

Channel! Draught

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

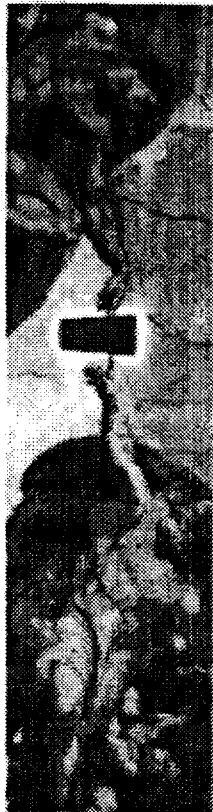
Issue 7 Spring 2001

ASK IF
IT'S CASK



AT THE EIGHT BELLS DOVER

THE GREAT WETHERSPOON BEER FESTIVAL



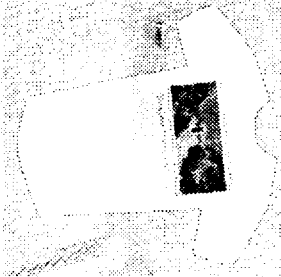
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VOUCHER

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Branch Diary

Branch Meetings

(All start at 8pm):

9 April 2001 *The Mogul*, Dover
21 May *Blue Pigeons*, Worth
18 June Sandwich, venue TBA

The branch *normally* meets on the third Monday of each month. Please consult 'What's Brewing' to confirm venues if travelling.

Forthcoming Events & Festivals

(Please check before travelling)

09 Apr 2001 Annual General Meeting.
 The Mogul, Dover. 8pm

16/17 June CAMRA Tent at Kent Cricket
 Moat Park, Maidstone

19-21 July 27th Kent Beer Festival
 The Cowshed, Merton Farm, Canterbury.
 Subject to Confirmation (F&MD)

1-5 August CAMRA Tent at Kent Cricket
 St Lawrence Ground, Canterbury

8 September Maidstone Festival
 at the Museum of Rural Life,
 Cobtree, Sandling.



Channel Draught is Published and © 2001 by the Deal Dover Sandwich & District Branch of the Campaign for Real Ale. The Branch supports the campaign to retain Real Ale in pubs in White Cliffs Country. Please drink sensibly!

In this Issue



Welcome to the seventh issue of Channel Draught. My apologies for this issue being a bit later than promised but a multitude of things have conspired against us!

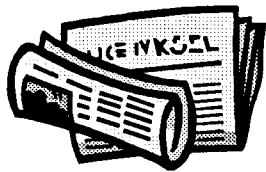
You may have noticed the new front cover. This issue it features one of the signs from the new CAMRA "Ask if it's Cask" campaign. This campaign aims to draw the distinction between cask and keg beers, a distinction that certain national brewers have been keen to blur!

Anyway, there is the usual mix of articles. Please don't forget that if you've any comments about Channel Draught, you can always write (address on page 33). Please make sure you specify if you don't want your letter published!

Topsy
Editor

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The Local News

As is usual during the winter months, not much is going on. Of course if you know different, please let us know. We'd especially like to hear from landlords who have a change of beer range or other news to give us. Anyway, onto the news:

Dover

The future of the **Old Irish Times** (aka **The Eagle**) is still uncertain. After months of speculation it appeared finally to have been sold earlier this year, local information suggesting a ground-floor bar/restaurant with bed and breakfast above. However things have been quiet on this front over the last few weeks and the notice outside still indicate it as unsold.

Another long closed establishment, **The Alma**, Folkestone Road, is showing signs of life again, with plans to re-open under the name "**The Renaissance**". Plans would indicate a revised bar area with new stairs and ladies toilet.

Real ale has returned to the **Falstaff**, Ladywell in the guise of **Courage Directors** and **Courage Best Bitter** while just along the road **The Park Inn** (as indicated in *Channel Draught 6*) has expanded its range. Beers have included several from local brewer **Tun Vine** and **Press** as well national brands – **Charles Wells** **Bombardier** going down particularly well. There has been a change in the beer range too at Kent's smallest pub, **The Arlington** in **Snargate Street**, where **London Pride** is now a regular.

At **Blakes**, **Castle Street**, **Sue** and **Noel** are well established as a replacement to **John** and **Teresa** (a hard act to follow) and there have been alterations to the ale range as well, **The Humpty Dumpty** brew from **East Anglia** being remembered with particular fondness. Meanwhile round the corner in **Bench Street**, **Dan Warwick** still maintains excellent real ales at the **Flotilla** and **Firkin**, despite several alterations to range as a result of ownership changes. Sadly missed will be the **Burton Ale**.

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Deal and Walmer

Fairly quiet with respect to changes, as far as we are aware. As reported in *Channel Draught 6*, the Ship, Middle St is still selling two or three beers from Tun Vine and Press while Adnams Broadside appears to have replaced Fullers ESB as there standard strong ale.

The Admiral Penn has had to drop Bombardier, due to supply problems, and at last visit was selling Youngs Special alongside Bass and London Pride, while the Antwerp, further along the seafront, has established itself as a regular outlet for Adnams.

Very much worth a visit, but a bit off the beaten track, is the Green Berry (formerly Green Beret) in Canada Road, a traditional welcoming local now selling Green King Ales – recently Ruddles County and IPA, in excellent condition.

Sandwich

Again not much to report. As stated in our previous issue some changes of ownership / landlord are on the cards for the near future.

Rural

Not so quiet here however. At Temple Ewell The Fox has been taken by Steve and Alyson, formerly of the Dover Harbour Board Club. Regular ales are Bass and Greene King Abbott plus normally a guest (Morehouse Black Cat of late).

At West Hougham the Chequers is currently closed, and has been since shortly after Christmas. Its future at this stage is uncertain. Another change, scheduled for the time of writing, involves the King's Head at Kingsdown. Here long time licensees and regular Good Beer Guide entrants Andrew and Brenda are leaving the trade (at least for the time being). We wish them best of luck for the future and extend a warm welcome to the new owners.

As is now widely known the Yew Tree at Barfreestone has re-opened (see elsewhere in this issue). The new proprietors, Duncan and Jane, have been there since just before Christmas and have restored the excellent, affable atmosphere which we used to enjoy. Ales include Bass and Greene King IPA and interestingly normally one from Flagship of Chatham – their only regular outlet (I believe) in our Branch area.

Not far away, on the other side of the A2, is the Jackdaw at Denton which is supporting local brews. Don't be fooled into thinking they're just a 'foodie' pub, recent visits have found up to five ales on sale from a number of small (truly independent) Kentish Brewers.

At St Margaret's Bay the application for conversion of The Coastguard to domestic use was refused by the Dover District Council on the grounds that the current owners had failed to demonstrate that they had attempted to sell it as a public house. At the time of writing the Council had not informed us that an appeal had been lodged against this decision.

Local Breweries

Although there are none in our Branch area we feel we should mention the demise of the Kent Garden Brewery, which was referred to in our last issue. The owner and brewer, Jim Mellor finding circumstances not conducive to continuing - his beers will be sadly missed. However the loss is somewhat redressed by the establishment of a new brewery, Hop Daemon, in Canterbury (see elsewhere in this issue).

Martin Atkins

THE MOGUL



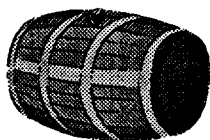
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Kent Pub of the Year 2000



A New Brewery in Canterbury HopDaemon Brewery

Between the two world wars, Canterbury could boast of having four operating breweries. The last wholesale brewery to operate in Canterbury was the Canterbury Brewery (1978-1983) which brewed in part of the premises of Flint's Brewery in Saint Dunstan's Street.

The owners of this brewery also owned the Miller's Arms Public House in Saint Radigund's Street where their beers could be sampled. They also supplied a number of free houses in Mid and East Kent. Unfortunately, the brewery suffered a lack of consistency of quality and transferred their brews to a contract brewer in 1983.

In December 2000 a new brewery, HopDaemon Brewery Co. Ltd commenced operation in Canterbury. The first beers from this new Brewery were sold in January 2001.

Currently the sole person employed in the business is the proprietor, Tony Prins, a New Zealander who is half Dutch and who has a passion for both British and Belgian traditional ales and associated brewing methods.

Tony left his native NZ ten years ago and started his commercial brewing career at the Falcon and Firkin Home Brew House in London. He then moved to the, now sadly defunct, Bishop's Brewery who used to brew splendidly hoppy ales in Borough Market SE1. His next move was to our old friends Swale Brewery (sometimes now called Tun Vine & Press) who were then at their old home of Sittingbourne. He left there to start his own business at Tyler Hill in Canterbury.

The HopDaemon brewery is located in two former WWII army huts, latterly part of a small industrial unit. The buildings uses have included a piano works and a nursery. Tony hopes to build a hospitality bar here in the future.

The brewery has a maximum capacity of 15 barrels and is at present brewing five barrels once or twice a week. Most of the brewery equipment came from a Firkin Brewery in Exeter. Tony prefers to buy as locally as he is realistically able; all his hops are grown in Kent. These include East Kent Goldings, Fuggles and Brambling Cross. The malt he uses is traditional Marias Otter floor malt.

The HopDaemon brewery already has two substantial contracts to supply specially brewed bottle -conditioned beers to customers in London. One of these is the British Museum Cafeteria & Restaurant. The other is for Southwark Cathedral.

The bottle-conditioned ales available to the public regularly are: Skrimshander IPA 4.5% and Leviathan 6%.

The current range of cask conditioned ales (including the official tasting notes!):

Golden Braid 3.7%; Refreshing golden ale, citric fruitiness, gently balanced by traditional two-row floor malted barley.

Skrimshander IPA 4.5%; Aromatic copper coloured pale ale using Kentish Fuggles and Goldings Hops. Intense Bouquet giving way to a fruity finish.

Changeling 5.3%; Rich dark winter warmer. Depth of malt provides toffee notes with bitterness from Fuggles hops.

Leviathan 6%; Strong ruby ale. Complex peatiness is matched by a soft flowery nose and a flourish of hoppy bitterness to follow.

There are plans for a bottle conditioned organic lager and perhaps a wheat beer, also bottle-conditioned and the occasional seasonal brew of cask ale. Other plans are for a beer garden area to be planted with wild hops (not to be used for brewing) to form part of the proposed brewery tour.

HopDaemon Brewery beers might be found at:

Simple Simon's, Canterbury	Three Horseshoes, Lower Hardres
Unicorn, Canterbury	Prince Albert, Whitstable (Occ. guest)

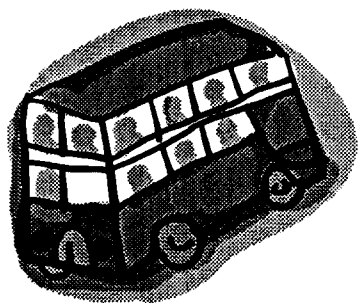
Nearer to home the most likely outlet would be the Ship in Deal, although the Alma (Deal) do often have HopDaemon as a guest ale. The brewery hopes to supply other free houses in Deal and Dover. The Cabin English Restaurant in Dover intend to stock the bottle conditioned ales in the near future.

HopDaemon Brewery Co. Ltd can be found at 18A/B Canterbury Hill, Tyler Hill, Canterbury CT2 9LS. Telephone 01227 784962.

I conclude by mentioning that Jim Mellor of the Kent Garden Brewery at Faversham (see *Channel Draught 6*) has now ceased brewing his fine ales. However rumours abound that a local man is interested in buying the business. Let us hope, whoever he may be, he ensures that characterful beers of good quality ale and again brewed in Faversham.

I understand that Jim has recommended HopDaemon to his erstwhile customers as a source of locally brewed ale to meet their immediate needs.

Roger Marples



Winter Ale Festival is 'just the ticket' for Transport Museum

On Saturday 7th April 2001 the Organising Committee of the White Cliffs Festival of Winter Ales presented a cheque for £500 to the Dover Transport Museum Society.

This years Festival, held last February and organised by Deal, Dover, Sandwich & District Branch of the Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA), saw record attendances drinking their way through one of the biggest selections of winter ales in the country.

The Festival has a long standing policy of donating proceeds from the event to help a local charity or voluntary organisation. This year it is the turn of Dover Transport Museum Society.

To celebrate the presentation CAMRA and Transport Museum members organised a vintage bus trip to Tun, Vine and Press at Newnham, near Faversham, the home of Swale Brewery. There the cheque was presented and the future success of the Dover Transport Museum was toasted with Swale Brewery's fine range of real ales.

The journey was made in a 1950 Leyland single-decker which attracted many interested stares as it made it's way through Dover and onto the A2. Our thanks to all involved for a glorious day out!

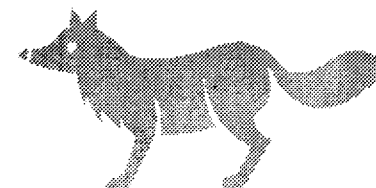
Planning for the next White Cliffs Festival of Winter Ales, to be held in the Maison Dieu, Dover on Friday 1st and Saturday 2nd February 2002, will start during the summer.



The Cheque Presentation at Swale Brewery 07/04/01

Photo Steve Bell / DDS CAMRA 2001

The Fox



Temple Ewell Dover

Tel. 01304 823598

Under new management

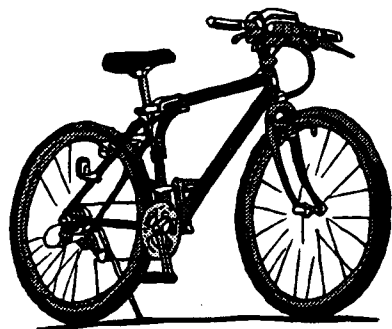
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Steve & Alyson



CYCLING IN SEARCH OF REAL ALE

TWO LITTLE JEWELS IN EUROPE:

CHIMAY

Although French speaking, Chimay is a delightful little town in Southern Belgium close to the Ardennes. Come July you will usually find us ensconced on a pretty campsite close to the town, to enjoy the various and abundant pleasures of the area. One of the main pleasures is Chimay beer. It is brewed locally under licence by the Trappist Monks and is quite unique. Red, White and Blue Chimay is brewed and sold in bottles, and all the local cafes, bars and shops have it on offer, but it is also sold much further afield. In fact the Eight Bells used to stock it, and although we did what we could, the few of us that were partial to it's charm were not enough to warrant them keeping it on their list - so we are spreading the word! The Red is 7% in strength and is my particular favourite, the White is 8% and is a blonde beer, while the Blue is 9% and can do some damage to the unsuspecting.

Chimay itself has a charming chateau, a range of quaint cobbled streets and an attractive, colourful centre with a host of pavement cafes and restaurants. Cycling in the area is a joy, full of forests, streams, pretty villages and splendid countryside. As it is close to the Ardennes, it can be quite hilly but this is more than made up for with the marvelous views that appear once a hill has been crested. What better than to work up a thirst in this way, and find yourself free wheeling down to the L'eau Blanche Inn a few kilometres outside Chimay, and to sit in the sun listening to the cheery babble of the stream close by, and have Chimays served to you in the distinctive and decorative bowl-like Chimay glasses. At this moment the males in the group like to ponder on Chimay or She May Not, and depending on how many Chimays have been put away, will decide the outcome of their pondering!

If you are still not persuaded about Chimay beer, then Belgium has a whole host of other beers to choose from - some other favourites are Duval, Grimbergen, Ciney, Palm, De Koninck and Kriek, which is a beer made from different fruits.

All are readily available anywhere you go, and almost without exception, the natives are helpful, friendly and have a sense of humour akin to our own, especially after a few of the afore mentioned products!

BOULOGNE - The Vole Hole

Many pleasant times have been spent staying in Boulogne and cycling the area. Outside Boulogne several rural routes can take you to peaceful bucolic countryside or seaside resorts, such as Hardelot La Plage - perfect for picnics and paddling to soothe sore legs. Unfortunately most of the beer on tap seems to be "Euro Fizz", apart from the few Belgian interlopers. The only answer then is to return to base and go straight to the Vole Hole. Here is an excerpt from the "Northern France Beer Guide":

'The Vole Hole must have some claim to be the smallest bar in Europe. Twenty customers constitute a full house. It is tucked away in a pedestrianised street, almost under the basilique up in the old town. As the name suggests, it is English owned'.

Pam Cook owns this unique little bar where locals and tourists mingle together quite happily for a chat and a few glasses of Angelus, which is on tap and comes from the Brasserie d'Annouellin. Also a large variety of fine wines are always available, as this is France after all. As mentioned the Vole Hole is up in the old town surrounded by the old city ramparts, homely and reasonable B & Bs and lots of ambience. While the Folkestone-Boulogne ferry is not available, there is a bus service that includes the channel crossing and for a fifteen day return is only approx £15.

Pam herself suggests if anyone is interested, she could get a little beer festival going for a weekend - but is would be bottled beer as there are only two pumps. How easy to meet at the Mogul and take a little trip abroad.

Happy supping.

Sue King



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Fullers ESB & London Pride, Shepherd Neame

Master Brew & Spitfire plus Guest Ales

Listed in the 2001 CAMRA

Good Beer Guide



A' STAR' IS REBORN!



The things I do for *Channel Draught*! No sooner had I mentioned over a quiet pint in the Golden Lion that I was going to Bath then Dave Routh commanded that I go to 'THE STAR', and then report back directly to him, and to you, dear reader, but why review a Bath pub for 'CD' I hear you ask. The answer is simple, 'THE STAR' is one of oh so few true ale houses surviving any where in England.

'The Star' was first granted a licence in 1770, making it Bath's oldest ale house, it was last refitted in the 1880's when the current range of furniture and fittings, by Gaskill and Chambers, were installed.

I first found the Star way back in the 1970's when I lived and worked as a photographer in the city, and I have returned for the jug delivered Bass on every possible occasion since. Now it must be said that my last visit, some eighteen months ago filled me with fear for the future of my old friend.

The house was dirty and neglected, empty cold and cheerless, and that was just the barman who reminded me of Moribund the Burgomaster! Bass Bristol were determined to sell it, close it or lose it anyway they could, and I truly believed that the writing was on the wall for yet another good old house.

So share with me the feeling of elation that swept over me when I stepped into the bar on Saturday, Feb 24th for what turned out to be the first of many a pint of Bass. A cheery chap behind the bar introduced himself as Terry, and he was soon joined by his partner, Julie, I was amazed when they said that they had only had the Star for ten days! A local petition had saved the house from closure, and it is now run by Punch Taverns, better known to us down south as the guys that run Baths' only brewery, Abbey Ales, of which the Bellringer Bitter, a golden, hoppy 4.2% brew some of you may have discovered at the Eight Bells recently.

The Star remains a free house, selling Bellringer from the pump and Bass from the barrel, via a four pint jug, wonderful stuff! Terry informed me that other beers would be joining the range in due course, but it was the Bass which would continue to rule the roost.

The bars are tiny, smoky, familiar rooms, wood panelled and stone floored, except for the recently reopened lounge bar which now boasts a carpet and newly recovered chairs and stools, wonderfully snug and the place to be (early!) on a Sunday lunchtime.



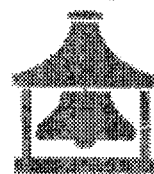
Food is available, sausages and mash, a selection of both, with the sausages coming from the Bath Sausage Shop, which is worth a trip to Bath on it's own!

'The Star' is on CAMRA's Inventory of Heritage Pubs, drawn up under the ever watchful eye of English Heritage, so from now on in the words of both Terry and Julie, 'All we can do is polish it!'

A' STAR' has truly been reborn, and I urge you all to visit it if ever the chance arises, but in the mean time the Star could be nearer then you think, try www.star-in-bath.co.uk , or www.abbeyales.co.uk .

As t staggered out, feeling no pain and rejoicing in the rebirth of one of my all time favourite houses I thought I heard Terry telling somebody about a 'Gas fired, bathstone and porcelain, brass fitted gents urinal, designed by Isambard Kingdom Brunel', but I can't be sure.

Words and pics by Phil Wyborn - Brown, Bass by the jug!



The Clyffe Inn

High Street St Margarets-at-Cliffe

Tel. 01304 852400 Fax 01304 851880

www.characterinns.co.uk

Open 11am-3pm & 6pm-11pm (Mon-Sat)

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The Clyffe Inn is a Pub, a Restaurant and has Accommodation, with a good range of Real Ales and Wines. There's an excellent Bar Menu and an even better Restaurant Menu specialising in local Seafood and Game. We have a large car park and garden

The Clyffe Inn dates from the 16th Century and has been a Granary and a School House. There are original ships timbers in the ceiling of the Bar.



A New Dish of All Sorts

The following song dates to the end of the 18th century and was recently found by Jim Green. In future issues of Channel Draught he will research the people and pubs mentioned.

A New Dish Of All Sorts

In which all the landlords and landladies of Dover will make their first appearance on the stage and sing to the tune of "Landlord fill the flowing bowl" with its accompanying chorus between verses. The Dover Theatre 1799.

1. In every age and every clime, some fashions have had sway Sirs, And many strange and simple things, by turns have had their day Sirs, And many jolly things you'll see, in case you turn a rover, But never jollier fellows meet, than the landlords here at Dover.
2. With famed "LONDON CITY" I'll begin, by Striker now kept Sirs, The next of note, "THE SHIP INN", and kept by Wright you know Sirs, Then Mecrow at the "ROYAL OAK", "THE YORK HOUSE" Master Payn Sirs, Each loves his friend, each keeps good house, Each can his bottle drain Sirs.
3. At the "ANTWERP INN" brave Luckett lives, a noble volunteer Sirs, Who likewise, a good larder keeps, with very best of cheer Sirs, At "THE SARACEN'S HEAD" lives Harry Marsh, who once was a rover but now for many years has kept, "THE BOWLING GREEN" at Dover
4. At "THE BLACK HORSE" read little Robinson, but not the famous Crusoe, And Kitham will salute you next, if you'll but let him do so. Then Harvey at "THE QUEEN'S HEAD", at "THE RED COW" mighty Merit Sirs, At "THE THREE TUNS", Prebble lives, a Kentish lad of spirit Sirs.
5. At the gallant "NELSON" William lives, and Cleveland at "THE ROSE" Sirs, Next Harvey at "THE CARPENTER'S ARMS", who loves his evening doze Sirs, Then Benskin at "THE FLYING HORSE" with Arnold at "THE LION" Sirs, And Reynolds at "THE FOX" we'll name, Oh faith, he is a sly one Sirs.



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John et Florence*



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6. At the monstrous fish called "DOLPHIN", is Thomas Osley's wife Sirs, As drum major of the Middlesex, he loves his martial life Sirs, Then at "EIGHT BELLS" Wyndham lives, who is rather squeezed for room Sirs. Where bells would feign a jingling be, but always out of tune Sirs.
7. There's Elvey always at Command, the landlord of "THE BULL" Sirs, No doubt he's always very glad to see the Catch Room full Sirs. For as friendship and unanimity our motto we have chosen, All enemies to harmony dare not put their nose in.
8. There's Tom Ladd of "THE GUILDFORD ARMS", "THE JOLLY PORTERS", Moon Sirs, Next Bullard at "THE WHITE HORSE" lives, who's never out of tune Sirs. Then Wilkins at "THE JOLLY TAR" whom all our Britons love Sirs, Though flags imperial skulk away, from where he's pleased to rove Sirs.
9. There's Brockman at "THE BRICKLAYER'S ARMS" and Tom Grant at "THE FOUNTAIN" And Rigden at "THE BRITON TRUE" whose fame I'd be recounting, Jack Ceasar at "THE BARLEY MOW" and Harvey at "THE FLEECE" Sirs, At "THE CHEQUERS" lives Ned Hollingsworth, who only aims to please Sirs.
10. At "THE PACKET BOAT" famed Chittenden and Atkins at "THE PIG" Sirs, Who by no means must be despised, because he wears a wig Sirs, Then Easton at "THE KING'S ARMS" and Davis at "THE GUN" Sirs and at "THE SWAN" friend Ellis lives, a broth of a boy for fun Sirs.
11. At "THE COOPER'S ARMS" Prince you'll find, at "THE DOVER CASTLE", Ford Sirs, And Hammond at "THE DRAGON" lives who sometimes keeps his word Sirs. Then Jenkins at "THE THREE KINGS", Boyce at the "FLEUR DE LYS" Sirs, And Watson at "THE NORTH SEA BOAT" you any day may see Sirs.
12. At "THE COACH AND HORSES" Atkins lives and Chapman at "THE BROTHERS", Two as hearty fellows hay, as any of the others. Then Bowles at "THE HARLBOROUGH HEAD" and Goodburn at "THE ARK" Sirs, At the "FOLKESTONE CUTTER" Penn you'll find, as brisk. as any lark Sirs.

13. There's Evans at "THE SEVEN STARS", where politicians meet Sirs, Then Simmonds at "THE SHIPWRIGHT'S ARMS" where many cocks were beat Sirs. To the "ORDNANCE ARMS" in Paradise with Rutton you may steer Sirs. At "THE PRINCE OF WALES" lives Head, a man you need not fear Sirs.
14. Next Carlton at "THE HERRINGS THREE", a man whose rather serious, At "THE SCARBOROUGH CASTLE", there you'll find that jolly dog Cornelius. But ah! poor James, "THE PILOT BOAT" looks very sad without you. For Boney damn him took you, 'ere you'd time to look about you.
15. And now the lady landlords come, a merry set I vow Sirs, And what of them, I have to say, that you shall hear just now Sirs. Kate Sandford at "THE BREWERS" lives, good purl you may have there Sirs And if you choose a mug of Fenners Canterbury beer Sirs.
16. Ann Povedin at "THE KING'S HEAD" I wish for her we'd peace Sirs. Dame Harnett for her "PRIVATEER" has had a pretty breeze Sirs. Ann Whitehorne at the "CROWN AND ANCHOR", not that in the Strand Sirs, And Barras at the "HOVELLING BOAT" has got our grumbling band Sirs.

This is thought to be a revised version composed about 1805.

1999 Pub of the Year
(Deal Dover Sandwich & District CAMRA)

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2001 WHITE CLIFFS FESTIVAL OF WINTER ALES



Once again the first weekend in February found Dover Town Hall playing host to the White Cliffs Festival of Winter Ales, and with 69 firkins of ale on sale, it was, as our pre-festival publicity claimed, the largest ever. Not that this over-awed the attending real ale drinkers, who had polished off the whole lot some time before 8 o'clock Saturday evening - a fine tribute to the quality and condition of our selection.

This was our eighth festival, and from the start things ran very smoothly. All the beer had arrived by mid-morning on Monday (an unheard of luxury) and by early afternoon the stillage had been erected and the barrels set in place in two rows, one above the other, along the left-hand side of the Stone Hall. Tapped and spiled in the middle of the week, by Friday morning the beer was in perfect condition, filling the hail with its distinctive hoppy/malty aroma.

As always ales came from small brewers in all parts of the UK and all were 5% ABV or above -our strongest this year being Sarah Hughes Snow Flake at 8.0%. All types and styles were represented, pale and dry to dark and malty, with the majority ones you would be unlikely to come across during a normal winter's drinking, and certainly not all together under one roof. The limited production runs of many winter ales can cause supply problems, and consequently there are usually many changes to the beer list between its inception and the beer's arrival. A particular casualty this year being Buffy's Festival 9X (initially our strongest ale at 9%), much to the disappointment of at least two of the local Branch, who have fond memories of another Buffy's brew several years ago.

A new departure this year was the use of tasting panels to judge the beer of the festival. For several hours on Friday afternoon a small group of dedicated enthusiasts confined themselves to a corner of the Connaught Hall to discuss and assess the merits of the various brews (nasty work but someone had to do it) and, after much deliberation and judicious consumption, Sanctuary from Durham was declared winner, with Freeminer Deep Shaft Stout as runner up.

The festival itself followed the usual pattern of recent years. Friday, starting busy at 5 o'clock, with a queue already formed outside the Town Hall, maintained a hectic non-stop pace all evening. Predominantly a locals' session (CAMRA members being only 20% of admissions) it saw well over half the ale consumed, and left us exhausted by the time we finally cleared up towards midnight. Saturday was much quieter, and certainly for the staff more relaxing, with members and non members more evenly balanced. When we stopped charging entrance, late Saturday afternoon, total attendance had reached 1247, of which almost two thirds accounted for by Friday night. The ale responded accordingly, ten barrels being finished on Friday, and many others very low. Once again excellent music was provided by Men in White Coats on Friday, and Bill Barnacle on Saturday afternoon, when, for those with more sporting inclinations, international rugby coverage was also available.

There were, however, a few hiccups. 2001 festival glasses ran out mid Friday evening (our order was restricted as, in previous years, we tended to over-order) while the preference for paying admission with notes saw us almost run out of pound coins. And of course there was the old problem of staff resources on Friday evening when, although we coped, we were stretched very thin. If you are a CAMRA member please think seriously about giving us some help next year - just a few hours would be very valuable.

Otherwise a rather successful festival. Several thousand pounds being raised for the campaign and £500 donated to Dover Transport Museum.

Thankyou to all those who supported, helped and sponsored us, particularly Dover District and Town Councils, Adams Printers and Tun, Vine and Press; and to The Dover Express for their competition and press coverage. Best wishes and look forward to renewing our association next year.

Martin Atkins

Louis Armstrong



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Open Again!

After two years of closure The Yew Tree Inn at Barfrestone re-opened just before Christmas. Situated in the quaint little village of Barfrestone midway between Dover and Canterbury, the Yew Tree Inn is central to a variety of footpaths and bridleways and has provided a welcome watering hole for many years, to weary walkers, horse riders and cyclists alike. Situated in the Centre of the village and adjacent to the beautiful little Norman church of St. Nicholas The Yew Tree Inn stands, not surprisingly, behind a magnificent centuries old Yew Tree.



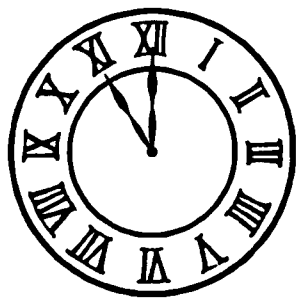
With plenty of room in the car park to park your car or bicycle or to tether your horse, and after you have paused a while to admire the ornate carvings, famous south door or wheel window of St. Nicholas Church, you can call in to sample some of the real ales on offer at The Yew Tree. Regulars Green King IPA and Bass Cask are complimented by a selection of guest beers from local breweries, *Friggin in the Rigg*, *Spanking*, *Nelson's Blood* and *Dasher* are amongst the favourites.

Inside the pub you are greeted by traditional board floors, old pine tables and comfy church pews. The walls are hung with old photos of the Inn, and of life in bygone days in the area, as well as a selection of old farming implements. You can be sure of a warm welcome from licensees Duncan & Jane Smyth as well as a colourful tale or two from some of the locals including Harvey the Pig and Monty the Jack Russell. If you call in during the summer you might catch Alan whittling his walking sticks outside in the summer sun.

Traditional home cooked fayre is always on offer lunch time and evenings, Boozy Beef and Game Pie are favourites, and there is always a Sunday Roast on offer. A good vegetarian selection is also available, the Granary Vegetable Crumble or Leek & Courgette Bake are worthy of a mention. In the summer Cream Teas will be on offer during the afternoon.

Why not call in at the Yew Tree, a warm welcome awaits you.

Duncan & Jane Smyth



LAST KNOCKINGS

When I was young the Brewers Society had a slogan which ran "Look in at the Local". Admittedly that was a few years ago, but in terms of marketing it feels like several centuries, for I doubt if the concept of the Local receives much consideration in modern brewery or pub chain management. Branding and image are more likely to be the watchwords, with pubs being aimed at target markets in the way that coffee or soap powder might be sold, and of bulk contracts for beer with a few chosen suppliers scooping the pool.

Fortunately the British public still hold the Local with affection, and there remain a core of good pubs (increasingly free) who view their customers as individuals and not as advertising fodder. However, the mass marketing idea has a considerable hold over the corporate mind and one has only to look at the fast food empires to see what can be "achieved". The situation is not dissimilar to that facing beer in the early Seventies which sparked the creation of CAMRA. It is up to those of who hold individuality and choice dear, to be ever on our guard against the spread of the branded and themed mentality. The best judge of a pub's style and character should be left where it belongs - with its landlord.



The Government has been quite active in the brewing and pub business recently. The proposed 50% rate relief for smaller rural pubs and reduced duty on smaller breweries are very welcome, despite the former currently being so hedged around with restrictions that many pubs would not be eligible. However, why not go the whole way, and extend 50% rate relief to ALL small pubs and remove ALL duty from small brewers. The loss of revenue would not be substantial, and easily offset by the boost in business that these small enterprises would enjoy.



Not so welcome, however, is the Government's rescinding of the beer orders (introduced about ten years ago to break up the major brewers' large tied estates) as their purpose had now been achieved. But without the Beer Orders in place what is there to prevent the same concentration of power developing again. Precisely nothing, and as sure as night follows day, one of the leading pub chain operators, Nomura, announces that its considering buying a brewery. Surprise, surprise!



Shepherd Neame does not always find favour with real ale drinkers these days, although this particular drinker has always found their beers quite acceptable. However on several occasions over the last Christmas period myself and others found Masterbrew distinctly watery. It may just have been a jaded pallet from seasonal over indulgence, and seems OK again now, but anyone else's observations would be appreciated. I also was not impressed with my one tasting of the draught version of Shepherd Neame's Christmas ale this year, although it was from an early batch and I'm told it improved later. However, it was a far cry from the superb 5.2% porter which we enjoyed in the winter until a few years ago. A return to this brew would do a lot to regain them lost friends.



The White Cliffs Festival of Winter Ales was quite a success (see elsewhere), and it was very encouraging to see so many, who normally drink lager or keg, enjoying the fine selection we had available. What's not so encouraging is that most of them, as they do every year, will return to the pressurised product the next day. It would appear that to some, real ale has come to be something out of the ordinary, esoteric perhaps, to be drunk at only at festivals and such like. If that's the case it is an attitude of mind that CAMRA might do well to try and change.

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Local Information

If you have a dispute concerning ale bought in Dover, Deal or Sandwich, please bring it to the attention of Martin Atkins (see Page 19). You may want to take the matter up yourself and we advise you to contact any (or all) of the following:

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

Useful numbers

Dover Tourist Info	01304 205108	Kent Police	01304 240055
Train times	08457 484950	Buses	0870 2433711
KCC Bus/Train line	08457 3696996		01304 240024
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Signature _____ Date _____

I/We enclose the remittance for:

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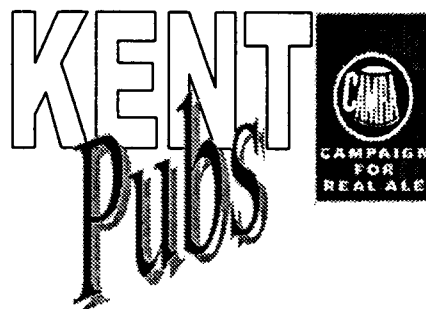
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Branch Contacts & Info

If you have any queries about CAMRA in White Cliffs Country then please contact **Martin Atkins** (Branch Chairman) on (01304) 872484 or 201870 or **Dave Routh** (Area Organiser – East Kent) on 07932 525345.

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