

The Deal Dover Sandwich & District Branch Magazine

CHANNEL DRAUGHT

Issue 86

Free

Summer 2023

THE JACKDAW TOPS SUMMER POLL

JACKDAW

Inside:

- **Local & National News**
- **Dark Star - Brewery to Close**
- **Duty reforms bring cheaper pints**
- **Beery Boaters**
and more



**CAMPAIGN
FOR
REAL ALE**

CHANNEL DRAUGHT

Issue 86 Summer 2023

Channel Draught

is published and

©2023 by the

Deal Dover Sandwich

& District Branch

of the

Campaign for Real Ale

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

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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 Jackdaw, Denton

Summer Pub of the Season 2023

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BRANCH DIARY

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

Events shown in blue are not organised by CAMRA

Branch Meetings start at 7.30pm

Mon 18 Sept

Branch Meeting, **Carpenter's Arms**, Coldred.

Fri 22 - Sun 24 Sept

Green Hop Beer Tent, **Dane John**, Canterbury

Sat 23 Sept

Kent CAMRA social at **McCanns Brewery**, Tenterden.

Sat 23 Sept

- Mon 9 Oct

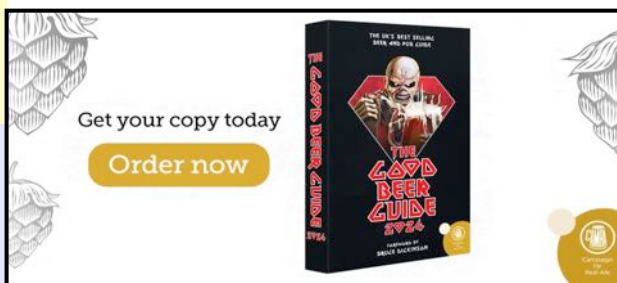
Kent Green Hop Beer Fortnight

Mon 16 Oct

Branch Meeting, **Staggered Inn**, Dover

Mon 20 Nov

Branch Meeting, **The Bar**, Deal





LOUIS ARMSTRONG

As featured in CAMRA's "GREAT BRITISH PUBS"

Maison Dieu Road, Dover CT16 1RA
01304 204759

Mon - Thurs 5pm to close Fri - Sat 3pm to close
Sun 7pm to close



KENT REAL ALE – including Gadds Goachers
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A Traditional Old English Village Pub with B&B and a lot to offer



Back in September...
Daily Lunchtime meals from £7.50

Cask Ale Week, 50p
off a pint of Real ale
for CAMRA members

Games Night raising money for the RBL
Fri 13th Oct from 7/7:30pm

Open Mic Nights, Sun 8th Oct & Sun 12th Nov
Curry Night £12pp, all you can eat. Fri 24th Nov



Christmas Bookings being taken. Contact us for Christmas day or Christmas Party Menus. (Family gatherings, friends, work functions... We will try our best to cater for your every request. Parties of 1 to 45 people seated.)

Clairvoyant Eve 7pm start, Thurs 19th Oct, Sat 18th Nov
Andy's Quiz Night 7pm start, Sat 28th Oct, Sat 25th Nov
Eastry CAN Quiz 7pm start, Sat 14th Oct, Sat 11th Nov



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The Five Bells Eastry



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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.

PUB OF THE YEAR

Once again success for the **Berry** in Walmer which for 2023 was chosen as both Deal, Dover, Sandwich and District CAMRA Branch Pub of the Year, and also CAMRA East Kent Pub of the Year. The Branch award is the eleventh since Chris Barnes took over the pub in 2005 and the third in

Chris Barnes of the Berry, Walmer with his awards



four years, while the East Kent award, which the pub retains from last year, is the most recent of several it has won during his ownership. The picture shows Chris holding both winning certificates.

Regular readers of *Channel Draught* will be well acquainted with the attributes and character of the Berry, which has appeared in every Good Beer Guide since 2007. Offering up to a dozen real ales, plus a large range of ciders and craft ales and with regular festivals throughout the year, the pub has a strong local following, and for lovers of pubs and real ale is a destination of choice for visitors to our part of the county.

The other finalists for East Kent Pub of the Year were:

Ashford, Folkestone & Romney Marsh: **This Ancient Boro**, Tenterden

Canterbury, Whitstable & Herne Bay: **The Bouncing Barrel**, Herne Bay

Swale: **The Elephant**, Faversham

Thanet: **The Royston Micropub**, Broadstairs

West Kent Pub of the Year is the **Nelson Arms**, Tonbridge

SUMMER PUB OF THE SEASON

Deal, Dover, Sandwich and District CAMRA's choice for Summer Pub of the Year 2023 is the **Jackdaw** at Denton, and there was an excellent turnout of CAMRA members and locals on the afternoon of Saturday July 20th for the presentation of the award to licensees Graham & Michelle



Bevan at the pub. They served up a selection of excellent homemade sausage rolls, washed down with very good pints of St. Austell Tribute and Harvey's Sussex Best Bitter, and despite the some-

what unfavourable weather a fine time was had by all.

The pub lies in the rolling downland south of the A2, on the main road to Folkestone, a long established red brick and tiled roof traditional Kentish pub set amongst a very green and well wooded countryside. Within easy reach of Dover, Canterbury and other local towns it is popular with those seeking a pleasant summer's drive, a drink and a meal.

Our branch presents two Pub of the Season awards each year, voted for by local CAMRA branch members. You can find out more about the competition on our website <https://dds.camra.org.uk/>

PUB NEWS

DOVER

Former Bairstow Eves Estate Agents, Market Square: Premises being fitted out as bar/pub during August. Report notes beer fonts installed which appear named for craft beers, but no sign of hand pumps. Mid month, still plenty of work going on, and no name yet displayed.

Lava Lounge, Biggin Street: Closed May 2023 – future uncertain

Staggered Inn, Dover: Awarded first place in 2023 Publicans Walk (see below).

Three Cups, Dover: Closed after Christmas with a pending planning application for change of use to residential.

Roman Quay, Dover: Closed for several years, a planning application was submitted earlier this year for change of use from public house to retail/cafe/community space. Pending at time of writing.

Railway Bell, River: Closed since 2019. Planning application for change of use to residential has been approved and work is well underway to convert the pub and construct new houses.

Funky Monkey, Dover: Closed and demolished as part of area re-development to provide residential use, business hub and creative centre.

White Horse, Dover: Julian Crowley & Stuart Fox were due to move to the Chance, Guston in September, and the pub is now seeking new tenants.

Eight Bells, Cannon Street: Plans at rear to demolish former nightclub, build extension and create garden currently withdrawn.

Duchess, Bench Street: Premises now being described as "town centre pub and cocktail bar", but no reports of real ale returning.

DEAL

Acordo Lounge, Deal: New pub at 43-45 High Street (former M&Co clothes) by bar chain, Loungers, which already has over 200 sites in the UK. Appears not to be offering real ale. Further reports welcome.

Deal Smugglers Café & Bar, Deal: Former Jolly Gardener closed since June 2022. Part currently Polish restaurant.

Drum Major, Walmer: Closed from March this year due to fire damage. Reopening expected after refurbishment.

Saracen's Head, Alfred Square, Deal: Closed at last visit, May 23. Future is uncertain and we understand that Shepherd Neame have sold the freehold.

Magnet Inn, London Road, Deal: Closed since May 2020 long term, with change of use to residential granted October 2020

Clarendon Hotel, Beach Street: Sole remaining bar on sea front frontage now closed – converted to additional bedroom we hear.

Leather Bottle, Mongeham: Current situation uncertain, but appears closed – not open since Christmas believed one local. Any further information gratefully received.

SANDWICH & RURAL

Admiral Owen, Sandwich: Closed from March 2019. Planning application late 2021 (granted) suggested a reopening as a pub & restaurant, and, following refurbishment we hear that is now set for the forthcoming October.

Chance, Guston: Julian Crowley & Stuart Fox from the White Horse, Dover were due to take over the pub in September,

Chequer, Ash: The community owned pub reopened in late October 2022 with a new tenant. Latest reports suggest everything going well.

Coach, Hacklinge: Former Coach & Horses reopened in May after refurbishment. Described as restaurant, bar and garden it now offers camping facilities.

Dog, Wingham: The only Kent pub included in a survey of British pubs with accommodation – *Best Pubs With Rooms* – published in the *i* newspaper in

2022.

Plough, Ripple: Granted Asset of Community Value following nomination by Parish Council.

Blue Pigeons, Worth: Closed January 2023 and to the best of our knowledge being actively marketed as a licensed premises.

Plough & Harrow, Tilmanstone: Closed for a period last winter but reopened in the spring as testified by the Branch's Saturday bus trip in May.

Royal Oak, Nonington: Closed from mid 2019. Currently no sign of re-opening, but scaffolding erected and work apparently underway, spring 2023.

Wrong Turn, Barfrestone: Closed in June 2022. The pub is up for sale, and being actively marketed as licensed premises. However approval granted for new bar in the village.

Lighthouse, Capel: Still closed in Spring 2023, although indication that some work may have taken place.

White Cliffs Hotel, St Margarets: Currently closed with planning permission for change of use to residential granted December 2022.

First Light Bar & Café (formerly Sandra's), St. Margarets: Expanded into adjacent premises, and now with substantial seating outside.

Five Bells, Eastry: The pub raised £750 over the spring Beer Festival for Talk it Out charity in Deal. Landlady, Mary Franks expressed her thanks to all the pub's customers, sponsors and her team.

CANTERBURY

Two Doves, Nunnery Fields: Currently on appeal for refusal of change of use to two dwellings. Also up for sale. There is substantial local support for its retention as a pub, and Katrina from the New Inn is still hoping to take it on and run it herself. Disappointingly, ACV status has been refused.

Cross Keys, Old Dover Road: Autumn 2022 – noted steel shutters installed over doors and windows. Local opinion sees its days as a pub now gone.

King's Head, Wincheap: Closed since June 2022, and was hoping to reopen this spring, but we understand that the pub is still closed, though

hoping to reopen shortly. ACV granted.

Rose at Wickhambreaux: Reportedly sold to local small pub group. Work being undertaken on visit in May.

Red Lion, Stodmarsh: Closed unexpectedly in September 2022. A local group acquired an Asset of Community Value designation, and following refurbishment the pub re-opened in April.

Petham: Following reopening of the Chequers and subsequent closure of Petham Pint locals are running a bar on the first Friday of each month in the village hall, and in July were planning a Petham Beer Festival.

Hop Pocket, Bossingham: We understand that the pub remains closed, as it has been for some time. Last visits noted that internal works had been undertaken but currently suspended.

FOLKESTONE

George, Bethersden: As we reported in our last edition, the pub, closed in Autumn 2020 with "no plans for reopening", was acquired by locals during winter 2022/23 after the rapid raising of £300,000 through the issue of shares, and various other activities – and sufficient to obtain a further £250,000 towards its purchase from the Government. It reopened over this year's Spring Bank Holiday, initially largely as a bar, but with a café and restaurant to follow.

Valiant Sailor, Capel: A recent visit (summer 2023) found the pub closed with doors and windows boarded up.

King's Arms, Elham: Currently being refurbished. Local knowledge tells us that re-opening was set for end of August.

Timber Batts, Bodsham: Current occupants are moving to the **Compasses, Sole Street** at Crundale, which had been due to close in March. No knowledge of any future plans for Timber Batts.

Elsewhere from Ashford, Folkestone and Romney Marsh Branch we hear of several pub reopenings, or planned reopenings – **Ewe and Lamb, Rolvenden; Halfway House, Challock; and Black Lion, Appledore.**

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



GOOD BEER GUIDE 2024
Available from
28th September



PUBLICANS WALK

This year's Pubcan's Walk in Dover was a major success, not only as a fund raiser and social event, but also for real ale – first, second and third places all going to pubs where traditionally brewed and served beer is strongly represented.

Organised by the Dover Lions Club the event once again raised substantial sums for charity, as well giving local pubs and their

customers the opportunity to display their creative side, and dress up in all manner of outfits, and as all manner of characters, including a Donald Trump, and at least three Boris Johnson's who apparently were barely indistinguishable from the real ex-prime minister.

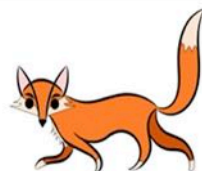
Winning pub was the **Staggered Inn**, a particular achievement for Jay and Serena in less than a year since they opened, and whose theme was Pop Idol. Second place was taken by the **Carpenters Arms**, Coldred and third by the **Hoptimist**.



The impressive Staggered Inn Pubcan's Walk Team with their Pop Idol theme

Childrens Play Area
Large Beer Garden
Parties catered for

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Steve and Alyson welcome you to their traditional pub

Opening hours: **Mon- CLOSED**
Tues-Fri 12pm-3pm / 5pm-10pm
Sat-Sun 12pm-10pm

Open for food **Tues -Fri 12-2pm/ 6pm-8pm & Sat 12pm-8pm**
Sunday Carvery 12.30pm – 2:30pm 2 courses £12.95 (Please book)



DEAL, DOVER AND SANDWICH CAMRA BRANCH
PUB OF THE YEAR 2005 PUB OF THE SUMMER SEASON 2015 & 2022
Listed in the 2023 CAMRA GOOD BEER GUIDE

DUTY REFORMS BRING CHEAPER PINTS - but confusion over beer take-outs from pubs

The 1st of August saw tax reforms that introduced a new 'Draught' duty rate for on premises sales of draught beer in pubs. The change means that beers bought in a pub should become cheaper by between 3p and 25p a pint depending on the strength the beer.

Nik Antona, CAMRA National Chairman, said ***"CAMRA has campaigned for many years to secure a draught duty rate, and we are pleased that this has come to fruition. We particularly welcome the confirmation that traditional gravity dispense will be captured within the new, lower, duty rate. With the Chancellor extending the differential between the general and draught duty rates to 9.2% in the Budget, we look forward to campaigning to further increase that differential to the benefit of pubs, social clubs, and consumers."***

However, the changes come with a sting in the tail. As 'draught' beer sold for on premises consumption in pubs benefits from a reduction in duty it now means that decanting from draught-duty paid containers for consumption off the premises will be prohibited. In short, take-outs of draught beer from pubs (and beer festivals) are banned. CAMRA have commented that despite formal representations and extensive engagement with the Treasury, a workable solution to allow pubs, social clubs and beer festivals to make incidental takeaway draught sales has not been found.

All this comes as the Government announced a two year extension to the licencing rules that allow pubs to make beer take-away sales. These rules were brought in during the pandemic to help pubs continue to trade whilst access to their premises was restricted by lockdown rules. They were due to expire on the 30th September. CAMRA chief executive Tom Stainer said: ***"It's a good sign that the government has listened and decided to backtrack on its plans to end the automatic permission for pubs to make off-sales. We hope that it has also been listening very carefully to the trade and consumers, who are also calling for a relaxation of the new tax rules around draught takeaway sales, which restrict many publicans from selling takeaway beer and cider regardless of whether their licence allows them to do so. This is because the new tax rules force them to buy separate containers of draught beers and ciders, with a higher rate of duty paid on them if they want to sell them for takeaway. We are hopeful that the government will remove these unnecessary restrictions soon."***

RON MEARES

In our last edition it was our sad duty to report on the passing of three East Kent CAMRA members. Unfortunately there has been a further loss since.

Ron Meares was a committed and valuable member of the Branch and, among other activities, for many years took responsibility for the distribution of *Channel Draught* to those who requested our magazine by post. He also helped regularly at the White Cliffs Festival of Winter Ales, where he is probably best remembered for running the Tombola stall with Tom Mitchell.

For many years Ron worked for Dover District Council, as did I, although in different departments. Our main contact, I seem to recall, was being pitched against each other, in the pairs section of the annual winter inter-departmental darts competition. A contest, I should add, which, over quite a few years, my partner and I never won.

Ron was also a keen fisherman, an interest that visitors to his house would see engraved on the glass of his front door. And while he had not been on any of our recent trips, Ron had also done his time as a Berry Boater, where, often acting as ship's cook, he gained a reputation for quite memorable breakfasts. The photograph shows Ron on board Pennine, in Braunston Locks, at the start of the Spring 2007 Beery Boaters trip. He is greatly missed by us all.



Martin Atkins



The National News

By Martin Atkins

NATIONAL NEWS

The Crooked House It is unusual for the fate of individual pubs to hit the national news but the case of the 18th century Crooked House in the West Midlands village of Himley is rather different. The pub had become a popular local landmark owing to the slope it had developed as a result of the effects of nearby mining. In July it was sold by Marston's to a private buyer for 'an alternative use', and in the belief that given its distorted shape its days as a pub were over.

Two weeks later, on the evening of Saturday 5 August fire broke out, leaving the building severely damaged by the time the blaze was largely extinguished on Sunday morning. However, much of the structure was still standing and a site visit on Monday by council officers with the site owner's representative, agreed a programme of works to ensure the building's safety, but gave no authority for demolition.

Later that day, though, a mechanical digger was used to reduce what remained to rubble, initiating a furore of anger and criticism. Many locals expressed condemnation of the demolition, and South Staffordshire Council Leader Roger Lees said, "At no point did the council agree the demolition of the whole structure nor was this deemed necessary". The council were currently investigating potential breaches of planning and buildings act. And further concern has arisen over reports that mounds of dirt were blocking access to the pub after the fire had started.

Meanwhile, Andy Street, West Midlands Mayor, declared that the pub should be rebuilt brick by brick. Local authorities have powers to enforce such an outcome if deemed appropriate – the most well known probably being London's Carlton Tavern where developers were forced to rebuild a demolished pub as an exact replica of the one demolished.

Later in the week, Staffordshire Police announced that they were treating the fire as arson, and subsequently, on Thursday 25 August, that a 66 year old man and a 33 year old man had been arrested on suspicion of arson.

Staffing Crisis While pubs generally saw a rise in sales over the Late summer Bank Holiday, hospitality industry leaders claim that shortage of staff

denied the sector a further £20m plus in income. The British Beer and Pub Association (BBPA) said that 5 million more pints could have been sold in addition to the estimated 57 million that were poured. A recent survey by the Association, together with the British Institute of Innkeeping, Hospitality Ulster and UK Hospitality found that 61% of firms in the industry were experiencing staff shortages. Emma McClarkin said that pubs are "altering menus and shortening hours, but this means....lower sales and less revenue for the Treasury." The Government urgently needs to make changes to the youth mobility scheme and widen the Shortage Occupation List, she added. The Government said it was aware of the recruitment and retention challenges facing pubs.

Questions Over Unit Pricing Despite operating a minimum unit price of alcohol of 50p, Scottish alcohol deaths reached a fourteen year high in 2022 of 1,276. Unsurprisingly the most deprived areas of the country recorded the highest numbers, the figure for NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde leading the way with 326, and were over four times higher than those in the least deprived areas. With consultation already under way on whether the unit price should be raised, the figures are likely to add pressure in support of an increase – a minimum unit price of 80p, for example, would see a standard sized bottle of wine cost at least £7.52. However, the 2022 fourteen year record does question the effectiveness of minimum unit pricing and whether raising it would achieve anything except encouraging an illicit black market.

"Beer Goggles Don't Work" The popular belief that alcohol enhances the attractiveness to a drinker of those around them, has been thrown into serious doubt following research in California which suggests that Dutch Courage is more likely to be the phenomenon. Rather than affecting perception, what is actually taking place is enhanced confidence, giving, in the case of this research, men the courage to approach those they already found the most attractive. Instead of just relying on comparing ratings of attractiveness when sober or inebriated from viewing photos alone, the new research additionally included the possibility of meeting those being rated. Results showed that when drinking test subjects were 75% more likely to choose one of their top rated most attractive photos to meet in a future study, compared to when they were sober.



We are a small, family run micropub offering up to 5 cask ales, 20 ciders and a variety of craft ales, keg beers, wines and spirits.

Weekly we have a specially selected 'Gin of the Week' and 'Cider of the Week' along with a Traditional Meat Raffle every Friday.

OPENING TIMES

Monday - 2pm - 8pm
Tuesday - 2pm - 8pm
Wednesday - 2pm - 8pm
Thursday - CLOSED
Friday - 1pm - 11pm
Saturday - 1pm - 10pm
Sunday - 1pm - 8pm



The Staggered Inn



@the_staggeredinn



107 High Street, Dover, CT16 1EB



THE SPRING TOUR

**A minibus trip to
some of our rural pubs**

Midday, Saturday May 20th, and a small group could be seen assembling outside the Priory Hotel in Dover. They were awaiting the arrival of the minibus that was to take them on the latest of John Pitcher's Branch outings. The weather was fine, warm but not hot, and a good day was in prospect.

The minibus arrived at about 12.15, having picked up already a contingent from Deal, and with everyone safely on board set off for our first destination, the Chance Inn at Guston. Beers were Gadds No. 5 from the Ramsgate Brewery and Greene King London Glory. Most of us stayed local and drank the No. 5, which was excellent.

Time rapidly passed, and John was soon giving us the first of his five minute warnings that departure was imminent. All having piled back on board, we headed for Tilmanstone and the Plough and Harrow, exchanging, for the moment, country lanes for busy main roads of a Saturday lunchtime.

Since being bypassed by the duelled Dover/Sandwich road, the Plough and Harrow, sited on the old road, finds itself on something of a backwater. Closed for several years for refurbishment, it is now reopened and offering facilities for camping, alongside the normal pub trade. Outside, to the front and side, new seating areas have been created, but otherwise, to my eyes, the pub remains very much as it had been, the front bar layout seemingly little changed from how I remembered it.

We drank Timothy Taylor Landlord, some taking their pints outside to sit in the bright spring sunshine. Again our stay was about half an hour before reboarding the bus, for the short journey across the countryside behind the pub to the village of Eythorne and the Crown Inn, our lunch stop.

We arrived at the Crown, a substantial building towards the top of Eythorne Street, around 2pm, to drink Courage Best, now seemingly quite a rarity locally. Meals had been pre-ordered, and proved particularly good value for two courses. I enjoyed whitebait starter followed by beef stew and mash. With dining, our sojourn at the pub was longer than our previous stops, but eventually we were away around mid afternoon along winding country lanes in the direction of Staple.

Our objective was the Black Pig at Barnsole, a pub of considerable age, and once the site of Tritton's Staple Brewery, which closed following its purchase by Gardners of Ash in 1912.

The Chance Inn at Guston



The Plough & Harrow at Tilmanstone



The Crown Inn, Eythorne

Reaching the pub at about 4pm we found two real ales available, Harveys Sussex and Exmoor Pale, and having bought our drinks, spread ourselves around its rambling interior, some preferring to enjoy the last of the afternoon sun in the garden to the side.

Time moved on and all too soon John was once again reminding us that departure was imminent, this time for our final stop at the Hare and Hounds, Northbourne. Back along country roads to the outskirts of Deal, getting to the pub shortly after 5pm where a choice of two beers from Fullers awaited us – London Pride and Hophead.

And so our day ended, just now a matter of returning to drop people off. Therefore, back to Deal Station, and then on to the Priory in Dover, to end a very satisfying afternoon and a selection of pubs not recently visited. Many thanks to John Pitcher for his endeavours and organisation.

Martin Atkins

The Black Pig at Barnsole



The intrepid travellers at the Hare & Hounds Northbourne



We Need Your Beer Scores!!







As the new year gets underway we're appealing to all CAMRA members to get your beer scores in.

Your scores support some of the critical work that our branch does during the year. From selecting our Good Beer Guide entries and Pub of the Year candidates, to identifying those pubs that should be **LocAle** accredited or feature on our **Best of...** webpage.

Please remember: You are scoring the condition of the beer, not how much you like it. You might not be a big fan of, say a hoppy, summer ale or a stout with coffee undertones, but you would recognise the difference between a pint that is in OK condition and one that is in good condition.

So, what do the scores mean? Some general rules:



					
0: No Real Ale	1: Poor	2: Average	3: Good	4: Very Good	5: Perfect

- If you can't decide between two scores, don't forget you are allowed to enter half scores.
- Don't just submit your high scores. We like to receive all your scores, good and bad, so we can rate the quality of the real ale you could expect when visiting our pubs.
- A pub scoring 3 to 3.5 on a regular basis could be eligible for an entry in the Good Beer Guide.
- A pub scoring over 3.5 on a regular basis could expect to be a Pub of the Year candidate.
- If you score a 4.5 and 5 regularly, we'd suggest you are being over generous with your scoring.
- 4.0: You'd use this score infrequently throughout the year.
- 5.0: You would expect to use this score just once, perhaps twice, a year.

<https://dds.camra.org.uk/nbss> has more details of what the scores mean and how to submit them.



UNCRYPTIC CROSSWORD

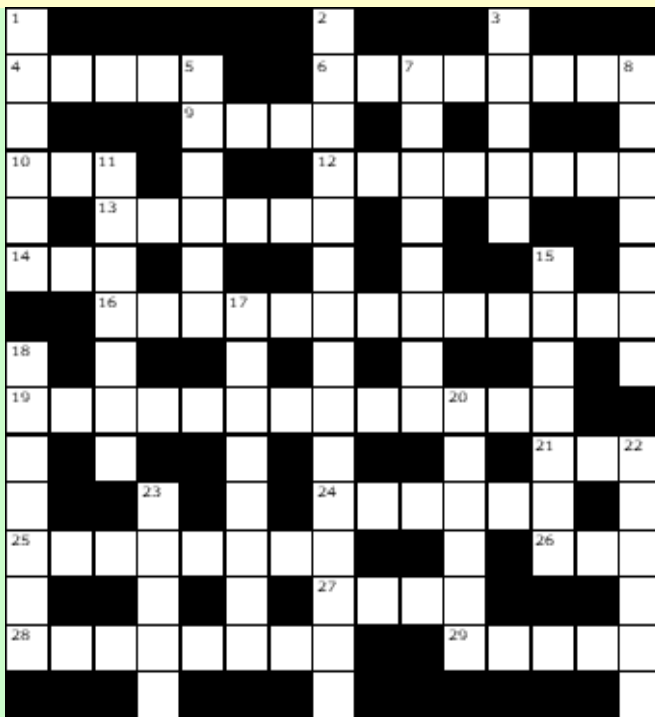
By BOGGLE

ACROSS

4. A large fleshy fruit with a hard skin, which featured in the film *Monty Python's Life of Brian* (5)
6. An American who asks questions (8)
9. An ex-prime minister and a biblical garden (4)
10. Grand prix circuit in Belgium (3)
12. Wife of an Argentinian president, Andrew Lloyd-Weber wrote a musical about her (3,5)
13. Red wine from Bordeaux (6)
14. Beer, such as Greene King (3)
16. According to advertising, this beer used to work wonders! (6,7)
19. Founder of a brewery in Keighley, West Yorkshire which produces *Landlord* (7,6)
21. What the second A in CAMRA stands for (3)
24. A boiled peppermint sweet or, as used by Scrooge, a complete fraud (6)
25. Star of *The Godfather* (2,6)
26. One of the chief ingredients in Advocaat (3)
27. Joint winner of the Eurovision Song Contest in 1969, with the song *Boom Bang-a-bang* (4)
28. Move to music with shoes fitted with metal caps (3,3)
29. European river that rises in Switzerland and flows North, past the Lorelei rock, and through the Netherlands to the North Sea (5)

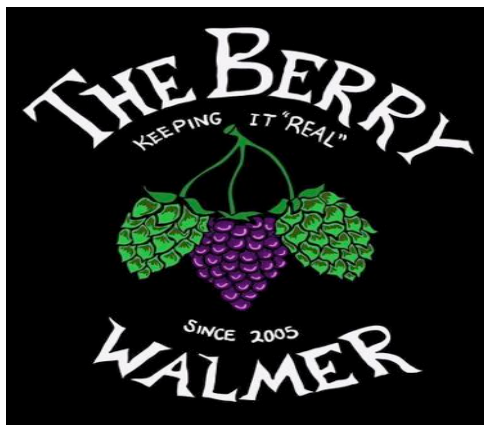
DOWN

1. Wimbledon men's singles champion in 1992, he is married to 7-times Wimbledon women's singles champion (6)
2. Where to get a drink on golf courses (10,5)
3. Alcoholic drink made from apples (5)
5. A feeling of having been in this situation before (4,2)
7. An amount or number (8)



8. Captain of the Portuguese national football team (7)
11. A place of study (7)
15. Brewery whose symbol is a cockerel, now owned by Marston's (7)
17. Seafront pub in Deal and half a song by Queen (8)
18. Surname of an American actor who was a decorated war hero and star of *It's a Wonderful Life* (7)
20. Hard work and a political party (6)
22. Rock band formed in 1971, with many hits including *Hotel California* (6)
23. Austrian born Formula 1 driver who received severe burns in a crash at the Nurburgring in 1976 (5)

**Crossword Answers
on Page 30**



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CHANNEL VIEW

The following is an adaptation of the Chairman's Report for the 2023 AGM of the Deal, Dover, Sandwich and District CAMRA Branch, providing a summary of events and activities during the preceding year.

Despite the era of the Pandemic and lockdowns being now some years distant, it's hard not to conclude that real ale and pubs have yet to entirely recover. As Tim Martin of Wetherspoons commented, not a few have retained the buying in supermarket and drinking at home habit acquired when pubs were closed. Additionally it seems that some are still avoiding pubs over concerns about contracting illness. And of course pubs, breweries and customers are also having to contend with dramatically increased energy prices.

Locally, however, I think it is fair to say, that our Branch seems to have suffered less than many. While a number of pubs remain closed, with future uncertain, the closure of the Three Cups on Crabble Hill in Dover, with conversion to residential use now granted, would appear to have been the only new loss since the last AGM. We have also lost one prominent local brewer. Although not in our area, the closure of the Old Dairy Brewery at Tenderden and consequent loss of its beers are greatly missed. Meanwhile, our own Branch no longer accommodates brewer Angels and Demons who have moved from its site at Capel to new premises near Tenderden.

Turning to awards and tributes, the Berry in Walmer was once again chosen as Branch Pub of the Year, its eleventh well deserved success in that competition, and subsequently, for the second year running, also took the East Kent accolade. Winter Pub of the Season was the Plough at Ripple, while the Branch's choice for 2023 Summer Pub had yet to be determined. The Branch also made, this year, a special community award to Mary Franks at the Five Bells, Eastry for the part that she and her pub have played in supporting the village and surrounding area.

At this point we would like to offer special thanks to our Pubs Officer Tony Wells for his endeavours and record keeping in relation to the Branch's pubs, providing both our Good Beer Guide and Pub of the Year selections, as well as a valuable and useful

source of information.

Branch membership remains stubbornly at about a hundred or so down on pre-pandemic levels – probably a combination of Covid and the suspension of the White Cliffs Festival of Winter Ales due to major works being undertaken at Dover Town Hall, its venue ever since starting in the 1990s. Hopefully, work will be finished next year, and the festival will be revived in its traditional home from 2025.

Sadly though, no reference to membership would be complete without including mention of three prominent members who are no longer with us. During the winter we mourned the deaths of Chris Excell and John Turner, and more recently in spring that of Ron Meares. All three are greatly missed.

Our Branch magazine, *Channel Draught*, much thinner than formerly due to the currently extraordinary cost of paper, continues, we trust, to inform and enlighten, while recent difficulties and delays in production and distribution, we hope are now behind us.

Turning to social events, particular thanks should go to John Pitcher, organiser of pub walks and bus trips, whose efforts make a major contribution to our Branch's activities. Meanwhile, his regular monthly Thirst Thursdays form now an integral element of the Branch Diary.

Lastly, a mention of Deal Hop Farm. This hop growing project centred around gardens, allotments, and anywhere else suitable that might be found is now a well established feature of East Kent, with participating growers to be found at least as far as Dover. Despite being generally a poor year for commercial hop growers, 2022 proved to be Deal Hop's best year ever, with some 308 kilos being harvested, and some very fine beers produced with their partner brewer Time and Tide in Eastry.



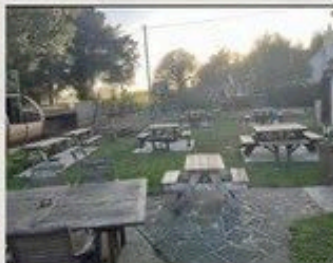
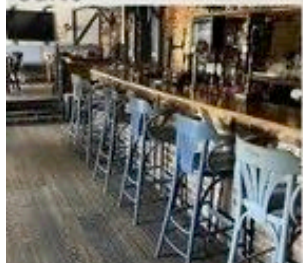


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DARK STAR

The end of brewing at Partridge Green

A couple of decades ago if a good example of the burgeoning micro brewing industry was called for, Dark Star would have been an obvious choice. Unfortunately, for those of us who applauded such independent minded pioneers, and distrusted the accountant led national and international side of brewing, Dark Star's current situation would surely debar it from consideration. In its Spring 2023 edition *Sussex Drinker* provided a résumé of the brewery's recent history, of which the following is an adaptation, together with a few comments of our own.

Dark Star started life in 1994 in the cellar of the Evening Star in Brighton, and rapidly established itself as a revered and influential micro brewer. Among a variety of brews it became probably best known for Original, a dark old ale style beer at 5% and the 3.8% Hophead described as a golden coloured bitter with a fruity/hoppy aroma and a citrus/bitter aftertaste.

In 2010 the brewery relocated to Partridge Green, some half dozen miles north of Brighton, and in February 2018 was purchased by long established London brewer Fullers, who promised additional investment and expanded sales. Fullers stated that it saw strong potential for its new acquisition, particularly Hophead, and maintained that Dark Star would continue brewing at Partridge Green and operate as a stand alone business.

However, the new arrangement lasted less than a year. In January 2019 Fullers sold its brewing interests to Asahi of Japan for £250m, including both the historic Griffin Brewery in Chiswick and Dark Star in Sussex, leaving the now former London brewer to concentrate on pubs and hotels which then generated 87% of its profits. So much for any plans by Fullers to develop Dark Star and its brands.

Asahi was founded in 1889 as the Osaka Beer Company and had become well known for Asahi Super Dry lager, Asahi Draft Lager and Asahi Gold Brands. In addition, though, the brewery had also brought under its ownership a variety of well established brands, typified by its 2016 deal with AB InBev through which it acquired Peroni, Grolsch and Meantime in Greenwich.

Not surprisingly CAMRA raised concerns about the Fullers sale, with worries over implications on choice, value for money and beer quality: "It's a very sad day to see such a well-known, historic and respected name exit the brewing business", said National chairman Jackie Parker, "It would be very disappointing to see the character of Fuller's beers change as a result." She called on the new owners to continue brewing at the Chiswick, and to commit to continue cask ale, including the full range of Fuller's, Dark Star and Gale's beers.

And initially not much seemed to change, although one seasoned real ale drinker has remarked that he felt Hophead was not as distinctive as it once was. However, in a recent announcement Asahi declared that all brewing at Partridge Green was to cease, with the production of Dark Star beers subsequently transferred to its Meantime site in Greenwich.

A spokesperson for Asahi said: "This is not a step we have taken lightly, however there are significant challenges in the current economic and operating environment that make this the right course of action for the business and the brand. The Dark Star site operates significantly below capacity which is unfortunately not sustainable. We believe strongly in Dark Star and remain committed to building for its future success. The Dark Star beers will remain exactly as they are today – brewed to the same recipe and taste expected by its loyal fans, while retaining its distinct visual brand identity." At present, Asahi felt, sharing further information on future plans was inappropriate because the brewer was in consultation with affected staff.

Real ale drinkers must make of the above what they will, but should note that at the time of the initial Fullers takeover Asahi Europe boss Hector Gorosabel, remarked that his company's global footprint will unlock Fuller's cask brand's international potential. "It is another step towards realising Asahi Europe's vision of becoming a global brewing powerhouse built on our commitment to brewing excellence and quality," he said. They might also consider when they last saw a major brewer promote or advertise real ale.

BREAKWATER

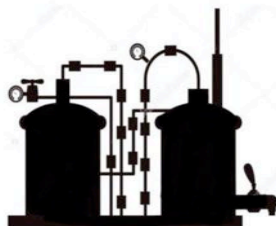
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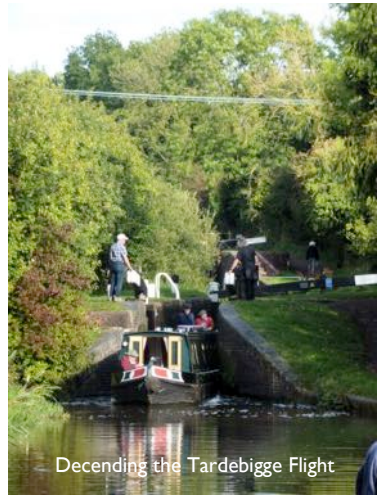
OH DANNY BOY, YOUR PIPES, YOUR PIPES ARE LEAKING

The Beery Boaters Autumn 2022 tour

Having enjoyed the 2022 Spring Trip around Birmingham and the Black Country so much, for the Autumn cruise it was decided to go there again, but this time the long way round. Starting at Tardebigge, this meant going down to the River Severn, up to Stourport-on-Severn, onto the Staffs & Worcs and Stour-bridge Canals to the Birmingham Canal Navigations (BCN), and finally returning to Tardebigge via the Worcester & Birmingham Canal. All very well, but involved going down the 29 locks of the Tardebigge Flight on the first afternoon, plus a few more locks to get to the designated pub for the evening.

This time, with only be eight participants to start with (we'd additionally arranged to collect Martin Prime at Kinver on the Tuesday lunchtime), we decided to have just the one boat, the 69ft Emperor class 'Danny Boy', a boat that we'd last used on the same route in September 2016. And so, at about 3pm on Saturday 1st October we set off in the direction of Worcester, through the 580 yard Tardebigge Tunnel, to the first lock of the Tardebigge Flight. The next lock is a few hundred yards away, but then they are very closely spaced, so with a good crew we made decent progress down the flight.

The canalside pub at the bottom, the Queen's Head, with a large garden, seems to have become a bit of a 'fun' pub after refurbishment, so we carried on down the five locks of the Stoke Flight, close enough to feel like a continuation of the Tardebigge locks. I would have really liked to have gone on another mile to the Boat & Railway at Stoke Works, but darkness was falling so we tied up at Stoke Wharf and made our way to the nearby Navigation Inn for the evening. Although not a particularly exceptional pub, it did do food and the beer was Wye Valley IPA in good condition, so it offered a fortunate evenings respite after completing 34 locks in about 3 hours.



Descending the Tardebigge Flight

If the Saturday had been somewhat strenuous, Sunday rather made up for it. From where we'd moored to our designated lunchtime stop, the Eagle & Sun at Hanbury Wharf, was less than four miles and just seven locks away, so there was no great urgency in starting off until after breakfast. Several ales were available at the pub, Purity Pure UBU Bitter seeming particularly popular, which we consumed sitting outside in the Autumn sunshine. As on our previous Sunday visit, the pub had a very popular carvery, but still replete from chef Mark's ample breakfast, I don't think that I was the only one of the crew not indulging in refreshment of the more solid variety.

Hanbury Wharf is on the junction with the Droitwich Junction Canal, which was our afternoon's route, and having been restored in 2011 along with the Droitwich Barge Canal, it provides an alternative course to the River Severn rather than continuing down to Worcester. We stopped at the Eagle and Sun for a couple of hours and a pint or three, and then set off, turning right off the Worcester and Birmingham to head for Droitwich.

The Droitwich Canals might have saved us a few miles, but not that many locks, as on the 7.4 miles down to the Severn there were eight on the Junction Canal, and another eight on the Barge Canal. The former, leading into Droitwich, is a narrow canal, only about three miles long and, opened in 1854, one of the last to be dug. It connects with the Barge Canal which dates back to 1771 and was made to take barges or 'trows' from the local salt mines to the Severn and onwards.

After the first three Hanbury locks on the Junction Canal comes a staircase pair, then another ordinary

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The tunnel under the M5 motorway on the Droitwich Canal

lock followed by a low tunnel under the M5 motorway, and another two locks that take boats into Droitwich itself. We moored at Vine Park, with the centre of the town and a handful of pubs at the top of the park. Several of them were visited by other members of the crew, but Martin and I stuck to the Talbot, in the High Street, the one, at which over several visits to the town, we had always ended up. Owned by Craddock's brewery, it served their beer range, with names like Crazy Sheep, on eight handpumps.

Monday. Onwards and downwards, now on the Droitwich Barge Canal. Originally planned as a canalisation of the River Salwarpe, it just mainly keeps

it company and, being a Brindley canal, twists and turns until it can do no other than change level with a lock. So it was rather slow going down to the Severn. Once onto the river, however, we could, and did, make up for lost time, even though the flow of water was against us. It's around nine miles from the junction with the Droitwich Canals to Stourport-on-Severn, but there are only two locks, Holt and Linscombe, both large, mechanised and with lock keepers. Below Linscombe Lock we pulled in to replenish Danny Boy's water tank

At Stourport, we entered Staffs & Worcs Canal, through two staircases of two narrow locks, taking us into the very boat-infested upper basin, where quite a strong cross-wind made threading our way across it rather interesting. Then up York Street lock to the rear entrance of the Black Star, an old favourite pub of the Beery Boaters, and with Enville beers and substantial rolls we were not disappointed this time.

There was only around four miles and three locks to our evening's destination at Kidderminster where we tied up opposite the Weavers at Park Lane micropub. On our last visit to Kidderminster in 2016 we enjoyed a pleasant evening there, but this time it was closed on the Monday so we set off to explore some other pubs in the centre of the town, including the Swan (Wye Valley) and the Bear & Wolf (Bristol Beer Factory).

Our problems started when we got back to the boat. Some of the crew who had returned earlier had found that Danny Boy had sprung a leak in the fresh water system and had turned off the water pump. It was decided to leave it off unless it was necessary for water to be used, and then only turned on as briefly as possible. Our further course of action being left to the morning.

Tuesday morning and the decision was to press on. Martin Prime was to join us at the Vine at Kinver that lunchtime, and the pub is canalside with convenient moorings opposite with good road access. We could telephone the boatyard when we judged that someone would be on duty, and arrange for a fitter to meet us there at midday. So we set off, some six miles and five locks to cover. It's rather hard to believe that Kinver, south of Birmingham is in the same county as Stoke-on-Trent, well north of Birmingham, but a finger of Staffordshire points down here to prod Worcestershire and Kinver is at the tip of it.



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Evening falls at the Cross Inn at Kinver

Anyway, we arrived at the usually busy moorings at Kinver to find them surprisingly almost empty, and tied up below Kinver Lock as near as we could to the road. Only a few minutes after an Anglo Welsh van pulled up with a lady fitter at the wheel. So, leaving her to sort out the plumbing some decamped to the Vine Inn, opposite the lock, to await the arrival of Martin Prime while others walked the several hundred yards to the village to enjoy a hopefully short session on Batham's at the Plough & Harrow, aka The Steps, while repairs were effected.

While those in the Vine were enjoying some Enville Ale, Martin strode past the bay window, weighed down by a large

rucksack. Joining us briefly in the pub, he was directed to Danny Boy to offload and returned to report that our lady fitter was experiencing some problems. The fault was apparently more complicated than we had initially thought. It turned out that a pipe fitting had pulled apart requiring a trip to Screw Fix several miles away, to obtain a replacement, and an additional pipe brought from the boatyard. All in all, facing us with the prospect of adding several hours to the planned itinerary.

At this point we decided that, even if the repair was made, it would be pointless to carry on any more that day. We could not possibly get to our originally intended evening destination and there were no other pubs convenient enough en route. Suffice it to say, the pipe was fixed and we all spent an enjoyable evening in Kinver, at The Steps, which had a particularly palatable Batham's special 9.5% beer on cask (consumed sparingly by some, less so by others), and the Cross Inn, a very busy Black Country Ales pub, where a folk evening was in session. Now we were half a day behind schedule, no real problem (or so I thought) as I'd arranged the itinerary to cope with the usual canal trip gremlins.

Wednesday dawned fine and we continued for another couple of miles and three locks, then turned right and climbed the first four locks on the Stourbridge Canal, and encounters with several short, but heavy, rain showers. Two miles took us to the bottom of the Stourbridge Sixteen flight of locks, where, instead of our often used Sampson & Lion (canalside by the eleventh lock up), we moored just four locks up and went to find the Bird in Hand, behind the Stuart Crystal works: an excellent little back-street pub with a good range of local beers as well as rolls. I enjoyed several pints of Hanlon's Town Crier.

Back on our ascent of the locks, the rain had cleared, leaving a particularly photogenic rainbow behind. Now we made good time up the locks and along the bends to the bottom of the Black Delph locks. The best mooring here is in a little basin just above the bottom lock, and Martin Atkins, steering, pulled into the bank to let the lock-workers off. As he did so, there was an ominous 'clunk' from under the stern and the vertical tiller shaft jumped several inches up and back in its housing. It was soon evident that the rudder had been knocked out of its bottom pivot by some large, and very solid, underwater object. Not that unusual and normally quite simple to relocate it, but not this time, however hard we tried once moored in the little basin. So, another call-out in the morning, putting us even more behind schedule. Nowt for it but to go to the pub!



The Bird in Hand at Wordsley

Well, as we were now at Brierley Hill, that of course meant the Vine, Batham's Brewery Tap, better known as the Bull & Bladder, a short distance up Delph Road. A very popular lunchtime venue, serving, substantial quantities of traditional Black Country food such as faggots and pies, at very reasonable prices, our original schedule had us there the previous afternoon. In the evening its character changes to a quiet locals pub with only rolls to soak up the excellent beer. The 9.5% Batham's Special was there as well.

Thursday, and the fitter (our lady from Kinver again) arrived around mid-morning. "Good!" we thought, "Now we'll soon be on our way again." But no, she had little success, and had to call for further support. The new fitter also had problems, and eventually he had to take a metal plate from off the stern to gain access to re-locate the propeller. It was early afternoon before we set off at last, now a day behind our schedule.

So up the remaining seven locks of the Delph Nine. No, I haven't made a miscalculation! The flight was re-aligned in 1858 and the locks reduced by one, but the old named was retained by boaters. Then past the large Merry Hill retail centre and a couple of miles to Blowers Green bottom lock, the deepest on the BCN, above which dredging work was in progress by the water point, causing further delay, as we needed to water up and had to wait for the dredgers to clear.

However, we had discovered two things. Talking to volunteer lock workers who assist on the Delph flight,



we established that, despite many references in various guides, etc., there is no water point at Merry Hill (which is why we could never find it), and that the mooring spot below the bottom Delph lock is a popular dumping ground for all kinds of items – safes had been found before now. A large, and very solid, underwater object?

Now there was only one place where we could possibly go for the evening. Windmill End and thence into Netherton and the Old Swan, otherwise Ma Pardoe's, a famous home-brew pub. There were no more problems or obstructions and we tied up just past the Bumblehole Branch and an excellent evening was enjoyed by all.

Friday morning. There were no more locks for the week, but there was a small matter of some 20 miles to cover to get to the Weighbridge at Alvechurch, where meals were booked for our last evening. So it was through Netherton Tunnel, along the New Main Line to Birmingham, where ideas of a short stop had to be abandoned, and down the Worcester & Birmingham Canal to Alvechurch via Edgbaston and West Hill Tunnels. We *could* have stopped for a pint at the Hopwood House, but we had learned that the Weighbridge now opened earlier than its former 7pm, and so continued to Alvechurch, only to find a distinct lack of moorings.

Nowhere before the bridge as we'd done in the past, and the short visitor's moorings after the bridge mainly occupied by an ABC hire boat, despite their huge boatyard opposite. Anyway, no choice but to tie up close behind the ABC boat so at least nearly a third of Danny Boy was officially moored. No-one in the boatyard opposite objected, so we stayed where we were and went to the pub where, as usual, good food and good beer were enjoyed by one and all.

So, Saturday, up, pack and off on the final couple of miles to Tardebigge, passing through Shortwood Tunnel on the way. And so ended our last Beery Boater's Canal Trip of 2022.

Jim Green

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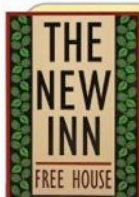
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LAST KNOCKINGS

Old Wort

Beer Renamed Concerns over the Essex pub golly doll display has seen fallout elsewhere in East Anglia. Moon Gazer Brewery of Hindringham, north Norfolk has now changed the name of its White Face beer to Cheeky Jack after customers said it sounded a “bit racist”. The original name was taken from a medieval poem *The Names of the Hare*, and owner David Holliday commented on the brewery website that this had generated a “feeling that there was an undercurrent of discriminatory language. This is, of course, a complete misunderstanding, but was a genuine concern to us.”

£1,500 Sherry While not a regular tippie of real ale drinkers (and judging by the very limited space it commands in most supermarkets, not currently the tippie of many others either) sherry apparently still has its attractions for some. At an auction last year, a bottle, believed to date from between 1850 and 1870, and from the home of the first Duke of Wellington, Apsley House at Hyde Park Corner, was bought by a UK purchaser for £1,300 – with the buyers premium of 17.5% the final price was £1,527.50. Whether anyone will ever find out what it actually tastes like is perhaps a different matter. Assuming mid 19th century bottle sizes to be much the same as present, then a glass of the sherry would be something over £100. But then someone who can afford £1,500 to buy the bottle might well be prepared to broach it for a very special occasion.

Desperate Times Currently, reading local CAMRA magazines can be quite depressing. Where once there was regular news of breweries starting up and micropubs opening, recent issues are more likely to report on breweries closing and pubs giving up the struggle, or at least being the object of campaigns to keep them going. It is therefore heartening to find East Kent generally, fending off, so to speak, the grim reaper, even though we have lost one or two pubs, and the demise of The Old Dairy Brewery is a great loss. Additionally also, there seems increased local interest in drinkers doing it for themselves. As we report in Local News, in Petham, villagers are running a bar once a month in the village hall, and held a beer festival in early July, while in Bethersden, locals, having already acquired the closed George Inn, reopened it over the Spring Bank Holiday.



Draught Bass The Burton brewed beer once acted as a benchmark for the best of British Ale, and the Brewery fully deserved its adoption of the red triangle trademark, for long a sign of quality. Whether though, it still deserves such plaudits is a different matter. Now brewed by Marston's for brand owners, global brewers A-B InBev, and seemingly for several decades receiving minimal promotion, it appears that new marketing could be underway. We found it several times on this year's spring Beery Boaters trip on the Leicester arm of the Grand Union Canal. Disappointingly, though, the couple of pints I tried (in different pubs) to my taste lacked any particular distinguishing qualities, despite one of the landlords telling us that it was just like Bass of old – either could have been any less than outstanding mid strength bitter.

End of “The Round”? The question was recently posed by *The Times*, its London journalists no doubt despairing at the ever rising price of a pint in the capital and its more affluent environs. Five or six pounds plus, currently being the normal over large parts of the area. In case, though, anyone should find such facts insufficiently depressing examples were given from a pub in south east London where a bottled American beer (admittedly of around 11% ABV), was on sale for £12.00 and a glass of Pimms cost £14.50. Very different from the decades immediately after World War II, when those who started CAMRA grew up, and pub prices reflected what the ordinary working man or woman could afford: in the mid 1960s about 1/6 to 1/8 a pint in old pre-decimal money – equivalent to about 7 to 9 pence today.



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Campaign
for
Real Ale

Real stories, real people, **real ale**



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

CAMRA in Kent
<https://kent.camra.org.uk>

Deal, Dover Sandwich & District
Jim Green 01304 202453
jimbeeryboater@aol.com

Ashford Folkestone & Romney Marsh
Stephen Rawlings
branchcontact@afrm.camra.org.uk

Canterbury
Gerry Keay 01227 463478
gillandgerrykeay@btinternet.com

Thanet
Graham Rickett 07870 563918
Branch.contact@thanet-camra.org.uk



**CAMPAIGN
FOR
REAL ALE**

LOCAL INFORMATION & USEFUL NUMBERS

National Express 0371 7818181
Stagecoach 03456 002299
National Rail Enquiries 03457 484950

Dover Tourist Info 01304 201066
Folkestone Tourist Info 01303 257946

Dover Police Stn 01622 690690
Folkestone Police Stn 01622 690690

Dover Taxis
County 01304 208208
White Cliffs 01304 202070
Heritage 01304 204420
A2B 01304 225588
Star 01304 228822
Dover Royal 01304 210210

Deal Taxis
Al Castle Taxis 01304 363636
Castle Taxis 01304 374001
Direct Cars 01304 382222
Jacks Cars 01304 382299

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

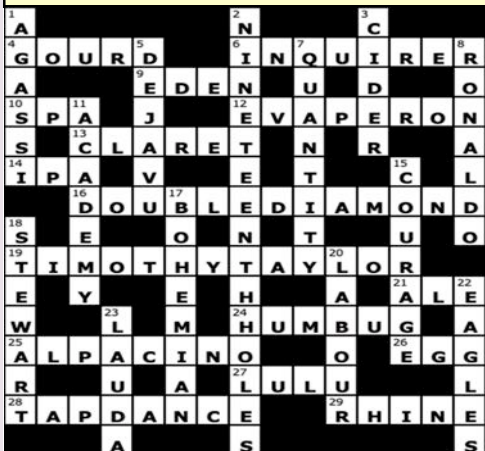
National Consumer Helpline 0808 223 1133

Why Your Beer Scores Count!



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://camra.org.uk/beer-and-cider/beer/national-beer-scoring-system/>

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