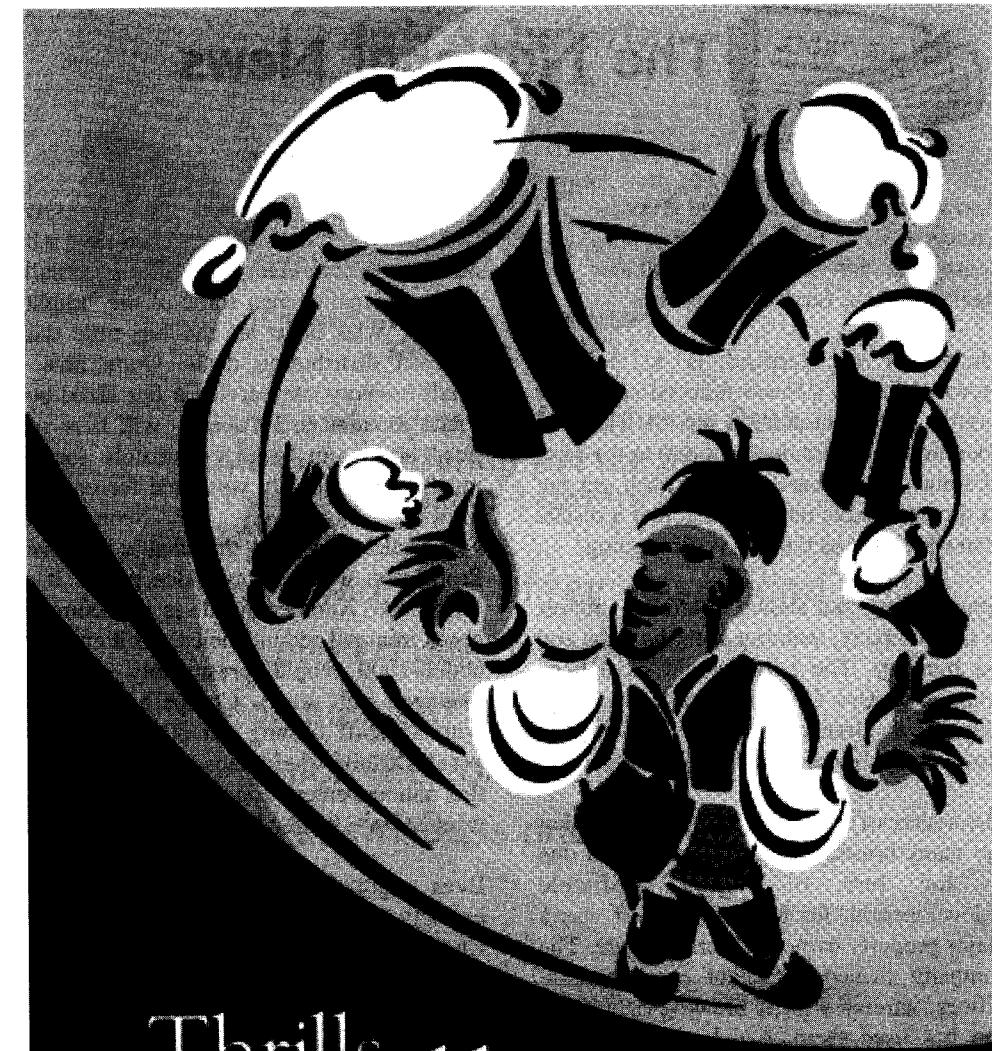
As usual we have limited space to mention the pubs we actually hear about. If a pub isn't mentioned it is either due to us not knowing about the latest changes in beer range etc or possibly that the beer range hasn't changed since our last issue. Either way, please let me know of your news "from the horse's mouth" and we'll do our best to include it next time.

We particularly need to hear about rural pubs in the area to the west of Sandwich towards Canterbury and up to the river Stour.

E-mail me at dave.routh@zoom.co.uk (Other means of communication are shown on Page 49.)

Dave Routh

Pubs Officer DDS



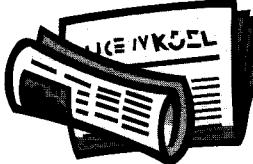
Thrills. & spills

At the
Great British Beer Festival

5-9 August 2003, London Olympia

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The National News

Scaled Down McMullen Survives Concerns over Tetley Future Scottish & Newcastle Out of Pubs Decision Time for Bass Museum

McMullen of Hertford is to stay in brewing, but on a much reduced scale. For months the continuation of its Hertford operation had been doubtful due to the wish of some of the shareholders to sell out but its directors have now put together a rescue plan which keeps the family firm going.

Greene King had shown a definite interest in the company, wanting both the pubs and the brewery. The latter would have been retained to give GK added capacity which seemed a strange assurance given the closures at Abingdon and Biggleswade.

The source of the rescue is ironic given that too many breweries have closed down due to the lure of highly profitable redevelopment, for McMullen itself was a major property owner in Hertfordshire. The company owned sufficient property, e.g. offices, unrelated to its brewing operations and has used them as a bargaining chip. These will now be sold to pay off those shareholders who caused the closure proposal to arise.

It will remain as a "vertically integrated" brewer and pub retailer, currently owning about 140 pubs mainly in its Hertfordshire homeland with a few in London (including a showpiece near Charing Cross). However the brewing operation will be drastically reduced, taking it under the maximum of

18300 (36 gallon) barrels for Progressive Beer Duty purposes so they even save a bit on their Excise Duty bill! This actually makes it smaller than some of the "mighty micros" who have hit the big time with national distribution deals. Quite how a small brewery can service a fair sized pub estate remains to be seen – will they sell pubs or buy in beer? Fortunately for us, much of its capacity was used for contract brewing, exclusively for Scottish & Newcastle, and it is this that will cease. Production will be Real Ales plus a bit of nitro keg. Another puzzle is its assurance about minimal redundancies, for it employs about 1000 people (presumably including managed pub staff). Compare Ringwood with 35 staff turning out 30000 barrels a year. Despite the unanswered questions, this announcement comes as a real relief to drinkers in CAMRA's home county.

Even mighty breweries are not safe from extinction – over the years Luton, Bristol, Cheltenham and Birmingham (Aston and Cape Hill) spring to mind. Even Carlsberg-Tetley in Leeds could become a target, not just for take-over but even shutdown. The perceived threat comes from **Scottish & Newcastle** which has finally bowed to City pressure to choose between brewing and retailing. Having swallowed Danone (Kronenbourg and Alken-Maes) just over the Channel and having extensive other brewing interests across Europe it came as no surprise that it chose to remain a non-retailing brewer. So the pubs will go to a major bidder leaving S&N with a pile of cash to spend on its core brewing.

Andy & Charlotte
Welcome you to...

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

Every week we offer you a hand picked guest cask ale to complement our regular ales, which include; Bombardier, Draught Bass and Spitfire.

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!

The city of Leeds has seen more than its fair share of major property development and the C-T brewery would be a prime site by any standards. The fear up there is that S&N would close it down and shoehorn the brewing into John Smith's at Tadcaster or Thakstons on Tyneside.

Local footnote: our only known S&N tied house is Dover's Premier Lodge Hotel (t/a Millers bar/diner). However C-T is a major supplier to pubs throughout the area.

One legacy of the decision by Bass to exit brewing is the status of the **Museum Brewery** which was of course an integral part of the Bass Museum of Brewing. That legacy went with the rest of the Burton-based Bass operations to Coors, who also took with it the Worthington brand name as well as a short-term contract to brew Draught Bass for Interbrew.

First the Museum. The one benefit of being of part of Bass is that it was a small but prestige operation which gave kudos as well as profit to the main operation. As a brewery it could be used for all sorts of short-run or experimental brews. With the demise of King & Barnes it regained brewing and bottling of the renowned Worthington White Shield. The museum gains a royalty from Interbrew for its rights to the Bass name, whilst its actual brewing operation has to compete for external trade with every microbrewer you could care to mention. Coors has to decide whether or not to retain the museum or sell it off as a separate company (but still on site).

Part of Coors' dilemma is that Draught Bass contract, which expires in just 1½ years time. In short, without that it would have no residual interest in the museum. It

is putting a big effort into pushing Worthington 1744 as its own replacement for Bass and now has over 1000 outlets nation-wide. In this part of the world it may still be "no contest" with so many Bass outlets, but elsewhere it has gained ground.

Meanwhile, Coors has been experimenting with seasonal beers under the Worthington banner. At first it was expected to use its 60-barrel-per-week Samuel Allsopp plant but it now transpires that Museum Brewery, at just one-tenth the size, will get the job. If so there won't be much to go round whatever the Museum's future.

Not too much on the pub chain front right now, apart from the continual trickle of small-scale deals but plenty of potential remains. The main "prize" would be Scottish & Newcastle's 1450-strong estate. Nomura had already been negotiating on about 700 but that fell through once the total sell-off was announced.

One purchase already agreed is the sale of cider giant HP Bulmer to Scottish & Newcastle. S&N is paying £278M for a company whose corporate strategy had come off the rails. Unexplained holes in accounts don't help much either. However there is an angle for Real Ale drinkers too, for Bulmer owned The Beer Seller too. For us this well-known and diverse drinks distributor means just one thing: national delivery for regional and local brewers everywhere, although in fact it actually sells other products, e.g. Bacardi Breezers. S&N is expected to sell on Beer Seller for about £30M – our concerns are obvious and CAMRA HQ is already talking to the competition authorities.

Dave Routh

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**Over 120 real ales and ciders
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station starts 15 mins before each session
and runs every 15-30 mins**

Day	Times	Admission
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Friday	1200-1600	Free entry
	1830-2300	£6 (£5 advance)
Saturday	1130-1630	£2.50
	1830-2300	£2.50

**All sessions except
Friday evening free to
card-carrying CAMRA
members**

**Phone/Fax 01227 463478
www.kentbeefestival.co.uk**

Kent Small Brewery News



There does seem to be an unusual amount of change with regard to the small breweries that supply the Channel Draught area. There are major changes to three of the five breweries.

I know from experience how hard it is to run one's own small business in these modern times but the lot of the small brewer has never been easy with such a restricted market. The vast majority of licensees may not buy from a brewery of their choice and this leaves only a tiny market for the 'micro brewery'.

Please support your local small brewery, when you can, by drinking their beers. They are brewed using top quality malt and hops and tend not to use cheap brewing adjuncts unlike some of their larger cousins.

Hopdaemon Brewery 01227 784962 – Tyler Hill, Canterbury

Contact: Tonie Prins

This is one of the two breweries for whom business is normal. An occasional brew, on draught, is Golden Dove at 5% ABV which uses American liberty hops.

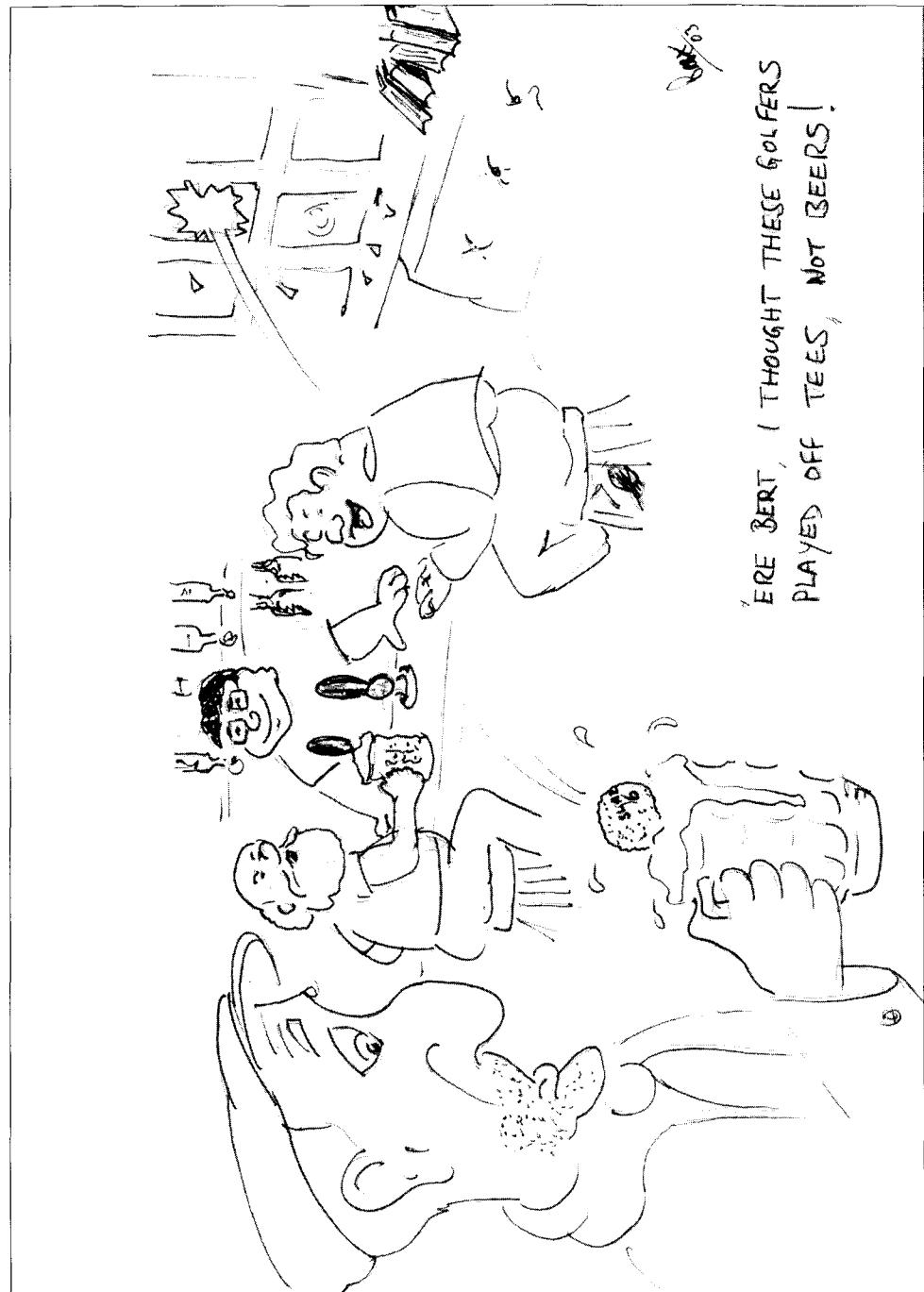
Tonie has recently appeared on the small screen in a programme entitled 'Special Brew' (no connection with Carlsberg I trust). I understand this to be a cable TV programme. Tonie is working to full capacity and it is a fact that demand can sometimes outstrip supply.

The Ramsgate Brewery 07967 660060 - Ramsgate

Contact: Eddie Gadd

As with Hopdaemon brewery, the situation is stable and buoyant. Two brews of mild at a respectable 5% ABV have been produced for May which is CAMRA's designated month for mild. The Thanet branch of CAMRA together with local licensees, strongly supported the May Mild campaign, consequently Eddie's first two brews were a great success. A third brew is being produced and if this is also a success more could follow. The Yew Tree at Barfrestone has been taking mild.

Eddie has a few ideas for a summer beer, to be followed in the autumn by a brown ale, as first seen last year and finally the Dogbolter/Winter Porter to complete the seasonal brews.



Whitstable Brewery 07831 310676 : Grafty Green

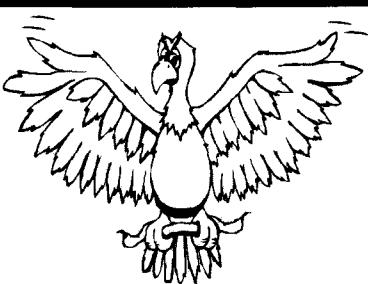
Contact: James Green

After myriad rumours regarding Swale and North Weald Brewery, I spoke to Mr James Green of the Whitstable Oyster Fishery Company, the new owners of the brewery.

Brewing is still continuing at Grafty Green, albeit with a temporary much reduced output. Approximately one small brew a week is being produced. John Davidson, the previous owner, is being retained, for a few months, whilst the new company is familiarising itself with the brewing business. There are no plans to relinquish the Grafty Green Brewery and the range, based on John's existing recipes, will be brewed at this site with a strong emphasis on bottle conditioned beers.

It is planned to increase the range of beers being brewed in late June/early July.

As the heading of this section indicates, the new name of this concern is Whitstable Brewery. The parent company is Whitstable Oyster Fishery Co., owner of the Continental Hotel, Harbour Lights, Beach Walk, Whitstable. This is where those in search of a Whitstable Brewery product should head. I understand that there is always at least one Grafty Green brew available, straight from the cask. At the time of writing it was I.P.A.



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we serve REAL FOOD.*

*Not tiny portions in pretty patterns on the plate
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*Just the thing to soak up
all that wonderful real ale!!*

*Menus are seasonal,
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Hearty fayre, Happy service

*Look forward to seeing you
John et Florence*



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The Whitstable Oyster Company also owns a small restaurant on the East Quay of Whitstable Harbour and it is adjacent to these premises that it is planned to locate a home brew bar. This will be in addition to the Graft Green site. Plant from Graft Green will be used in this new venture.

Whitstable Brewery branding is being produced and should shortly be in use.

A new telephone line is being installed at the Graft Green Brewery but whilst the former telephone line is out of use the brewery can be contacted via James Green's portable telephone (see head of article). The number of the Continental Hotel is 01227 280280.

Flagship Brewery 01634 832828- Chatham (by Jeff Tucker/Kent CAMRA)

Contact: Jeff Tucker

Flagship Brewing Co. has gone into voluntary liquidation due to debts from a previous director. A new company, The Nelson Brewing Co. has been started with one director Angie O'Hanlon. Andrew Purcell is now the brewery manager and Jeff Tucker is retained as an employee. Brewing continues unchanged in the Dockyard still using the Flagship names but badged as Nelson Brewing Co. A new extremely hoppy beer Hornblower, 3.9% has been brewed. (*This has actually appeared badged as Nelson Bitter 3.8%.*)

Old Kent Brewery 01732 882111 – Borough Green

Contact Sara-Jane Anderson

Unfortunately this brewery has brewed their last beers. Production has been moved to the sister plant of the Grand Union Brewery at Hayes. It is sad that when I spoke to the erstwhile brewer Sara-Jane Anderson, three months ago, she was adamant that she had no knowledge of the demise of Old Kent Brewery. Who is being 'economical with the truth'?

Two of the O.K.B. beers will continue to be brewed by Grand Union Brewery if demand justifies this. These are Fine Edge and Opener. These will be delivered to the former O.K.B. trading area and the gentleman to contact is Edward Hawkins on 01732 810499.

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

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REAL ALES ALWAYS AVAILABLE

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MINI REAL ALE FESTIVAL

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Live Music will be provided on Sat 12th at 9pm by

THE HOT RATS



Pub Profile

Royal Oak, Capel le Ferne

Almost jutting out onto the old A20 at the Dover end of Capel the white painted Royal Oak is one of the most prominent pubs, if not landmarks, in the Dover District, and for the last fifteen years has been owned and run by Allan and Pat Mash. At one time selling beers from Mackeson of Hythe (a photograph on the pub wall shows their name on the pub in 1910), it was a Fremlins house during the 1950s and 1960s, before ending up as part the Whitbread empire. By the early 1980s the brewery decided it was surplus to requirements and put it up for sale. For a couple of years it remained empty until Allan and Pat's immediate predecessor bought it and converted it to the freehouse we know today. Allan and Pat bought it in 1988, a year after it had withstood the 1987 hurricane, including having its chimney stack demolished by an airborne caravan.

Although their first pub the couple were not inexperienced in the trade, having helped run Allan's sister's pub in Plaistow, East London. Under their ownership the Royal Oak was soon established as a down to earth, no nonsense local, with a reputation for an excellent pint. Normally selling three real ales – Shepherd Neame Masterbrew plus two guests – it has been a consistent Good Beer Guide entry since 1990 and a regular venue for CAMRA Branch meetings. Traditional pub activities have always featured strongly too, including darts, pool, quizzes and crib; while the Saturday meat raffle has become something of a local institution. Over all these years Allan and Pat have always maintained a friendly and welcoming atmosphere.



However nothing remains the same for ever and Allan and Pat have now decided to sell the pub and take a well earned rest. We wish them well and good luck to the new owners, Paul and Karen who plan keep things much the same and run the pub as it is.

Martin Atkins

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London Pride & Greene King IPA & 1 guest*
Large Car Park at rear & Beer Garden

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Families welcome to 8pm

Sorry no dogs

*Ales are Subject to availability

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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



The Beery Boaters - Go 'Uppards'

"I'd done the Rochdale in the rain, and then through Standedge back again, all in a Summer's week", are a few lines from a bit of doggerel that I once wrote about yet-to-be restored canals. But although a life member of both the Huddersfield and Rochdale Canal Societies there was a time when I hardly believed that I would be able to say that I'd cruised the South Pennine Ring. Well, I can now, even though it was in the opposite direction and took us rather more than a week!

The South Pennine Ring is only 68 ½ miles around but, crossing the Pennines twice has over 200 locks and takes in Standedge Tunnel, the longest (5698 yards), highest (650 feet above sea level) and deepest (over 600 feet below Standedge Moor) canal tunnel in Britain. The route is :- from Sowerby Bridge down part of the Calder and Hebble Navigation and up the Huddersfield Broad Canal to Huddersfield, across to Ashton-under-Lyne by way of the Huddersfield Narrow Canal, down the Ashton Canal to Manchester and returning to Sowerby Bridge on the Rochdale Canal.

So on Monday 21st April last, a duet of motley crews set off from Sowerby Bridge on the 57ft narrowboats 'York' and 'Northumberland'. As the locks on the Calder & Hebble and Huddersfield Broad Canal are only 57ft long, and as its name suggests, the Huddersfield Narrow Canal is narrow, a 57ft by 6ft 10in boat is the biggest that you can do this route on. The evening's venue was the Red Rooster at Brookfoot, a suburb of Brighouse. Plenty of local beers and Saxon (a Yorkshire!) cider.

Huddersfield for Tuesday lunchtime where the captain of 'York' had arranged to meet us at the Rat and Ratchet. Unfortunately it no longer opens on Tuesday lunchtimes! But he found us, anyway, and we discovered that the New Wharf, opposite our moorings at Apsley Basin, did an acceptable pint of Black Sheep.

After relieving our thirsts we sailed upwards onto waters new. In 1993 we had chalked "The Beery Boaters wuz 'ere" on the wall blocking the canal. Now we went past this point and into Lock 1 E on the Huddersfield Narrow Canal, thence into the tunnels made to overcome the blockages at Bates and Sellars mills. Through Milnsbridge (several pubs, not much Real Ale I am told) and 4 miles and 17 locks later we moored up at Linthwaite.



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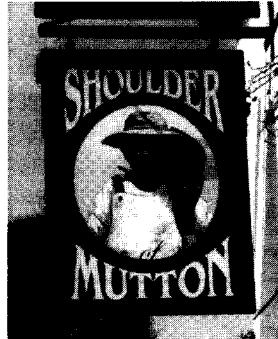
The Village Pub next door to
Dover's Town Centre



At Linthwaite is the Sair Inn, the 1997 National CAMRA Pub of the Year, brewing its own Linfit beers. Not too far from the canal, but the hill up to it makes Dover's Bunkers Hill look like a level playing field! Well worth the effort, though, as we all discovered.

Still sunny on Wednesday. Up late, as we only had a mile to go to Slaithwaite (something like 'Slough-it' to the locals). Our tow through Standedge Tunnel was not booked to take place until Friday morning. I had allowed time for problems, and we hadn't had any! Yet! Slaithwaite is a pretty little town. The canal had been filled in through the centre but has been re-excavated, but only to just over a boat's width. We had arranged to meet at the Swan, near the railway station, for opening time, but were told that the landlord was away and it would not open as usual. A stroll through the town brought us to the Shoulder of Mutton,

just at the upper end of the restored section of canal. A pleasant pub with Timothy Taylors, Black Sheep and a guest beer, so we stayed! And as there was to be a pub-quiz evening and as we were not due to be at the bottom of Marsden Locks, just 2 miles and 10 locks away, until 1pm the following day, it was mooted that we move the boats nearer to the pub and return later. And a good evening was had by all, with the Beery Boaters coming away with some of the prizes.



Carrying on the following morning, it became evident that the canal was a bit short of water. 'York' ground to a halt in the middle below Lock 30E. The navigation notes to this canal advise users not to adjust the water levels themselves, but to contact British Waterways. A telephone call quickly led to the arrival of Ian, a large, genial man who seems capable of opening a lock gate against a 2 inch head of water! Ian provided us with a bit more water, and we moored up below lock 32E to await escort up Marsden locks.

The reason for the escort up the locks is that this is the furthest point that boats not going through Standedge Tunnel are allowed. The closeness of some of these locks means that water is at a premium. We set off at the duly appointed time with Ian as our escort, and glad we were to have him with us! Not only did he have to keep on letting water down to get us



Page 34

Coming Soon

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**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**

through, but we couldn't close the bottom gate of one lock. Eventually Ian had to drain the pound and go in to remove the obstruction. It looked as if someone had dumped a skip load of coping stones in the lock, and enough traffic cones to fence off 3 miles of motorway in the pound. We were now 3 boats; another Shire Cruisers boat, 'Westmoreland', with a crew of students, had come up behind.

It was almost dusk, and threatening rain, when we eventually reached Tunnel End and watered up ready for our morning's tow through Standedge Tunnel. This is one of the regulations; the tunnel's profile is so restricted that boats must take on as much ballast as possible. After mooring, as the rain had now set in, most of us went up the lane to the nearby Tunnel End Inn instead of walking back down the towpath to Marsden. The food at the Tunnel End Inn was excellent, as were the Tim Taylor and Black Sheep beers.

Morning. Still raining as the boats were formed into their train with the tug and its observation saloon in the lead (boaters are not allowed on their craft through the tunnel). Then, with the boats covered in rubber sheeting to guard against damage, we set off through the tunnel with British Waterways providing the driver, motorman, someone on each boat to fend off from the sides of the tunnel, a guide with us in the saloon, an escort in one of the accompanying disused railway tunnels who would peer at us down interlinking addits and no doubt someone in the office checking progress. And what a tunnel; mostly just hacked out through the rock and very restricted in places. It was still raining when we emerged at Diggle, and there was just enough time for a quick pint at the Diggle Hotel while our boats were being disrobed and disconnected. Then we were escorted down Diggle Flight which, unlike Marsden Locks, had plenty of water. The rain had stopped by the time that we moored at Uppermill, the sun emerged and there were enough pubs to keep us happy!

Saturday. Lunchtime, Mossley, evening, Stalybridge. Like Slaithwaite, the canal has been re-instated through the town. We moored by Tesco's and went to the Station Buffet Bar, described in the Good Beer Guide as 'a national institution, and rightly so'. Very crowded, plenty of guest beers. Unfortunately we couldn't find much else to our liking in the town. The following day saw us on familiar waters again. At least we got as far as the canal would allow us in 1991 before we had run aground on a bathtub! At the boat yard at Portland Basin, where we left the Huddersfield Canal for the Ashton Canal we arranged for a pump-out. The proprietor kindly said that we could leave to boats overnight on his secure moorings. We got a bus to Stockport for the afternoon and visited the Railway (Porter) and the Navigation (Beartown), before returning to Ashton-under-Lyne for the evening.

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Caravan Club Site. Certified Location

Monday. One week gone. 6 miles and 18 locks down to Manchester. Hard work, but a -couple of us managed to sneak in a quick pint of Holts at the Strawberry Duck! A bit of a crew change at Piccadilly Moorings, 2 leaving and 4 joining. Thence to the nearby Jolly Angler (Hydes) and other places of delight. In the morning we were escorted up the first 16 locks of the Rochdale Canal. This has only recently been reopened; the line was largely intact, but the canal had been 'shallowed'. In many places the concrete has just been broken through to give navigational depth, and there are still problems with water supply, but things can only improve from now on. Also there were several propeller loads of rubbish to clear. But we did well; under such conditions 10 miles and 31 locks are a good day's work. and by evening we had moored by the Blue Pits Inn, a John Willy Lees house, at Castleton in the suburbs of Rochdale.

Past Rochdale on Wednesday, a lock-free stretch to Littleborough, a break for shopping and then a short, steep climb up 10 locks to Summit where we had time for a couple of pints of Thwaites at the Summit Inn before starting the descent to Sowerby Bridge. That night we moored outside the Cross Keys at Walsden where, for some unexplained reason a lot of the locals were dressed in kilts. The West Yorkshire Highlanders? We were again on known waters, having gone from Sowerby Bridge to Summit and back in 1996.

Thursday. Lunchtime ale at Todmorden, thence to Hebden Bridge for the evening, and to renew our acquaintance with the Fox and Goose. And the following day 'York' and 'Northumberland' arrived back at Sowerby Bridge. We were just about out of Calor gas, so we called in at the boat yard to replenish the gas locker, and in at the Navigation to replenish ourselves! Then we motored down to Elland where we planned to spend the weekend. And we did. Next day started with a visit to the Eastwood and Sanders brewery (thank you, 'Cherub') with plenty of free ale, before sampling the local hostelries, and on Sunday it was our onerous duty to find our way by public transport to Ossett to present the White Cliff's Festival of Winter Ales Beer of the Festival Certificate to the Ossett Brewery, with plenty of free ale!

We returned the boats to Sowerby Bridge in the evening and had another enjoyable session at the Navigation. And that, as they say, is that (at least until the next time!).

Jim Green



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Golden Lion Winkle Club

THE GOLDEN LION WINKLE CLUB EXPRESS!

Yet again the Golden Lion's Winkle Club has come up trumps! and once again it is the kids at Dover's Harbour School in Elms Vale that are on the receiving end of the Club's generosity . It was brought to the club's attention that the school needed some safe play ground equipment, well, no sooner said then done! The club was quick to act as always and working with the school's Headmaster; Mr T Beresford; the decision was reached that the club would contribute to the purchase of the required equipment.

The need was for a safe 'toy' train on which the children could play; such a train was available from Log Play Mobiles, a company in Farnborough, Hampshire, that supplies these things to schools and the like all over the country. Needless to say these items have to meet very strict safety measures and requirements, and are therefore not the cheapest things to buy. The first suggestion was that the club would buy the train, the carriages and a goods wagon coming from other sources, but after a quick chat over several pints in the bar it was agreed that the club could, and would, buy the whole outfit. So it was that a train, costing £255, two carriages at £250 each, and a wagon at £238 were ordered, and subsequently delivered to the school and installed at a combined cost off £145, bringing the grand total to £1,138!!!!!!!

Needless to say the kids are well chuffed (chuff chuffed! get it?) with the new addition to their play area, and a letter from them was duly received and can be seen in the bar , along with a photograph of the train in use.

The Golden Lion has formed a close relationship with the Harbour School over the years and it has purchased several £1,000's worth of computer related equipment as well as other items that are needed by the school to help the children who an have learning, or other difficulties.

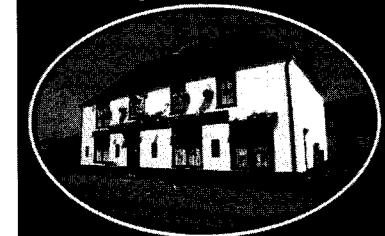
To date the Winklers have raised more the £15,000 for local children who have, for whatever reason, found themselves in need of a bit of help. And it is not just local children who benefit from the good folk of the Winkle Club. Did you know that the Golden Lion has a folding wheelchair to help some of the older regulars get around? Or that it has purchased an electric four wheeled buggy which is on long term loan to a disabled lady who lives out of town? No? Well, not many do, as Rab, Teresa and the gang don't exactly shout about it; but it only goes to show that with a little bit of effort and thought mighty deeds can be done. So it's well done, (again) to all in the club, and I for one will gladly raise a glass to the next £15,000!!!!!!!

The Winkler

Charlie & Tom
welcome you to

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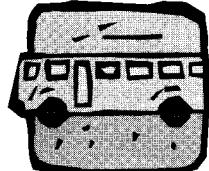
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New Beers
New Image**

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Vintage Bus routes

Did you know that the Friends of The East Kent (FOTEK) have organised scheduled Sunday bus services around the villages out of Dover & Folkestone using vintage buses?

The services pass by many rural public houses that are difficult to reach even on weekday services.

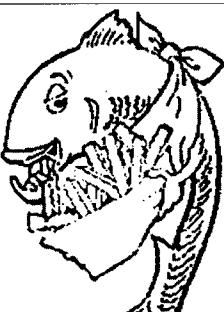
A time table is reproduced opposite, but the official timetables are available from Stagecoach East Kent offices, the Dover Transport Museum and Tourist information centres. Details from FOTEK on 01304 826534.

The services run until 7 September. An all day ticket is available for £3.50, together with single & return tickets. Stagecoach tickets are not accepted on these services. KCC passes are accepted.



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Elvington – Stonewall – Dover	via Coldred, Dover Transport Museum & Castle	89
Crabble Corn Mill – Dover	via London Road & Buckland	95
Aylesham – Stonewall – Folkestone Market	via Alkham & Hawkinge	104

Sundays from 4 May to 7 September 2003 (NOT Public Holidays)

Service Number	89	104	89	104	89	104
Elvington St John's Road	0955	...	1155	...	1455	...
Eythorne East Kent Light Rail Station	0959	...	1159	...	1459	...
Coldred Carpenter's Arms	1006	...	1206	...	1506	...
Aylesham Dorman Ave North	...	0944	...	1144	...	1444
Aylesham Boulevard Courrieres	...	0953	...	1153	...	1453
Barham Cross roads	...	1001	...	1201	...	1501
Lydden Bell	...	1006	...	1206	...	1506
Folkestone Bus Shelter	C1010	C1010	C1210	...	C1510	C1510
Temple Ewell Fox	...	1012	...	1212	...	1512
Alkham Marquis of Granby	...	1019	...	1219	...	1519
Alkham Valley Corner	...	1026	...	1226	...	1526
Hawkinge Battle of Britain Museum	...	...	...	1231	...	1528
Creteaway Down Hill Road	...	1028	...	1238	...	1528
Grove Road	...	1031	...	1241	...	1531
Folkestone Harbour & Market	...	1036	...	1246	...	1536
Temple Ewell Templeside	012	...	1212	...	1512	...
Whitfield Tesco	017	...	1217	...	1517	...
Whitfield Dover Transport Museum	019	...	1219	...	1519	...
Dover Castle	026	...	1226	...	1526	...
Dover Market Square	030	...	1230	...	1530	...
	95	95	95	95	95	95
DOVER, Market Square	1032	...	1232	1332	...	1532
Buckland Bridge	1036	...	1236	1336	...	1536
CRABBLE Corn Mill Museum	1042	...	1242	1342	...	1542
CRABBLE Corn Mill Museum	1104	...	1304	1404	...	1604
Buckland Bridge	1108	...	1308	1408	...	1608
DOVER, Market Square	1114	...	1314	1414	...	1614
	89	104	89	104	89	104
DOVER, Market Square	1114	...	...	1414	...	1614
DOVER CASTLE	1119	...	...	1419	...	1619
Whitfield, Tesco	1125	...	...	1425	...	1625
Whitfield, Dover Transport Museum	1127	...	...	1427	...	1627
Temple Ewell, Templeside	1129	...	...	1429	...	1629
FOLKESTONE Harbour & Market	...	1048	...	1348	...	1548
Folkestone Bus Station	...	1052	...	1352	...	1552
Folkestone Central Rail Station	...	1054	...	1354	...	1554
Hawkinge, Battle of Britain Museum	...	1110	...	1410	...	1610
Alkham Valley Corner	...	1115	...	1415	...	1615
Alkham, Marquis of Granby	...	1122	...	1422	...	1622
Temple Ewell, Fox	...	1129	...	1429	...	1629
Folkestone Bus Shelter	C1131	C1131	C1431	C1431	C1631	C1631
Lydden, Bell	...	1133	...	1433	...	1633
Barham, Cross roads	...	1140	...	1440	...	1640
AYLESHAM, Dorman Ave North	...	1144	...	1444	...	1644
Aylesham, Boulevard Courrieres	...	1153	...	1453	...	1653
Coldred, Carpenter's Arms	1135	...	1435	...	1635	...
Eythorne, East Kent Light Rail Station	1143	...	1443	...	1643	...
ELVINGTON, St John's Road	1145	...	1445	...	1645	...

C Connecting service, through tickets are available

* Continues to Shepherdsell Station if required, arriving at 1655



Double Presentation! *Pub of the Year* *Beer of the Festival*

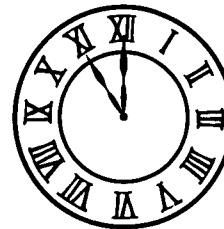


It was on a Bank Holiday Weekend in May, whilst the Beery Boaters were wending their way round Yorkshire, it was decided that it would be a good day to present our Branch **Pub of the Year** award to Charlie and Frank at *The Mogul*.

Little did we know, but at the exact time of the photo above, the Beery Boaters were at Ossett Brewery to present the **White Cliffs Beer of the Festival** certificate for Quicksilver....



Of course, one presentation rang the other one and asked what the applause was for!



LAST KNOCKINGS

The Office of Fair Trading recently refused a request by the Federation of Small Businesses, which includes 4,500 publicans among its members, to investigate the rents and wholesale prices charged by Britain's pub companies. However its decision made no judgement on whether such practices were monopolistic or anti-competitive, but was based on the more technical point that the FSB's case was not specific enough. Let's hope they soon return with a case more acceptable to the OFT; as combined with the often restricted beer lists, that exclude many small brewers, neither the landlord, customer or small producer is getting the best deal. However, whether this is of interest to the Government must be in some doubt, following the decision last year of Trade Secretary, Patricia Hewitt, to revoke the Beer Orders without imposing equivalent restrictions on the pubcos, whose concentration of pub ownership is now matching that of the large brewers when the beer orders were originally introduced. The creation of monopoly power and potential for restricting beer choice exists just as equally whether or not the pub owner is also a brewer or brewery owner. While acknowledging the benefits of Gordon Brown's reduced duty for smaller brewers, the Government needs to do more if we are to avoid a return to the monopolistic regimes of the 1960s and 1970s.

MPs in general, however, as distinct from the Government, appear more in tune with the public mood. Candy Atherton MP for Falmouth and Cambourne, quickly received 86 signatures across the board for her Early Day Motion calling for an inquiry into the restrictions imposed by pub chains. Her motion was tabled following a meeting with Cornwall CAMRA and local microbreweries during National Pubs Week and is specifically aimed at helping small breweries sell beer locally. Meanwhile CAMRA nationally is compiling a dossier and building up support to make a formal complaint on ownership and tie restrictions to the OFT at the end of the year. Specifically they will be looking for a new guest beer provision. However bearing in mind its very patchy take up under the Beer Orders, and the various pressures and inducements that can be brought to bear on landlords to adhere to the pub chains own beer list would it not be better, as has

been suggested before in this column, to simply limit the number of pubs in single ownership. This, after all, was the approach taken by the Beer Orders; and a good starting point might be the original proposal, before it was watered down, of a maximum ownership of 2,000. It might be wise, however, to also impose a percentage restriction within a single licensing area and also a consideration of floor area. 2,000 pubs with a Wetherspoon's type floor area is a very different enterprise, in both style and commercial power from 2,000 back street locals.

A spokesman from Wolverhampton and Dudley Brewery, now Britain's largest regional brewery, when recently asked in a radio interview about rumours that they were intending to discontinue Harp lager, commented that their emphasis would now be on brands such as Stella Artois and Fosters; adding "it appears that lager drinkers will only buy those that are heavily advertised." No surprises there then. However, before we're all overcome with smugness, please take note of Woodforde's decision to follow Banks and Moorhouse, and drop the name mild; market research having shown that "mild", with its connotations of weakness was a definite turn-off. Their mild-style brew, Mardler's, has had considerable success, and is now a regular in many Norfolk and Suffolk pubs. It seems that it's not only the "despised" consumers of keg and lager who drink according to image and association.

As mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter we expect shortly to be saying goodbye to Allan and Pat Mash from the Royal Oak, Capel. Interestingly, the Royal Oak was one of a number of other local pubs disposed of by Whitbread in the early to mid 1980s, several years before the enforced reorganisation brought about by the Beer Orders. Like the Yew Tree at Barfreston and the Mogul in Dover, it was not seen as featuring in the Brewery's future plans, and all three were closed for several years with their existence as pubs in some doubt. Revived under private ownership as independent freehouses they have all proved successful, individual and dedicated to good beer. A great boon to local real ale drinkers and a question mark over the effectiveness of operating pubs via a large tied estate. Whitbread, meanwhile are notable by their absence having sold their breweries and most of their pubs – no bad thing some might say.

Old Wort

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 49). You may want to take the matter up yourself and we advise you to contact any (or all) of those on the right:



Dover Tourist Info 01304 205108

Folk Tourist Info 01303 258594

Dover Police Stn 01304 240055

Folk Police Stn 01303 850055

Trading Standards Office (East Kent) 01843 223380
Trading Standards Office (Mid Kent) 01303 850294
Gwyn Prosser MP (Dover) 01304 214484
Dr. Steven Ladyman MP (Thanet South) 01843 852696
Michael Howard QC MP (Shepway) 01303 253524

National Bus Line 0870 6082608

Stagecoach 0870 2433711

Stagecoach Dover 01304 240024

National Rail Esq. 08457 484950

Dover Taxis

A1 01304 202000

A2B 01304 225588

Arrow 01304 203333

Central 01304 240441

Club Travel 01304 201915

Heritage 01304 204420

Star 01304 228822

Victory 01304 228888

Folkestone Taxis

Channel Cars 01303 246564

Chris's Taxis 01303 226490

Folk. Black Cabs 01303 220366

Folk. Taxi 01303 252000

Premier Cars 01303 279900

Deal Taxis

AI Cars 01304 363636

Castle Taxis 01304 374001

Deal Cars 01304 366000

Jacks Cars 01304 372299

M & M Cars 01304 382345

All numbers on this page were believed correct at time of going to press



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 £16	<input type="checkbox"/>	OAP Single £9	<input type="checkbox"/>
Joint £19	<input type="checkbox"/>	OAP Joint £12	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unwaged/		Under 26* £9	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disabled £9	<input type="checkbox"/>		

*Date of birth _____

Send your remittance (payable to CAMRA) to:

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

Phone 01727 867201

Channel Draught 16

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- ❖ Disabled Access
- ❖ Town maps

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Branch Contacts

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

Martin Atkins 01304 201870
 01304 216497

Dave Routh 07932 525345

You can e-mail the branch using:
dds.camra@topsy.demon.co.uk

The branch website is:
www.topsy.demon.co.uk/dds_camra

Adjacent Branches

Ashford Folkestone & Romney Marsh
Anne Powell 01233 502519
Annie@brockletts.fsnet.co.uk

Canterbury
Gerry Keay 01227 463478
Gill@gkeay.fsnet.co.uk

Thanet
Steve Saunders 01843 228159
thanet.camra@virgin.net

Nationally CAMRA can be contacted at:
CAMRA,
230 Hatfield Rd,
St Albans, Herts.,
AL1 4LW.
For enquiries, phone 01727 867201
Web www.camra.org.uk

Channel Draught Info & Advertising

Channel Draught is the Newsletter of the Deal Dover Sandwich & District Branch of the Campaign for Real Ale..

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

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07966 155316

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