

Channel Draught

Issue 2 January 2000



Good Beer? No problem, 4th of Feb at the Town Hall is just the ticket.

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

Please drink sensibly!



Welcome to the second issue of Channel Draught!

This issue is being produced for the famous **White Cliffs Winter Ale Festival**, being held as usual at the Maison Dieu in Dover's High Street on 4th and 5th of February.

The Deal Dover & Sandwich branch of CAMRA warmly welcome all those who have travelled to Dover for the festival. We thank, of course, all the Dover people and traders who have made the festival possible.

Please enjoy yourselves at the festival. Don't forget there are many excellent pubs in Dover and a few are suggested elsewhere in this newsletter.

Editor

The 10th Guide to

KENT
Pubs



Over 1900 pubs surveyed, including 1500 Real Ale pubs.

Information includes:

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

and lots more

Available now to CAMRA members at Branch Meetings and at the White Cliffs Winter Ale Festival.

CAMRA members: £4.50

Cover price: £4.95

The Diary

Forthcoming Events:

4/5 Feb 2000 7th **White Cliffs Winter Ales Festival**, Dover Town Hall.

21 Feb 2000 **Branch AGM**, Royal Cinque Ports Yacht Club 8pm

Branch Meetings (All start at 8pm):

14 February **Flotilla & Firkin**, Dover

20 March **Olde Irish Times**, Dover

17 April tba

Branch Contacts

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

The Editorial address is:

1 Tower Hill, Dover, CT17 0AG

E-mail: dds.camra@topsy.demon.co.uk
Web: www.topsy.demon.co.uk/camra
www.camra.org.uk

Copy date for next issue 1st March 2000 .
Advertising rates available from the Editor

Local Information

If you have a dispute concerning ale bought in Dover, Deal or Sandwich, please bring it to the attention of Martin Atkins or Dave Routh, telephone numbers under Branch Contacts.

You may want to take the matter up yourself and we advise you to contact any (or all) of the following:

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

Other useful numbers:

| | |
|---------------------------|----------------|
| Dover Tourist Information | (01304) 205108 |
| Taxi (A1) | (01304) 202000 |
| Taxi (A2B) | (01304) 225588 |
| Taxi (Central) | (01304) 240441 |
| Taxi (Star) | (01304) 228822 |
| Taxi (Victory) | (01304) 228888 |
| Kent Police | (01304) 240055 |
| Train times (Connex) | 08457 48 49 50 |

Please don't drink & drive !

If you're visiting White Cliffs Country, don't forget to visit Dover Castle, but do it before lunch! Buses run from Pencester Road.



CAMRA NATIONALLY

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

To join CAMRA, please complete the form below

| Application Form to join CAMRA | | | | | |
|---|-----|--------------------------|------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| I/We wish to join the Campaign for Real Ale and agree to abide by the Rules | | | | | |
| Name _____ | | | | | |
| Address _____ _____ | | | | | |
| Postcode _____ | | | | | |
| Signature _____ | | Date _____ | | | |
| I/We enclose the remittance for: | | | | | |
| Single | £14 | <input type="checkbox"/> | OAP Single | £8 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Joint | £17 | <input type="checkbox"/> | OAP Joint | £11 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Unwaged/ Disabled | £8 | <input type="checkbox"/> | Under 26* | £8 | <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. | | | | | |
| For enquiries, phone 01727 867201 | | | | | |
| <i>Channel Draught 2</i> | | | | | |



The Local News

ROLL UP, ROLL UP for the **ORIGINAL** Winter Ale Festival now into its seventh year !

This year we promise you **MORE** of the **SAME**. Yes – lots more !

Once again we have the Maison Dieu (Dover's Old Town Hall) – this year it is Friday and Saturday 4/5 Feb and this time we are offering as many beers as we can possibly take. Last year we had about 40, this time 60.

Despite the usual early-year price increases imposed by the breweries and pub chains we are selling at the same prices. Nothing over two quid.

Those of you who turned up on Saturday evening last year will have been disappointed but at least you had the compensation of a town centre with a great selection of pubs. This year we expect to carry on through the evening with just enough beer to keep the band happy.

So, onto those town pubs

Almost all of our local pubs are open all day every day and a select few start at 10am. Nearest to the Town Hall is the **Prince Albert** which does a range of brews from Whitbread plus a beer called EKB. The pump clip says "East Kent Brewery" but that is just a trading name for a local company which imports its beer from Suffolk. Still, it's a nice pint anyway. The Stonehouse Cider is strong, still and dangerously drinkable.

On the other side of the Town Hall in Ladywell there are two pubs. Sadly the **Sir John Falstaff** does not sell any beers by handpump. Go back a few years and you

had a choice of up to five – the new owners Alehouse Company have yet to address this sector of the market. On the other side of the Fire Station there is the award-winning **Park Inn**. This was rescued a couple of years ago from fairly serious dereliction and has been transformed into a reconstruction of a Victorian-age saloon bar and restaurant (with B & B). The house beer is from Yorkshire and there is usually a guest ale alongside the regular brews.

Turn left into Dour Street and head for the Co-Op and B & Q. Look right for the **Louis Armstrong**. Named by the owners after the famous musician the jazz tradition continues (Sunday nights) as well as a great pint of Draught Bass, plus guest beers at weekends.

Now to a couple of pubs who have really perked up in the last few months. First, the **Eagle** (aka **Olde Irish Times**). Inspired management has given us (amongst other things) some excellent winter beers at just £1.60 a pint.

Second, the **Battle of Britain** (aka **Carrier's Arms**) in Tower Hamlets. Six months on and it's hard to believe that the place was shut for a year - well done John & Maura. The regular bitter comes South Wales – brewery slogan is "Use Your Brains" so if you have any left then take a trip up to West Street. Bus D8 (Tower Hamlets) from Pencester Bus Station.

Further up town the **Sportsman** has now reopened – Wadworths 6X is the regular brew here. The **Cherry Tree** has got a hand-pump but this does appear to dispense anything. Shame –because the pub looks a lot better that awful green colour has been overpainted.

If you arrive at Dover Priory and are looking forward to a nice refreshing pint you might start getting depressed as you head into town. No Real Ale in the **Priory Hotel**; the **Alma** is still standing (just) and long since closed. Keep walking straight and negotiate the railings at the Priory roundabout for a pint of

Reverend James or Marstons Pedigree at the **Golden Lion**. One of the survivors from the road improvements of thirty years ago has had a good lick of paint both inside and out and its golden again !

At the other end of York Street and hidden away behind the Nu-Age nightclub there is one of Dover's real gems, the **Mogul**. Those of you who are even older than your editor may remember Nell Willson who ran the place with a rod of iron into the 1980s. Since then Frank and Charlie Franklin have kept up the tradition of the English Pub and as I write these notes they are transforming the bar with genuine oak floorboards and have also restored another glorious reminder of what beer is all about.

Nell's beer was visible. The casks sat on trolleys (gun carriages ?) in the snug bar and were wheeled out to order. Today's casks occupy the same space but thanks to 21st Century technology they are now cooled and positioned ready for your delectation. The difference is that the beers now come from tiny breweries around the country – if you don't recognise their names, then try 'em.

Meantime the **Flotilla & Firkin** has been taken over by giant pub chain Punch Taverns who are financed by huge merchant bankers. As per our last newsletter the beer is still great but different ! The two premium beers, Pedigree and Burton Ale, are now brewed by Wolverhampton & Dudley at Burton-on-Trent.

Finally to one of Dover's best, **Blake's** in Castle Street. The cellar bar here is just the place to unwind. Three first-rate ales on tap usually include Wells Bombardier which is named after the famous army boxer. Mind you, if you get bored with beer, then there's always the Whisk(e)y shelf.....

Dave Routh



Ale's Well?

So what's happening in the big wide world ?

Well sure enough the relentless round of company take-overs, plant closedowns, employee redundancies, etc, goes on. But brewing is just like any other industry so what can you expect?

Biggest name locally is **Whitbread** which is actually still part of the brewing industry. It has however "restructured" recently and its brewing operation is effectively ring-fenced. Major brands like Heineken and Stella are produced in-house but thankfully an increasing proportion of the real ales sold through its pub accounts come from well respected regional brewers. So that's why you see London Pride, Wadworths 6X, Pedigree, Greene King IPA, etc.

Thirty years ago you got **Fremfins** (already owned by Whitbread) and nothing else. Like it or lump it that's progress for you. Not so many pubs now but a better choice of beers and of course you can see what you are ordering. Unbelievably some pubs didn't even bother with pump-clips – if you didn't know what the beer was then you were in the wrong pub !

Whitbread see its future in Hotels, Leisure Complexes & Restaurants and its latest move is to 'swallow' the Swallow Group. Any readers from the north-east might remember beers from Vaux and Wards – the word is remember,

although to be fair to Whitbread the brews were axed by the former owners.



So what else? As expected the new owners of the **Firkin** brand acted ruthlessly by immediately closing down their miniature "in-house" brewing plants.

Dover's Flotilla used to get its beer from the Ford & Firkin in Romford. That used to be the brewery tap for Ind Coope which is ironic since the Flotilla used to be the only Ind Coope pub (then the Dover Tavern) for miles around. Sure enough it does sell **Ind Coope's** Burton Ale which is brewed in Burton-on-Trent. It is now brewed by **Marstons**, better known for Pedigree. Marstons have recently been taken over...but at least it survives.....



Last autumn **Shepherd Neame** launched its own take-over bid. It offered up to £15 million for King & Barnes who brew at Horsham. Its reason for the bid is that the Faversham brewery site has reached its capacity and there is no room to expand. If it were to succeed then it would gain the use of a second brewery which is currently running some way short of its capacity. It also comes with a good selection of pubs, mainly in Surrey & Sussex.



At the time of press K & B were determined to stay independent

but that will depend on a shareholders' meeting due any time now.

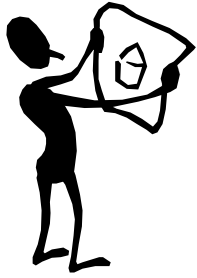
Meanwhile the big players seem divided over HM Government's plans to revive the industry. Since the last major review there has been a big split between brewing and retailing which if left alone would have had consequences which the Beers Orders (as they are best known) were never to have foreseen. It is early days yet and as always all opinions will be sought.

CAMRA will be in the vanguard when it comes to protecting the consumer's interest. So if you have any strong views then let CAMRA know or write to your local MP.

Dave Routh

Don't forget the next **White Cliffs Winter Ale Festival** on the 2-3 February 2001!





LOST PUBS

PART ONE – THE GREEN MAN

The first pub that I use as a local was the Green Man at the corner of Erith Street and George Street which sold beer from Fremilins of Faversham. If you look down George Street from Erith Street the pub occupied the corner on the right between the “new” flats which of course were not there at the time. At that time there were terraces of Victorian houses similar to those which still stand opposite.

The licensee was a cheerful little ex-miner by the name of Enos Waller, but it was his wife Cath who kept order in the place and quite a job it must have been!

It was from Enos that I acquired the liking for an occasional pinch of snuff. Joe Betts, a taciturn boatman who hired out rowing boats from the sea front, was a regular as was his wife, a large and formidable lady! A favourite trick was to wait until Mrs Betts had gone to the ladies whereupon someone would switch off the light whilst his accomplice poked a mop through the outside window. The offenders made themselves scarce as Mrs Betts emerged seizing the mop and flailing it around at anyone within reach.

The saloon bar members from a club to raise money for charity by means of fining each other for trivial “offences” and holding raffles and mystery auctions. At one of these the good lady bid for a large parcel which, on unwrapping, proved to be a tin of cat food. The habitants of the bar were forcibly treated to samples of Kit-e-Kat for several weeks.

On another occasion, just before Christmas, there was a raffle for a pig which, in the event, proved to be guinea pig ! The lucky winner also got a hutch to put it in.

The pub closed on 11th September 1967. The site is now a car park.

Jim Green

Channel Hopper

Adjacent to the Eurotunnel site in Calais is one of the biggest shopping malls in Western Europe. The *Cite Europe* contains a food and drink area called *the Cite Gourmande*. In here you will find several french bars, an “Irish” pub and an “English Pub”.

Flannagans, the Irish Pub only sells keg/nitro-keg, much as you would expect. The *John Bull*, used to sell a reasonable pint of cask Tetley’s but even that is now “Smooth”.

The gem in the Cite Europe is *Le Moulin A Biere*, translated as The Brewery. The *Moulin* contains a micro brewery that produces solely for the bar. The beers here are:

- | | |
|------------|---|
| La Blonde | Brewed with lager hops and light in colour with a malty taste |
| La Blanche | Similar to the Blonde but cloudy with a semi-citric taste |
| La Brune | Similar to a mild in colour and flavour |
| L’Ambree | Golden in colour, very hoppy and malty. |

Beware that the ABV is not displayed and varies slightly between batches. The last time I visited I was told that the ABV was around 6%

The main part of the Cite Europe is closed on a Sunday, the *Cite Gourmande* however is open 7 days a week. There is a wide range of places to eat here.

By public transport, the Cite Europe is on Bus Route 7 every 30 mins daytime from Calais railway station. Coaches run shopping trips daily from the Dover area to the Cite Europe.

Paul Turvey

SANDWICH SAUNTER

With a lunchtime to spare, I thought that it might be worth me leaving the Planet Thanet for a few hours. As I didn't wish to go far I opted for a town which is just over 10 minutes away from Ramsgate by train.

The town is Sandwich, home to a Barbican that used to be the tollhouse, a 16th century Guildhall and Viagra (This wonder drug for the few who don't know was invented at the Pfizer plant on the outskirts of town). I took the train from Ramsgate, but you can use the bus. The bus service has recently been improved with a frequent service from around Thanet and through Sandwich to Deal and Dover.

On leaving the station I headed down the approach road and turned right into New Street, just ahead of me is the Sandwich Arms. The place was closed, although a handpumped beer is available when open. I turned left by the pub to follow Rope Walk, this brings you out on to Moat Sole where I turned right away from the railway line towards the roundabout and the Red Cow. (If you come by bus alight at the Guildhall and head for the Cattle market, the Red Cow is on your right).

This pub with its large Red Cow on its fascia served Fuller's London Pride, Greene King IPA & Abbot, Tetley Bitter and Flowers IPA. Having not had a Tetley for a while a ½ was sampled before I made a move. I then made my way to the Guildhall (back there for those who came by bus!). Opposite is found the excellent small Market Inn. In this nice old Shepherd Neame pub, one of only two Sandwich pubs to get a full entry in CAMRA's 1999 Good Beer Guide (GBG), a pint of Goldings Summer Ale was sampled, though I could have had Master Brew Bitter or Spitfire. There are lots of old Sandwich pictures adorning the wall while jugs hang from the ceiling. To make me feel at home 'TLR' was being played on the radio.

I left the pub via the rear entrance next to the Grandfather clock and headed directly across the road to the Fleur de Lis. This up market pub and hotel has changed a lot since my last visit, for the worst I would say. To the right of the bar area is a restaurant which from memory used to be olde and dark, but which is now bright and 'pine'. There seems more of an emphasis on food then beer but ½ pint of Wadworths 6X was sampled, though the use of a swan neck and sparkler, which gave the beer a creamy head spoiled any flavour the beer many have had. As this is a Whitbread pub, Flowers Original and Boddingtons Bitter were also available.

Leaving here I crossed into No Name Street and crossed New Street by the Zebra Crossing. To my disappointment the Greyhound next to Thresher's was closed due to a change of Management (but is now re-open and well worth a visit – ed.). The place was being painted at the time of my visit and there was evidence the place would sell real ale when it reopened as there was a sign proclaiming real ales would be available. Retracing my steps back passed the Fleur de Lis, and to end of Delf Street. Here on the corner is found the Thorley-owned New Inn. This pub has had at last had it exterior painted and it looks so much better for it. Inside it is decorated in typical Thorley style, with old pictures of the town depicted on the walls though a it is nice to see that a large Truman mirror, to show the pubs former origins has been left on one

wall. From a selection of Webster's Yorkshire, Shep's Master Brew and Spitfire, a ½ of the latter was sampled before I made my exit.

Turning right into Harnet Street, I walked along here until I passed Ye Olde Fish & Chip, where I picked up a bag of chips to eat on my way to the next pub. With my hot chips I walked to the end of Harnet street, turned left into Strand Street and just passed St. Mary's Church is the King's Head Hotel. In this pub, which is 'a try also (a pub worth trying)' entry in the GBG, Boddingtons, Flowers IPA (which on the pumpclip still proclaimed it was brewed in Cheltenham), Greene King IPA and Bass were on handpump. I opted for half of Bass. This Pubmaster pub has an emphasis on good food, which included, as noted on a black board, 'Fresh fish from Broadstairs'.

Leaving the King's behind I walked back along Strand Street and continued until I reached the Barbican, by the former toll bridge. Here you have a choice of three bars to visit. I choose to visit the Admiral Owen first. This, the second Sandwich GBG pub, which the GBG describes as 'recently refurbished' and having 'wooden benches and few frills'. This is a very apt description for the place. The beer range though now it is a Green King pub was very disappointing with their IPA, Triumph and Abbot being the only beers available. A ½ of the Triumph was tried. While drinking this I noted that they had the ability to serve beers via gravity, the spaces where a cask should be was empty.

I left here and crossed the road to the Crispin, as only Bass was available, I opted not to visit, though I did muse at the Joke of the Day, which went "What's Black & White and eats like a Horse. A Zebra! I therefore went across the busy Bell Lane to Magnum's Bar of the Bell Hotel. This busy hotel bar had on Marston's Pedigree and Courage Directors, though advertised Old Speckled Hen was not. Also on their Real Ale Blackboard menu was 'John Smith's Smooth', when I point out that this wasn't a real ale, the barman seemed not interested and only said "I didn't write it". Drowning my swift ½ of the Pedigree I left.

On leaving I took the turn into Upper Strand Street and then right into Fisher Street. Along here on the right is found the George & Dragon, a back street inn, which has completely been refurbished, the extension though looks totally out of place and again this is food orientated pub. This said they did have four real ales available; Hook Norton Best, Shep's Master Brew, Spitfire and Goldings, (though the three beers from Sheps at a free house many may think is much too many). A pint of the Best was enjoyed before I left to catch my train.

The Sandwich Arms was still closed when I passed (its only open Friday and Saturday lunchtimes). Sandwich must be quite remarkable for such a small place, as all the 11 pubs in town serve real ales, and are quite close together (not mean on your poor legs & feet). And with an average of 3.2 real ales per pub a visit is recommended.

*Steve Saunders
Thanet Branch*

The 7th White Cliffs Winter Ale Festival



2000

The 2000 Festival will be held on Friday 4th and Saturday 5th February at the Maison Dieu (Town Hall) in Dover's High Street.

E&OE