

Channel Draught

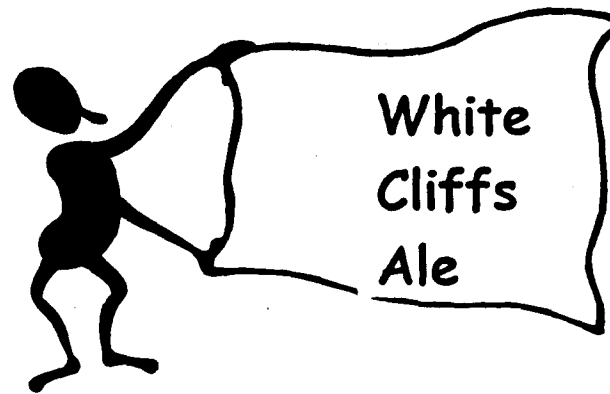
Issue 2 January 2000



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

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

Please drink sensibly!



Welcome to the second issue of Channel Draught!

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

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

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

Editor

The 10th Guide to

KENT pubs



Over 1900 pubs surveyed,
including 1500 Real Ale pubs.

Information includes:

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

and lots more

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

CAMRA members: £4.50

Cover price: £4.95



The Local News

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

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

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

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

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

So, onto those town pubs

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Dave Routh



Ale's Well?

So what's happening in the big wide world ?

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

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

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

Whitbread see its future in Hotels, Leisure Complexes & Restaurants and its latest move is to 'swallow' the Swallow Group. Any readers from the north-east might remember beers from Vaux and Wards – the word is remember, although to be fair to Whitbread the brews were axed by the former owners.



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

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

Last autumn **Shepherd Neame** launched its own take-over bid. It offered up to £15 million for **King & Barnes** who brew at **Horsham**. Its reason for the bid is that the **Faversham**



brewery site has reached its capacity and there is no room to expand. If it were to succeed then it would gain the use of a second brewery which is currently running some way short of its capacity. It also comes with a good selection of pubs, mainly in **Surrey & Sussex**.

At the time of press **K & B** were determined to stay independent but that will depend on a shareholders' meeting due any time now.

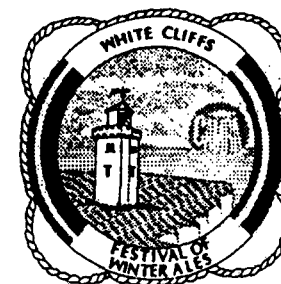


Meanwhile the big players seem divided over **HM Government's** plans to revue the industry. Since the last major review there has been a big split between brewing and retailing which if left alone would have had consequences which the **Beers Orders** (as they are best known) were never to have foreseen.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

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

Dave Routh

Please put the poster for the festival in your window!



2000

The Diary

Forthcoming Events:

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

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

Branch Meetings (All start at 8pm):

14 February Flotilla & Firkin, Dover

20 March Olde Irish Times, Dover

17 April tba

Branch Contacts

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

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www.camra.org.uk

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

Local Information

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

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

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

Other useful numbers:

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

Please don't drink & drive !

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



CAMRA NATIONALLY

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

To join CAMRA, please complete the form below

Application Form to join CAMRA

I/We wish to join the Campaign for Real Ale and agree to abide by the Rules

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Signature _____ Date _____

I/We enclose the remittance for:

Single	£14	<input type="checkbox"/>	OAP Single	£8	<input type="checkbox"/>
Joint	£17	<input type="checkbox"/>	OAP Joint	£11	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unwaged/ Disabled	£8	<input type="checkbox"/>	Under 26*	£8	<input type="checkbox"/>

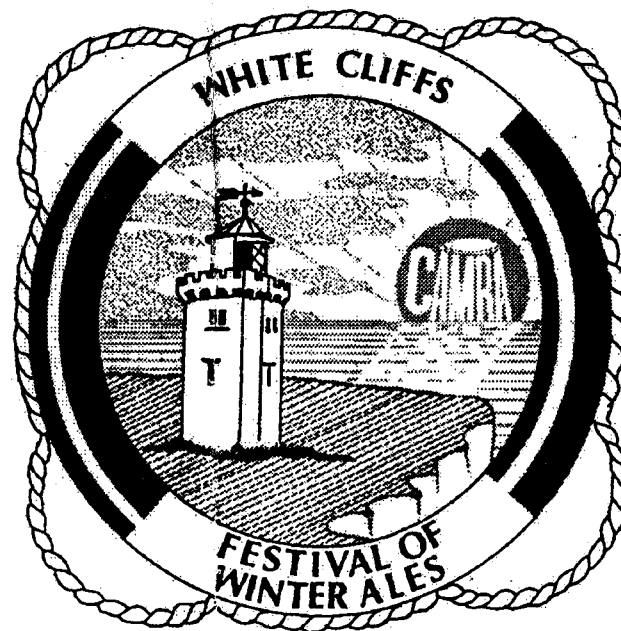
*Date of birth _____

Send your remittance (payable to CAMRA) to:
The membership secretary, CAMRA, 230 Hatfield
Rd, St Albans, Herts, AL1 4LW.

For enquiries, phone 01727 867201

Channel Draught 2

The 7th White Cliffs Winter Ale Festival



2000

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

Friday 4th Feb

5pm to 11pm