

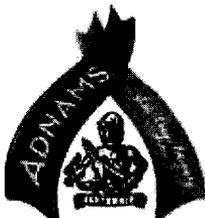
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The Newsletter of the Deal Dover Sandwich & District  
branch of the Campaign for Real Ale



CAMPAIGN  
FOR  
REAL ALE

Issue 23  
Spring  
2005

# CHANNEL DRAUGHT



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## INSIDE

### PUB PROFILE

The Village  
Pubs of  
Wingham

Crabble  
Corn Mill  
to stage  
it's first  
Beer  
Festival



The closed 'Star & Garter' on Deal seafront

## PUBS AT RISK

**'You don't know what  
you've got 'til it's gone'**

See Page 15

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

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Campaign for Real  
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CAMRA Ltd.**

Please drink  
sensibly!

# CHANNEL DRAUGHT



## ISSUE 23 SPRING 2005

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**W**elcome to our revamped Spring 2005 edition of Channel Draught. Unfortunately this edition is overshadowed, by the sad and unexpected death of Dave Routh, former Branch Chairman and East Kent Area Organiser. One of the founders of this newsletter, he was for five years a main contributor, providing the very lively and readable Local News and National News, and he will be greatly missed (Obituary page 13).

In this issue we are highlighting the disappearing pub. We all know there are fewer pubs than there used to be but, as we pointed out in our Winter edition, there has been a sudden spate of closures, whether temporary or permanent, over just the last year. Particularly galling is the knowledge that this is not necessarily any reflection on the success or future viability of the pub, but that often the property is worth more with an alternative use. Ever spiralling costs and increasing regulation are other factors, and the imminent transfer of licensing to local authorities with its attendant price hike, is the last thing needed by many a hard-pressed pub. As we go to print, we hear that the Butcher's Arms, Ashley, a regular good beer guide entrant, has currently closed its doors (see Local News).

However, on a brighter note, summer's on its way and that means beer festivals. As well as the Kent and Great British Beer Festivals in July and August we have the Rare Breeds Festival at Woodchurch in early June (see Events Diary) and, of particular interest locally, an entirely new event, the Crabble Mill Beer Festival, scheduled for the Spring Bank Holiday weekend (see feature).

*Martin Atkins (Editor)*

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## EVENTS DIARY

- Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> May** - Walk, Alkham, Temple Ewell, River (5 miles)  
Meet at Pencester Rd for 591 Alkham bus at 11.50
- Monday 16<sup>th</sup> May** - Branch Meeting, The Five Bells, Eastry
- Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May & Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> May** - Crabble Mill Beer Festival\*  
(See advert for details)
- Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June & Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June** - Rare Breeds Beer Festival  
Rare Breeds Centre, Woodchurch (Fri. 6-11, Sat 11-10.30)
- Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> June** - Walk, Hacklinge, Northbourne, Ripple &  
Ringwold (8 miles). Meet at Coach & Horses, Hacklinge 11.30  
(buses 113 11.00 Sandwich Guildhall, 113 10.20 Pencester Rd, Dover,  
11.05 South St., Deal – Kentrider day ticket £4-40)
- Monday 20<sup>th</sup> June** - Branch Meeting, The Fox, Temple Ewell
- Monday 18<sup>th</sup> July** - Branch Meeting, The St. Crispin, Worth
- Thursday 21st to Saturday 23rd July** - Kent Beer Festival, Merton  
Farm,,Nackington Lane, Nr Canterbury

**Note** - Branch Meetings start at 7.30pm

Updates to the diary are available on the branch website

<http://www.ddscamra.org.uk>

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



# The Local News

Contributors - Martin Atkins, Anne McIlroy, Roger Marples, John Pitcher, Dave Underdown, etc.

## Deal

First of all to the seafront where work is currently underway at the former **Admiral Penn**. Presumably this is the conversion to two flats and a shop that was granted last year. Apparently the closure at the end of the year caused considerable disquiet and bitterness among some of the locals, many of whom were not aware of the plans, and generated a month or two of correspondence in the local paper. It was not without surprise to our Branch either, having been told very firmly by the proprietors that the planning consent was by way of insurance in case sudden illness necessitated a quick sale – obviously we hope this is not the case. A couple of letters in the East Kent Mercury quite rightly pointed out that it was a landlord's business if he or she chose to close, and that the success of the Penn over the last ten years was very much the work of the family that ran it. However it is also equally correct to point out that there was a pub there before, and there is no pub there now, and that those who want a drink will find their choice further diminished.

Fifty yards or so along the road, work has also started at another casualty of the times, the **Star and Garter**, where permission exists for conversion to four houses. Better news, however, at the nearby **Three**

**Compasses**, which having changed ownership has installed real ale, Pedigree having been seen. In the other direction the **Bohemian** has been providing its usual selection – Deuchars, Broadside, Wherry and guests, including Westons organic vintage cider, which has appeared regularly. The **Ship and Prince Albert** in Middle Street continue to provide a wide selection of brews, with the former now another regular outlet for Gadds' – No. 7 now being the pub's best seller – and having re-established Fullers ESB as standard. ESB was also available at the Albert in early February, while a visit later that month found Highgate Davenport Bitter, Bateman's Hopbine and Gadds' Dogbolter.

In West St. the **Alma** has changed hands. New landlord, Ryan, whose father has the **Clarendon**, Beach St., plans to maintain four real ales – Directors, London Pride and two guests. A quick stop at the former **Oak and Ivy** in Blenheim Rd. found work still being undertaken, and presumably this pub will also end up as housing. The **Five Ringers**, Middle Deal Rd. might also have limited life expectancy as permission is being sought for demolition and erection of houses.

In Walmer the **Lifeboat** is still empty (any news welcome) but around the corner, in Canada Rd., the **Green Berry** having just changed hands is

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looking to enlarge its range of real ale, having stuck solely with Green King for several years. Harvey's Best has already featured and might become a standard.

## Dover

Fewer changes here, although as reported in our last issue, the **Orange Tree** is under threat of being replaced by flats, and the nearby, closed down, **Westbury** looks increasingly desolate. Otherwise no other planned closures or changes of use as far as we are aware, although any information (or rumours) gratefully received.

In the town centre **Blakes** and the **White Horse** still set the pace in the Castle Street area, with three or four real ales constantly available. **Blakes** specialises in microbrews from all over the country, the likes of **Titanic**, **Oakham**, **Exmore** or **Hopback**. **Tom Woods Bomber County** went down very well at the start of April. **Mild** is often available – locals **Goachers** and **Gadds** both been on recently. The **White Horse's** range tends to be more towards the traditional family or regional brewers, **Abbot**, **London Pride** and **Young's Special** appearing regularly, and **Timothy Taylor's Landlord** currently a regular. However micros do feature. **Dark Star** and **Ringwood Fortyniner** have had a good run over the last few months and **Wychwood Hobgoblin** brews have often been available – the revised **Brakspear** special from the same stable as **Wychwood**, via **Refresh**, proving particularly notable.

In **Ladywell** the **Park Inn** has settled

down with four regulars (see advert) and a couple of guests, recently **Wadworth JCB** and **Kelham Island Pale Island**, while along the road, the **Falstaff** is gamely trying real ale again – **Courage** and **Hobgoblin** both being seen. Opposite the **Town Hall** the **Albert** still maintains up to five real ales including **Black Sheep** and the **Ridleys** brewed **Tolly Original**. Unfortunately the revised, and much improved, **Boddingtons** appears to have been dropped. At the **Golden Lion** **Directors** and **Bass**, plus of course the regular interesting and often unusual guest. **Bass**, also often available at the **Renaissance**, on the other side of **York St.** roundabout and at the **Louis Armstrong** where it accompanies one of a rotating selection of guest brews – **Hopdaemon**, **Burton Bridge**, **Cottage**, **Grand Union**, etc. The **Red Lion**, **Charlton Green** is sticking with **Bombardier** and **London Pride** at present and the **Eagle** with a single real ale from such as **Hopdaemon**, **Nelson** or **Hogs Back**. More **Bass** and **Bombardier** at the **Boars Head**; and we understand that the **Sportsman** is doing real ale once again.

Towards the **Western Docks**, the recently changed hands, **Cullens Yard** was selling **Adnams Oyster Stout** as a regular for several months in the winter, and **Shepherd Neame** beers feature at the **Cinque Ports**. And rumours suggest that real ale has re-appeared at the **Flagship** but we have no confirmation of this.

## Village & Rural

Surprise and sad news from the

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**Butchers Arms**, Ashley which well illustrates our concerns expressed elsewhere in this newsletter. Despite their excellent reputation for beer, and with games facilities and regular teams, Doug and Audrey feel they have not been getting adequate local support to keep the pub a viable operation, and for the time being it is closed. At present their future plans are uncertain. At Wootton the **Endeavour** is still closed (no news on

any plans) and is now joined by the **Two Sawyers** at Woolage, which is going for auction in April with a guide price of £220,000-£240,000. As reported in our last issue, the **Way Out Inn**, Westmarsh is also currently closed. Here a notice on the door implies repossession from lessees, Inn Venture. Internal work has been carried out recently, and local opinion understands the pub is due to re-open in the not to distant future.

Duncan and Jane Smyth are still looking for new tenants or a purchaser for the **Yew Tree**, Barfrestone, which at the moment is being run by themselves at weekends, and by former tenants of theirs from Faversham, Bernie and Maureen, Tuesday to Friday. Beer range remains much the same with a strong local presence, plus mild and cider. The pub recently took delivery of its first batch of Hopdaemon Incubus from the new brewery at Newington, which by general opinion was considered its best ever – a view echoed by Nigel at the **Coastguard**, St Margarets Bay; congratulations, by the way to Sam and Nigel for the new addition to the family. At Eythorne another freehouse, the **Crown**, has lost its independence and been acquired by Punch Taverns. It should by now have re-opened following internal refurbishment and external decoration and new signage. New landlord is Jason who formally ran the **Bell** at Lydden.

The other **Crown**, however, at Finglesham remains individually controlled, with new owners, Dave and Jackie Cooper, are well settled in.

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Gadds has proved a great success, and now has the status of regular guest – a recent barrel of No. 5 disappearing “in a flash” according to one report. Other guests tend to be unusual, Hydes often appearing, and have included McMullen County Best and Gales’ Frolic. At Eastry the **Five Bells** maintains up to five real ales – Green King IPA, Bass, Hobgoblin, Tolly Original and Archers being a usual selection. At Worth the **Blue Pigeons** normally sells two or three real ales, Adnams bitter a regular, with Pedigree, 6X and Everards Beacon all been seen recently, and the St Crispin up to six (see advert). One recent barrel from Youngs, provided a member of our Branch with “one of the best pints he’s ever tasted”. Along the road at Hacklinge, the **Coach & Horse** is one of the increasing number of local outlets for real cider, this time Westons. Regular ale is Courage Directors, although other brews do appear included local Gadds from Thanet.

At Capel the **Lighthouse** is creating an additional bar at the front of the building. This will include a dartboard and be more of a traditional pub bar rather than the more food orientated main bar. Ales are still mainly from the Greene King stable. Along the road the **Royal Oak** sells Master Brew and Bass, the quality of the latter being particularly praised by a recent visitor, together with a guest, or guests. Nelson beers are a regular – Moby Dick appearing recently, as did a brew from the rarely seen Tring Brewery.

## Sandwich

The **Red Cow** is still selling one of Gadds beers alongside Fullers, Greene King and Youngs, and appears now to be open all day, which may not be new, but wasn’t the case up to a few years ago. Gadds also available at the **Fleur de Lis** on a recent visit, with Greene King IPA and Wadworth 6X and an impressive list of future guests on the blackboard, with a strong local contingent – Hopdaemon and Whitstable brews as well as Gadds. In New St. the **Greyhound** has a new sign and work being done to the back room left of the bar. Beers were Greene King IPA and Directors, and there is no admittance to unaccompanied under 21s. The refurbished **Crispin** appears to be sticking with Abbot and Adnams while opposite, the **Admiral Owen** is still offering a guest in addition to its Greene King ales – lately Bateman’s XXXB. For the rest, Sandwich much the same as before. The **Bell Hotel** (including **Magnums Wine Bar**) sticking with Courage, and the **New Inn** Courage Best and Master Brew. Master Brew, Spitfire and Shepherd Neame seasonal brew at the **Market Inn**, and Spitfire and Greene King IPA at the **Kings Arms**.

## Folkestone

First of all a correction to our last issue, in which we stated that all real ale at the **Raglan**, Dover Rd. was from Shepherd Neame. To put matters straight the pub has been selling Nelson beers alongside Shepherd Neame brews for the last year, and the pub is definitely not owned by

Shepherd Neame. Our apologies.

The Easter weekend saw a combined Easter Ales Festival at the **Ship Inn**, Sandgate and the **Chambers**. We have no reports of the how things went at the Ship but those who attended the Chambers venue were suitably impressed. Sixteen real ales and four ciders provided a wide variety of choice. Local brews were well represented with beers from Nelson, Ramsgate and Hopdaemon, this last providing a festival ale specially brewed by Tonie Prins, called On the Good Ship Chambers. Among beers from further a field were brews from Hook Norton, Wissey Valley (Golden Rivet), and Springhead, whose Roaring Meg found particular favour with one of our contributors.

At the **East Cliff Tavern** Richard and his mother were down with flu earlier in the year, with understandable disruption to the running of the pub. However they are both better now. Beer range remains much the same, normally two ales and Biddenden cider with strong local input from Gadds and Hopdaemon. Gadds has also been recently available at the nearby **Lifeboat**, which has seen another change of landlord. Harveys and Greene King IPA are regularly on sale here. The **Happy Frenchmen**, due for a refurbishment shortly, is currently selling a reduced ale range of Courage Best and Broadside, while a recent visit to Harveys found Tiger, Bass,

Archers and Bombardier on tap. In the Bayle Young's, Bass and Greene King IPA at the **Guildhall** and Greene King and Wadworth 6X at the **British Lion**.

Worth a visit, at the back of Folkestone, is the **Cat and Custard Pot** at Paddlesworth. From the middle of Hawkinge, turn up past the old aerodrome and keep going for about a mile. High on the downs with just a handful of neighbouring houses the pub was a favourite with Battle of Britain airmen, and the walls feature much memorabilia from that time – if its Fremlins style sign outside is original it was no doubt one of the original “gremlin” pubs. A freehouse, ales are usually Master Brew and either Spitfire or Shepherd Neame's seasonal offering.

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## DAVE ROUTH

Dave Routh, who died on April 23<sup>rd</sup>, was a long-standing member of CAMRA, having joined in the early days in the 1970s, and for the last ten years played a leading role in the local organisation. From 1996 until 1999 he was chairman of Deal, Dover, Sandwich and District Branch, and from 1999 until 2005 Area Organiser for East Kent. He was also one of the original eight on the first Beery Boater trip in 1981 (organised by local CAMRA members), and it was ironic that his death should coincide with the start of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary trip, which, like the first, was planned for the South Oxford Canal.

I first knew Dave in the late 1980s when we both played quizzes for the White Horse in Dover. At that time he worked for Customs and Excise, and over the next few years I got to know him very well. He was a loyal and engaging friend, invariably good-humoured and good-natured, and in all the years I knew him I don't think I ever heard him say a bad word about anyone. As a fellow pub quiz team member, first for the White Horse and later for the Louis Armstrong he made good use of his wide ranging knowledge, amazingly deep in some areas, and played an instrumental part in helping us win the league several times.

In 1999, with Paul Turvey and myself, Dave was a founder member, of this newsletter, and for the next five years provided us with the Local News and National News in his own unique, lively and very readable style.

As a source of information about pubs and beer, brewers and pub chains he was unparalleled. If you wanted to know which pub was selling which beer, or the complexities of ownership amongst pubs and pub chains Dave was the person to ask, and this expertise was used to great advantage in his work for Channel Draught. As local Branch Chairman and later, Area Organiser, he was opened minded and fair and could be relied upon to give an even-handed hearing to differing points of view. Despite his own, often strongly held views, the meetings he presided over were always models of fairness and balance.

His untimely and unexpected death, at the age of 48, was a deep shock and has left us all very saddened. The World will be a poorer place without him. He will be greatly missed.

*Martin Atkins*  
*Branch Chairman*



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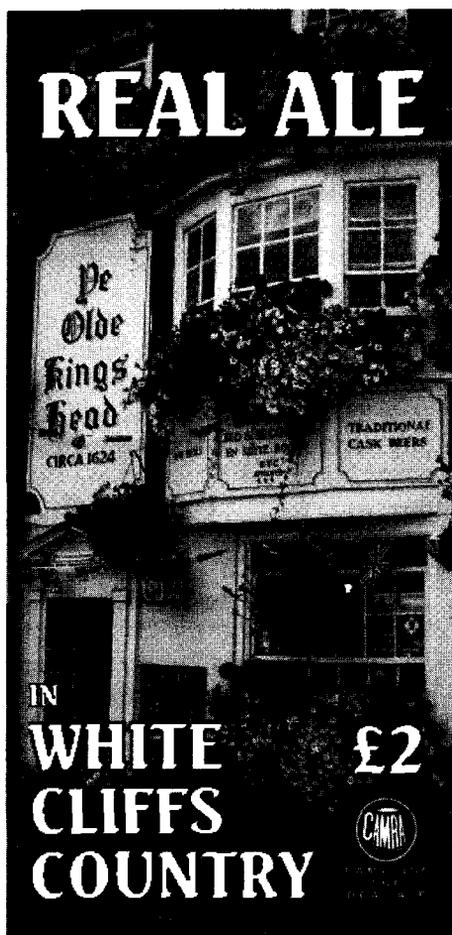
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# PUBS AT RISK



## GONE!

**The Mogul,**  
Chapel Place, Dover

← Branch pub of the year four times. Bought by owners of adjoining flats for conversion to managers accommodation and offices in 2004. Currently empty and unused

## GONE!

**The Lion Hotel,** Ash

Converted to Indian Restaurant. – no planning consent required as conversion from pub to restaurant does not need it →



## GOING?

**The Endeavour,** Wootton

← Closed until further notice from late last summer. Car park entrance was reduced in size and gate erected. Further intentions of owner unknown

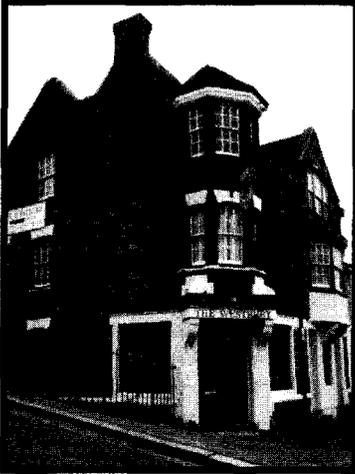
## GOING?

**Five Ringers,** Middle Deal Rd

→ Planning Permission submitted for the demolition of the pub and the erection of houses.



# PUBS AT RISK



## GOING?

**The Westbury Hotel,**  
Westbury Rd, Dover

← Currently not in use and looking increasing derelict. Rumour suggests it is to be demolished for flats

## GOING?

**The Admiral Penn,** Beach St Deal

Closed since end of 2004. Work currently being undertaken is presumably conversion to shop and two flats under permission granted last year.

## GONE!

**The Gate,**  
Crabble, Hill, Dover

→ Closed and converted to Chinese takeaway within last couple of years



## RE-OPENING?

**The Wayout Inn,** Westmarsh

← Closed since start of year. Internal work undertaken. Locals understand it is due to re-open shortly

# PUBS AT RISK



## GOING?

**The Star & Garter,**  
Beach St Deal

Closed since March 2004.  
Permission granted for conversion to 4 houses

## GOING?

**The Lifeboat,**  
Strand, Walmer

Closed since retirement of former landlady last year – owner's intentions unknown



**Will your local pub be next to go?**

**Not pictured but GOING? The Orange Tree, Folkestone Rd. Dover**

Recently reinstated real ale.. However, permission applied for to demolish the pub and build flats

**T**he above pubs have either been lost to the community over the last year or so, or have a certain degree of doubt, sometimes substantial, over their continued existence. As we go to print they are joined by the Butchers Arms, Ashley (see Local News). We are used to living with one or two pubs having an uncertain future, but to have a dozen at once is quite exceptional and worrying. Of the various reasons for pub closures two stand out. One is lack of use and support, the other is the high value of alternative uses, particularly residential. While we cannot hope to sustain the number of pubs of previous years, it is reasonable to expect the pub to retain a substantial presence. It is a matter which should concern the Government, and they have already acknowledged an interest by the introduction of measures to help rural pubs a few years ago. However these were somewhat limited. If they want to retain this traditional and valuable community asset, which often has tourist potential as well, they should consider enhancing their assistance, and very possibly extending it to urban pubs as well.



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The Village Pub next door to Dover's Town Centre





# The National News

By Martin Atkins

## **CAMRA Condemns Parliamentary Report**

**C**AMRA chief executive Mike Benner has dismissed the report of the Trade and Industry Select Committee on the relationship between pub companies and their tenants as a whitewash. The committee of MPs decided that no one company held a dominant position and recommended no statutory action. It also opposed scrapping the tie and ruled out the implementation of a guest beer provision for pubco tenants, on the basis that it might break EU Competition Law. Mike Benner said "The report has missed an opportunity. A guest beer for pub chains would provide consumers with more choice and small local brewers with improved access to the market." The Committee did however, express concern that the national brewers still had a stranglehold on the distribution of beer, and said that the pubcos' upward-only rent reviews should be replaced by "reasonable and sustainable" rents. It also criticised the lack of a viable voluntary code of conduct for pubcos and tenants, and warned of a statutory code being imposed if matters did not improve.

### **Smiles and Boddingtons Close**

Smiles of Bristol established in 1978, and one of the first of the new

wave of independent brewers, has finally given up the ghost. Plagued by financial problems, it was forced to sell most of its pubs to Young's a few years ago, and eventually went into receivership last November. Despite their initial hopes, the administrators were unable to maintain it as a going concern, and their restructuring plan sees Smiles Original transferred to Walsall's Highgate Brewery and renamed Smiles Blond, and the two remaining pubs, the Cornubia, and Brewery Tap in Colston Yard to be run as the Smiles Pub Company. However it is hoped that brewing will be resumed under the Smiles named in a micro to be installed in the Colston Yard.

Meanwhile in Manchester, despite very considerable opposition, Interbrew UK carried out its threat and closed Boddington's Strangeways Brewery in February, after 230 years. Keg Boddingtons will be brewed by other Interbrew establishments around the country, but Boddington's cask, a much improved version of which appeared last year, has been contracted out to local brewer Hydes. It is hoped that Interbrew will show a commitment to promoting it that hasn't always been there in the past.

### **Wetherspoon Up For Sale?**

Despite chairman Tim Martin's consistent denials that any takeover talks have taken place, speculation is

still rife that other pub firms and its own management are interesting in bidding for the company. Times have been hard of late for the once rising star of the pub trade, who recently reported a 20% drop in six monthly pre tax profits to £22.3m, although sales were up by 4% to just over £400m. Wetherspoon blamed the profits fall, worse than the City expected, on tough trading conditions on the High Street, increasing utility costs, a rise in the minimum wage and increased competition from supermarkets. In response the pub chain has announced head office job cuts and pub sales (39 have been sold in the last 18 months) and has severely cut back expansion plans – the last issue of *Channel Draught* reported on the abandonment of the planned Loyds No 1 development at the former Snoops site in Castle Street, Dover.

### W&D in Bid for Jennings

Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries is in takeover talks with Jennings, the Cumbria based brewer from Cockermouth who operates 128 leased and tenanted pubs in north-west England. If successful the acquisition would be the third in less than a year for W&D, which already controls the country's third largest pub estate. Robinson's of Stockport, Jennings largest shareholder, has pledged its 24% stake to W&D should the bid go ahead, while Jennings chairman, John Rudgard, has described W&D as a good home for the company. Despite stating that they have no plans to close the brewery, CAMRA sees a W&D takeover, as a potential threat to its existence, and will be campaigning vociferously against it.

### Real Ale in White Cliffs Country - amendments.

**Mogul, Dover** - Now Closed. Will be converted into offices

**Chequers, West Hougham** - Has re-opened as pub and restaurant

**Crown, Finglesham** - telephone number should be **01304 612555**

**Endeavour, Wootton** - Closed, future uncertain.

**Yew Tree, Barfrestone** - The family symbol  should be added. The cider available is Biddenden 8% Dry. Pub is closed on Mondays.

**Star & Garter, Deal** - Now closed.

**Millers, Dover** - Now renamed **Marine Court** and run as a 'Brewers Fayre' and Premier Travel Inn.

**Hare & Hounds, Northbourne** - fully no smoking  White Horse, St. James St., Dover Opening Times changed to Mon-Sat 12.00-11.00pm  
Sun 12.00-10.30pm .

**Way Out Inn, Westmarsh** - Closed. Hopefully, will re-open

**Admiral Penn, Deal** - Closed

Please note that the  in the Guide means that the landlord has indicated that the pub will admit children.

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BEER  
FESTIVAL**

CAMPAIGN FOR REAL ALE



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Open: Thursday 6.30-11pm, £3;

Friday noon-4pm, free & 6.30-11pm, £6 (£5 in advance, see below);

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All sessions except Friday evening free entry to card-carrying  
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Advance tickets (Friday night session only) available by post after June 1st from  
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Cheques payable to 'CAMRA Kent Beer Festival'. Please send SAE.

See our website [www.kentbeerfestival.co.uk](http://www.kentbeerfestival.co.uk) for details of beers and bands.

# The Fox



High Street Temple Ewell, Tel 01304 823598

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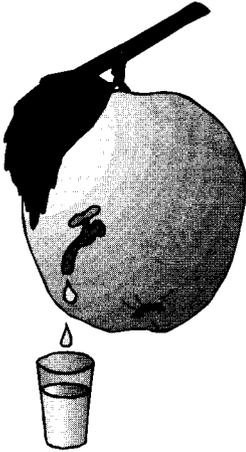
**Opening hours 11.30-3.30 6-11 Mon to Sat  
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**Listed in the 2005 CAMRA Good Beer Guide**

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*Play area. Children welcome*



# CIDER MATTERS

What's new in the world of cider and perry, then? Well, seasons come and go and I hear rumours of new producers, but nothing new in our neck of the woods, unfortunately. At the White Cliffs Festival of Winter Ales, the cider was well received, and sold out quite quickly. However I was buttonholed by two unhappy customers who wanted a wider range of cider, and perhaps a perry or two. Their anger was deflected away from me by the discovery that I am your cider correspondent, but I still got the impression that it is an argument that won't go away. To be fair to the organisers,

and especially The Organiser, it is a festival of winter ales, and "normal" cider and perry aren't really seen as winter drinks. There are other arguments both ways, of course, so I'll leave that for the branch and the festival committee to sort out. Either way, I hope you'll all be there next February.

After I reported that Merrydown had contracted out its cider production to concentrate on other brands, such as Schloer, I have heard more recently that they have now been sold to SHS, a company based in Northern Ireland. It seems that SHS owns brands such as Caledonian Water and WKD and also distributes goods to supermarkets. In any case, Merrydown claim that SHS will be able to "grow" brands like Merrydown Vintage which, unfortunately, may mean that we see even more of the non-real stuff in our supermarkets. Obviously, someone at Merrydown has a WKD sense of humour.

There has been some discussion in the UKCider group about how to get cider into more pubs. It's all very well being able to find a small range of ciders in your local supermarket or on the internet, but wouldn't it be much better to find the stuff in your local pub? Of course, these things are never that straightforward, and in this case, CAMRA's policy is to back draught cider rather than bottled, so branches shouldn't campaign to get bottled cider in pubs, even if it is miles better than the so-called cider that is normally available. There is nothing to stop individuals trying it, though. One enterprising cider drinker persuaded his local landlord to hold a cider tasting evening, which he then arranged, right down to organising the cider. Apparently, it was so well received that the pub now stocks "proper" cider, although it does not quite meet CAMRA's very stringent definition. I wonder if any pubs in our area would be interested?

Another debate was on the role of APPLE within CAMRA and how they could

be contacted. After various people considered using branch cider reps, it emerged that APPLE is a committee appointed/elected by CAMRA to oversee cider policy. It seems it has no direct link to branches, so branch cider reps won't hear from them. I'm not even an official cider rep, so I definitely won't be hearing from them.

Finally, the biggest news of all came after a quick discussion of the forthcoming *Good Cider Guide*, which should be out really soon now. As it was originally intended for publication last autumn, some people were concerned that the delay would make the listings out-of-date. That is a problem for any guide, of course, and possibly more so in this case. Anyway, the owner of UKCider has started a wikipedia (online encyclopaedia for less technical people, like you and me...) where people can add information as they find it. The main areas will be producers, outlets and events, so if you have any information, please forward it to me so that I can pass it on. I might even find time to do a little quality control, of course....

Having said that, I appear to have labyrinthitis, the medication for which prevents me from drinking alcohol. However, as the complaint also prevents me from driving I can't even be a designated driver, so I'm not much use to anyone at the moment.

Keep the faith.

*Applejack*

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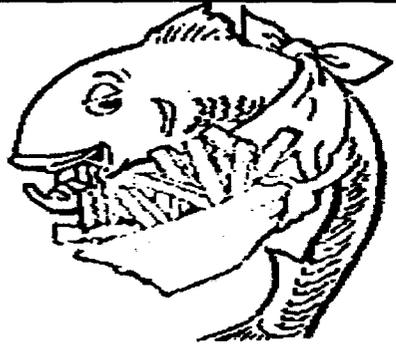
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# Kent Small Brewery News



The two main items of news are that Hopdæmon Brewery has moved premises to Newnham and that Whitstable Brewery is once again supplying its beers to the free trade. The breweries that are listed below will all be happy to supply their products directly to your local free house at trade prices.

## ***Nelson Brewing Co. 01634 832828 – Chatham***

Contact: Andrew Purcell

New to the range is '1805' at 5.5%. This is described as a strong and malty fuller bodied version of Frigging in the Rigging. The latest seasonal ale from this brewery is Spring Pride at 4.4%. I hope that this name does not upset the sensibilities of Messrs. Fuller, Smith and Turner, who threatened legal action against the erstwhile Swale Brewery for daring to name one of their beers 'Kentish Pride'

At the time of writing, the most popular Nelson Beer was Frigging in the Rigging, and Rochester Bitter, Nelson's light and extremely hoppy bitter was reported to "be selling well". When I tasted this beer in the Fleur de Lis, Sandwich, last month it was on top form.

## ***The Ramsgate Brewery 07967 660060 – Ramsgate***

Contact: Eddie Gadd

Unfortunately, the planned move to an industrial unit at Manston Airport by this brewery did not happen, despite plans having got to an advanced stage.

A new beer, which will probably have all been consumed by the time that you read this article, was Yaarrggh. I can vouch for the accuracy of the spelling, but not the pronunciation. This was a light beer of 7.2% and was brewed in the style of an I.P.A. A true India Pale Ale should be strong, pale and very hoppy. How relatively weak, and to my mind bland, beers such as Courage I.P.A., Greene King I.P.A., and the former most widely available draught beer in the world Charrington's I.P.A, could be styled thus, defeats me. I doubt if these last named beers could have travelled much further by ship than the coast of Cornwall, let alone India, before they were undrinkable, so few were the hops (which act as the preservative) that found their way into these beers. To my probably biased palate, Eddie's beer could have done with a few more hops, but judging from the popularity of Yaarrggh this did not put off many people. It is very heartening to see these old beer styles being recreated.

Dogbolter (5.6%) has recently finished its winter run and will be replaced by the Mild which seems to be gaining quite an enviable reputation and made the



# King's Head

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and your chef Michael French  
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**Bar & Restaurant food Tues to Sat**  
**All freshly home-cooked by our chef**  
**Fresh fish and good curries always available**

*Why not have an easy Sunday and come to  
us for our superb Sunday roast from 12-6*  
**Extensive wine list - Over 20 malt whiskies**

**Fine  
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Real Ales**

### Opening Times

<i>Guest ales always available. Often local</i>	<i>Lunch</i>	<i>Friday</i>	12 - 2.30pm
		<i>Saturday</i>	11am - 3pm
		<i>Sunday</i>	12 - 10.30pm
	<i>Evening</i>	<i>Mon-Friday</i>	5-11pm
		<i>Saturday</i>	6-11pm
		<i>Sunday</i>	12 - 10.30pm

**Available any lunchtime for personal or business functions**

final of CAMRA's Champion Winter Beer of Britain.

***Hopdæmon Brewery 01795 892078 – Newnham***

Contact: Tonie Prins

Please note the new telephone number. Hopdæmon has moved to the site of the former Tun, Vine and Press Brewery (Swale Brewery), at Syndale Valley Farm in Newnham. This has been a major upheaval for Tonie, as can be well imagined. The same plant, as was previously used at Tyler Hill, has been installed. By increasing brew lengths, and brewing more often, Tonie hopes to double capacity. New bottling tanks are being introduced, as the bottle conditioned beer market comprises a significant part of the business. The new location gives much more space to build up stocks and the brewery should now find it easier to meet demand. Although it is 'early days', Tonie is very pleased with progress and hopes to increase to full production in the near future.

Unfortunately, the nearby Tapsters bar, which is adjacent to Hopdæmon Brewery, does not sell any of its neighbour's products.

At a recent meeting of yeast biologists, at Canterbury University, a cask of Golden Braid from Newnham was supplied. Apparently this was completely consumed within about 90 minutes!

***Whitstable Brewery 01622 851007 – Grafty Green***

Contact: Rafik Abidi

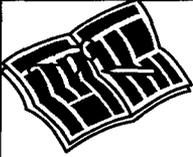
It is good to welcome back this brewery's products to our local free houses. After a period of brewing solely for its own licensed premises it has decided to venture out again to the wider world, or at least to East Kent.

The standard range of beers that are available in cask form are:- Whitstable Bitter (3.7%) , E.I.P.A. (4.1%) and Oyster Stout (4.5%). A cloudy wheat beer and a raspberry wheat beer, that are normally found in keg form, are occasionally produced in the proper manner as real cask ales. These recipes are the brewery's own recipes, as when the brewery was bought from John Davidson (Swale Brewery), the recipes were not included. All of the brewery's cask beers are pure beers and are made from good quality malt and hops only.

It is planned to open a 'Brew-Pub', in Whitstable, sometime in the future. Once this is open Rafik plans to produce various guest and experimental brews on the new plant that will enable smaller production batches to be undertaken. The main brewery at Grafty Green will remain open for the brewing of the standard range of beers.

The E.I.P.A. has been very popular at the Fluer de Lis in Sandwich, who has ordered some of the Wheat Beer, in its real form.

*Roger Marples*



# CHANNEL VIEW

The British pub is one of our greatest institutions. Unique and individual, pubs feature prominently in our culture. Films, TV and novels rely on the pub as a standard setting, and no edition of a soap seems complete without at least a couple of scenes at the local. As a destination for a drive in the country on a summer evening, or cosy sanctuary on a dark, wet winter's night, we all love them.... don't we? Well, judging by the rate at which they are disappearing, you might well be forgiven for thinking that we do not. Over the last year our Branch has seen the closure of the Mogul and Gate Inn in Dover, the Star and Garter and Admiral Penn on Deal seafront, and the Lion Hotel, Ash, for a variety of alternative uses. Additionally another half dozen or so are either currently closed, with future uncertain, or are the subject of applications for demolition (see Local News on page 4 and 'Pubs at Risk' on page 15), while several others constantly live with rumours of imminent decease. Although offset by the reopening of the Jolly Gardner in Deal and the Chequers at West Hougham, the balance clearly falls on the debit side

It's not surprising therefore to hear the comment that the pub trade is a dying business, and the days of the pub, as we knew it, are numbered – and that's not just from publicans,

who perhaps traditionally have the reputation of looking on the gloomy side – but from ordinary pub users. Obviously so long as people want to drink alcohol there will always be bars, but a bar is not necessarily a pub. Would we be happy with our drinking requirements supplied by half a dozen Wetherspoon style mega-bars in the high street? No doubt there are people at this very moment analysing balance sheets who hold exactly this view – just think of the savings if people could be encouraged to drink their beer as they buy their groceries. In fact judging by the variety of special offers to be found in some pubs, you might well imagine that we're well on the way there already.

Whether Dover, or any other town of its size, ever achieved the one pub for every day of the year, as is popularly alleged, is perhaps doubtful, but in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century it is definitely recorded as having 200 plus. Probably many of these were quite grim, and their beer dreadful, but others no doubt would have been excellent, and they did offer variety and choice. Today the town has 40 or 50, and probably about the same number have been lost since the last war. In the sixties a walk from the seafront to the Town Hall would have passed a dozen pubs. Now the same walk passes just five, and one of those is

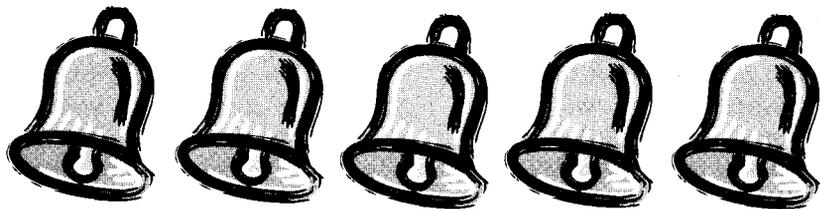
currently closed. Deal, Sandwich, Folkestone and other local towns could probably tell similar tales. Admittedly, modern pubs tend to be larger, so the reduction in bar floor space would be a smaller proportion, but not everyone wants to drink in a large single bar. The same pattern emerges in rural areas. A glance at any Ordnance Survey map from thirty or forty years ago will show many pubs now no longer there.

Not an encouraging prospect, and it is little wonder that many view the future with apprehension. The days of enormous tied estates, seen by the brewers as principally a means to sell their beer, are long gone. Pubs are now highly valued assets, each needing to prove its economic worth, if it is not to be converted to an alternative use – in particular, rising house prices often mean residential use is worth far more than use as a pub. Those that remain often find it difficult to survive on just their traditional community role, as places were people drink and talk, or play dominoes and darts; and matters are not helped by successive Governments, who often appear to make no distinction between the back street local, and town centre club style bar. Despite the various measures to support rural pubs, and the acceptance of community value, policy in general still seems to be ruled by a laissez-faire approach of allowing the market to decide, and if this results in just a handful of large bars in town and city centres, so be it.

Obviously the days of a pub on every street corner are long gone. Society has changed and there are other alternatives to going round to the local for the evening. Pubs are no longer an automatic community focus. Look at any old photograph of a pub outing, common on pub walls, and you will see a good cross section of the locality, old and young alike. Or think of the early days of Coronation Street with Ena Sharpies and her cronies drinking milk stout in the snug at the Rovers Return. Such scenes are an age from the modern world where pubs are often aimed just at youngsters, or are restaurants in all but name. Ironically we are not drinking less. Alcohol consumption is now at the highest level since Edwardian days, but our habits have changed. We drink more at home, particularly wine, and supermarket prices heavily undercut pub prices.

However, a little sacrifice of time and money would make all the difference. Back in the sixties the brewers used to run a TV advert with the slogan "Look in at the Local", which promoted everything a pub could offer for the price of a pint. Perhaps a rather rosy image, but a sentiment with considerable truth, and even more so today with the excellent selection of real ales we now enjoy. So before you purchase that discounted pasteurised beer and settle down to watch an evening's TV that you're not really interested in, give a thought to the pub down the road crying out for a bit of extra trade – it might not be there next time.

*Stewart, Debbie & Paul*  
*Welcome you to*



# **THE FIVE BELLS**

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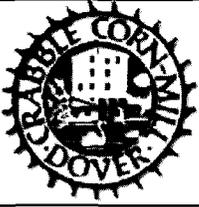
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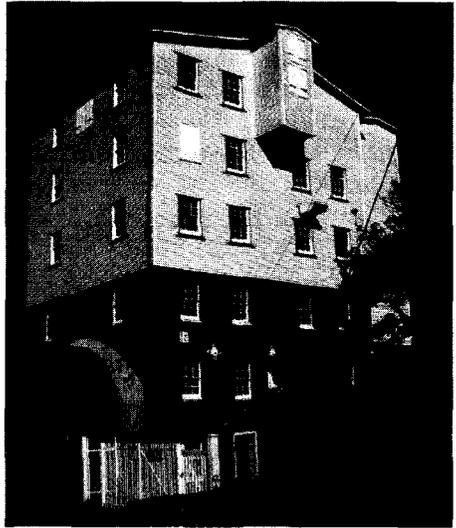
**01304 611188**



# CRABBLE CORN MILL BEER FESTIVAL

You may be wondering what an article to do with Crabble Corn Mill is doing in Channel Draught. The answer is quite simple – Crabble Corn Mill is organising its own beer festival – and the local branch of CAMRA have been helping to make it happen. Part of that help is to let me write a short article about Crabble Corn Mill and to explain a bit more about the beer festival – in the hope that readers and real ale lovers will wish to visit the mill and support the beer festival.

Crabble Corn Mill can be found in Lower Road, River, Dover. It's the big white building you can see from River Recreation ground and it has stood since 1812, when it was erected in a bit of a hurry to provide flour for the several thousand soldiers garrisoned in and around the town at the time. Dover was a prime strategic target for the French (not like today when foreign visitors mostly pass the town by for the attractions of Canterbury), and to counter the threat of invasion by Napoleon Bonaparte the British built up defences and filled them full of troops. I don't know how many breweries there were in Dover at this time, but at the turn of the 20th Century there were nine, and as many mills were once supported by the River Dour. Sadly no breweries survive and Crabble mill is the last to work. It is preserved very much as it was built – thanks to being closed down and virtually 'sealed' up for 100 years. It houses all the original milling and flour making machinery, which still works superbly, producing organic wholemeal flour for sale in small and large quantities as needed.



The Mill is now owned by a charity, (The Crabble Corn Mill Trust – Charity Number 297098), of which I have been a trustee for about two years. Everyone associated with the mill is a volunteer and they keep it open, virtually all year round, for tours, educational use or private events. It is thought by many to be



The First Crabble Corn  
Mill Beer Festival  
Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May - evening only  
5pm – 10:30pm  
Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> May – all day  
11am – 10:30pm  
**or until the beer runs out!!!**

Lower Road, River, Dover, CT17 0UY

Tel: 01304 823292

*Entry £2:00 per session.*

*Available in advance at the Mill.*

*Book early to avoid disappointment.*

**Around 15 real ales from SE England + Cider**

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**SPECIAL ROUND DOVER BUS SERVICE**

Calling at Ramada Hotel, Whitfield, Dover Priory station,  
and various locations in between – look out for special bus stops.

**ENTERTAINMENT**

**Friday – Folk Music**

**Saturday (Evening) – Roger Betts (guitarist)**

Crabble Corn Mill wishes to thank the many sponsors who have made this event possible. See [www.ccmt.org.uk](http://www.ccmt.org.uk) for more details and for approximate running times of the special bus.

Every pint drunk helps raise money for charity!  
All proceeds go to the Crabble Corn Mill Trust  
(Registered Charity No. 297098)

the finest example of a mill of its type anywhere in Europe and is believed to be the only one that actually still works. I hope this article encourages you to visit it next time you are in River – it's well worth it.



Moving on to the beer festival. As real ale and flour (bread) were the staple diet of the Englishman for centuries, and their endeavours made Britain 'Great', a celebration of British beer seemed very attractive and appropriate – especially as the mill itself played such a vital part in our history and heritage. Hopefully it would make a profit that would go direct to the charity, and personally, being a member of CAMRA, I would have a chance to get involved in my very own beer festival. A beer lover's dream come true! With so much to think about and organise I wish I had started just a bit earlier, but with so few people involved in the mill, the day to day running of it had to take precedence. However

everyone has been enthusiastic and supportive. Not just drinkers – but the local CAMRA branch, publicans, brewers and local businesses some of whom have already offered considerable sponsorship for the event.

Two of our main brewery sponsors are worthy of specific mention. The Nelson Brewery of Chatham and the Ramsgate Brewery, both of whom have historical connections with Crabble Corn Mill. We know that recycled ships timbers were used in the mills construction, and it is very easy to believe that some of these came from ships built at Chatham Dockyard, which of course is now the home of the Nelson Brewery. Who knows – some of the ships that were recycled may well have fought alongside HMS Victory, at Trafalgar. It's a lovely thought, even if it can never be proven. The connection with Ramsgate Brewery is again through the military. In the early part of the 19th century their store in Military Rd. was once used to house troops before being sent abroad and it is not difficult to believe that some of their provisions included flour milled at Crabble. Additionally we are working with the Nelson Brewery to produce a new beer, Crabble Ale, a bottle conditioned ale, available only from Crabble Corn Mill and we are eagerly awaiting the first samples. The label design is well on its way, and we are aiming to launch the beer at the festival.

Just to whet your appetites we are aiming for about 25 firkins, with 12-15 different beers and one or two ciders, although it is difficult if not impossible to gauge demand for an event that has never been held before. We anticipate most of the beers will come from Kent, with a few of the less common beers from better independents. To organise matters we are pleased to announce the recruitment of Dave Green, who has delivered a superb selection of ales for every White Cliffs Festival over the last twelve years. We should be able to deliver the perfect pint. We have a very cool cellar from which we plan to dispense the ales, and if it gets too hot we can always divert the River Dour through the cellar to cool it down a bit!

Entertainment is arranged. On Friday evening you can hear folk music thanks to those who attend our regular folk nights on the last Friday of every month. On Saturday we are privileged to have local "guitar hero" Roger Betts playing for us. Saturday daytime we are aiming at the whole family. Food will be available (BBQ and curry with vegetarian options) and any designated chauffeurs will find soft drinks, teas & coffee. However if you can't find a chauffeur we are served by two rail stations and are providing, at a small cost, a direct open top bus link from Dover Priory for the duration of the festival. The bus link will include Whitfield, the Ramada Hotel, and various points around Dover on a circular route.

Our target dates are the evening of Friday 27th May and all day Saturday 28th May, and being a bank holiday weekend any beer remaining after these two days will be available throughout the rest of the weekend. The idea is that the event will fill the festival void in East Kent between the White Cliffs Festival of Winter Ales in Dover (February), and the Kent Beer Festival at Canterbury (July). Spring should pretty much be sprung by late May. If the weather is good, stay in our garden to have your drinks - if not don't worry - we have plenty of room inside. The idea is that if successful, the festival will become an annual event.

Please look out for future advertising in the local press, Channel Draught and What's Brewing and please, please come along!!! Tickets will be available in advance from the Mill from early May (call 01304 823292 for details). Not only does this promise to be a very unique event celebrating two of our core heritage industries in a unique setting, but it is probably one of the very few events ever where you are making a donation to charity just by drinking beer!

*Graham Butterworth*  
*Trustee – Crabble Corn Mill Trust*



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RED LION**

200  Years  
*Bicentenary*  
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*Innkeeper*

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Accommodation, Two Double Rooms & One Twin Room - All en-suite

*Ales always available are:  
Fullers ESB, Shepherd Neame Master Brew &  
Spitfire plus Guest Ales*

**Listed in the 2005 CAMRA Good Beer Guide**

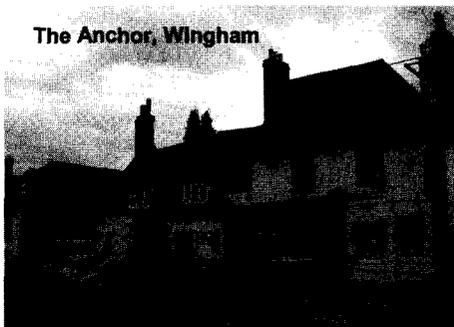
## PUB PROFILE

# THE VILLAGE PUBS OF WINGHAM

The pretty village of Wingham lies towards the north-west tip of our branch and has three historic pubs, all of which are quite different from each other in their own individual ways. Celebrating the birthday of one member of the 'Finglesham Contingent', we decided to head up there one Sunday using the local bus service. The tree-lined main street is wide and spacious, with a lovely mix of old buildings that includes pubs, restaurants, antiques shops, housing, a church, and a few village shops (including a great bakery – try the pies!) providing local services.

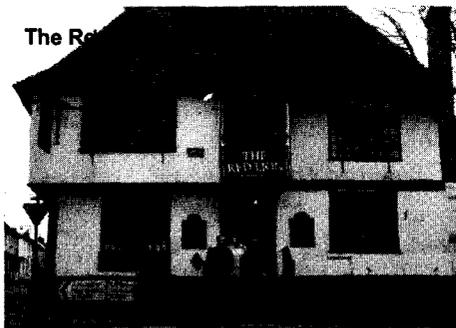
Arriving in the centre of the village, our first pub visit was to the **Anchor**, a friendly and traditional pub that seems to cater for everyone. The two hand-pumps offered Fuller's London Pride and, more unusually in our branch area, Biddenden cider. It was so refreshing to come across real cider that two of us had that while the boys enjoyed the Pride. Both were good, but it was a special bonus to come across local cider.

The Anchor, Wingham



The pub itself is divided into two halves – the right-hand half provides a public bar popular with the locals, while to the left is the restaurant and a non-smoking room. Extensive old beams, wooden panelling and floorboards, wood burning stoves and etched windows provide plenty of character. The pub has darts and quiz league teams, and there is also a separate pool room. There is a traditional bar food menu and, in another break from the norm for our area, the pub also offers take away fish and chips!

The Red



Up the road and perched on a corner looking down the main street, our next stop was the **Red Lion** – a pub two of us frequent occasionally with a friend who lives in the village, and so is a familiar watering hole. The beers here were Youngs Bitter and Greene King IPA, both of which were in excellent condition. Drinkers and diners are equally catered for in the relaxed and comfort-

able front part of the pub, which is popular with the locals. Good food is served both here and in the more formal restaurant situated in a separate room behind the bar.

Parts of the pub date from the 1200s, evidenced by the fact that there is almost more in the way of heavy timber beams propping up the interior than any other building material. Wonderful old doors, windows and half-timbered walls form the exterior, and this theme continues inside where lovely open fireplaces add to the warm atmosphere. Various clubs/societies meet here, and the pub offers a friendly welcome to all.

**The Dog Inn, Wingham**



A late Sunday lunch had been booked at the **Dog Inn**, so that was our third and final pub visit of the day (in Wingham, at least!). This old inn is just a few doors down the road from the Red Lion, and looks across to the ancient church. The beer here was Shepherd Neame Master Brew and Courage Best – but the interesting surprise was to be found on the third handpump – another Bid-denden cider! This was slightly sweeter than the drier one we had enjoyed at the

Anchor, and equally delicious. We were amazed to discover that two thirds of Wingham's pubs offered real cider and, needless to say, we did our bit to support this welcome endeavour! The menu was imaginative and our lunch was first-rate, so the birthday celebrations were highly successful.

It is another inn dating from the 1200s – abundant timberwork contributes to the fabric of this historic building, with impressive open fireplaces, a wood burning stove, and tasteful interior decoration adding to the pub's character. There are several drinking and eating rooms, including non-smoking areas and a flagstone paved wooden conservatory. We were made very welcome by the friendly management and staff of the pub, where we enjoyed the rest of the afternoon before it was time to jump back aboard the last bus home to Finglesham.

Wingham is blessed with a wealth of historic pubs serving great real ales and ciders, whether you want to sit with the crossword over a quiet pint or enjoy a full épicurean blow-out. For a place of its size, there is plenty on offer in this pretty Kentish village, and I for one am looking forward to the longer summer days when it's within easy cycling distance!

*Anne McIlroy*

For more information, see:

<http://www.wingham.org.uk/Places/toDrink/InWingham.htm>

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Main Course - Sweet - Tea  
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**Traditional Sunday Roast  
£5.95**

## **TRADITIONAL OLD ENGLISH PUB OPEN**

**Monday**

**6 - 11pm**

**Tuesday to  
Saturday**

**12 - 3pm  
6-11pm**

**Sunday**

**12-3pm  
7-10.30pm**



# EINSTEIN'S RIDDLE

Jim Green's  
*Channel Draught* version

**E**instein said of the original, "98% of the world cannot solve it". However it's not too hard – you just need to pay attention and be patient.

In a terrace in Brewery Street, there are five houses. In each house, which has a different colour front door from the other, lives a man from a different part of the British Isles. The five owners frequent different pubs, drink different types of beer and play different pub games. The object is to find out who plays darts.

A few clues:-

The Cornishman lives in a house with a red door.

The Englishman plays crib.

The Welshman drinks lager.

The house with the green door is on the left of the house with the white door.

The man who lives in the house with the green door drinks old ale.

The man who uses the Rose and Crown plays bar billiards.

The man who lives in the house with the yellow door drinks in the White Horse.

The man who lives in the centre house drinks stout.

The Scotsman lives in the first house on the left.

The man who goes to the Red Lion lives next to the one who plays dominoes.

The man who plays pool lives next to the man who uses the White Horse.

One man drinks mild in the King's Head.

The Irishman drinks in the Dog and Duck.

The Scotsman lives next to the house with the blue door.

The man who uses the Red Lion has a neighbour who drinks bitter.

**Answer is on Page 53**



# 12th WHITE CLIFFS FESTIVAL OF WINTER ALES 4th & 5th February 2005

**T**his year's White Cliffs Winter Ale Festival at Dover Town Hall proved to be our most successful yet. 77 firkins of strong ale ranging from 5% to 11.5% ABV had been delivered and set up on stillage in the Stone Hall on the Monday preceding the festival. To accommodate our increased barrelage, and to give us extra space in general, we had moved the stillage from its former position on the left hand side of the hall, where we were constricted to fitting in between the two doors leading to Connaught Hall, to the opposite side below the windows. Our selection this year included thirteen beers from Kent brewers, with six from our sponsor, Nelson Brewery of Chatham, fifteen stouts and porters and eight beers at 9% or above. Over the next few days, looked after by Festival Organiser, Dave Green, with help from Bar Manager Tom Mitchell, the beer was left to settle, spiled and tapped, and made ready for the Festival opening at 5 pm Friday.

As usual in recent years a queue started to form about half an hour before we opened, and by the time of the official opening at 5.30, by Councillor Sue Nicholas of the Dover District Council and the Town Mayor, Councillor Bob Markham, the Festival was in full swing. There was a time when we enjoyed two or three hours of relative peace on Friday night before the real crowd arrived after eight o'clock. However things are very different now. Regular Festival goers, well aware that by mid-evening barrels start to empty, come earlier and earlier each year, and now we anticipate no respite at all. This year was no exception and the first beer ran out at the early record time of 8.20. This was Comfortably Numb from Triple FFF of Alton, Hampshire, which therefore becomes our beer of the Festival.

However success is not without its problems. Towards 9 pm the Town Hall Staff became concerned that the numbers in the hall had reached the fire limit and for the next hour or so entry was restricted to the basis of one person out, one person in. At one time the queue stretched back down Biggin Street, beyond the war memorial. By about 10.15 the problem had been resolved, but only because many had given up hope of getting in and gone elsewhere. Our sincerest apologies to those who didn't make it, and we hope that different arrangements in future will stop it happening again: and if any prizewinners, because of this, were prevented from attending they can still claim their free glasses, and we will give them free entry and tokens next year. Otherwise the evening was a great success. We sold more beer than ever for Friday night,

with sixteen firkins completely finished, and many more with only a little remaining. The DBs once again provided the music and proved as usual immensely popular, with many people up and dancing in front of the stage.

Saturday as usual was much quieter, partly no doubt because much of the beer had been sold the night before. As usual it was the lighter beers that had suffered most, whether by fashion or taste I'm never sure, but it is a pity that fewer took the opportunity to try the stouts and porters, which we made a feature of this year, and many of which were excellent. Once again we apologise for the reduced range resulting from our Friday night success, especially to those who came from away, but feel that most people found sufficient choice. As with attendance on Friday the course of our festival seems each year run earlier. With very little left by mid Saturday afternoon we were able to pack up at about 6 pm, with just some of the extra strong stouts and porters remaining.

Thank you to everyone who helped at or supported our festival, in particular our major sponsors, Nelson Brewing of Chatham, the individual barrel sponsors, printers Bob Adams and Mike Field, and Thanet Leisure, whose staff once again provided valuable assistance and back up throughout the week. Thank you also to Dover District Council and Dover Town Council whose continuing support over the years has enabled the festival to become the success that it has.

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Real Ale

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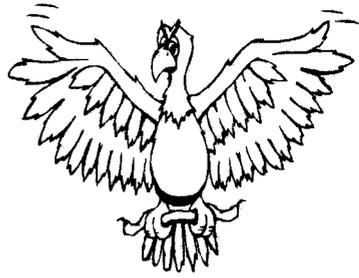
Bar Snacks

267, London Road, Deal

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Hampshire's Ironside  
Robinson's London Pride  
Wychwood's Double Hop  
Harviestoun's Hobgoblin  
Bateman's Schiehallion  
Woodforde's Summer Swallow  
Hop Back's Nelson's Revenge  
Kelham Island's Pale Rider  
Timothy Taylor's Landlord  
Itchen Valley's Godfathers  
Young's King's Abbot Ale  
Woodforde's Winter Warmer  
Bateman's Wherry  
Young's Special



# WINTER PUB WALK

One of the best ways to start any Saturday morning is a greasy-spoon breakfast – bacon, eggs, tomatoes, mushrooms, black pudding, fried bread, and hash browns washed down with coffee or tea, whichever takes your fancy. So it was that on this particular Saturday morning the Finglesham Contingent, of which I am a bona-fide and fully paid-up member, met at the Adelaide Farm Café to indulge in one of its "most excellent" breakfasts and discuss the day ahead: the CAMRA Winter pub walk from Worth to Hacklinge.

After breakfast we wandered across the road to wait for the 12:19 bus, which would take us from Hacklinge to Worth. We avoided the temptation of catching a quick pint in the Coach and Horses knowing that we would be back here later on. The bus arrived on time and we all piled on. Our pooch, Fluff, was allowed to travel for free even if she did have twice as many legs as the rest of us!!

Ten minutes later we and six other beer enthusiasts, including someone who had travelled down from Sittingbourne, were deposited outside the Blue Pigeons. What better place to start. The Blue Pigeons is a down-to-earth busy pub with no pretensions and a friendly welcome. The rest of the clientele seemed to consist of either locals or people who were there for a

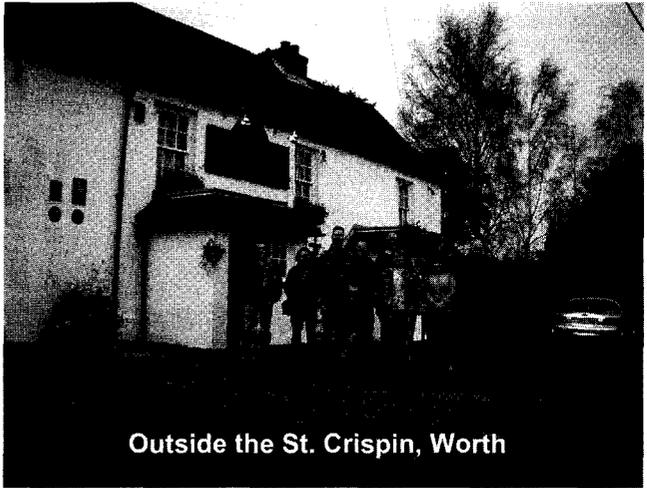
**The Blue Pigeons, Worth**



spot of lunch. The beers on offer included Adnams Bitter, Wadworth 6X and Young's Bitter. As we started into our first beer of the day we spent the time getting to know each other and completing the remains of an out-of-date Telegraph crossword.

We decided to skip lunch here and move on to the St Crispin Inn, which is just

five minutes' walk from the Blue Pigeons. The St Crispin has a more olde-worldly atmosphere than the Blue Pigeons, being darker inside with un-plastered walls, wooden chairs, benches and floors. A good selection of beers was on offer including Shepherd Neame Master Brew and Fuller's London Pride from the pump, and Adnams Broadside and Young's Special



Outside the St. Crispin, Worth

straight from the cask. There were also two casks waiting to be tapped: Wychwood Hobgoblin and Harveys Best. Those who hadn't had breakfast tucked into lunch and all agreed that the food was excellent.

At an appropriate moment, John rounded us all up and reminded us that the reason we were here was for the walk, so leaving empty glasses and plates behind we headed out into a very mild winter's day. The route took us diagonally left from the St Crispin, down a small lane named Minnis Way, and through Minnis Farm. The entrance to the farm had the obligatory **Private, Keep Out** sign but the footpath waymark clearly indicated that this was the direction we should take. Following the track through the farm we found ourselves out on 'the levels' as I call them.

The walk across the levels, back to Hacklinge and the Coach and Horses, takes you through arable fields divided by drainage ditches, tracks and hedges. The open vista gives you views as far as the gas tower in Deal, the cliffs of Ramsgate and the houses above Finglesham. The first section is relatively easy along farm tracks, although the path occasionally takes you alongside fields where you either struggle through the tall grass at the border of the field or walk along the edge of the crops themselves. At the north end of Roaring Gutter (two large dykes fed by a pumping station), we found ourselves with a more difficult hike along the west side of the dykes on top of a grass bank perilously close to the edge of the water. At the Roaring Gutter pumping station we were presented with the sight of two adult swans and a family of cygnets, five in total, still in their grey plumage. What was the pooch doing? Having a whale of a time of course, happy to wander along with whoever happened to be at the front of the group.

## The Coach & Horses, Hacklinge



We came out on the busy A258 Deal-Sandwich road by Martha's Trust. A short walk along the pavement took us to the doors of the Coach and Horses, which is where this trip began. The Coach and Horses is split into a room laid up for meals and a seated area, around a log fire, including a bar billiards table.

Normally there are two beers on offer however on this occasion there was just one beer available: Courage Directors. I have never been a big fan of Courage but I have to admit that this was a particularly good example and a few pints of said Directors helped relax the old muscles. I should point out that the pub also serves a real cider, which is a rarity in this part of Kent.



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**55 Fernlea Avenue, Herne Bay, Kent CT6 8UQ**

Eventually, the party began to split up as people started to wend their way home – most by bus and the Finglesham Contingent by foot and paw. We called in at our local, The Crown, for the obligatory pint or three (my memory was a little fuzzy by this time) from one of the selection of beers it served: Shepherd Neame Master Brew, Greene King Old Speckled Hen, and Rosey Nosey from Bateman. And the pooch? Well she had thoroughly enjoyed herself, although she was feeling her 98 doggy years the following morning being more grumpy than usual when disturbed and adopting a sort of John Wayne walk when moving about the house.

I may be repeating myself but I believe we should consider ourselves lucky. We visited four pubs and were presented with a selection of 11 beers. As far as this part of East Kent is concerned, real ale is alive and kicking. So, why not come along to the next walk? Fresh air, good company, and the chance of trying out a few pints of real ales at pubs you may never have visited.

*Tony Wells*



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FOR  
REAL ALE**

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BEER FESTIVAL,  
RARE BREEDS CENTRE,  
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**Friday 3rd June & Saturday 4th June 2005**

**Opening times: Friday: 6.00 pm – 11.00 pm. Saturday: 11.00  
am – 10.30 pm (or until the beer runs out).**

**Admission: Friday £1, Saturday £2.**

**All sessions free to CAMRA members.**

**On Saturday, ticket allows reduced admission to the Rare Breeds Centre.**

**Real ales, real ciders and real perry.**

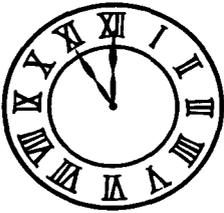
**Food available on Saturday.**

**Live music on Saturday afternoon.**

*Camping available, £5.00 per pitch per night (no camp fires) – to book a pitch  
phone the Rare Breeds Centre on 01233 861493  
(restaurant open for breakfast and closes at 5.00 pm).*

**Bus service operates to the festival from Ashford (Rail Station)  
and Tenterden (The Vine Pub)**





# LAST KNOCKINGS

The Government has been much exercised of late over the implications of its own legislation to allow pubs 24 hour opening. Intended originally to bring our drinking laws in line with the “modern world” and with licensing regulations across the Channel, it was also mooted as being a bonus to policing by doing away with the 11.30 chuck-out time, when hoards of rowdy drinkers spill onto the streets. However during the Bill’s progress large parts of the media and many MPs and senior police officers have developed very distinct cold feet over the proposals. Rather than being a bonus for the police by spreading the load over several hours, the proposals are now seen as a recipe for night long riotous behaviour throughout many of our towns and cities – a view which might easily have been ascertained earlier by a look at the habits of younger British holiday makers in places where round the clock drinking already exists.

Much opinion, however, believes that the current problems, usually described as binge drinking, derive from the cavalier approach, of many planning and licensing authorities, of granting permission for almost any barn-like establishment proposed by the brewers or pub owners, together with their persistent habit of trying to achieve the same by knocking the guts out of their existing premises. Such places – often with very loud music, flashing lights and limited seating – seem designed to shift as much alcohol in as short a time as possible, without a lot of consideration for its subsequent consequences. The problem is not new, and was well known to 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century licensing authorities. By the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century a workable balance had been achieved between the brewers’ profits, the need of the drinking public to have a good time, and reasonable behaviour, in the shape of the traditional British local. Family run with several bars, and often the facilities for meetings, games and other entertainments, it had the ability to play a variety of roles on a small and easily controllable scale. However, the currently fashionable disregard for history easily ignores the experience of earlier generations; and the new, town centre mega bars, by contrast, seem aimed at non-stop partying, and not much else. The police are often against them, and one might well paraphrase Henry Ford – “little pubs little trouble, big pubs big trouble”. To add insult to injury, traditional pubs in the vicinity of such establishments face the prospect of having to contribute to any additional policing costs they might generate. While there is a place for such venues they should not dominate town and city centres as they

often do now – it would be a travesty if they were to put at risk the success of the civilised and long overdue relaxation of opening hours.

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Neither has Parliament been covering itself in glory with the results of the Trade and Industry Select Committee's investigation into the relationship between pub companies and their tenants. Despite Punch and Enterprise between them owning about a third of the country's pubs, the Select Committee did not feel that this constitutes a dominant position, and that no statutory action was required. At exactly what level it might think intervention was required we don't know, but the Office of Fair Trading apparently sees no problem so long as no single operator controls more than 40% of the market. By inference that suggests that our legislators would be quite happy to see pub ownership split between three national giants; and no doubt what is considered good enough for one side of the industry is acceptable on the other. Perhaps we should look forward to a choice of Bass, Courage or Tetleys. Maybe this was what they had in mind when elsewhere in the report they supported the maintenance of the beer supply tie, and opposed introducing a guest beer provision on the grounds that it might be regarded as uncompetitive by EU Competition law.

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Apparently commuters in London are soon to be given the benefit of television on their trains. What is it about modern society that requires perpetual entertainment? A train journey was once an opportunity, to relax, look out of the window and be left with ones own thoughts. Admittedly the rush hour was never quite like that, and peace on any train has long since been sullied by mobile phones, personal stereos and a wealth of unnecessary announcements which the modern train companies seem to feel we can't do without. However the introduction of television with sound that in most instances cannot be turned off appears to me a gross infringement of personal choice. Of course money is involved here, and the TV suppliers will be paying the train companies for installation, and making a return on the advertising revenue. But whereas traditional advertising on public transport has been in the form of posters, which you can read or ignore as you wish, with sound the option is not there. It seemed particularly ironic that, having labelled smoking as an arch pollutant and removed it from their trains, they seem happy to impose on passengers a pollutant of their own. The last thing I would want at that time of day is breakfast television (which I gather is what the lucky commuters will get) with all its garish colours and overdone cosy cheerfulness. The train operators cite surveys that show popular support, but since when have we all been required to conform to popular taste. If that were the case we would all have be content with keg British lager because that's what most people seem happy enough to drink.

*Old Wort*

# St. Crispin Inn

*15th Century  
Pub and  
Restaurant*



*Come and enjoy a  
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large garden or on the barbeque patio. We also offer a  
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**Upto 6 Cask Ales:**

*House Bitters are Fuller's 'London Pride' and  
Shepherd Neame 'Masterbrew'*

*Recent guest beers include:*

*Morland 'Old Speckled Hen'*

*Theakston's 'Old Peculier'*

*Greene King 'Abbot Ale'*

*Adnam's 'Broadside'*

*Monday - Saturday 11am - 3pm & 6pm - 11pm*

*Sunday 12pm - 4pm*

*St. Crispin Inn, The Street, Worth, Nr. Deal, Kent.*

*Telephone: 01304 612081    [www.stcrispininn.com](http://www.stcrispininn.com)*

## Local Information & Useful Numbers

**Dover Tourist Info** 01304 205108  
**Folk Tourist Info** 01303 258594  
**Dover Police Stn** 01303 850055  
**Folk Police Stn** 01303 850055

### 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

### Deal Taxis

**Al Cars** 01304 363636  
**Castle Taxis** 01304 374001  
**Deal Cars** 01304 366000  
**Jacks Cars** 01304 372299  
**M & M Cars** 01304 382345

### Sandwich Taxis

**AM Cars** 01304 614209  
**Silver Cars** 01304 620222

### Folkestone Taxis

**Channel Cars** 01303 252252  
**Chris's Taxis** 01303 226490  
**Folk. Black Cabs** 01303 220366  
**Folk. Taxi** 01303 252000  
**Premier Cars** 01303 279900

**National Bus Line** 0870 6082608  
**Stagecoach** 0870 2433711  
**National Rail Esq.** 08457 484950



**CAMPAIGN  
FOR  
REAL ALE**

## 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

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Address \_\_\_\_\_  
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Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

I/We enclose the remittance for:

Single £18    OAP Single £10  
 Joint £21    Unwaged/Under  
                   26\* £10

\*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 23*

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**Dr. Steven Ladyman MP (Thanet South)**  
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Andy & Charlotte

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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 two 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 & Premier**

**Keep an eye out for our forthcoming refit, when we will have good food available once again!**

## Branch Contacts

If you have any queries about **CAMRA**, or any dispute concerning ale in White Cliffs Country then please contact **Martin Atkins** (Branch Chairman)

Martin Atkins - 01304 201870  
01304 216497

You can e-mail the branch using:  
[branchsec@ddscamra.org.uk](mailto:branchsec@ddscamra.org.uk)

The branch website is:  
<http://www.ddscamra.org.uk>

## Channel Draught Info & Advertising

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**Canterbury**  
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01227 272494(h)  
[mike@calebriparc.co.uk](mailto:mike@calebriparc.co.uk)

**Thanet**  
Steve Saunders 01843 228159  
[thanet.camra@virgin.net](mailto:thanet.camra@virgin.net)

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**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](http://www.camra.org.uk)

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**Einsteins Quiz answer  
(from page 39)**  
  
**The Irishman**



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## And Finally.....

### **Beer saves man's life - Slovak man frees himself from avalanche by urinating on snow**

A Slovak man trapped in his car under an avalanche freed himself by drinking about eight gallons of beer and urinating on the snow to melt it. Rescue teams found Richard Krai drunk and staggering along a mountain path four days after his Audi car was buried in the Slovak Tatra mountains. He told them that after the avalanche, he opened his car window and tried to dig his way out. As he dug with his hands, he realized the snow would fill his car before he managed to break through.

He said that he contemplated this problem by opening one of 60 half-litre bottles of beer he had in the car because he was off on holiday. It was then that he realized he could urinate on the snow and it would melt. "I was scooping the snow from above me and packing it down below the window, and then I peed on it to melt it," he said. "It was hard going and now my kidneys and liver hurt. But I'm glad the beer I took on holiday turned out to be useful and I managed to get out of there."

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