



West Kent CAMRA
Saturday 26 March 2022
The Ship Centurian, Whistable

Chairman's Report

On Sunday (27th March), the branch members met to discuss all the GBG submissions, submitting the requisite number of pubs for the region having first ensured that all the nominations are open and unlikely to close anytime soon.

The AGM was held a week later, with a change in Deputy Chairman.

Membership Report

Locally, we currently have 597 members, which is approximately a 5% drop on our figure since January 2022.

Pub Report - Pubs, Hotels, Clubs, Breweries, etc. in the news:

- **The Kentish Hare, Bidborough & Sankey's, TW** got a mention for their impending participation in Pub in the Park in July - Times of Tunbridge Wells 16/3/22
- **Royal Oak, TW** owner, Craig Beeson was quoted and pictured in connection with the campaign to save the 285 bus that passes the pub. Some of his regulars rely on the service to get to their community pub - Courier 25/3/22
- **Pig & Porter Brewery, TW** was the subject of a half page report saying it is going from strength to strength after launching three new beers named after hit songs. Brewer Dan is leaving for pastures new but things will go on. They also announced their open day on Saturday 9th April and trade customers will be welcome the day before - Times of Tunbridge Wells 30/3/22
- **Sankey's, the Sussex Arms and the Ragged Trousers, TW** were mentioned in an article about burger restaurant, Roddyburger. It started by renting kitchen space in Sankey's then moved to the Sussex, from where they supplied burger meals in the two Pantiles pubs - Courier 1/4/22
- **Cassidy's Sports Bar, TW** was the subject of a full page feature that amongst other things said it serves real ales, but I wonder if they meant craft beers - SO Magazine April 2022
- **Fuggles, TW & Tonbridge** are supporting the relief effort for Ukraine by importing a stock of beer from Ukrainian brewery, VARVAR Brew with a donation going to relief charity, Drinkers For Ukraine, from every bottle sold - Times of Tunbridge Wells 6/4/22
- **Sankey's, TW** got a double mention - they're the headline sponsor of The Spring Food Festival in the Pantiles on May 14th & 15th and they also got the usual mention for their forthcoming participation in Pub in the Park. The other local participant, **the Kentish Hare, Bidborough** was also mentioned and it got another mention a week later - Times of Tunbridge Wells 6/4/22 & 13/4/22
- **The Opera House, TW** is celebrating its 25th Anniversary since Wetherspoons opened it as a pub on April 11th. There will be decorations and charity fund raising events - Times of Tunbridge Wells 6/4/22



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- **The Beer Seller, Tonbridge** was the latest pub to be scrutinised by the "Secret Drinker" and he found it very much to his taste, enjoying a couple of the ales and a bit of lively banter - KM 7/4/22
- A new craft beer and natural wine tap bar and restaurant plans to open in a former burger bar at 102 Calverley Road, Tunbridge Wells under the ownership of Allkin Brewing, the team formerly behind Good Things Brewing. They plan to hold tastings of beers from the Allkin brewery - Kentlive 21/4/22
- SVR Beer Festival got a brief mention at the end of an online article about "The 10 best attractions to visit in the historic Tunbridge Wells region" - checklists.co.uk 23/4/22
- **The Nelson Arms, Tonbridge** was one the pubs recommended in an article that seemed to be based on the Kent CAMRA branches' Pubs of the Year 2022, entitled "Kent's top pubs for a real ale on St George's Day" - Kentonline 23/4/22
- **The Royal Oak, TW** was surveyed by the "Secret Drinker" and found to be up to scratch and to his liking, rating it an excellent community pub - KM 21/4/22
- **The Opera House, TW** came in for some credit in a letter to the correspondence pages from the man (Brian Bissell) who abseiled down it in a batman suit in 2012 as part of the Tunbridge Wells festival that year. He was invited to its official opening 25 years ago, remains a regular customer and has been involved in charity fund-raising shows there. He heralded the 25th anniversary along with some other anniversaries in the town this year - Courier 22/4/22
- SVR Beer Festival got a brief mention in the latest CAMRA podcast that was about railways in connection with beer - CAMRA Podcast 4/5/22
- **The Beacon, Rusthall** is taking part in the Pantiles Food & Drink Festival mentioned above. **Sankey's** also got another mention - Times of Tunbridge Wells 11/5/22
- **The Grasshopper on the Green, Westerham** is one of 60 venues nationwide to benefit from a generous gesture by singer Paul Heaton of Beautiful South and the Housemartins. He's celebrating his 60th birthday by putting money behind the bar so that punters can enjoy a drink on him until the money runs out - KM 12/5/22
- **The Queen's Head, Five Oak Green and the Cask & Glass Off-licence, Tonbridge** were sold at auction and their future is uncertain - Kentonline 6/5/22 & Courier 13/5/22

Pubs News Since Last Meeting

28/3/22 The King's Arms, Shoreham is temporarily closed due to a fire.

10/4/22 The Rock, Chiddingstone Hoath is being taken over by the owner of the Leicester Arms, Penshurst.

17/4/22 The King & Queen, Edenbridge has work ongoing. Could it be reopening?

11/5/22 The Bullfinch, Riverhead is being refurbished and will be closed between 23rd - 30th May.

13/5/22 Fonthill Brewery Tap, TW opened in the courtyard beside the George at 5pm today with 4 cask and two keg beers.



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Local Cider Report – Keith Ennis

No report this meeting

Next Meeting	July 2022	Sevenoaks
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AOB

A few of the branch members have re-started the local Camra Occasional Pub Surveyors (COPS). This has received various levels of attendance, but even on the day of the storm Eunice, four gallant explorers managed to attend. Having proved very popular before Covid, the group are now looking to continue these events which are open to anyone (members or not). Further outings have been arranged on a fortnightly basis for the next few months.

West Kent CAMRA Branch Calendar 2020

Month	Key Dates	Branch Committee Meetings (1)	Socials (2)	Brewery visits (3)	Festival visits
June		SVR meeting			2 nd -5 th Halfway House Brenchley, Jubilee Beer Festival
July		Mon 13 th – Sevenoaks			
August		SVR meeting			
September		Mon 12 th – Tonbridge – tba SVR meeting	Thu 15 th Tonbridge crawl		
October	7-9 th SPA Valley Festival				Spa Valley
November					
December			Thu 8 th TW Xmas drinks		

Notes

- (1) All Branch Committee meetings provisionally scheduled for Monday. Socials to be either on a fixed date each month e.g 2nd Thursday . Socials at popular GBG pubs to be added to coincide with pub events throughout the year.
- (2) Country pub visit over summer months and/or by COPS visits

Branch Email: campaign@camrawestkent.org.uk

Branch Website: www.camrawestkent.org.uk

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(3) Brewery visits to be added to include Spa Valley Festival winners presentations