

The Deal Dover Sandwich & District Branch Magazine

CHANNEL DRAUGHT

Issue 83

Free

Spring 2022

WE'RE BACK!
CHANNEL DRAUGHT RETURNS

Inside:

**Local News, National News and
more**



**CAMPAIGN
FOR
REAL ALE**

CHANNEL DRAUGHT

Issue 83
Spring 2022

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is published and
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& District Branch**
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**Please note that views
expressed herein are not
necessarily those of this
branch or CAMRA Ltd**

**Please drink
sensibly!**

Cover Photo

The Berry, Walmer
Good Beer Guide 2022 pub
Branch Pub of the Year 2022
CAMRA 50th Anniversary Golden
Award Winner

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BRANCH DIARY

Events shown in blue are not organised by CAMRA
Branch Meetings start at 7.30pm

Thur 5 May	Thirst Thursday – Berry (3 pm), King's Head, Kingsdown, Freed Man – <u>no</u> food arranged (please make own arrangements)
Mon 16 May	Branch meeting – Five Bells, Eastry
Thur 26 - Sun 29 May	Beer Festival – Haywain, Bramling (from Thur evening)
Fri 27 - Sun 29 May	Beer Festival – Crabble Corn Mill, River, Dover
Saturday 28th May	Pub of the Year Award Presentation, Berry, Walmer 3pm
Thur 2 Jun	Thirst Thursday – Hoptimist (2 pm), Eight Bells (food stop), Breakwater
Thur 2 - Sun 5 June	Queen's Jubilee Beer Festival – Sportsman, Sholden
Sat 4 Jun	Best of Kent Food & Drink Festival, Walmer
Fri 17 - Sat 18 Jun	Ashford, Folkestone & Romney Marsh CAMRA, and Kent & East Sussex Railway Beer Festival – Tenterden Town Station

Mon 20 Jun AGM & Branch meeting – Smugglers Record Shop, Deal
To be confirmed

Fri 24 - Sun 26 Jun	Annual Beer Festival – Carpenter's Arms, Coldred
Mon 27 - Sun 3 Jul	Sandwich Folk & Ale Festival
Mon 18 Jul	Branch Meeting – Crispin, Sandwich

Welcome to the Spring 2022 edition of *Channel Draught*, our first issue since Winter 2019/20, and before our world was turned upside down by Covid 19. You will note that it is a rather slimmer production than previously (we all have to make concessions to the virus and its consequences), but hope that in due course, and rather sooner than later, we can return the magazine to its former established size.

Meanwhile, life makes its staggering return towards normal, or perhaps more accurately the new normal, as things will never be quite the same again. For the specific concerns of *Channel Draught* and CAMRA – pubs, breweries and beer – the pandemic, thanks particularly to Government support, has proved not nearly as disastrous, as might have been expected. While we have lost pubs and breweries, the vast majority have survived.

However, for many the trade is not as it was. Many people it seems, have either lost the habit of visiting the pub, or remain worried about catching the virus, despite the availability of vaccinations and the apparent relative mildness of the current dominant strains. We do of course appreciate that for the frail, and for some health conditions these factors do not outweigh genuine concerns. Hopefully, things will recover, especially as it seems that Government is at last thinking about making tax adjustments that will benefit the licensed trade – a differing rate of duty for draught beer, as suggested in last autumn's budget, and tackling the long overdue reform of the current business rates system which is often so onerous for small businesses.

As we said above, this edition is a reduced version of the normal, and is very much a summary of what has taken place with regard to pubs and beer since the pandemic hit us, forcing lockdowns and restrictions. And although most of the regular items are there, unfortunately those awaiting news of activities on the canals will be disappointed. In this *Channel Draught* there is no Beery Boaters....although there most certainly will be in the next.

Martin Atkins



LOUIS ARMSTRONG

As featured in CAMRA's "GREAT BRITISH PUBS"

Maison Dieu Road, Dover CT16 1RA
01304 204759

Mon - Sat 3pm to close

Sun 7pm to close (5.30 Jazz evenings)



KENT REAL ALE – including Gadds Goachers
Old Dairy Romney Marsh Breakwater
Canterbury Ales Angels & Demons

WEDNESDAY – HOME COOKED MEALS £7.50

***Live Music (inc. Jazz)
Comedy & Quiz Nights***



HARVEY'S BREWERY

THE INTERNATIONAL BEER CHALLENGE 2021



The preliminary judging rounds saw the brewery awarded...

THREE TROPHIES



FOUR GOLD MEDALS



FOUR SILVER MEDALS



FOUR BRONZE MEDALS



WWW.HARVEYS.ORG.UK



LOCAL NEWS

If you have any news about a pub in your area – new beers or different beer range, alterations to the pub, beer festivals or anything that may be of interest to our readers, please email:

channel.draught@dds.camra.org.uk

We are, of course, equally pleased to hear from landlords with news about their pub.

LOCAL NEWS

Owing to Covid 19 a rather different Local News from the usual, but we hope it provides a useful overview of what has been happening in our area since the grip of the pandemic descended upon us.

CROWN INN – PUB OF THE SEASON WINTER 2019-2020

As announced in our last edition before the first lockdown, our Branch Winter Pub of the Season for 2019-2020 was the Crown Inn at Finglesham, and the afternoon of Saturday 14th March 2020 saw the presentation of the award to licensees Tony and Helen. The couple have run the pub since 2010, successfully maintaining the spirit of a local with a restaurant and fine food. There is a large garden with children's play area, and Bat & Trap for the summer, while for the cold winter nights, an open fire adds to the welcoming atmosphere. Only a few minutes from the Deal/Sandwich road, the Crown is well worth a visit. Just a week after presentation, the coronavirus crisis saw all pubs and bars closed.



Crown Inn, Finglesham receives it's Winter Pub of the Season Award just before the first lockdown in 2020

IT'S BEEN A GOLDEN YEAR FOR THE BERRY

As part of its 50th anniversary celebrations, CAMRA has been recognising people, groups and busi-

nesses that have made a significant contribution to CAMRA's aims by honouring them with a Golden Award.

So, we were over the moon to find that The Berry, Walmer had been awarded a Golden Award – just one of 32 pubs across the country to receive this honour. Pubs were nominated by CAMRA members with the final decision being made by CAMRA's Awards Director & Deputy Director.



And the evidence speaks for itself. Since Chris took over the Berry in 2005, when there was just one real ale, the Berry now features up to 12 real ales, 10+ different ciders and 9 different craft beers. It has appeared in every Good Beer Guide since 2007 and has been a candidate in the Branch Pub of the Year and Cider Pub of the Year competitions ever since it was eligible – winning these competitions on numerous occasions. Subsequently, it has made it through to the East Kent, Kent and Super Regional finals.

In addition, Chris runs up to three beer and cider festivals each year and supports local beer festivals at the RNLI, Sailing Club and Deal Rugby Football Club. Through the pub and Chris's own endeavours thousands of pounds have been raised for local schools, clubs and charities.

However, as well as CAMRA's Golden Award this

year, 2020 saw the pub retain the title of **Branch Pub of the Year** for the second year running and for the ninth year in total, as well also retaining, for the third year running the award as **Branch Cider Pub of the Year**. Owing to the restrictions imposed by Covid, the certificates had yet to be awarded, and we took the opportunity to present both at the same time as the Golden Award presentation.

Accordingly, the afternoon of Saturday 14th August saw Chris receive the awards from Regional Director Martin Knight (right) and Branch Pubs Officer Tony Wells (left) in front of a crowded pub.

You can find out more about CAMRA's 50 years of campaigning at <https://camra.org.uk/50-years/>

JUST REPROACH – A WELL- DESERVED AWARD FOR A WELL- DESERVING PUB

The Just Reapproach, our branch's first micro pub, opened in December 2011 and very rapidly become a firm favourite amongst real ale drinkers. With Mark Robson & daughter Bronwen at the helm, it has been offering a welcome retreat from the hustle and bustle of Deal town centre, with four real ales during the week and their full-on Five Beer Friday.

Over the years it has regularly been on the edge of winning a CAMRA award but has always faced stiff competition from our other great real ale pubs.



Bronwen with the 2021 Branch Pub of the Year Award for the Just Reapproach, Deal

Well not anymore. 2021 was the year the Just Reapproach won our **Branch Pub of the Year**, and so well deserved.

The presentation was also very much about the pub's customers, and Bronwen emphasised this during her acceptance of the award. Those customers who have made the pub so popular, who have drunk their way through thousands of pints of real ale, supported them during the pandemic and have enabled them to raise over £20,000 in aid of charity.

That day featured the Just Reapproach's "personal" charity, the Pilgrims Hospice, donating the sales of Oakham's Hare and Hedgehog, which sold throughout the day, to raise a further £260.

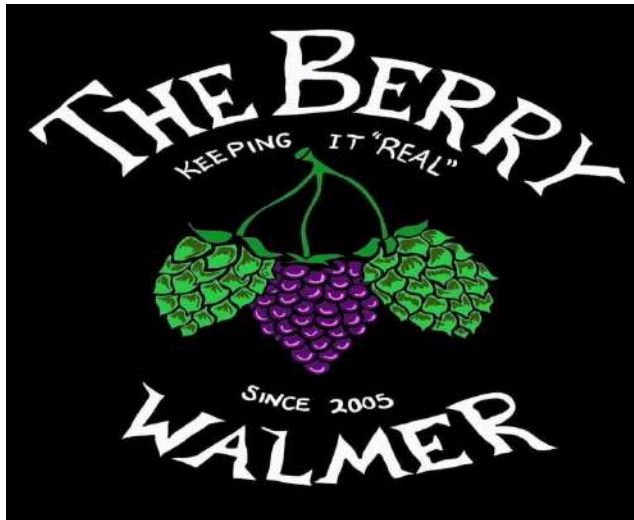
PUB OF THE SEASON WINTER 2021-2022 – THE WHITE HORSE, DOVER

Having been suspended for a couple of years because of Covid, the Branch has now restarted the Pub of the Season award, and chosen the White Horse, Dover as Pub of the Season for Winter 2021-2022.

The White Horse is currently run by Julian Crowley and Stewart Fox, who took over the pub in 2016, and under their management is no stranger to awards. The following year (2017) it was chosen as Kent Tourism Pub of the Year, and in 2018 the pub was voted by its owners, Ei Group, as display-



Julian Crowley and Stuart Fox of the White Horse, Dover with the Winter Pub of the Season 2021/2022 Award



REAL ALE, REAL CIDER, REAL FIRE, REAL PUB

UP TO 11 REAL ALES AVAILABLE ALONGSIDE REAL
CIDERS AND CRAFT BEER FROM DEAL'S TIME & TIDE.

MULTI CAMRA AWARD WINNING PUB.

THE BERRY, 23 CANADA ROAD, WALMER CT14 7EQ

OPENING HOURS:

MON, TUE : 4pm—10pm

WED, THUR: NOON—10pm

FRI, SAT : NOON—11pm

SUN : NOON — 10pm

ing the Best Marketing Initiative, in the company's Awards for Excellence, when Stewart and Julian turned a critical review by a Google user to the pub's advantage. They posted a copy on Facebook, and in response to the uncomplimentary comment 'posers sat at the bar', added: "To all our lovely customers; please feel free to step up to take credit for being the 'poseurs'." 'Poseurs at the Bar', appeared on the chalkboard above the bar, with many customers happily posing for photos below it. Also included in the award was appreciation of the link to Channel Swimming and the swimmer's signatures on the walls. Regular real ales are Harveys Sussex and Timothy Taylor Landlord plus a locally sourced Kent brew – on the day of the presentation, February 12th, Old Dairy Uber Brew.

We congratulate the Crown, the Berry, the Just Reproach and the White Horse on their individual successes.

SAD LOSS OF TWO LONG SERVING LICENSEES

However, as so often success and achievement is intertwined with grief and sorrow, and regrettably, we have to report the death of two local pub landlords, although no doubt many of our readers

will already be aware of the sad news. At the **Chance, Guston** Roger Morris passed away during the winter 2019/2020. To the best of our knowledge, Roger had run the Chance for around forty years and was one of the longest serving licensees in our branch area. He maintained the pub as a reliable outlet for good real ale, in particular regularly offering Draught Bass, a beer now increasingly rarely seen elsewhere. The Chance remains with the family who continue to run it.

Also no longer with us, and by coincidence bearing the same name, and with very much the same length of service, is Roger Morris landlord of the **Malvern Inn, Clarendon Road** in Dover. With his wife Carol, he took over the pub in February 1982 – their first pub, although the trade was not unknown to them, Roger's parents having the Royal George in Folkestone. Roger died in March 2021, since when, Carol, with the help of her family, has continued operating the pub, and in February this year held a fortieth anniversary party to mark her four decades behind the bar.

Both landlords are greatly missed, and our heartfelt condolences to their families and friends.



**THE LEATHER BOTTLE
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PREMIUM GINS **BEER GARDEN**
SKY & BT SPORTS & FREE WIFI

**OPEN - SUN. 4 TO 9 PM, MON. 6 TO 11 PM, TUE. 6 TO 11 PM
WED. 6 TO 11 PM, THURS. CLOSED, FRI. 6 TO 11 PM, SAT. 5 TO 8 PM.**

BRANCH PUBS – NEW, CLOSED OR CHANGED SINCE WINTER 2019/20

Stanleys, 50 Biggin Street, Dover, CT16 1DB: Change of use to bar and coffee lounge to include an external seating area – implemented.

Admiral Owen, Sandwich: Still closed since spring of 2019 following death of licensee, Heather Lemoine. Although exact future uncertain, we understand there are plans to reopen as pub.

Chequer, Ash: Village owned and leased to tenants. Runs a lottery to help fundraising. Currently closed owing to tenants' company having gone into liquidation. New tenant/leaseholder sought.

Three Tuns, Staple: Change of use to residential granted. No sign of any development at last visit.

Plough & Harrow, Tilmanstone: Refurbishment from mid-2017, to create pub with retail use and holiday-let pods. Now reopened with front bar, we hear, very much as before.

Green Oak Cider Works, Waldershare: Severely damaged by fire in spring 2018. Now repaired, and, we understand, reopened much as before.

Charity, Woodnesborough: Conversion to flats and erection of dwelling well underway if not completed. Last pub in village, but seemingly little local support for retention.

Dublin Man O'War, River, Dover: New houses constructed either side, with conversion of former pub premises to residential now appearing complete.

Bricklayers, Shepherdswell: Closed and boarded up for several years. Permission granted for conversion to two dwellings (with adj. cottage), plus a pair of semis at the rear.

Lord Nelson, Dover: On the edge of new St James' shopping area, Shepherd Neame has refurbished it as a "café style bar and restaurant". Reopened shortly before lockdown.

Sportsman, Sholden: Closed in autumn 2017, it is now operating under new ownership, having reopened initially just before March 2020 lockdown.

Admiral Harvey, Dover: Closed following death of landlord Pat in Jan 2018, the pub reopened just before Christmas 2019. Bar repositioned and removal of skittle alley. New garden seating area.

Railway Bell, Kearsney: Closed since New Year 2019, and, according to for sale board outside,

now sold. Substantial site – future as a pub seems unlikely.

Telegraph, Deal: To the best of our knowledge now converted to flats.

Smugglers Beer and Music Café, Sandwich: New real ale outlet which opened 2019.

Hop & Huffkin, New Street, Sandwich: Former Greyhound, now renamed the Tan Bueno as a Mediterranean style restaurant/bar.

Red Cow, Sandwich: Baz and Nina left at the end of 2020. Replacement tenants stopped for a year, and the pub is now under new management again.

Royal Oak, Nonington: Closed late summer 2017, reopened summer 2018, closed again by June 2019, with bar cleared of handpumps/keg fonts. Subsequently car park taped off. Currently no further information.

Carriers Arms, West Street, Dover: Pub closed for some time. Permission granted for Change of use to residential – September 2020

Hoptimist, Bench Street, Dover: Formerly the Mash Tun. Reopened the week before Christmas 2019 under the ownership of Danny (ex Breakwater) and Natalie Graham following the departure of Peter and Katheryn that October.

Captains Gardens Cottage Deal Castle, Victoria Road, Deal: Change of use to cafe/restaurant.

Magnet, London Road, Deal: Closed in May 2020, with subsequent applications for change of use to residential and erection of two dwellings.

Lanes, Worthington Street: Closed. Did not re-open after 2020 spring lockdown.

New Inn, High Street, Deal: The pub as been renamed the Goodwin

Le Tabac, 146 High Street, Deal: Permission granted for change of use to public house, including erection of a single storey rear extension, replacement front elevation and roof extension.

Frog & Orange, Shatterling: Closed, with residential use granted – work reported to be underway.

Tipsy Gardener, Shepherdswell: Closed at the end of August.

White Cliffs Hotel, St. Margarets-at-Cliffe: Closed. Application submitted for change of use to three dwellings. Also talk of possible change of use

to a retreat.

Vinoteq, 1 Cannon Street, Dover: Ground floor and basement bar, & music venue.

Sandra's, St. Margarets-at-Cliffe: Change of name to First Light Bar & Café.

FIVE BELLS CHARITY EVENT

“The Five Bells, in Eastry, have raised a massive £1340 in loving memory of Gail, one of the locals, for Great Ormand Street Hospital. The idea came about when Gail's family suggested donations to a charity instead of flowers. The staff at the pub brainstormed and within 10 days they created, advertised and held a fantastic family fun day in the theme of traditional country fair. This included traditional games like guess the weight of the cake, fancy dress, ring toss & shoot out games, popcorn & toffee apples, and a BBQ with live country music. Raffle prizes were donated generously from many local businesses. The Five Bells thank everyone who was involved.”

Mary Franks (The Five Bells) – October 2021

ROGER MARSDEN

Lastly just a few words from your editor in memory of Roger Marsden, who sadly died in August 2020. Anyone who regularly, or probably just occasionally, used the Fox in Temple Ewell will have known Roger. Large and genial he was an integral part of the atmosphere and character of

the Fox, and it was always good to see him and his cheery presence when visiting the pub; if only for just for a few minutes, as I often did, when delivering the weekly quiz. He possessed the kind of personality which made life and all around him seem better.

He was and is greatly missed, and as a tribute, a commemorative event, Rock for Roger, was held on the village playing field one Saturday towards the end of August last year. £4,500 was raised for Cancer Research, and Rock for Roger will now feature annually – this year on July 30th.

Martin Atkins

ELSEWHERE IN EAST KENT

FOLKESTONE

Chosen as winner of Pub of the Year 2020 was **This Ancient Boro'** in Tenterden. A pub several decades ago, but more recently a Chinese restaurant, it re-opened as a pub in July 2018, and has been selling consistently good beers (9 changing sourced nationally, according to the GBG) in a friendly and welcoming environment.

The **Bowl**, Hastingleigh, was a very close runner up. Following landlord Ron's sad death, his wife Annie and daughter Annie have continued to run the Bowl in the same way.

Cider Pub of the Year was chosen as the **British Lion** in the Bayle. Said to be the oldest pub in Folkestone, it offers three or more “bag in a box” real ciders.

More recently, in a reversal of the 2020 result, the **Bowl Inn**, Hastingleigh was chosen as Ashford, Folkestone & Romney Marsh Pub of the Year for 2022, with runner up the **This Ancient Boro'**, Tenterden.

Before lockdown we heard that the public toilets at Folkestone Bus Station have reopened after a couple of years. Owned by the shopping centre next door, they were closed due to continuing vandalism. With the current dearth of public toilets, very good news if still open – any update gratefully received.

City of London, Dymchurch: Good to see the pub acquiring LocAle listing. Reports indicate a range of up to four real ales, Hop Fuzz and Romney Marsh prominent.

Bouverie Tap, Bouverie Road West, Folkestone: We understand that plans to expand into the next-door premises, which would become the restaurant have now been completed.



‘Save the Swan’ – Update: At the time of our last issue (Winter 2019/20) the campaign to save the pub had been in operation for over a year and distinct progress was being made. Qualified support had been acquired from the Plunkett Foundation, professional valuation undertaken and a bank account set up. And during the winter a pop-up pub event, raised sufficient, together with grants, to cover pre-purchase expenses. Coronavirus obviously hindered further progress, with communication at times limited to social media, but we hear that the campaign has proved successful, and that at the time of writing (mid March 2022) a reopening is imminent.

George, Bethersden: Closed in Autumn 2020 with “no plans for reopening”, *ITV Meridian*, a year later, reported on a community campaign to acquire the pub. With £250,000 awarded towards its purchase it will need to raise an equivalent amount itself to be successful.

Range Ales

A casualty of the pandemic, Range Ales ceased trading in 2020 – a sad loss to the local community. In 2019 with Hop Fuzz, it produced Hythe Green from Hythe Hops first harvest, while a testament to its brews came from an Ashford, Folkestone and Romney Marsh Branch member, who declared that Range’s Winter Fire made a walk into Hythe on a winter’s day well worth the effort.....“I don’t remember the walk back”.

Hythe Hops

Years two and three of the Hythe Hop Project (2020 & 2021) saw membership roughly triple to 176 members, and plant numbers increase from 125 to 295. Despite challenging weather, aphids, and mould, 2020 eventually saw a decent harvest – totalling, over two dates, 110kg, more than twice the 2019 harvest. 50 kilos were passed to Hukins Hops of St Michaels for drying, and 30kg each to Hop Fuzz and new partner Docker Brewery, who respectively brewed 1800 Litres of “Hop Buzz” green hop ale and 1,600 litres of “Red Green Ale”. Subsequently, at last report, Docker Brewery, using dried hops, had produced two brews of Hythe Bay, and one brew each of Dark Matter and Doodle Juice.

In 2021, a two days harvest, produced sufficient to make over 10,000 pints of Hythe Community Beer. A brew from Hop Fuzz saw bottles distributed to members, while more hops were passed to Hukins for drying, with dried hops given to Docker Brewery. Support for the Bumblebee Conservation Trust continued throughout.

More information at

<http://hytheenvironmentalcommunity/hythe-community-hop-farm/>

CANTERBURY

Branch Pub of the Year 2020: Gold – **Haywain**, Bramling, Silver – **New Inn**, Canterbury and Bronze – **Ship Centurion**, Whitstable. Cider Pub of the Year 2020 was **Thomas Tallis**, Canterbury.

Before the 2020 lockdown, applications for change of use of the **Chequers**, Petham, and the **Two Sawyers**, Woolage Green, were both refused – Canterbury, Herne Bay and Whitstable Branch objecting to both. Subsequently the Two Sawyers has changed hands, with a recent visit finding it continuing to operate most successfully.

Meanwhile the Chequers, which closed in 2019, remains so, and up for sale – the villagers themselves possible purchasers. However, for the thirsty, the **Petham Pint**, a converted stables building opened in May 2021, is busy providing the locals with their ale. At nearby Bossingham the **Hop Pocket** is currently undergoing refurbishment. We hear that local community views have been sought about the pub’s development,

In Canterbury the future of the **Two Doves**, which Katrina from the **New Inn** would be interesting in buying, remains uncertain. While permission for change of use has been refused, and its retention as pub is locally supported, so far her offers have been rebuffed.

At Littlebourne the **Anchor** remains closed with, we understand, permission granted to convert to two houses. Certainly, its reinstatement as a pub appears increasingly remote.

SHEPHERD NEAME BOOST FOR KENT HOPS

The closure of pubs during the pandemic saw Shepherd Neame shift its operational emphasis towards supermarkets and bottled ales, and beers such as Spitfire and Bishops Finger that use Kentish hops. In spring 2020 Sheps purchased an extra 4,000kg of locally grown hops with a resulting tripling in their use.

TURNSTONE BREWERY

November 2020 – news that production had ceased in Whitstable. Subsequently relocated to Suffolk.

Please note that any views expressed herein are those of the contributors and are not necessarily those of this branch or CAMRA Ltd



The National News

By Martin Atkins

Pub Numbers Stabilise While the covid pandemic has been a bad time for pubs, before the virus hit us there were optimistic signs that the decline in pub numbers over recent decades could at last have stabilised. Figures published by the Office of National Statistics in late 2019, showed that in the twelve months to March 2019, 320 more pubs opened in the UK than closed – contrasting with the average loss of 732 pubs annually recorded since 2010, the last time that more pubs opened than closed.

There were variations across the country though. While England recorded a net gain of 345 pubs and Northern Ireland 5, both Wales and Scotland showed a decline, respectively 25 and 5. Interestingly, the biggest increases occurred in old industrial areas, 85 in the North East and 80 in the West Midlands. And while 2020 saw a return to decline, it was reduced, the year until June 2020 reporting a drop of 466 in England and Wales.

Cans for Shares Although in the news more recently, owing to staffing issues and its announcement of brewing cask ale again, before the pandemic lockdown, prominent brewer and bar owner BrewDog, initiated a scheme to exchange empty beer cans for shares, in an attempt to attract more investors. It went live in mid-February 2020, and was planned to continue until the end of April, but of course fell foul of coronavirus.

The basic offer was a company share voucher worth £25 for anyone returning 50 empty BrewDog cans. And as well as hoping to attract new investors, the scheme also aimed to promote more sustainable business practices by encouraging recycling – returned cans being processed for reuse by the packaging industry, saving energy and reducing CO2 emissions. We have no information as to whether the plan has been revived, now that most restrictions have been lifted.

Low-Alcohol Beer on the up Low alcohol drinks continue to make headway. Results from Heineken and Carlsberg before the pandemic lockdown show that sales of low-alcohol and no-alcohol beers were at the time booming. Reporting in February 2020, Heineken announced that its sales in this sector had risen by 7.6% (equivalent to 2.5 billion pints) during 2019, while Carlsberg says that its alcohol-free beers have shown a 20% year

on year increase. Asahi UK describes the sector as blossoming, with low and no-alcohol beer sales soaring by 50% to almost £38m in 2019.

According to Melissa Cole, beer expert and author, improved brewing techniques are largely responsible, particularly the use of maltose-negative yeast (“lazy yeast”). Fermenting differently, it produces a low/no alcohol beer, that avoids having to boil off alcohol with the consequent ill effects on flavour: “Horrible flavours of rotten tomatoes and gluey honey”, as Ms Cole described it.

Wadworth Changes Course In June 2020, the brewery announced that for the time being it had dropped plans to relocate to a greenfield site outside Devizes, a victim of the pandemic lockdown. Subsequently it sold 21 pubs (10 % of its pub estate) to Butcombe, whose own estate, covering roughly the area between Bristol, Oxford and Bath, has now expanded to over sixty pubs. Butcombe is owned by the Jersey-based Liberation Group, which also runs forty plus pubs in the Channel Islands.

Wickwar Ceases Brewing The Gloucestershire brewer has announced that after 30 years it has ceased brewing, with the loss of five jobs. Its beers, now contract brewed, will remain on sale in its thirteen pubs and in other local free houses and retailers. The company said: “It’s been a very sad and difficult decision to come to. Covid-19 has brought challenging times to the brewing and hospitality sectors throughout 2020 and the effects have been felt by regional brewers in particular.”

Pub Lover Wanted News comes of new conservation job at Lincolnshire County Council – to identify pubs that should be saved from closure and conversion, and preserved for future generations, with a particular attention to the coast from Grimsby to Boston. Anyone interested, however, should know that the announcement was some time back, and that some lucky individual is now no doubt well established and enjoying the job of a lifetime. However, it sounds an eminently worthwhile and valuable post – other local authorities please note.



The Cross, Lower Street, Eastry, Kent, CT13 0HX

Tel: 01304 611188

thefivebellseastry@yahoo.co.uk

www.thefivebellseastry.com



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Fri 3rd-Mon 6th June For more events please see Social Media or contact us



Clairvoyant Eve- 6:30 for 7pm, Sat 9th April, Thurs 19th May, Sat 18th June

Andy's Quiz Night 7pm start, Sat 30th April, Sat 28th May, Sat 25th June

Keep up to date with our events,



The Five Bells Eastry



@fivebellseastry



fivebellseastry

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Quality Ales | Fine Wines | Great Food | En-Suite Rooms | Quaint Village



UNCRYPTIC CROSSWORD

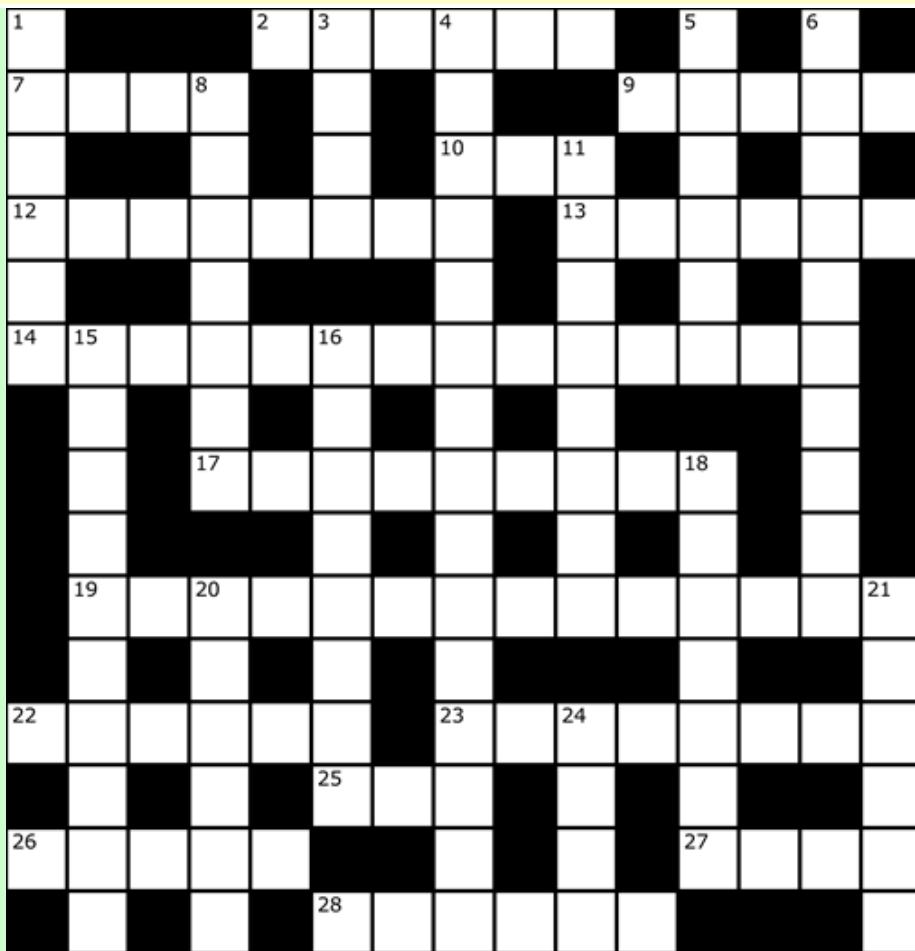
BY TRISHA WELLS

Across

2. Admiral, the pub run by Jim Hawkins' family in *Treasure Island* (6)
7. Very eager to see something (4)
9. Sussex home of the Harvey's Brewery (5)
10. Stick used in Billiards (3)
12. North American war axe (8)
13. Inn, Sandwich pub opposite the Guildhall (6)
14. Gin-based drink developed in Raffles Hotel (9,5)
17. Former country pub in Westmarsh, north of Ash (3,3,3)
19. Real ale bar and hostelry on Deal Seafront (9,5)
22. Passionate – red ant (anag.)
23. Like Lurpak with a red stripe (8)
25. *The British ...*, or *M16* (3)
26. Strong, dark beer (5)
27. Spirit made from fermented rice (4)
28. Pub in Wingham, built in 1645 (6)

Down

1. Tiny sips, of a beer, perhaps (6)
3. Sicilian volcano (4)
4. In the *Good Beer Guide*, a 'quiet' pub won't have this (10,5)
5. Youngest son of William the Conqueror, king of England 1100-1135 (5,1)
6. Brightest star in the constellation Orion, home to Ford Prefect in *The Hitch-hikers' Guide to the Galaxy* (10)
8. Largest city in Scotland (7)



11. Discharge or outpouring (8)
15. Not quite right (10)
16. Disbursements – many pets (anag.) (8)
18. Pasta strips (7)
20. Broad road lined with trees (6)
21. Village near Dover, home to *The Bell* and formerly *The Hope* (6)
24. London's China town (4)

**Crossword
Answers
on Page 45**

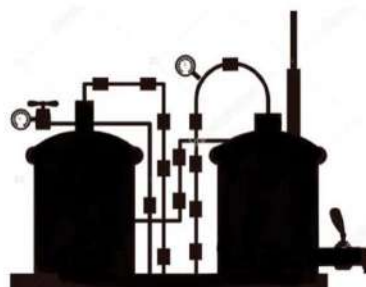
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CHANNEL VIEW

After the Virus Or more probably, living with the virus, which seems the likely future, what now for the country's pubs? Along with most of the small breweries, the majority seem to have survived the series of lockdowns and restricted opening that has been imposed since March 2020, thanks to Government support and a variety of individual initiatives: breweries switched to direct delivery to customers' homes, and upped their supply to supermarkets, while pubs offered take away sales, (when they were allowed to) or operated enterprises such as providing home delivery meals. However, there is no doubt that the pandemic has highlighted the vulnerability under which many of them operate.

Now, with the benefit of vaccination, and lockdowns hopefully consigned to the past, normal routine has returned to much of life, although for many pubs, clobbered as much as any sector of the economy, there still seems some way to go. And of course for some there will be no return, normal or otherwise. In fact pubs might have good cause to feel particularly aggrieved, as much of the Government's reasoning for seeing them as a prime culprit for spreading disease, appears drawn from looking at superspreader events in the Far East, and foreign bar cultures, often vastly different from those here in the UK.

While some pubs, or style of pub, might be a source of contagion, it is not true for all. Why some businesses such as hairdressers, nail bars, etc., where there is close personal contact were considered OK, while all pubs were still considered not, would seem to defy rational argument. Once regulation had stopped large numbers of pub goers standing and moving around, and mingling with each other, there would seem no greater threat than in many a work place.

Further, to restrict opening only to those premises that could provide a meal to accompany alcohol, for which apparently a scotch egg could prove sufficient, on the reasoning that somehow this reduces alcohol consumption, would seem to add farce to illogicality. Experience suggests that a meal in a restaurant, where likely wine rather than beer is drunk, is perfectly capable of inducing substantial intoxication. Meanwhile, those of us who remember strict closing times and the rapidity with which pints were knocked back as 'time gentlemen, please'

approached, might well speculate on the value of October 2020's 10 o'clock curfew. And of course, after ejection at 10pm, a few cans or bottles from a late night store, and the evening could continue at someone else's house, where enforceable regulation was obviously difficult.

However, not all criticism should be aimed at the Government. There is the seemingly strange phenomenon of apparent lack of public concern. While a survey in June 2020 found that a quarter of the adult population during lockdown missed the pub either a lot or quite a bit, the restrictions and lockdowns imposed by the Government were accepted almost without protest. Perhaps, though, we should perhaps be not surprised. For a country whose population continually espouse its love of the British pub, and where every soap has a 'local' at its heart, there is often an amazing display of indifference over a pub's closure, or the need to visit a pub now and again if it is to keep going.

We do of course appreciate and welcome what support the Government has been able to provide during the pandemic, and which, locally at least, has helped to keep casualties low. However, if as we like to think, the Government really believes in pubs, and sees them as lying at the heart of the community, two simple measures would radically improve pub fortunes.

Firstly the replacement of the 200 year old system of business rates by more even handed taxes appropriate for the 21st century, and secondly the introduction of reduced duty on draught beer. The vital need for the former must already be apparent as rate relief to smaller businesses has been a regular feature of recent budgets, while the latter, we understand, has been introduced and is operating successfully in Australia.

Although the rating system still seems inviolable, the last autumn budget saw the Chancellor taking a few cautious steps along the path of reducing draught beer duty, and if needs encouragement for further reductions in future, he need only look at the transformation of microbrewing following Gordon Brown's reduced duty for small brewers.

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FAREWELL TO THE LANES

Dover's popular award winning micropub becomes a COVID casualty

Of the various business casualties of the Covid 19 Pandemic the closure of the Lanes micropub in Worthington Street, Dover will particularly sadden real ale drinkers in East Kent – a victim of government restrictions on licensed premises which made continued operation unviable.

Opened in December 2014 by Debbie and Keith Lane the Lanes rapidly became one of the town's leading outlets for real ale offering up to half a dozen or so beers of all styles and types, almost exclusively of Kentish origin, and alongside Kentish cider and wine. Almost from the start it accumulated CAMRA awards. Firstly winning Branch Pub of the Season twice over its first couple of years, then Branch Pub of the Year and East Kent Pub of the Year in 2017 and again Branch Pub of the Year and East Kent Pub of the Year in 2018. Finally, later in 2018, the Lanes then went on to become Regional Winner as Kent Pub of the Year, making it, as Debbie put it, one of CAMRA's top sixteen pubs in Britain.



For over five years the pub was an obvious choice for anyone looking for good real ale in Dover town centre, and we thank Debbie and Keith for offering us such excellent beers over that period. Both they and the Lanes are greatly missed.



Benny's Bar on Tour However before the Lanes finally closed its doors it played host to a group of eager beer drinkers from overseas
Jim Green wrote:

As usual on a Friday, on the 28th February 1920 I paid a visit to The Lanes in Dover, to find the micropub crowded with a group of drinkers clad in green jerseys with logos indicating that they were from Benny's Bar involved in a tour of Kent pubs. It transpired that they were all from Israel and that Benny's Bar is a brew-pub not far from Tel Aviv. Anyway, they were all enjoying their visit to our country and obviously appreciated the Real Ale. After a few pints in The Lanes they made their way to the Hoptimist to continue their session.

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THE NORTH WEST FRONTIER REVISITED

A fond look back at the last social outing by the Branch before the Pandemic struck

Several years ago the Deal, Dover, Sandwich and District CAMRA Branch arranged a day out visiting the pubs of the “North West Frontier” – our North West Frontier that is, not the warlike tribal region lying between India and Afghanistan in the days of the old British Raj. Being somewhat distant from the main centres of population in our Branch the area receives rather less attention than it should, and in an attempt to make amends, John Pitcher, Branch Social Secretary arranged another trip, to visit four of the local pubs, plus, for good measure, a fifth on the eastern side of our branch.

Accordingly, the morning of Saturday 7th March 2020 found sixteen of us assembled at Sandwich station, where a minibus was due to take us to our chosen destinations. Although overcast, the weather was mild, and cloud cover sufficiently light for the sun to break through from time to time. The problems of a strange illness afflicting a Chinese province seemed a long way away.

We left Sandwich at 11.30, heading for our first stop, the **Rising Sun** at East Stourmouth – the winding and twisty nature of the road made even more challenging that morning as we crawled past a group of young children under tuition on ponies. The journey took about fifteen minutes before we pulled up outside the pub, which disappointingly, had about it the look of not yet being open. However, on trying the door, it proved not so, and we thankfully crowded inside, where a choice of Wantsum Montgomery, Parkway Norwegian Blue and Adnams Ghost Ship awaited us. (Here, and for the rest of this account, reference to beer choice only includes real ale)

Rising Sun, East Stourmouth



The Rising Sun comprises several rooms and bar areas, and we settled down to enjoy our beer among deep sofas and the homely smell of a wood burning stove – the latter now of course, considered to carry a certain amount of environmental damage. Ironical, when you think about it, that so much of what might be regarded as the innocent accompaniments to civilised life turns out to be harmful.

We stayed for about an hour before re-boarding the bus and making the short journey to our next destination, the **Half Moon and Seven Stars** at Preston, where we found much of the pub engaged in watching Liverpool versus Bournemouth on TV. Beers were Master Brew and Whitstable Bay from Shepherd Neame, and Empire from George’s Brewery of Great Wakering in Essex – a beer and brewery unknown to most, if not all of us, but seemingly proving to be the popular choice. The sun had by now fully emerged, bringing with it a springtime warmth.

A shorter stay this time before moving on to our rendezvous with the **Anchor** at Wingham, where we found Linda Keene and Malcolm Cooper who had biked over from Denton to



Half Moon & Seven Stars, Preston

meet us. Harvey’s Sussex, Butcombe Original, Goody’s Good Evening and Box Story Horse were on the handpumps and a welcoming open fire was alight at the end of the bar. This was also our lunch stop, and we enjoyed a substantial and very pleasing buffet which the pub had laid on for us.

At 3pm it was time to move on for our fourth pub, the community owned **Chequer** in Ash. A medieval property of typical Kentish style it has been reopened now for about nine months under the management of the Chequer Inn Ash Society, and appears to be establishing itself as a central element of village life.

The main bar runs the length of the front of the building overlooking the road, with half a dozen large tables and seating set beneath the windows. On our visit, a wood burning stove once again offered warmth and hospitality, with beer a choice of Harveys Sussex, London Pride, and Reeves and Knights from



The Branch group outside the Anchor, Wingham



The community owned Chequer at Ash

Canterbury Ales. Shortly after arriving, our numbers were added to by Julian and Anne McIlroy from Finglesham.

Again about an hour passed before John was issuing one of his “5 minutes warnings” for imminent departure, for our final destination, the one not included as part of the “North West Frontier”. This was the **St Crispin** at Worth. It lies at the end of the village, beyond the village pond, on a road which continues to the railway, and a level crossing from where a track runs down to Sandwich Bay. For those not acquainted with the area, the pub could easily be missed.

Late afternoon, and our transport pulled into the pub carpark, having detoured to Sandwich to drop off several members who had decided to forgo the visit. Two beers were available, London Pride and Gadd's No 5 – the latter in particularly good condition, with some considering it the best beer of the day: quite an accolade, as the standard had been uniformly good.

We spread around the pub, some watching the TV to catch the start of the England/Wales rugby, and Branch Pubs Officer Tony was joined by his wife Trish, who had not been with us on the trip. Some time after 5pm the minibus returned us to Sandwich from where we made our various ways home.



St Crispin at Worth

Although we did not know it then, this was to be our last Branch trip before Covid 19 pandemic suspended all Branch activity. Two weeks later all pubs across the country were closed.

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DEAL, DOVER & SANDWICH CAMRA BRANCH

PUB OF THE YEAR 2005

PUB OF THE SUMMER SEASON 2015

Listed in the 2022 CAMRA Good Beer Guide



CAMRA at 50

The beer drinkers champion reaches its Golden Anniversary

During 2021 the Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA), one of the most successful consumer organisations across Europe celebrated its 50th Anniversary.

The organisation has come a long way from its roots, founded by four passionate young men from the North-West whilst on a holiday to Ireland in 1971. Today CAMRA represents beer drinkers and pub-goers and campaigns for real ale, pubs and consumer rights across the country. The consistent aim over the past 50 years is to ensure there are quality real ales, ciders and perrys and thriving pubs across the country

The 50th anniversary happened at perhaps the most difficult period on record for the pub and beer industry, after months of lockdowns and unfair restrictions due to the COVID pandemic.

During its birthday celebrations, CAMRA reaffirmed its commitment to fighting for pubs and consumers now and in the future, to ensure there are good pubs serving good beer in every community for the next 50 years. The hard work of campaigners fighting for pubs is more important than ever. The industry needs more support to ensure it can not only survive but thrive as the present restrictions are lifting.

Pubs matter and are a vital part of our communities. We are all now getting back to enjoying the social and wellbeing benefits of being back at the local – and enjoying a pint of delicious local cask beer.



CAMRA's official birthday took place on 16th March 2021 with a social media celebration using the hashtag #CheersToCAMRA, but there were virtual events throughout the year, along with birthday merchandise, and special awards. In our Branch area, the Berry at Walmer was a recipient of one of the 50 coveted CAMRA anniversary awards

CAMRA Books published a biography of the first half century – *50 Years of CAMRA* written by beer writer Laura Hadland, and contains first-hand accounts from members and industry professionals, detailing the highs and lows of one of the world's most successful consumer organisations.

To join CAMRA and contribute to its work protecting pubs and the beer industry, visit: <https://join.camra.org.uk/> or see Page 29

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DEAL HOP FARM

Reports from the community hop project for 2020 & 2021

Update June 2020

The Deal Hop Farm – the community hop growing project in and around Deal – was now in its 4th Season.

The farm is a virtual one made up of over 250 sites in the town - gardens, allotments and community spaces. It involves more than 400 people who grow the same variety of hop, support each other and harvest together in September.

Then, working with local brewery partners, Time & Tide Brewing, produces local beers – a lot of them! In the nine months since the 2019 harvest (right), which was a bumper one of nearly 300kgs of hops, Time & Tide have produced eight different styles of beer! The latest a malty 5.6% Amber Ale in cask coming out in June.



The 2019 Harvest

Twenty Five new members joined this year, and we have completed our first survey of the farm, which shows we are on track for the season. This year's harvest is going to be a challenge with social distancing

Looking forward when we can all get together in a pub with some of our beer

September 2020

This year's season, the fourth, was good, despite the drought, aphids and COVID, and a drop from 2019. The three harvest days in the town produced a total green harvest of 211.3 kilos of prima donna hops. About 50 kilos of these went immediately into a Green Hop Pale brewed by Time & Tide, while the rest went for professional drying at the Berry and Redsell Farms. Deal Hop Farm now have 40 kilos of dried hops for beer brews with Time & Tide between now and next September.

In all they harvested across 175 of 265 sites, with some 307 people involved in the harvest. The average harvest per rhizome dropped from 925grams to 650grams – and over all there was a fall of 30% on the 2019 harvest, largely put down to the drought and timing of the aphid spread. This does seem to be reflected in many commercial hop farms in Kent, who as well as having to cut hop production because of reduced demand due to COVID, also saw either drops in harvest, or alternatively had to irrigate the hop gardens, which for the UK is very unusual.



Social distancing in the Captain's Garden



Adding green hops to the kettle

The crop range was from 9 grams to 4 kilos from one plant. The largest garden site produced 4.9 kilos and the largest community site 11 kilos. And lots of good feedback on the COVID secure harvest drop offs, with much gratitude to the volunteers who ran the drop offs, social distanced community hop picking, and the marshals for arranging pickups from sites who could not make it or were shielding.

2021 – Season Five

Another successful year for the community hop growing project.

The harvest in September produced the group's second largest crop with some 230 kgs of prima donna hops collected by 177 of its 265 sites. About 30kgs went into Time & Tide's Green Hop Pale Ale and rest of the hops were dried by Redsells for the planned 10-12 further brews in 2021/22. The Green Hop proved to be very popular this year and was sold out within a few weeks. To date Deal Hop Farm hops have been used in some 17 different beers.

On the social side, Covid has continued to curtail the project's larger events but monthly pub meetings restarted in July, and it has continued to get the 'community hops' message out by supporting the new group in Thanet – Hop Along Thanet – which partners the Northdown Brewery. In September the farm's work was highlighted nationally in the Royal Horticulture Society Precious Garden magazine.



Celebrating the 2021 harvest

The Farm's AGM was set for Sun 30 Jan, with the launch of 2022 season at the Lighthouse on Wed 2 Feb. Membership reopened at the end of Jan with a planned run until the beginning of April.

Contact Details: Telephone: 01304 372673 Email: Info@DealHopFarm.org.uk
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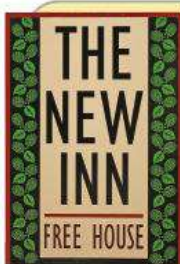
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LAST KNOCKINGS

Old Wort

Two drink limit at Wetherspoons Before the nation descends into a mass spluttering into its beer, we hasten to add that this applies only to adults in charge of children, only at some Wetherspoons, and is only guideline, not policy. It has also been around for some ten years or so. General awareness of the restriction emerged at the Robert Pocock pub in Gravesend, where a poster appeared announcing that the pub was imposing the rule to protect children from harm – adults were to be allowed one alcoholic drink, plus a second with a meal. A Wetherspoons spokesman said its purpose was to “prevent unruly behaviour” by youngsters, and added that children were very welcome in its pubs with a kid’s menu and crayons for kids: “children in pubs is a massive part of what Wetherspoon’s does.” Of course some might feel that things were better when children were not allowed in pubs at all.

Watching the Detectives Not being especially a devotee of the whodunit genre I cannot say whether Endeavour Morse ever made any comment about children in pubs, but as a man who seems to have opinions on most things, it would be surprising if he had not – and, one suspects, they might well have been in the negative. However, thanks to coronavirus, my acquaintance with TV detectives has acquired a whole new dimension, especially the irascible Oxford police inspector and Agatha Christie’s Belgian sleuth Poirot. Comparisons of the pair and their contrasting approach to detection are unavoidable – Poirot’s forensic application of the little grey cells versus Morse’s pint of bitter and crossword in the corner of a pub – and while either course might have its advocates, there is every chance that for readers of this magazine there would be but a single choice. Sorry Poirot, no contest.

Queen’s Arms, Cowden Pound A happy evening at Elsie’s some years back, courtesy of Roger Corbett – in the window, pint in hand (see right)

Otherwise, except for that well-known and dedicated member of our Branch, the sadly missed late Roger Marples (far right), holding forth in characteristic fashion, the rest of the party are unknown to Old Wort.

Any assistance in identification would be appreciated.



Two Nations Stories of beer prices in London continue to appal. From the *Daily Telegraph* before the first lockdown comes news that some pubs and bars in the City of London charge extra for beer after 10pm. Apparently, the going rate of around 10%, raised the price of a pint at that time from the ‘normal’ average of £6.40 to £7.15. Pub owners describe this as “event pricing”. As *Marsh Mash* remarked: “We assume that the legally required price lists are updated in a timely fashion. Aren’t you glad that you live and drink in East Kent?”

Hairy Bikers Often among the more interesting and entertaining of the TV cooks, one of their more recent pronouncements, however, left a little to be desired. A programme devoted to British beer and cider, informed viewers that until the 1950s most British pubs brewed their own beer – that is before this cottage industry was replaced by national brewers brewing on an industrial scale. It would seem likely, a case of a number of crossed wires, and that what was intended to be implied, was the true situation, which was that until that time most pubs were supplied with locally produced beer. And while some might think it surprising that no one involved in the production noticed this faux pas, the often displayed media ignorance in matters of beer and brewing suggests it probably isn’t.

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gillandgerrykeay@btinternet.com

Thanet

Graham Rickett 07870 563918
branch@thanet-camra.org.uk



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Sandwich Taxis	
Sandwich Cars	01304 617424
Folkestone Taxis	
Channel Cars	01303 252252
Chris's Taxis	01303 226490
Folk Taxi	01303 252000
Premier Cars	01303 270000
Trading Standards Consumer Hotline	
03454 04 05 06	

Why Your Beer Scores Count!

<p>Not enough scores Not enough scorers NOT a GBG Candidate</p>	<p>Enough scores Enough scorers A GBG Candidate</p>	<p>Your Pub Needs Your Beer Scores</p>
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Your beer scores decide which pubs go onto the "Best of..." list, who goes into the Good Beer Guide and ultimately who gets onto the Pub of the Year candidate list.

<https://dds.camra.org.uk/nbss>

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

1	T				2	B	E	N	B	O	W		5	H		6	B	
7	A	G	O	G				T		A				L	E	W	E	S
	S			L			N			10	C	U	E		N		T	
12	T	O	M	A	H	A	W	K				13	M	A	R	K	E	T
	E		S							G			I	Y		L		
14	S	15	I	N	G	A	P	O	R	E	S	L	I	N	G			
			N		O		A		O		S					E		
			A		17	W	A	Y	O	U	T	I	N	N		18	U	
			C				M		N		O		O		S			
		19	C	L	A	R	E	N	D	O	N	H	O	T	E	L	21	
			U		V		N			M				D			Y	
22	A	R	D	E	N	T				23	U	N	S	A	L	T	E	D
	A		N			25	S	I	S			O		E			D	
26	S	T	O	U	T					I		H		27	S	A	K	E
		E		E			28	A	N	C	H	O	R					N

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