

THE  
QUARTERLY  
PERIODICAL  
OF THE  
THANET  
BRANCH OF



CAMPAIGN  
FOR  
REAL ALE

# ALE OF THANET

Spring 2012 - Free

**INSIDE**  
A LONG LUNCH  
KENT MICRO PUBS  
A WALK WITH A BEER  
GUESS THE PUB?  
CHRIS' CONUNDRUMS  
CAMRA NATIONAL PUB  
OF THE YEAR  
THEN & NOW



THE PAVILION

# Beer Festival

Join us for a weekend  
of delicious beer from

**Friday 9th March  
to Sunday 11th March**

*From 12noon to 11pm Friday & Saturday  
and 12noon to 5pm Sunday*

Featuring *live* music from

**Jeff Barker** - 8pm Friday

**Bubbleband** - 2pm Saturday

**Broken Biscuit** - 8pm Saturday

**WIRED SESSION** -

Sunday: 12pm - 5pm

£2 entry (gets you in all weekend)

The Pavilion - Harbour Street, Broadstairs,  
Kent CT10 1EU Tel: 01843 600 999



Follow us on Facebook and on Twitter @broadstairs pav

In the summer, Ale of Thanet celebrates its 20<sup>th</sup> birthday. The first issue produced in June 1992 by Roy Raven was just a simple A4 newsletter flyer (*right*), the name being a pun on Isle of Thanet. I took over as editor in 1993, and have brought it from being that black & white flyer, produced using a typewriter, rub-on letters and photo-copied, to this full colour issue, put together on a computer and printed by a commercial company. I still enjoy putting it together, but I do wish I could get more contributions from other people, although saying that in the last year or so there has been a small rise in number of people offering bits and bobs for inclusion. I wish to thank these people, and our advertisers (whose contribution helps a little in covering costs) and you the reader for taking the time to glance at Ale of Thanet. Here's to the next twenty years. Steve Saunders



After deciding not to take the lease of the Charles Dickens in Broadstairs, when the opportunity came to buy the freehold, Thorley Taverns jumped at the chance. There is a lot of work involved in reopening the place so a Easter opening has been suggested. The company, as part of a 3.5 million deal with Enterprise Inns, also brought the freehold of the Broadstairs harbour-side Tartar Frigate



and the Captain Digby in Kingsgate, though the company has decided to give up the lease on the Red Lion in Ramsgate. Rumour has it that a branch of the Lifeboat maybe appearing in Broadstairs in the Summer. The Dane Valley Arms is closed and boarded up, waiting demolition as part of a redevelopment which will see flats and houses along with a smaller pub built on the site. The Northern Belle in Margate is being given a refurbishment by Shepherd Neame, which will see the outside painted, new bar back, furnishings and carpets. Hopefully the branch's Pub of the Year 2012 should be announced mid-March, so visit to find out which pub it is out of twelve which are being judged visit our website. Please pass any pub news on to use at aot@thanet-camra.org.uk

# NAME THAT PUB?



1

Our photographer has taken some pictures of the inside of some Thanet pubs then put them in pretty shapes. Can you guess which ones they are? Answers on page 20



2



3

5



4



Real ale drinkers all know about micro-breweries, but what about micro pubs? Well, it seems that in recent years these have been popping up all over Britain, with East Kent having the largest concentration of them in the country if not the world, with four outlets now operating.

The principle behind the idea is that a pub's deep-rooted thrust is the drinking of good ale and the pleasure of good conversation, components often lacking in many modern pubs. Strip out items like food, music, massively branded industrial brews - and what remains is just that: good ale and good conversation, and an operation economic to run.

**BUTCHER'S ARMS**



The first of these micro pubs was the Butcher's Arms opened by Martin Hillier in the village of Herne seven years ago. Martin didn't want to be a land-

lord, but when, in 2003, he was told by a licensing officer that, thanks to a change in the law, he could turn his failing florists into a pub, he saw the potential. The Licensing Act of 2003, which came into force in 2005, made it far easier and cheaper to open a pub. To keep down overheads there is no bar, cooked food, recorded music or anything other than good beer from microbreweries that can be sold at a reasonable price.

The Butchers Arms gets its name from the fact that the building was a one time village butchers. Butcher's blocks



are now used as tables, and there is seating for about 12 and standing room for about 20. The beers, of which five are normally available, are served straight out of the cask from a cold room at the back of the pub, which has to be passed through to gain the toilet. The pub ceiling is festooned with all sorts of odd items including rubber chickens hanging from butcher's hooks while the walls are decked out with brewery memorabilia. As well as the beer, a white wine and Ashmore cheese are available along with pickled onions and eggs. The pub is open Tuesday to Saturday 12.00pm - 1.30pm & 6.00pm - 9.00pm or later; closed Sundays and Mondays. A regular 10-minute bus running between Herne Bay and Canterbury passes the pub during the day, reduced to half-hourly in the evening. [www.micropub.co.uk](http://www.micropub.co.uk)



**CONQUEROR ALEHOUSE**

November 2010 saw former Thanet CAMRA chairman Colin Aris, open East

## MICRO PUBS



Kent's second micro pub, The Conqueror in a former Ramsgate florist. The pub has a bar space of approximately 4m<sup>2</sup>, and like the Butchers has no bar, has seating for fourteen people, around two high tables and a long shelf with standing room for about six more. Real ales, (other drinks and food) are served from a cold room at the rear of the pub which, like the Butcher's Arms, has to be passed through to give access to a WC. The pub's name comes from a twin funnel paddle steamer, captained by Colin's grandfather, which operated as a tug from Gravesend, although in the summer season run excursions from Ramsgate.

Three real ales, served straight from the cask, one normally from a local brewer, are available, along with Broomfield Cider and apple juice, as well as crisps, peanuts, cheese, crackers and hand-raised pork pies, which can be served with a choice of mustards. Small bottles of wine are also offered for those who do not appreciate beer.

Opening hours are Tuesday to Saturday 11.30 - 14.30 & 17.30 - 21.00, Sunday 12.00 - 15.00, closed Mondays.

Stagecoach's Loop bus service, which operates between the three main Thanet towns, passes the pub every 7-8 minutes throughout the day, with a reduced frequency in the evenings, as does local service 34 and the hourly daytime service 9 from Canterbury while service 87/88 from Dover, although less fre-

quent, stops nearby.

[www.conqueror-alehouse.co.uk](http://www.conqueror-alehouse.co.uk)

THE BAKE AND ALE HOUSE

The third micro pub in East Kent is The



Bake and Ale House, situated in Westgate, in what was a Baker's Shop in St. Mildreds Road, down an alleyway between Corral's bookmakers and the Carlton cinema. The Bake and Ale House opened in April last year and is operated Peter Williams, a former local government officer from Cambridge and his partner Gwyneth Dear. Four beers that are kept in a temperature controlled cellar at the side of the building and dispensed straight from the cask are normally available with most from Kent micro-breweries. The narrow rectangle

shaped pub which has a square front bar area housing two long tables with seating for about fourteen people, with the rear housing



the cool room and a small corridor giving access to the toilet and a bench seat. Note the unusual colander lampshades. As well as the real ales, one may also purchase tea, and red and white wine, a small range of soft drinks and a selection of Ashmore cheeses, Kent crisps and traditional hand raised pork pies. Opening Times are Tuesdays to Saturdays 12.00-14.00 & 17.30-21.00 (or later) and Sunday 12.00-2.30. The main Margate to Canterbury service 8/8A bus service passes through Westgate village centre every 15 minutes during the day, hourly in the evenings and on Sunday. The Margate bound bus stop is directly outside the alley way to the pub, while the Canterbury bound stop is a few minutes' walk away outside the rail station. In the evenings and Sundays, the 8X passes on the main road, bypassing the village centre, every hour with the bus stop about a 5-minute walk away.

[www.bakeandalehouse.com](http://www.bakeandalehouse.com)

**THE JUST REPROACH**

The newest East Kent micro-pub and



perhaps the largest, the Just Reproach, opened in Deal just before Christmas. Situated in King Street in Deal's town centre, its name is taken from Daniel Defoe's "The Storm".

Mark Robson who was a head teacher, working with pupils with autism for over 20 years, and his daughter, Bronwen, run the place. Mark, who has always

had an interest in real ales, was persuaded to change careers after a visit to the Butcher's Arms a couple of years ago. The pub has already a



core of regulars who have enjoyed a wide selection of real ales from micro breweries across the country with Kentish breweries proving very popular. In addition to the real ales, which are served from a cool room, house white and red wines and some soft drinks are available as are peanuts and Kent crisps.

The pub follows the micro pub philosophy and there is no music, no fruit machines or television and mobile phone conversations are forbidden! The pub is only a five-minute walk from the rail station and bus terminal in South Street. Opening hours are: 12.00-14.00 Tuesdays to Saturdays and 17.00-21.00 Tuesdays to Thursdays, with later closing at 23.00 on Fridays and Saturdays.

[www.thejustreproach.co.uk](http://www.thejustreproach.co.uk)

**OTHER PUBS**

There are currently two other micro pubs, the Rat Race in Hartlepool ([www.ratracealehouse.co.uk](http://www.ratracealehouse.co.uk)) which is situated in the old newsagents at the rail station and Just Beer in a former art studio in The Swan and Salmon Yard on Castlegate in Newark ([www.justbeermicropub.biz](http://www.justbeermicropub.biz)).

*Anybody wishing to visit the Butchers a mid-week walk is planned for Wednesday 25 April, meeting Herne Bay station at 11.40. Visit website for more details.*

## A LONG LUNCH in Derby

Over the years Derby has been reinventing itself. Still, thankfully, renowned for world-leading Rolls-Royce aero-engines, home of Qalcast and clinging to the remnants of railway engineering. The city has its ICI dye works leaking colour



onto the nearby roads and turned a huge area of railway land into a modern employment zone. New engineering manufacturing has arrived, most notably the Toyota plant a few miles to the south-west.

Fortunately in terms of pubs tradition and style have held their own with a ever-increasing kaleidoscope of beers. Arriving by train from St Pancras, a three-minute walk north from the station reveals the Brunswick, a character, multi-room, multi-beer pub with its own



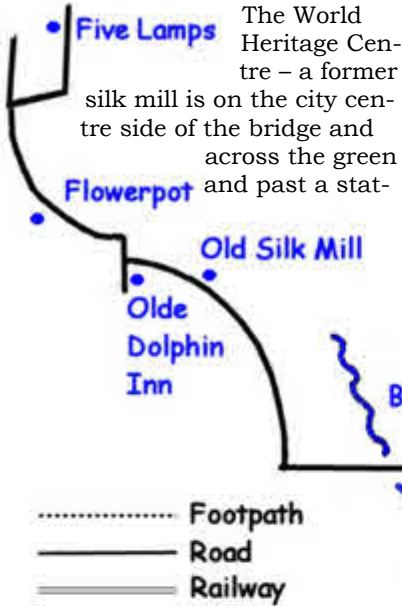
brewery created within the attractive conservation area of the restored Midland Railway village. Almost next door is the Alexandra (CAMRA member discounts) remembered as a haven for Shipstone's mild; also, once through the heavy curtain acting as a draught excluder, for a black-shrouded Ena Sharples look-alike playing a percentage of right notes on a upright piano in exchange for the occasional half of Guinea.



The Alex is now a Castle Rock (Nottingham brewery) pub with an interesting display of railway and train items including a nameplate from West Country class steam loco 'Harkland', once a regular performer on Ramsgate expresses.

Crossing the road a footpath leads beside, then over the River Derwent to pass the Smithfield now boarded up, but only a few months ago serving a positive cornucopian of different beers and offering a riverside patio for sunny days. Continuing beside the river, still only a ten-minute walk from the station, in quick succession come the Exeter Inn, spiritedly promoting beers from the Dancing Duck micro, and the Brewery Tap – Royal Standard next to the road bridge back over the expansive Derwent.

# A LONG LUNCH in Derby



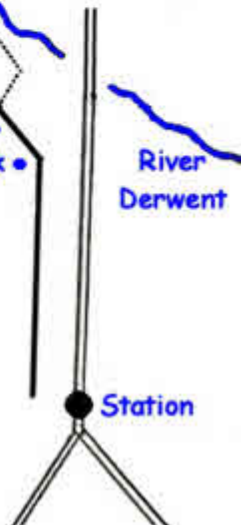
mouth-watering range of local beers as well as a few more widely available. As a bonus a 10-minute frequency bus was available back to the station, although a 25-minute walk did some of us good.

*Rob Smalton  
2nd February, 2012*

ue of Bonnie Prince Charlie, lies the Old Silk Mill pub, suggesting on various boards 'no food served, but bring your own' and 'speciality pies available'.

It is almost perverse to highlight a particular beer when the standards are so high and choice so wide, but the Oakham Bishops Farewell drew special accolades.

Bonnie Prince Charlie and his Scottish followers gave up their march on London on reaching Derby, we pressed on a little further to sample the nearby Olde Dolphin Inne, coal fires and lots of wood panelling and beams, and then sin upon sin, had to forego the Flowerpot (home of the Headless Brewing Co) and Seven Stars in King Street in order to have time at Derby's worthy City pub of the Year, the Five Lamps. The name recognizes a still extant street lamp with five separate lanterns and offered a most welcoming and comfortable establishment with yet another



Something new for Ale of Thanet is this 'just for fun' quiz. This issue all the answers relate to Kent, see how many you can answer.

1. Paddle steamer that rescued 7,000 at Dunkirk

□□□□□□ □□□□□

2. Monument to Fuller Pilch found here

□□. □□□□□□□□ □□□□□□□ □□□□□□

3. Where vessel called Hugin is found

□□□□□□ □□□

4. Home of Anne Boleyn

□□□□□ □□□□□□

5. Who died at Gadds Hill Place

□□□□□□□ □□□□□□□□

6. What is a Kentish Glory

□□□□

7. Get off here for racing

□□□□□□□□□□□□

8. Super natural comedy film set in Aldington

□□□□□□ □□□□□

9. Divides Men of Kent from Kentish Men

□□□□□ □□□□□□

10. Fictional smuggler / Vicar of Dymchurch / RH & D R Loco

□□. □□□

See page 22 for answers.

## Pub Descriptions

### An Alternative Guide

Ever wondered what the pub descriptions in the Good Beer Guide (GBG) really mean? Taken from the 1989 GBG we enclose a list of descriptions and their real meanings.

**Ancient:** - There is an old beam next to the video machine.

**Back Street Local:** - The local CAMRA branch drink here.

**Basic:** - Deemed unsuitable for cleaning.

**Comfortable:** - Probably wrecked.

**Cosy:** - Packed.

**Estate Pub:** - Aircraft hanger with carpets.

**Family Pub:** - Swarming with hyperactive little darling

**Friendly:** - The bar staff can speak.

**Half Timbered:** - Brewery Chairman's local.

**Heavily Beamed:** - The plywood that's covering up the steel girders has been painted mahogany.

**Lovely Setting:** - Awful pub set in pretty countryside.

**Modernised:** - Wrecked.

**Old Fashioned:** - Broken.

**Popular:** - Pickup joint.

*Continued on page 12*

Thanet branch of CAMRA presents

# PLANET THANET 2012

# EASTER BEER FESTIVAL

## WINTER GARDENS, MARGATE, KENT

### GOOD FRIDAY & SATURDAY 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> APRIL

OPEN: 12 NOON TO 10.30 PM FRIDAY • 12 NOON TO 9.00 PM SATURDAY

ADMISSION PER PERSON: FRIDAY £4.00 / SATURDAY £2.00

(Free to card carrying CAMRA members both days with fast track entry at busy times)

Children accompanied by well-behaved adults welcome until 7.00 pm



- Over 200 real ales, ciders and perries
- Foreign bottled beers
- Hot and cold food in quiet hall
- Live entertainment on both days
- Giant pub quiz on Saturday (teams of up to 6)

[www.easterbeerfestival.org.uk](http://www.easterbeerfestival.org.uk)



## CAMRA TO LAUNCH NEW NATIONAL PUBS CAMPAIGN IN APRIL

In April, CAMRA, the Campaign for Real Ale is to launch a new national pubs campaign, Community Pubs Month, to champion local pubs which are at the heart of countless communities across Britain.

The aims of Community Pubs Month are to increase footfall in pubs, to encourage more publicans to promote new or existing events to attract further trade, and to spread awareness of community pubs throughout the media.

The dedicated website for the Month – [www.communitypubsmonth.org.uk](http://www.communitypubsmonth.org.uk) – is



geared up to give pubs free publicity through listing any events licensees have planned throughout the month of April. Pubs signing up to the Month will be given free promotional material to help promote their events, whether it be the regular weekly pub quiz or a big one-off charity bash to get the community together.

Kicking off proceedings on Monday April 2nd with Community Pubs Day – the day after CAMRA's Members' Weekend &

AGM in Torquay – CAMRA branches across Britain will be organising a wide range of events to promote their local pubs during the Month, and will be working in the lead-up to April to ensure this first year for the campaign is a big success.

Tony Jerome, CAMRA Head of Marketing, said:

'The real aim of this Month is to give a window of opportunity for hard working publicans to promote any events they have planned in April, and for us at CAMRA to give them all the help and support in terms of publicity and increased trade.

'We realise it's a tough time out there for pubs at the moment – as CAMRA's new pub closure figures highlighted last week – and this is why CAMRA has put a large amount of campaigning funds into this initiative to help pubs market themselves during April.'

As well as CAMRA branches ordering promotional material to maximise the exposure for this new campaign in pubs across Britain, pub licensees can also order packs direct from CAMRA. Available now, Community Pubs Month packs will include campaigning posters, beer mats, leaflets and pump clip crownners. Pubs interested in acquiring material for Community Pubs Month can find out more by visiting the website – [www.communitypubsmonth.org.uk](http://www.communitypubsmonth.org.uk).

**Quiet:** - Frequently raided.

**Refurbished:** - Wrecked.

**Roadhouse:** - Full of bikers.

**Suburban:** - Between the betting shop and the dog track

**Tastefully Appointed:** - Wrecked.

**Traditional Public Bar:** - Plastic shoe covers recommended.

**Traditional Village Pub:** - Tourists can b. . . . r off.

**Unspoilt:** - About to be sold to bass.

**Welcoming:** - Landlord occasionally found on premises

**Wrecked:** - GBG inspectors at the end of the annual survey

Please look out for essential descriptions in future editions of Ale Of Thanet Cheers and good health!!

Julian Dungey  
Branch Chairman

This issue's walk starts at Herne Bay station and using mainly footpaths heads to the original micro pub, the Butcher's Arms at Herne.

As well as being served by regular trains from Thanet and London, the service 36 (Margate to Herne Bay) also serves the station hourly Monday to Saturday during the day.

Leaving the station head left, pass the bus stop and turn right into an alleyway that goes under the railway line. Continue along this alley until reaching Eddington Road, cross and head onto the footpath ahead. Continue along this footpath until reaching a main road. Cross the road (please use the pedestrian crossing) and head into Flamingo



any visual way markers or posts. The description that follows is a guide to aid walkers.

Once clear of the boundary fence head to the right hand edge of a clump of trees



ahead, passing through the gap. Continue forward towards another small clump of trees, pass these and head towards a stream. Cross this via a small bridge and follow the line of trees ahead, with a tree surrounded pond to the right, towards the golf courses' boundary fence and a green kissing gate. Pass through the gate and head along the footpath, soon reaching a concrete path and the Thanet Way underpass, which should be passed

Road opposite. Continue along this road passing a pond and Teal Road on your right until Harlequin Close ahead.

under and once off the concrete continue forward on to the cross field footpath

By the Harlequin Close street sign, follow the footpath that heads behind housing. At its end (by three branched footpath sign), turn left crossing a private driveway and onto a path that follows the boundary wall of a house, soon reaching a stile. Cross stile and enter Herne Bay golf course. The route across the golf course isn't marked out very well, with



# A WALK WITH A BEER (OR TWO)

heading towards the gap in the tree line in the distance.

On exiting the footpath, turn right onto the road (Lower Herne Road) then turn left and head up hill passing the entrance to Strode Park on the right. On reaching the main Canterbury road, turn right, and carefully cross and follow road as it skirts Cherry Orchard

Playing Fields until you reach a footpath that runs along the playing fields boundary, pass changing and toilets blocks, continue forward as it passes between housing. On reaching the road turn right, into School Lane, and follow this until reaching a roundabout,

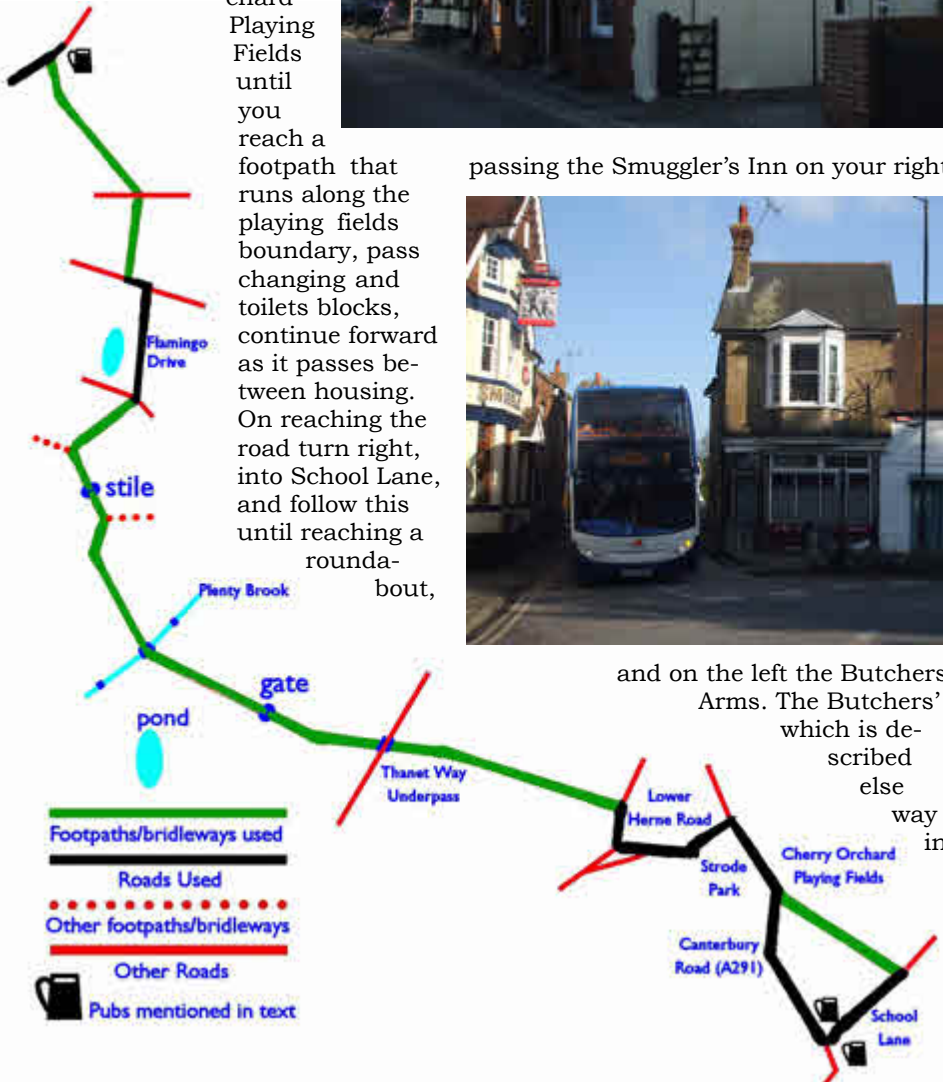


passing the Smuggler's Inn on your right



and on the left the Butchers Arms. The Butchers' which is described else

way in



## A WALK WITH A BEER (OR TWO)



Leaving either pub walk forwards towards the church and the closed Upper Red Lion pub, turning right and crossing the road, via the Zebra crossing, and then turning right away from the church and follow road until arriving back at Strode Park, where you should return to the station via the outward route. If there is time when arriving back at the station, visit the Heron which is situated at the entrance to the station's approach road. This sixty's built pub serves Shepherd Neame beers.

this issue has limited opening hours, while the Shepherd Neame owned Smuggler's is open all day from 11 except Sunday when it is 12. Both pubs are featured in the 2012 Good Beer Guide.

That's it for this issue, next time we again leave the island, with a circular walk from Sandwich.

Cheers, Beery Steve.

## A NOSTALGIC PICTURE

Here is a superb picture submitted by Mrs K Kennett of her father, Ken Fisher on Tomson & Wotton's 1955 carnival float. I gather that Ken is now a sprightly 84 year old. If you have any nostalgic beer, pub or brewery related we would love to publish them in Ale of Thanet. See page 20 for our contact details.





Another picture from Albert Fuller, this time of the Red Rover in Upper Dumpton Lane, Ramsgate. The building next door was the Castle pub until Tomson & Wotton brought the Cannon Brewery in the 1875. Not needing two pubs together, they closed it, with it becoming a shop. The Red Rover survived until the early 70s, before closing. As can be seen below both are now houses.



## **CAMRA - 'COMMUNITY LIFE IN BRITAIN'S SUBURBS UNDER THREAT'**

New pub closure figures out today show 16 pubs close across Britain every week 8 suburban pubs close every week, compared to 6 rural, and 2 high street Over 1000 pubs lost in Britain's suburbs in just 2 years

10 tied pubs\* are closing every week compared to 7 free of tie, with the number of managed pubs actually increasing by 1 opening per week.

CAMRA, the Campaign for Real Ale, has today called for urgent Government action to save Britain's historic pub culture in light of new research showing how 16 pubs now close across the country on a weekly basis. The consumer group has expressed particular concern that Government policy is failing communities on the peripheries of Britain's towns and cities, with half of these closures (8 a week) taking place in the nation's suburbs.

In just 2 years, 1,078 pubs have been lost in suburban areas, with many community locals battered by whirlwind beer tax hikes and deep alcohol discounting from nearby supermarket chains, bringing about a general decline in pub going by consumers. Meanwhile, high street pubs are closing at a quarter of the rate – 2 per week – of suburban locals.

Mike Benner, CAMRA Chief Executive, said:

'While high street city centre venues are showing a degree of resistance in the current climate, both suburban and rural areas are under threat as wholesale pub closures deprive more local people of a community centre. Pubs are vital for social cohesion and cultural integration, and therefore the Government must act swiftly to repair the damage inflicted upon local communities by offering genuine support for enterprising and hard working licensees.

'This research also further underlines the major problems caused by many hard-working pub lessees being unable to buy their beer on the open market, restricted by punitive measures imposed by greedy pub companies. The number of tied pubs has fallen by over 3,500 in just 3 years, with free of tie pubs remaining better placed to weather these difficult economic times by having the ability to offer greater beer choice and lower prices to the consumer.'

Today's figures coincide with a groundbreaking new report by the Institute of Public Policy Research (IPPR) into the social value of community pubs. The report reinforces CAMRA's figures by highlighting the need for a radical change in Government policy that recognises the important community function many pubs perform.

Recommended measures to provide vital support include business rate relief for pubs acting as 'centres of a community', reform of planning laws which prevent pubs from being demolished without the need for planning permission, and improving relations between large pub companies and their lessees to offer a guest beer option and an option to become 'free of tie' accompanied by an open market rent review.

IPPR Associate Director, Rick Muir, said: 'Government must stop using a one size fits all approach to licensed premises which is killing off our community pubs. Instead responsible well-run community pubs should be encouraged and supported.

'Our research shows community pubs aren't just places to drink but also places where people meet their neighbours; where local clubs hold meetings and events; and which support many important local services such as village post offices and general stores.'

## CORNISH BREWER FLOATS TO VICTORY!

Driftwood Spar brewery's 'Alfie's Revenge' has been crowned the Supreme Champion Winter Beer of Britain 2012 by a panel of judges at the National Winter Ales Festival in January.

The 6.5% ABV old ale is described in CAMRA's Good Beer Guide 2012 as a 'strong and fruity, well-balanced premium ale'.

Nik Antona, CAMRA Director, praised the outstanding quality of the champion. He said:

'The beer is well-balanced, highly drinkable, and certainly belies its strength. A

worthy winner, I congratulate this thriving Cornish brewer on their success today.'

Driftwood brewery began in 2000 in the famous 17th-century pub, Driftwood Spars, where the team continue to brew. A custom built five-barrel plant, the brewery range has since expanded to ten regular beers.

Pete Martin, Driftwood Head Brewer, was taken aback when hearing of the brewery's success. He said:

'We are thrilled to have won. It makes a big difference to us, and will put our

brewery on the map, as well as Cornish breweries in general, as there are a lot of good brewers in the county. As a brewpub, we hope the impact on our business will be significant.'

Also in the Overall awards, Silver went to Cairngorm brewery's Black Gold, whilst the Bronze medal went to Coniston brewery's No 9 Barley Wine.

A panel of beer writers, members of the licensed trade and CAMRA members judged the competition at the Sheridan Suite, Manchester.

Drinkers at the National Winter Ales Festival will now be able to sample the winning brews, as well as a formidable selection of beers from over 100 breweries, including a range of ciders and perries.

Reigning supreme at the Winter Ales Festival,

Driftwood's Alfie's Revenge, as well as the Overall finalists, will now enter into the final of the Champion Beer of Britain competition at the Great British Beer Festival, Olympia, London, in August.



### Champion Winter Beer of Britain 2012

#### Winners List:

#### Old Ales and Strong Milds category

Gold - Driftwood, Alfie's Revenge (Cornwall)

joint Silver - Nant, Mwnci Nell (LConwy)

joint Silver - Brunswick, Black Sabbath (Derbyshire)

Bronze - Beowulf, Dark Raven (Staffordshire)

#### Porters category

Gold - Hammerpot, Bottle Wreck Porter (West Sussex)

Silver - Blythe, Johnson's (Staffordshire)

Bronze - Sulwath, Black Galloway (Dumfries and Galloway)

#### Stouts category

Gold - Cairngorm, Black Gold (Highlands)

Silver - Cambridge Moonshine, Black Hole Stout (Cambridgeshire)

Bronze - Acorn, Gorlovka (South Yorkshire)

#### Barley Wine category

Gold - Coniston, No 9 Barley Wine (Cumbria)

Silver - Moor, Old Freddy Walker (Somerset)

Bronze - Isle of Skye, Cuillin Beast (Isle of Skye)

#### OVERALL result

Gold - Driftwood, Alfie's Revenge (Cornwall)

Silver - Cairngorm, Black Gold (Highlands)

Bronze - Coniston, No 9 Barley Wine (Cumbria)

# REVIVED WELSH VILLAGE LOCAL SCOOPS CAMRA NATIONAL TITLE

**Pubs from Bedfordshire, Cornwall and Lancashire make up other finalists**

The Bridge End Inn, Ruabon, a small community pub in north Wales, which was transformed by a local family has been announced as the best pub in Britain by CAMRA, the Campaign for Real Ale.

The pub not only enters CAMRA's history books as the first ever Welsh pub to win its National Pub of the Year competition, but having only been re-opened by its current owners in March 2009, becomes one of the most remarkable success stories in the competition's history.

CAMRA's National Pub of the Year competition recognises all the criteria that make a great pub, including atmosphere, decor, welcome, service, value for money, customer mix, but most importantly, the quality of the beer.

The Bridge End Inn was taken over and subsequently revitalised by the McGivern family in 2009, with the pub earmarked as the ideal premises for the family microbrewery – McGivern Ales – overseen by son Matthew. Having reopened the pub 5 weeks after taking it on, the McGivern family were praised by CAMRA members for restoring the pub's interior, and for introducing an extensive real ale and cider range.

Now serving 7 real ales and a selection of local ciders at any one time, the pub

has stocked real ales from over 100 breweries since opening, with a particular emphasis on local produce. As well as acting as the brewery tap for McGivern Ales, other breweries from north Wales, Cheshire and Shropshire feature prominently at the bar.



Peter McGivern, Bridge End Inn licensee, said: *'We are a family business, and the pub has been a real labour of love. What we strived to do was create a pub not focused on food that we would enjoy visiting, putting the product first and offering a wide range of traditional beer styles. As*

*a result we've built up a mixed trade of locals and beer lovers from all over Britain.*

*'We are delighted with this national award, particularly as we were told when first taking on the pub that there was little demand for real ale in the area. Through a lot of passion and hard work for what we do, we've enjoyed great success in a short space of time, which couldn't have been achieved without the support of family, close friends, staff and customers.'*

Hailing the success of the pub, Julian Hough, CAMRA Pubs Director, said: *'The pub is an unbelievable success story, and is a perfect case study of a local outlet playing a pivotal role at the heart of a small community. By investing time into*

providing a quality beer range full of choice, the pub in a short space of time has become revered across Britain by many beer lovers. I offer my personal congratulations to the Bridge End Inn for such rapid progression in taking CAMRA's national pub title.'

Bridge End Inn, 5 Bridge Street, Rubabon, Wrexham, LL14 6DA, 01978 810881 [www.mcgivernales.co.uk](http://www.mcgivernales.co.uk)

The Bridge End Inn beat 3 other finalists this year to claim the crown. These pubs are-

**Engineers Arms**, 68 High Street, Henlow, Bedfordshire, SG16 6AA  
Tel. 01462 812284,

[www.engineersarms.co.uk](http://www.engineersarms.co.uk)

**Front**, Custom House Quay, Falmouth, Cornwall, TR11 3JT  
Tel. 01326 212168

**Swan with Two Necks**, Main Street, Pendleton, Lancashire, BB7 1PT  
Tel. 01200 423112,

[www.swanwithtwonecks.co.uk](http://www.swanwithtwonecks.co.uk)

## THANET BRANCH MEETINGS & ACTIVITIES

Open to all unless otherwise stated

**Wednesday 25 April 2012**

**Mid-week Walk**

Meet Herne Bay Station at 11.40 for walk to Butcher's Arms (as described in this issue)

**Wednesday 2 May 2012**

**Social**

Bake & Alehouse, Westgate 8pm

**Wednesday 23 May 2012**

**Mid-week Walk**

Meet Sandwich Station at 10.50 for walk to Crown at Finglesham & back.

**Wednesday 6 June 2011**

**Social**

Broadstairs Walkabout - Start 7.45pm at Wrotham Arms, Ramsgate Road and then visit other pubs finishing at Tartar Frigate 9.45.

Visit our Website [www.thanet-camra.org.uk](http://www.thanet-camra.org.uk) for further details and other activities beyond June.

## Guest the Pub Answers

1. Bake & Alehouse, Westgate 2. Great Tree, Ramsgate 3. New Inn, Minster 4. Conqueror Alehouse, Ramsgate 5. Saddlers, Minster

## Conundrum Answers

1. Medway Queen 2. St. Lawrence Cricket Ground 3. Pegwell Bay 4. Hever Castle 5. Charles Dickens 6. Moth 7. Westenhamer 8. Blithe Sprit 9. River Medway 10. Dr. Syn



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BRANCH EVENTS: Visit our website at [www.thanet-camra.org.uk](http://www.thanet-camra.org.uk) or contact Debbie on 01843 591731 for further details.

BRANCH DETAILS: Chair: Julian Dungey; Treasurer & Secretary: Debbie Aris; Membership Secretary: Jo Dungey; Pubs Officer and Ale of Thanet Editor: Steve Saunders. All correspondence should be addressed to: Thanet CAMRA c/o 89 High Street St Lawrence Ramsgate Kent CT11 0QR Tel: 01843 591731 Email us at: [branch@thanet-camra.org.uk](mailto:branch@thanet-camra.org.uk) or visit our website.

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**4c Grange Rd Ramsgate CT11 9LR**  
**07890 203282**

**[www.conqueror-alehouse.co.uk](http://www.conqueror-alehouse.co.uk)**

# Broadstairs Beer Festival 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> March 2012

After the massive success of last year's three-day event, the Pavilion is once again holding the Broadstairs Beer Festival. The 2012 festival will be brought to you on exactly the same ideas and intentions as the last: GOOD BEER + GOOD MUSIC + GOOD FOOD.

There will be a selection of seven ales with an ABV range of 3.7% to 6.2% Black Pearl from local brewer Gadds, along with a couple of ales from the Oakleaf Brewery of Gosport, plus beers from Titanic Brewery from Stoke on Trent, The Leeds Brewery and Camerons Brewery from Hartlepool. While the festival's main sponsors: Adnams Brewery from Southwold in Suffolk will have an interesting selection of real ales including new rising star, Sole Star which has a ABV of 2.7%. and from Edinburgh, The Caledonian Brewery will be supplying us with their Dutchman a 4.5% ABV and others from the Caledonian family. The live music will include the Jeff Barker Band on Friday night while 'the Bub-

ble Band will be performing on Saturday afternoon whereas one of Thanet's iconic blues band - 'Broken Biscuit' will be performing at The Pavilion in the evening.

Sunday will be the final day of the festival, a fun family day with an 'Open Wired' session starting at 1.00pm where local musicians will be playing live music through the afternoon until 5.00pm. A £2.00 wristband buys you access all weekend to the Broadstairs Beer Festival watch the musicians, try some great beer and soak up the festival atmosphere.

The wristbands are now available to purchase at The Pavilion, Harbour Street, Broadstairs.

Please like us on Facebook, Follow on twitter - @broadstairspav And of course keep up to date at [www.broadstairsbeerfestival.co.uk](http://www.broadstairsbeerfestival.co.uk) and [www.pavilion-broadstairs.co.uk](http://www.pavilion-broadstairs.co.uk)

## A Campaign of Two Halves

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Alternatively you can send a cheque payable to CAMRA Ltd with your completed form, visit [www.camra.org.uk/joinus](http://www.camra.org.uk/joinus) or call 01727 867201. All forms should be addressed to Membership Department, CAMRA, 230 Hatfield Road, St Albans, AL1 4LW.

**Your Details**

Title \_\_\_\_\_ Surname \_\_\_\_\_ Direct Debit:  Non DD

Forename(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Single Membership: £20  £22

Date of Birth (dd/mm/yyyy) \_\_\_\_\_ Joint Membership: £25  £27

Address \_\_\_\_\_ (Partner at the same address)

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Tel No(s) \_\_\_\_\_

**Partner's Details (if Joint Membership)**

Title \_\_\_\_\_ Surname \_\_\_\_\_

Forename(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth (dd/mm/yyyy) \_\_\_\_\_

12/10

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Facebook: ale cider

Sunday to Wednesday 12 noon to 1am - Thursday to Saturday 12 noon to 2am  
We may shut earlier, but never before 10 pm