



FREE



# East Kent Drinker

North East Kent CAMRA branch news

WINTER 2025/26 ISSUE 5



Andy and Melissa Smith – owners of the Royston Micropub with their Regional Pub of the Year award



**LONG MAN BREWERY**  
NATURALLY EXCELLENT BEER



Now serving across Kent



Award winning beer,  
brewed with our own  
regeneratively farmed barley  
{ Find out more

**10% OFF**

ONLINE  
USE CODE  
**EK2140D**  
longmanbrewery.com

## Welcome

Hello Dear Reader,

Thank you for opening up our latest edition of our East Kent Drinker magazine covering Canterbury, Swale and Thanet.

We trust that you find much to titillate your interest with a variety of articles and adverts showcasing the vibrant real ale drinking scene in this part of the Garden of England.

Just some of the many local pubs and breweries are represented here, we have great love for what they work so hard to provide and for selfish reasons what we strive to support. Without their efforts life would be a sadder, grimmer place.

We also include some news of local events, pub news and examples of the many social events that happen in our area, that are open to all to join on a little journey of discovery – of places, beers and above all people.

As we come up to that special time of year, here is wishing all a happy, jovial and beery Christmas. See you in a pub somewhere.

Cheers.



## Events diary

Follow the links or scan the code for the latest information:

### CANTERBURY, HERNE BAY, AND WHITSTABLE BRANCH:

[canterbury.camra.org.uk/viewnode.php?id=264780](http://canterbury.camra.org.uk/viewnode.php?id=264780)



### SWALE BRANCH:

[swale.camra.org.uk/diary](http://swale.camra.org.uk/diary)



## Contents

- 4 Pub and Brewery News** – What is happening around East Kent
- 12 Dover, Deal and Sandwich News** – News from our neighbouring branch
- 14 The New Inn Beer Festival** – Rory Kehoe reports on a local Bank Holiday beer festival
- 17 Faversham Hop Festival** – CAMRA's regular beer and cider bar at the annual hop event
- 18 Canterbury charity Cricket Tent** – CAMRA raising funds for national charities at Kent Cricket Week
- 21 Lou's Ale Tour Part 3** – Louise Coleman continues her travels around the pubs and breweries of Briton
- 22 Broadstairs Micro Pubs** – Andrew Smith and Glen Marshall relate their experiences of running popular micropubs in the town.
- 27 Whatever Happened to Our Breweries** – Brina Snipson shares his recollections of the local brewery history
- 28 The Ultimate Beer Lovers Guide to Brugge** – John Sissons provides a comprehensive guide to the beer and bars of the famous Belgian city
- 30 Light at the Bottom of the Barrel** – Denis Palmer examines drinking habits across the generations
- 33 Beer Styles** – Christine Cryne explains the wide range of different beer styles
- 36 Canterbury Instagram** – introducing local beer news on social media  
**CAMRA can help you find a pub** – a guide to CAMRA's new online beer guide
- 38 Last Orders in St Dunstan's** – we say farewell to a well known local real ale

## Contact

### CAMRA BRANCH CONTACTS

**Canterbury, Herne Bay, and Whitstable branch:**

[branch.contact@canterbury.camra.org.uk](mailto:branch.contact@canterbury.camra.org.uk)

**Swale branch:**

[contact@johnsissions@sky.com](mailto:contact@johnsissions@sky.com)

**Thanet branch:**

[branch.contact@thanet.camra.org.uk](mailto:branch.contact@thanet.camra.org.uk)

### EAST KENT DRINKER CONTACT

For article submission, advertising enquiries and subscription requests: [nekcama@outlook.com](mailto:nekcama@outlook.com)

### EDITORIAL TEAM

Louise Coleman, Denis Palmer, Glyn Parry

**COVER PHOTOGRAPH** by Julian Stone

### DESIGN & LAYOUT

Lizzy Tweedale  
[lizzytweedaledesign@gmail.com](mailto:lizzytweedaledesign@gmail.com)

### PRINTING

Broad Oak Colour, Units A & B  
254 Broad Oak Road, Canterbury, CT2 7QH  
[www.broadoakcolour.com](http://www.broadoakcolour.com)

East Kent Drinker is published on behalf of the Canterbury, Herne Bay and Whitstable, Swale and Thanet branches of CAMRA. CAMRA is a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee and registered in England; company no. 1270286. Registered office: 230 Hatfield Road, St. Albans, Hertfordshire AL1 4LW.

### DISCLAIMER & COPYRIGHT

The views expressed in this magazine are those of their individual authors and are not necessarily endorsed by the editorial team or CAMRA. All contents © Canterbury, Herne Bay and Whitstable, Swale and Thanet branches of CAMRA

### TRADING STANDARDS

If you have a complaint about any unfair trading practice, such as short measures, absence of a clearly displayed price list or misleading product promotion, please contact: [citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/](http://citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/) or call the helpline on 03454 04 05 06

### ADVERTISING

**Rate Card per issue:**

Back Cover	£200	Half Page	£75
Full Page	£120	Quarter Page	£45

## Pub News

**Royston Micropub**, Broadstairs – It is always a pleasure to report good news and great achievement. The Royston Micropub has punched far above its weight in Camra's awards for Pub of the Year (POTY) 2026. Not content with being Thanet reigning POTY it has now been judged best in East Kent, Kent and then the whole Southeast region of Surrey, Sussex and Kent, getting to the last 16 of best pubs in the Country only narrowly falling short of progressing further. Outstanding.

### Canterbury, Whitstable and Herne Bay Branch

**Cosmic Sailor** is the latest Herne Bay micro pub, opened on 29th August at 121 Mortimer Street. Landlord David Sheehan is offering live music with local ales, cider and coffee with a cosmic theme.

**The Canterbury Tales** (opposite the Marlowe Theatre), closed since March is undergoing an extensive refurbishment by owners, Star Pubs, and plans to re-open in time for the panto season. The new look interior of this listed building will host live entertainment, televised sporting events as well as food.

**The Kings Head** in Wincheap, reputed to be Canterbury's oldest pub was closed and put up for sale back in June 2022 at an asking price of £425,000. Having failed to attract a buyer this 600 year old listed building had its ACV status removed by Canterbury City Council and was auctioned off in September for £265,000. The buyer and their future intentions for this historic pub remain a mystery but hopes remain that it can survive.

**The Royal Oak** at Blean Common, a regular venue for the Canterbury branch Christmas dinner, unexpectedly closed its doors this summer with the sudden departure of tenants, Chris and Tracy Steed. The intentions of owners is unknown since no sale of letting has been publicised, although rumour has it that the adjacent housing developer, Fernham Homes, have an interest.

**The Eight Bells**, London Road, Canterbury. A regular entry in the Good Beer Guide, the future of this cosy Victorian local hangs in the balance. With a price tag of £265,000 the owners, Admiral Taverns, have been trying to sell the pub for the last 6 months and with veteran landlady Kim Truelove due to retire concern is increasing over whether the pub can remain open. Offers now being sought in the region of £250,000 for the freehold.

Latest news as we go to press. An offer has been received for the Eight Bells from an established pub owner from Essex. The plan is to continue to operate the business as a local pub. More news in the next edition.

**Butchers Arms**, Herne. Micropub pioneer, Martyn Hillier MBE is seeking to preserve the future of this acclaimed forerunner by crowdfunding a purchase of the building which has been on the market for the past year. Martyn intends to continue operating the pub during this course of action. Opening hours are limited to 6–8pm plus drinking up time, Wed–Fri. Note that this pub is cash only.

**Seven Stars**, Orange Street, Canterbury. The freehold of this popular night time spot is for sale with an asking price of £1.215m as an investment. Currently leased and operated by Charles Smythe (ABV Bars Ltd), who also runs the Dolphin and Old City Bar. The business remains unaffected.

**The Penny Theatre**, Northgate, Canterbury, dating back to Napoleonic times, is available to lease through pubco Stonegate. A tied and turnover tenancy is being offered for this live music venue at an expected rent of £61,000 per annum + overheads.

**The Chequers Inn**, Petham. After having two planning applications refused and two appeals turned down the speculative owners have put the pub back on the market at an asking price of £450,000. ▶



**NIKKI & WILL**  
**WELCOME YOU TO**

**THE**  
**MAGNET**

**Serving a selection of  
cask ales, ciders, gins  
and much much more.**



**Like us  
on  
Facebook  
for up  
to date  
guest  
beers  
ciders  
& events**

**OPENING HOURS Mondays to Thursdays  
12 noon - 10.30pm Fridays and Saturdays  
12 noon - 11pm Sundays 12 noon - 10pm**

**The Magnet 37 Albion St, Broadstairs CT10 1NE  
01843 600 527 Email [themagnetmicropub@gmail.com](mailto:themagnetmicropub@gmail.com)**

**f Themagnet    t Themagnetbroadstairs**

**📷 themagnetbroadstairs**

# The Belle and Lion

22-24 High Street, Sheerness, ME12 1NL

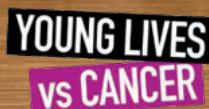
01795 665486

Standing proudly on Sheerness High Street, The Belle & Lion remains one of the Isle of Sheppey's busiest and best-known pubs. Part of the Wetherspoon estate, it's long been a familiar stop for both locals and visiting real-ale fans — and now, under Liam's new management, it's looking to build further on its strong reputation for good beer and friendly service. The Belle & Lion boasts twelve handpumps, serving a reliable mix of regular and guest ales. Expect to find staples such as Abbot Ale, Ruddles Best and Sharp's Doom Bar, complemented by rotating guests that might include offerings from both dependable national favourites or local Kentish brewers.

Sunday – Thursday: 08:00am – 12:00am, Friday – Saturday: 08:00am – 1:00am



goodfoodtalks drinkaware



SCAN ME

## Thanet Branch

**Rodney**, Garlinge – Closed in March with the landlord indicating this was not under any adverse circumstances but more a time for change. The impressive animal menagerie in the beer garden, including the two pigs were all re-homed. The bad news – in November planning application F/TH/25/1030 seeks to bring an end to the pub and install five two-bedroom flats plus a micro brewery. The ground floor micro brewery is not intended to be tap room or public house. Please consider objecting via [planning.services@thanet.gov.uk](mailto:planning.services@thanet.gov.uk).

**Good Space**, Ramsgate – Opened in April. It is run by No Frills Joe Brewing Co, based in Greenhithe, Kent. This is a contemporary styled craft beer bar and interestingly features a beer canning device for beer take-outs.

**Bell Inn**, St Nicholas at Wade – re-opened in April and is still selling cask ales. It featured in the first Good Beer Guide (GBG) in 1974 and numerous times since then.

**Britannia**, Margate – Planning permission was granted in May for change of use to become residential dwellings. In 2024 a similar application was refused on the grounds of loss of community facility and lack of marketing. This year agents for the new owners confirmed that they had sought a buyer for the pub via specially placed adverts in trade magazines rather than using online estate agent listings, but sadly a buyer couldn't be found. Part of this second application was a repeat of the mantra that members of the local community can just go somewhere else. A sad loss.

**Fermentorium**, Ramsgate – A New venue which opened in May specialising in craft beers. Thanet CAMRA supported their licensing application saying "it will take over an unused premises and bring more trade to King Street whilst expanding choices for visitors and locals alike". So, good luck to Mike and Charlotte Jones.

**Powell**, Birchington – Re-opened in July with cask ales available.

**Ales of the Unexpected**, Margate – Jez Goodsell has sold his share of the pub to business partner Craig Goodburn. The Unexpected was the first reserve for Thanet's 2026 GBG entries but there was not space enough to include it.

**Forno Lounge**, Broadstairs – Opened in July. On offer is great looking food, views of the sea and various keg offerings from Heineken.

**Last Light**, Margate – Opened in July. It is understood to be serving craft beers from Kent breweries and is associated with the nearby Picnic bar.

**Vale Tavern**, Ramsgate – Unexpectedly closed in August and was cleared out overnight. Its last landlord started in Dec 2022. It is now being advertised with an annual tenancy of £31K plus a one-off payment of £8.5K. As update – a new landlord has taken on the pub and it's expected to reopen in November.

**Promenade**, Margate – This pub no longer exists. It was at one time the Margate venue for various local CAMRA meetings and latterly sold cask beers from Adnams and Sharp's. It closed in July 2024 and has now been replaced with Premier Inn guest rooms.

**New Stag**, Monkton – Closed unexpectedly exactly twelve months after opening in Aug 2024.

**Crown Inn**, Sarre – Owned by Shepherd Neame, it had new tenants in March 2023. In August this year Sheps announced that the pub is for sale for £750K. The pub remains open for now. Worryingly it has a substantial car park and garden.



**Sheldons**, Margate – The entire large building where the pub is situated, including the pub, is for sale and comes with planning permission for new upstairs flats. It seems though that the pub has a lease until 2033 and, fingers crossed, should not be affected by this. Sheldons is in the 2012 GBG.

**Elephant and Castle**, Ramsgate – This real ale venue is being advertised for £375K and is currently a Thorley's pub. It is uncertain what will happen after the sale takes place. ►

**Ravensgate Arms**, Ramsgate – This currently empty listed pub has linked planning applications F/TH/25/0899 and L/TH/25/0900. These seek to split the building's use to public house and a separate dwelling. Thanet CAMRA have raised the objection that if this were to go ahead, noise nuisance laws which rightly favour home owners, would make running the pub fairly impossible and also that living conditions in the flat would not be adequate.

**Camden Arms**, Ramsgate – Re-opened on 11 October following closure in June 2024. Heineken offerings, including the new Heineken Original (keg beer). Jo Park is the manager and on the premises licence is the building's long standing owner Keith Clark. No cask ales yet.

**Four Candles**, St Peters – Opened in 2012 by Mike Beaumont this micro brew pub was put up for sale in October, or rather the business is for sale but whether this includes the lease on the building is not clear at the moment.

## Swale Branch

Having moved into autumn and winter, like many pubs around the country, Swale pubs are altering their times of business, especially the smaller and countryside venues. We suggest checking on venue web sites before journeying out, to make sure you are not disappointed to find pubs shut for the day. These are challenging times for all and a little attention to detail can make sure you find an open pub with a warm welcome.

A well-known pub has been taken over by an established eatery owner who aims to bring "love and community" back to the venue. Topel Raif, from Meopham, is now the new landlord of the **Dover Castle Inn** in Teynham. "We're going to start a curry and quiz night, as well as a jazz and wine night. We're also going to restart the darts team". The pub is



also looking to incorporate some live entertainment at the weekends and is going to try to keep the community involved in what they're doing.

Topel also has further plans to regenerate the garden at the rear of the pub and make it more child friendly. The old coaching inn, which is owned by brewery giant Shepherd Neame, has been serving punters on the A2 between Sittingbourne and Faversham since the 1640s. Over the years, it has been passed between a number of landlords.

Phil Clements took on the venue in September 1994, alongside Paul Gunner and James Roberts. After nearly 20 years, they called time in January 2014 and had one last send-off. Day-to-day running of the pub was then handed to Phil Hope and his partner, Rebecca. It was then taken over by Kelly Tompkins and her partner Stuart George in 2017; however, they gave it up in 2023 to focus on running the bar at the Tudor Rose in Borden full-time. By March 2024, customers welcomed back Mr George as landlord once more.

Topel quoted "I'm very excited for this new journey. I've never owned a pub before, so this is a new venture for me.". Originally from Blackfen, Topel moved to Meopham in 2020. He has been a part of the hospitality industry for the last 11 years.

Despite the cost of running a business increasing, Topel is confident that the pub is heading in the right direction. "There's pressure, but I see potential in this site," he said. "It's just been a hard few years for this industry; some things have doubled in price. It's a beautiful venue and we have some exciting plans coming."

**The Dover Castle Inn is open Monday to Thursday, from 12pm to 10.30pm, Friday and Saturday, from 12pm to 11pm, and Sunday, from 12pm to 9pm.**

A group of regulars from **The Pilots' Rest** micropub in Sheerness, located their passports and journeyed out to the East Kent coast recently. The intrepid party of a dozen or so, visited a number of pubs including The Time & Tide Taphouse, The Just Reproach in Deal and ended up at The Berry in Walmer. By all accounts, there were no incidents to report, just a group of very happy 'quality control representatives' all reporting that beers were in fine fettle. Landlord Neil 'Rock' Webb is now working hard on the next event. To keep up to date with what's going on, including the regular vinyl nights, just look at the events list on The Pilots' Rest Facebook page.

### Wetherspoons in Swale. More success for Sittingbourne and Sheppey pubs.

Have you a word for what Wetherspoons means to you? We here in Swale have a fair few – and they are all good. Now, we expect some of you have thought about the food offerings, with the good meals at low prices that come as standard at any branch of Tim Martin's chain, or the range of real and keg ales and beers that are to be found from Aberdeen to Yeovil. Of course you have.

Let us update you on two of these attractive and uniquely named offerings here in Swale that are both going further than they have ever done before.

Let's start with sincere congratulations to Sam Comber and the team at **The Golden Hope**, located on the corner of High Street and Park Road in Sittingbourne. With a great range of regular and ever-changing guest ales, Sam and the team, are firm believers that it is not just cheap beer that customers are looking for, it has to be of the best possible quality as well. And it is! So much so that

the Golden Hope is now to be found in the new 2026 edition of the prestigious Good Beer Guide. As beer drinkers know, unless your beer is spot on, you do not get into the GBG, as it is fondly known. So, congratulations to all at The Golden Hope.

Over in Sheerness, **The Belle and Lion** in the High Street has a new manager. His name is Liam McCullough, and he is already setting new records. So far, there have been changes to beer dispense and quality control. Beer selection has been tweaked, and customers can now even ask for their beer choice to be put on sale if it is possible. We have already seen collaboration beers on sale from Batemans and Blue Coast Brewing in France, along with Elgoods of Cambridge who have teamed up with Young Henrys in Australia. Both brews have been well received with customers.

Both Liam and Sam are cask drinkers themselves and are passionate about their trade. The rewards are there for the customers as they appreciate the quality in a glass!

#### OPENING TIMES

Monday to Thursday  
from 1pm

Friday, Saturday and  
Sunday from 12pm

#### ADDRESS

**3 Canterbury Road,  
Whitstable, CT5 4HJ**

10 minutes walk from  
Whitstable train station

On main bus routes  
into Whitstable

#### CONTACT

07947 984991



Find us on Facebook:  
The Handsome  
Sam Micropub -  
Whitstable



# THE HANDSOME SAM MICROPUB



# Brewery News

## Canterbury Ales

Canterbury Ales brewed their 1,000th brew in late September. That's well over 2 million pints! To celebrate, Martin the owner, brewed with two of his favourite hops – Mosaic from the US which has uniquely complex aromas and fruit flavours and Nelson Sauvin from New Zealand which is known for its grape and gooseberry flavours. The result is something he says he'd love to sit down in his local and drink. So look out for Canterbury Ale's Autumn Gold 4.3%. An intensely hoppy, fruity gold. Tropical fruit, grape and gooseberry notes on the palette with heavenly floral and fruity aromas.

## Canterbury Brewers

Canterbury Brewers and Distillers launched their 2025 green hop beer, St Eanswythe's Water, a 4.6% pale ale. It is available on draught at the Foundry and also in bottles to enjoy at home. The heritage hops that provide the distinctive local flavour have been carefully grown by the campus community at Canterbury Christ Church University. The brewery also now has its own mushroom farm!



## Chislet Brewery

The brewery plans to open a tap room at their Chislet Business Park site. No fixed date yet, but hopefully in early 2026.

## Cider

Kentish Pip are producing their winter warmer cider, Firespice, a mulled cider with fresh ginger, only 3.4% ABV. No preparation needed, just heat it up. Also check the website (<https://www.kentishpip.co.uk/>) for cider gift boxes and hampers.

## Goody's Ales

Goody's award winning green hop beer, Good Harvest, is available at The Cathedral (Goody's tap room). The beer is brewed with fresh hops from Anna Clinch's farm in Faversham and some from their own hops grown at the brewery. Other beers to look out for are Good Evening (3.4% dark mild with a smooth chocolatey finish), Good Try (3.8% dark hoppy ale with a bit of a kick!), Good King Wenceslas (4.8% mildly spiced Christmas ale) and mulled porter with a big splash of orange Curacao— warm and spicy – delicious for a chilly evening.

**Check the website (<https://www.producedinkent.co.uk/producers/goody-ales-ltd>) for upcoming events at the brewery**

## Musket Brewery

The brewery and tap room at Loddington Farm, Linton closed at the end of October. The lease at Loddington Farm has not been renewed due to the increasingly challenging business environment.

## Northdown Brewery

Jonny and Katie were instrumental in setting up the first Margate Tap Takeover in 2024. In 2026 it will be in its Third year. Held at Easter in venues all-round the town with breweries from all over the country taking part. Their acclaimed Squidly Diddy 5.8% IPA won Gold at SE 2025 SIBA awards in the cask IPA category and goes forward to National Finals in March.

## Ramsgate Brewery

Thanet's oldest and largest Brewer. December brings the launch of Little Cracker 5.0% Christmas Red Ale Eddie Gadd's superb Black Pearl 6.2% won Gold at the CAMRA London and South East Champion Beer of Britain judging in the Strong Stouts and Porters category and goes forward to National Judging.

### Shepherd Neame

The full year results for the company (to 28 June 2025) show a decline in revenue of -4.6% over the previous period. Underlying profitability (EBITDA) grew slightly by 1.4%. Despite a decline in volume beer sales the pub/retail part of the business saw growth of 4.4%. The London pub estate showed particular growth in sales. Creekside IPA has now been added as a permanent cask ale.

### Shivering Sands

Situated near Manstall airfield the brewery is a labour of love for Gary Gould. Excellent core range of beers, Spring Tide 3.8%, Maunsell Bitter 4.0%, Knock John Amber 4.5%, Estuary Porter 4.5% and Ribersborg Stout 4.7%. Current favourites are Castle Pale Green Hopped and shortly to appear Red Sands Rye American. There is chance that we will be seeing Warden Black IPA 5.5% at some point. Fingers crossed.

### Xylo Brewing

Xylo were instrumental in setting up Margate Tap take overs and remain fully committed to growing the event. Now in their 5th year of brewing, one of only 4 winners of the National Raise the Bar competition and have now been invited to Craft Beer Festivals all over the UK.

### Wantsum Brewery

Wantsum produce an ever changing range quality beers. Look out for Christmas Seasonal beers – Figgy  
 Pudding 4.5%  
 winter ale, Five Grains.0% golden,  
 Baa Humbug 6.0% chocolate vanilla stout, St Nicholas Ale 8% red ale and Festive Plucker 4.0% American Pale Ale.









OPENING TIMES	ADDRESS
Monday to Thursday from 1pm Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 12pm	<b>80 Herne Bay Road,                      Swalecliffe, Whitstable,                      CT5 2LX</b> 100 yards from Chestfield and Swalecliffe Rail Station Bus 400 from Canterbury, Herne Bay and Whitstable Bus stop 50 yards from the pub
CONTACT	Accessibility Compliant
07947 984991  Find us on Facebook: The Brickfield Micropub	

## Pub news from Deal, Dover & Sandwich

"Pubs are also under the hammer as a result of high business rates, energy bills, National Insurance and the Minimum Wage."†



Our local pub scene appears to be buoyant. With a steady churn in the For Sale market and continuing investment in the development of pubs and their businesses. However, this does not reflect the struggles that pubs are going through, on a daily basis, so we could expect to see more closures in the coming months.

Let's keep our fingers crossed.

**Deal.** There was some concern that **The Forester's**, North Deal, which closed in July, would be purchased and converted to housing. Thankfully, the pub was purchased at auction by a consortium of local women, who have continued to run it for the Deal locals'.

**Sandwich.** Work is still progressing at the **Admiral Owen**, Sandwich, which required extensive repairs and renovation following years of neglect.

**Walmer.** **The Berry**, Walmer, is up for sale, but continues to offer everything that we have come to expect from one of the best cask ale pubs in our branch.

**Rural.** New tenants, Ian and Kim, took over the **Chequer Inn**, Ash in May. They've increased the number and quality of their cask ales and have introduced an interesting menu with a Vietnamese twist.

**The Fitzwalter Arms**, Goodnestone, is currently closed following, as we understand it, a dispute over the conditions of the lease.

Work is progressing at the **Hare & Hounds**, Northbourne, where the plans are underway to convert the pub into residential, with a micropub to serve the local people.

### Awards

**Community Pub of the Year Award:** We presented the Carpenter's Arms, Coldred with this award in recognition of a pub that embodies everything that a great community pub should be.



**Branch Pub of the Year Award:** Hoptimist, Dover. Serving up great cask ale along with all the aspects you'd expect to see at a great real ale pub.

**Summer Pub of the Season:** Chance Inn, Guston. As well as being a friendly, rural pub it has a fabulous beer garden complete with skittle alley and putting green.



† An Open Letter to the Rt Hon Rachel Reeves, MP, Chancellor of the Exchequer. Roger Protz. What's Brewing 6th October 2025.

# REAL ALE AT THE PETER CUSHING



## JD WETHERSPOON

Award-winning real ales from local and national brewers  
- rotating guest ales, expertly kept and perfectly poured

08:00-23:00 Sunday-Wednesday - 08:00-23:30 Thursday-Saturday

16-18 Oxford Street, Whitstable, Kent, CT5 1DD 01227 24100

VISIT US

## August Beer Festival at the New Inn, Canterbury



Following on from the success of the New Inn's Late May Bank Holiday Beer Festival, local anticipation was running high, in expectation of what licensee, Katrina Maclean, was going to pull out of the hat over the August Bank Holiday. We were not to be disappointed! For many years now, New Inn festivals have always offered a great opportunity to meet friends, clink glasses and sample an interesting range of real ales, sourced from all round the UK, plus local ciders.

This festival was doubly blessed by that rare occurrence: a warm, dry August Bank Holiday weekend! As might be expected, the pub's back garden filled quickly and with this level of enthusiastic support, a lot of thirsty customers rapidly worked their way through some 30 firkins of (cool-jacketed) beer and 10 mini-pins of cider.

As ever, the variety of beers on offer was inspiring, from low ABV session ales, through to couple of challenging 6.2% heavyweights. In between, was



a grand array of 4. somethings, which gave happy festivalgoers the opportunity to appreciate and savour a wide range of beer styles and flavours. The only problem was that the beers kept running out to the point where nothing was left on the garden stillage by Bank Holiday Monday! Happily, Katrina had anticipated this and all seven of her bar handpumps were pressed into service, serving the back-up beers kept in the cellar. This included the heavyweight beers, which, whilst delicious, gave the author of this article an "interesting" cycle ride home!

Once again, Katrina and her New Inn team put together a memorable Bank Holiday festival, with a well-received selection of interesting, tasty beers and flavoursome local ciders, all backed up by lively and enjoyable entertainment. Well done everyone!

It's well worth putting a note in your diaries, that the New Inn will do this all over again in 2026, over the Late May and August Bank Holidays.

**Rory Kehoe**





# THE GOLDEN HOPE

1 Park Rd, Sittingbourne ME10 1DR, 01795 476791

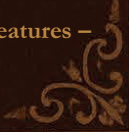



The Golden Hope has once again raised a glass to excellence – officially recognized in the 2026 CAMRA Good Beer Guide for serving consistently outstanding real ale.

Located in the heart of Sittingbourne, The Golden Hope is proud to be a part of the town's thriving pub scene, offering a welcoming, relaxed atmosphere with a strong focus on quality cask ales, our ever-changing line-up of beers features both local and national breweries, ensuring there's always something fresh and exciting to enjoy alongside much loved favourites.


We're passionate about supporting local breweries – sourcing directly from trusted brewers across Kent and beyond, our team regularly takes on board feedback from our customers, helping us choose new ales that match the tastes of those who know best – you! Whether it's a bold new IPA, a smooth traditional bitter, or a seasonal special, we aim to keep our selection as diverse as possible.

Whether you're a seasoned ale enthusiast or just starting your journey into the world of real beer, our knowledgeable team is always ready to offer recommendations & share insights




Join us for our regular ale festivals, tap takeovers and guest brewery features – there's always something brewing at The Golden Hope

By Samuel Coomber, Pub Manager.



**The Bouncing Barrel**  
Herne Bay



in the Canterbury, Herne Bay and Whitstable  
Campaign for Real Ale  
Pub of the year  
Competition 2023

The Bouncing Barrel 20 Bank street CT6 5EA



**REAL CASK ALES  
AND REAL CIDERS  
FROM £4 A PINT,  
SPIRITS, WINES,  
SOFT DRINKS ALSO  
AVAILABLE.**

Live music every Sat and Sun  
from 15:00.  
156 High Street,  
Broadstairs, CT10 1JB,  
Just 160m from station!!

OPEN WED TO SAT 14:00 – 22:30, SUN TO MON 14:00 – 19:30, TUE CLOSED

## Our CAMRA bar at the Faversham Hop Festival

**M**usic, dancers, long bines of fresh vivid green hops – the Faversham Hop Festival is a very colourful free festival held in the streets of Faversham in the last week of August or first week of September, with around 30,000 visitors each year. There is entertainment, camping and dozens of stalls and bars, as well as Faversham’s excellent pubs and food outlets.

Canterbury Branch and Swale Branch of CAMRA have been getting together to run their own bar at the festival for nearly 20 years. The bar must be set up on East Street from scratch each day, so Gary, Simon, Tony and the team arrive at 8am to put up our gazebo, stillage and bar counter. We have cask beer from seven Kent breweries and cider from two Kent cider producers: Chislet, Dudda’s Tun, Kent Cider, Kent Brewery, NorthDown, Ramsgate, Shivering Sands, Tonbridge and Wantsum. Because there’s no time for the beer to settle, all the beers are “bright”, which means they were allowed to settle at the breweries the previous day, then poured off the sediment into fresh casks.

Gill arrives about 9am with other essentials, including reusable plastic Stack Cups pints and halves. We can’t use glass for Health and Safety reasons, and the hop festival is very keen to avoid single-use plastic. It’s also essential to keep the beer cool – we use plastic bags of ice placed on top of the casks.

The bar opens at 10am, like all the other stalls. This might seem a bit early to start, but the festival customers are thirsty, especially the many hop-garlanded dancers who perform on the Dance Stage near our bar. Goths,

morris dancers, jive groups and mummers keep us entertained. The crowds include lots of friendly faces from the local communities. Some customers use our small seating area to enjoy our beer and cider, served by Barry, Howard and other stalwarts from Swale and Canterbury branches.

After a busy Saturday, we close at 5.30pm – so do all the other festival stalls. Then we have to dismantle the bar and move it off site, ready to start again at 8am on Sunday morning. Dismantling the bar at 5.30pm on Sunday is easier – the beer casks and cider boxes are now empty!

Many thanks to the pubs that sponsored us: the Haywain at Bramling, the Ship Centurion at Whitstable, and from Canterbury, The Thomas Tallis, Two Sawyers and Unicorn

**Gill Keay**



## CAMRA Cricket Tent 2025

**Y**ou may have read in our other reports that we've been running hospitality beer and cider tents for CAMRA at Kent County Cricket Club grounds since 1983.

We had our usual tent in June for the 173rd Canterbury Cricket Week. This was a bit different from any tent we've done before – there was a Women's Vitality Blast one-day match at the start of the week. Kent Women played Gloucestershire Women. After the game, the players and staff came over to our tent for a bit of well-deserved hospitality.

After that, there was the four-day County Championship Men's match, Kent played Northamptonshire. It was good to see plenty of Northants CAMRA members at our tent, as well as our Kent members, many of whom have been coming to our

tents for over thirty years.

Our tents are in aid of charity. This year, the surplus was split equally between Alzheimer's Research UK and Cancer Research UK. We are very grateful to the Kentish brewers and cider producers who donated cask beer and cider, also to one pub and one Northants CAMRA member. We presented £1322.50 to each of the two charities.

How did the cricket week go? We always worry about bad weather – but this year the weather was a bit too good. A heatwave meant that we had to keep icepacks on the beer casks and renew them twice daily. It was often hard work to find a supermarket or cash and carry that hadn't run out of ice.

### Our thanks to the following who donated beer or cider to the tent:

**Breweries:** Broken Drum, Canterbury Ales, Chislet, Fonthill, Goachers, Goodys, Kent, Mad Cat, NorthDown, Pig and Porter, Ramsgate, Shepherd Neame, Tonbridge, Wantsum

**Cider:** Kentish Pip

**Unicorn Inn and Ian Holmes**

**Many thanks to the CAMRA members who gave up their time to work at the tent.**



THE BEST CASK ALES - REAL CIDERS - WINES - SPIRITS - FRESH ROASTED COFFEE

# THE ROYSTON

COFFEE & ALEHOUSE



RANKED #1

2 THE BROADWAY, BROADSTAIRS KENT, CT10 2AD

(TURN RIGHT FROM THE TRAIN STATION AND WE'RE A 2 MINUTE WALK AWAY)

# THE FIVE POINTS BREWING CO —



**For trade customers contact your local wholesaler  
or [orders@fivepointsbrewing.co.uk](mailto:orders@fivepointsbrewing.co.uk)**

**Available now at The Shakespeare  
1 Canterbury Rd, Margate**

**@fivepointsbrew  
[fivepointsbrewing.co.uk](http://fivepointsbrewing.co.uk)**

# Lou's Ale Tour – Part 3: Wales

When I said my third ale tour was a trip to Wales, a lot of my non-CAMRA friends said “you’ll only be drinking Brains the whole time” My CAMRA friends of course knew better!

I did have one pint of Brains in a small pub in Cowbridge and it was perfectly good!

The first pub I visited was **The Prince of Wales** in Aberdare where I received a very warm welcome from Bethan behind the bar and her mum Tina. They were serving beers from a nearby brewery, **Rhymney**. I tried the bitter 4.5% and the Export 5%. Both very good. A delightful start to my trip. Also in Aberdare is the National Tap micropub. Grey Trees Ales were served here, a microbrewery in Aberdare. Can't get more local than that!

Cardiff has many microbreweries but I only had time for two (spent too long in **Cardiff Castle**). **Mad Dog Brewery and Taproom** opposite the castle was a good experience and had a very good stout, Stouty McStoutface, 4.5% oatmeal stout. Around the corner was **Tiny Rebel**, very busy but I had Cwtch Welsh Red Ale. There's a small brewery just outside Newport South Wales, **Hive Mind**. I tried their honey porter, Big Smoke 7%, very smooth honey flavour, really good.

West Wales, and a visit to **Mantle Brewery and Taproom** in Cardigan. I received a warm welcome and tried both available beers. Cwrw Teifi, a 4.5% best bitter, and Rock Steady, a 3.8% golden ale, plus I bought a bottle of Dark Heart 5.2% for later.

**Bluestone Brewing Company** is a microbrewery on a working farm in Cilgwyn. Their Ogham nitro stout 4.1% was one of the best beers I had on the whole trip. I also

tried Red of Heaven 4.2% and Rocketeer Best Bitter 4.6%. They deliver all over UK, a porter and stout will be available for Christmas.

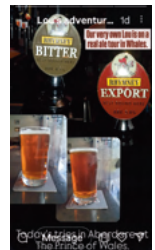
**The Rhos-Yr-Hafod** in Llanon, is the CAMRA Wales Pub of the Year. Well deserved, very friendly and good beer, **Gower Brewery's** Rebecca was my choice, a 4% Pale.

Finally, to North Wales and Porthmadog. Purple Moose Brewery's Taproom and pub, **The Australia**. Five ales available, Elderflower pale 4%, Dark Side of the Moose 4.6% dark bitter, Glaslyn golden best 4.2%, Snowdonia golden pale 3.6% and Madog session 3.7%.

I only had three weeks and clearly only touched the surface of the breweries in Wales.

I will now sound like the Welsh tourist board, Visit Wales. Breathtaking scenery, friendly people and great beers!

**Louise Coleman**





## My First Year at Mind The Gap, Broadstairs

By **Glen Marshall**, Landlord of Mind The Gap Micropub

It's hard to believe that a full year has passed since I took the keys to Mind The Gap in Broadstairs. When I first stepped behind the bar, I knew I was taking on something special. Mind The Gap has long been a fixture of Broadstairs' vibrant pub scene – a true micropub in every sense: good conversation, quality beer, and a friendly welcome.

The real highs of this first year have been the staff and our loyal customers. The team behind the bar have been nothing short of fantastic – knowledgeable, warm, and endlessly patient (especially when I was still learning the ropes!). And our regulars? They're the heart and soul of the place. From lively debates, to quiet chats on a rainy weekday afternoon, it's clear that Mind The Gap is much more than a business – it's a community hub. Watching friendships form, local musicians play, and new faces become familiar ones has been an absolute privilege.

We've been proud to champion the best of local brewing throughout the year, with a rotating line-up of cask from Kent's finest. One of the real joys of running a micropub is the freedom to experiment – whether

it's a crisp session pale one week or a rich, malty bitter the next, there's always something new for our customers to discover. We've also noticed a growing interest in lower-ABV beers and traditional styles, proof that good cask ale never goes out of fashion. Supporting local breweries isn't just about great flavour; it's about keeping the craft and character of Kent's brewing heritage alive.

Of course, it hasn't all been smooth sailing. The challenges facing the UK pub industry are well documented – rising costs, unpredictable energy bills, and changing drinking habits have all taken their toll. Balancing quality, affordability, and sustainability is a daily juggling act.

Yet despite these hurdles, I remain optimistic. This first year has sustained my unrelenting belief that pubs like Mind The Gap still matter. They provide something irreplaceable: a space for real human connection in an increasingly digital world. So here's to the next chapter – more great beer, more laughter, and more moments that remind us why community pubs are worth fighting for.

Cheers to everyone who's supported us this year – we couldn't have done it without you. ►

# MAD CAT BREWERY



*Traditional & Craft Ales*  
**AVAILABLE IN PUBS ACROSS KENT**  
**CAN'T FIND IT? ASK YOUR LOCAL**  
**LANDLORD TO STOCK OUR BEER**  
*OR ORDER FROM OUR RANGE OF BEERS ONLINE*  
[www.madcatbrewery.co.uk](http://www.madcatbrewery.co.uk)



CONTACT US TO FIND OUT MORE ☎ 01795 597743 ✉ [info@madcatbrewery.co.uk](mailto:info@madcatbrewery.co.uk)

HONEYSUCKLE INN RAMSGATE  
TOP NOTCH WINE...  
REAL ALE...  
BRING THE DOG



**OPEN EVERYDAY**



# THE NEW INN

HAVELOCK ST. CANTERBURY



Check us out on [Real Ale Finder.com](http://RealAleFinder.com)

The New Inn is a fully independent, friendly and welcoming free house offering an eclectic mix of well kept ales & ciders, whiskies from around the world and a large selection of gins.

**CANTERBURY AND DISTRICT CAMRA  
PUB OF THE YEAR 2017, 2018 & 2022  
7 REAL ALES**

**DON'T MISS OUR  
SPRING BEER FESTIVAL  
OVER 20 REAL ALES  
CIDERS • FOOD • MUSIC  
FRIDAY 22nd - MONDAY 25th MAY**

**LOCAL CIDERS  
BEER GARDEN**

follow the New Inn on facebook.  
[@thenewinncanterbury](https://www.facebook.com/thenewinncanterbury)



## The Royston, Broadstairs

By Andrew Smith, Landlord of The Royston

After over 20 years as a successful commercial salesman – and surviving a ruptured brain aneurysm – I took a leap of faith to lead a social enterprise project backed by a Kent-based coffee roastery. We took over a prison visits hall canteen to create a more welcoming experience for families, replacing instant noodles and coffee with home-cooked meals and barista-quality drinks. We trained prisoners in food prep, customer service, and barista skills, with 25 completing the SCA Foundation course.

Over three years, we expanded into a second prison. I then joined the coffee roastery, first as operations manager, then in sales. Eventually,

I craved a slower pace and moved back to Broadstairs with a plan: open a coffee shop.

Around the same time, a friend introduced me to real ale and Deal's micropub scene. After visiting Smugglers Records – where cask ale flowed from a fridge – I thought, "If they can serve beer in a record shop, why not a coffee shop?" That's how the idea for a Coffee and Ale House was born.

After a few false starts (including a property with a covenant banning alcohol), I found the right spot – a former gift shop – and opened The Royston Coffee and Ale House in June 2021 after a full refit.

Despite never pulling a pint before, I felt confident. I wanted it to stand out: clean, cosy, dog-friendly, with great beer, coffee, and a thoughtful drink selection – especially for women. The toilet had to be the best in town!

Three years on, we've won the CAMRA Thanet Branch Pub of the Year award every year since opening and now hold the title for the entire Southeast – ranked among the top 16 pubs in the country out of nearly 4,000.

Running a business is hard work, but the joy it brings the community far outweighs the financial rewards. Just read our Tripadvisor reviews – it's a special place for many.



BREWING FRESH, KENTISH ALE FOR TWENTY-FOUR YEARS



**gad** |gad|  
verb (**gadded, gadding**)

[ intrans. ] informal  
go around from one place to  
another, in the pursuit of  
pleasure or entertainment...  
possibly in the search of  
fresh local beer:

‘help out around the house and not  
be **gadding about** the town  
in the search of fresh kentish ale’



**GADDS'**

The Ramsgate Brewery

[WWW.RAMSGATEBREWERY.CO.UK](http://WWW.RAMSGATEBREWERY.CO.UK)

# Whatever happened to our breweries? A personal recollection

Brina Snipson sort of remembers

**A**lthough originally 17th century and owned under different names, Shepherd Neame survives: but what about disappearing brewing names? You could probably find 200 Kent breweries. The “big six” brewers swallowed up smaller businesses. When I was a lad, the Yew Tree at Westbere had adverts for Tomson and Wotton’s Ramsgate brews, taken over by Whitbread in 1968. Working in Ramsgate yonks ago the only signs remaining were glazed brickwork in Queen Street. Cobbs of Margate had the same fate in the same year.

Fremilns, acquired by Whitbread, was previously a Beer & Rigdens brewery. They were still brewing in Faversham when I visited Whitbread Brewery Social Club at Wateringbury but Fremilns Maidstone ceased in 1972. When drinking in the Peacock in Blean, my mate Baz told me it was the last Fremilns decorated pub; it closed in the 80’s. I came across a beer tray with the elephant trademark and an elephant lapel badge in a market. Back to Maidstone, there were other riverside breweries like Style and Winch Medway Brewery.

Another disappearing act which ultimately became Courage and ceased brewing in mid-60’s, Mackeson wasn’t just milk stout but a full Hythe brewery. When visiting Hythe with Baz years ago, Mackeson was painted on the side of a building. Oh yes once again gobbled up by Whitbread, whilst the name Mackeson survived even Whitbread has all but disappeared now.

If you know any local history the name William Baldock crops up: property, smuggling, Canterbury & Whitstable Railway and St Dunstan’s Brewery, later Flint and Co Brewery acquired by Leney of Dover in 1923. Much of the St Dunstan’s Brewery site in Canterbury is still recognisable. Baldock moved to Beer Cart Lane Brewery becoming Rigden & Delmar. There was Canterbury Brewery/Johnson and Co of Northgate; I recall the advertising sign.

George Beer’s Star Brewery in Broad Street,



Canterbury, by the city wall was demolished a century ago, it merged with Rigdens of Faversham. Part of the Beer family, St Augustine Brewery opposite remained as an agricultural engineering works when I was at school. Ash’s Dane John Brewery in the early 20th century I don’t remember, but an old beer bottle turned up in my office roof. No connection, but at Ash there was Gardner and Co Brewery, operating to the 1950’s. Merged with Tomson and Wotton, they ceased brewing at Ash but becoming known for their ginger beer, I recall hearing that finally disappearing in 1968. OK, the stopper in my Ash bottle is a Gardner one!

Walmer brewers Thompson and Son, disappeared in the 1950’s, taken over by Charringtons but not demolished until the 1980’s. My work mentor JB told me that the pub on Dover Road, “Thompson’s Bell” had been named after the brewery shift time bell tower.

Whitstable had Daniels Brewery on Oxford Street, which became part of Johnson and Co. While researching a virtual lockdown pub crawl, I came across the Brewery Tap; subsequently converted into an engineering premises but long gone. Baz pointed out the Herne Bay Brewery building, 18th century but reopened in the early 20th century, trading as Finns and then the Burton Brewery Herne Bay. I went to school with the lad who lived at the off licence also “Brewery Tap”, didn’t see the connection then.

**More brewery interest? Look up Paul Skelton’s [dover-kent.com](http://dover-kent.com); Peter Moynihan’s excellent “Kentish Brewers and the Brewers of Kent” (2011) and “Bygone Breweries” by Keith Osborne**



# THE ULTIMATE BEER LOVER'S TRAVEL GUIDE TO BRUGGE (also known as BRUGES)

**In Belgium, THE country for beer lovers, Brugge is the ultimate city in which to taste the cream of the national brews. John Sissons guides us through the highlights of a recent visit.**

**Bieratelier Brugge** (1) Wijngaardstraat 13, is a fun place on tiny Wijngaardstraat. Claims to open a full 24 hours but always wise to check. A small inside space with some outdoor seating. 12 draught beers are usually available with tasting samples. We enjoyed their Gulden Draak, a sour beer with a cherry flavour. A neat place to sample some great beers. (Open 24 hours closed Thursdays)

**Brouwerij De Halve Maan.** (2) Walplein 26, offers brewery tours, though not recommended for the less mobile as many flights of stairs are involved, ultimately right up to the roof with a fabulous 360 degree view of Brugge. The tour gives a great overview of the history of brewing as well as showing you the processes used in the brewery today. Descend to the brasserie for a free taste of the unfiltered Brugge Zot beer. Yum. Excellent. Reasonably priced food is available; the Flemish beef stew and Chicken Vol au Vent are both personal recommendations. You can stock up on beer and breweriana at the shop on the way out. (11.00–18.00 Sun–Wed. 11.00–21.00 Thurs)

**'t Brugs Beertje,** (3) Kemelstraat 5, I can't say enough good things about this bar. With a mix of tourists and locals just hanging out drinking local beers – with over 300 offered. The menu could be overwhelming, but the staff readily described the

various beer styles and offered recommendations. All that we tasted were delicious. (16.00–24.00 Mon–Thurs. 16.00–01.00 Fri, Sat)

**De Garre,** (4) De Garre 1, down a narrow cobbled walkway and look for a doorway on your left. The posters for Kwak, Val-Dieu, and Gouden Carolus plastered on the entrance are a dead giveaway that you've arrived. A charming two-level bar filled with locals hiding out from the main tourist spots. Exposed brick walls, dark wood bar and printed tablecloths make for a cosy, off-beat place for a beer, or three. It is almost mandatory to order the signature Tripel, brewed exclusively for the bar and is served in a squat wide-brimmed glass. A brilliant and bonkers place with over 200 beers on offer. Very popular and often crowded. (Mon 15.00–23.00 Tue–Sun 12.00–23.00)

**Bruges Beer Experience,** (5) Breidelstraat 3. At this Beer Museum you will learn about the brewing process, the different styles of beer, and food pairings. There's a kids' tour that features a story about the Brugge bear in 10 languages. (10.00–18.00 daily)

**The Duvelorium,** (6) Markt 1. A beautiful beer café based in the Historium centre, a museum and visitor experience in the old Market Square. There's a priceless view of Brugge market square from the panoramic terrace. The full range of Moortgat beers from the home of the famous Duvel beer are available in the Duvel themed cafe. (Open every day 11.00–18.00 with free entry)

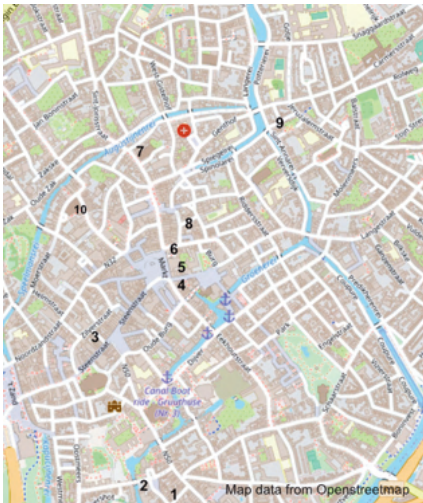
**'t Poatersgat** (7) Vlamingstraat 82. A hidden gem, about 5 minutes' walk from the main market square and one of my favourite bars in the city. Candlelit,



Visit Bruges © Jan Darthet



The Duvelorium



chilled and relaxing and offering a wide range of local Belgian beers on draft and bottles, ciders & spirits. Try one of their flavoured beers – I particularly recommend the peach beer. Note: cash only and opens late (17.00–03.00 daily)

**The Rose Red (8)** Cordoeaniersstraat 16–18. A real must-do Brugge bar experience. The barman was a superstar– likeable, efficient and a fount of beer knowledge. He tells the worst Sean Connery jokes you’ll ever hear. The next day when we were walking by, the barman spotted us and even though the bar wasn’t yet open he came out and dragged us in – “there you go, you’ve had your first ever pre-lock-in”. A busy and friendly bar with good food. (15.00–24.00 daily)

**Café Vlissinghe (9)** Blekersstraat 2. Claims to be the oldest pub in Brugge, Located off the beaten track and away from the tourist centre. Wonderfully traditional, with cheaper beers than many of the other bars. A boules court and an extensive beer menu make this a place to get away from the crowds. (Sun, Wed, Thurs 11.00–18.30, Fri–Sat 11.00–18.30. Closed Monday)

**Le Trappiste (10)** Kuipersstraat 33. Located in an 800 year old medieval cellar close to the main Market Square. With 25 beers on tap and a large range of bottles – many international. A beer lover’s delight. (Mon, Tue, Thurs 17.00–24.00. Fri–Sat 17.00–01.00. Closed Sunday and Wednesday)

## Also worth a visit:

**t Klein Venetie**, Braambergstraat 1. A small friendly city bar on the canal side.

**Yesterday’s World**, Wijngaardstraat 6. Closed Mondays

**2be Bar**, Wollestraat 53. Renowned for its beer wall – hundreds of beers in glass cabinets along the walls. A tourist attraction.

**Bourgogne des Flandres brewery**, Kartaizerinnenstraat 6. Brewery and ale house.

**Brugge is a fascinating city to visit. A UNESCO World Heritage site with beautifully preserved medieval buildings, historic old streets and a network of canals. Not to mention the beer.**

**Brugge is easily reached from the UK by Eurostar to Brussels Zuid/Midi then frequent local train to Brugge.**

## Light at the bottom of the barrel

Much has been made in the mainstream media recently about the supposed demise of real beer. Claiming that younger drinkers are turning their back on cask beer in favour of more trendy, up to date drinks. The 'old farts of CAMRA' crowed one writer, must recognise that 'the cask is running dry'.

Yet at the Faversham Hop Festival, earlier this year, it was noticeable that a large number of the visitors to the CAMRA bar were young people. And not just the CAMRA stand. The numerous craft beer and cider stalls around town also attracted masses of very enthusiastic young drinkers.

But still the food industry perseveres with the belief that what young drinkers really want is some variety of alcoholic fizzyade – an artificial beverage concocted from sugar, fake fruit flavouring, alcohol and vividly unreal colouring.

I would reference Alcopops as an early example of such products, yet I notice that these drinks are about to reappear, resurrected from their previous demise. This time around the sales claims include 'Premiumization' (read higher price) and 'functional drinking' (throw in some odd vitamins and hint at health benefits). I bet you just can't wait.

More firmly nailed down are Hard Seltzers, an American alcopop concept that never really struck a chord here. Then just the other week I spotted a poster campaign for Hard Iced Tea. This was in The Netherlands, but it will surely be available in your local corner shop before long. You have been warned.

The presumed problem for the industry is the lower



consumption of alcoholic drinks amongst younger groups. Generation Z particularly, at least until recently, were thought to be minimal consumers of alcohol. But it is apparent that this is no longer the case. Look around your local pubs and you will spot a whole new, younger generation of drinkers enjoying a wide variety of real ales, bottled and canned beers, cider and craft beers. All good, naturally produced drinks. Given a growing trend towards more healthy, natural foodstuffs perhaps this should not be surprising.

It may not just be me exuding cynicism towards the large drinks producers. Careful consumers, choosing healthy natural foods to eat, are less likely to be seduced by a bottle of unnaturally blue hued alcopop. Real ale is, of course, the ultimate naturally produced drink. Just malt, hops, water and yeast (pleasingly called 'God is good' in bygone days) combine magically to produce a drink that is thoroughly enjoyed by all ages.

**Denis Palmer**



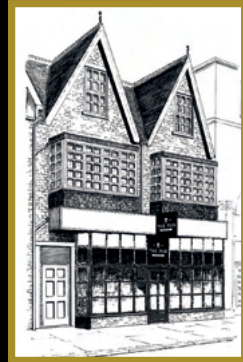
# THE PUB

MICROPUB

73 High St, Herne Bay CT6 5LQ



Follow us on socials @thepubmicropub



“

*Very friendly pub with a great selection of ales, beers and ciders.  
Dog friendly and the atmosphere is very relaxed and inviting,  
highly recommend dropping in!*

”

Pictured below is Richard, the amiable landlord of The Pub, the latest addition to Herne Bay's thriving bar and micro pub scene. Furnished with an eclectic collection of blue-painted vintage furniture and mismatched tall bar-stools, this warm and friendly bar offers a comprehensive range of cask ales, craft ales, ciders, wines and premium spirits, along with mixers, soft drinks and alcohol-free offerings too.



The decor is enhanced by a gallery of works by local artists, all of which are available to purchase.

The Pub Micropub boasts a stereo accompanied by a collection of classic vinyl albums, a sizeable courtyard with ample picnic benches, free WiFi plus dogs are welcome! There are pub games, regular pub quizzes and poker evenings too, supporting local charities.

A wonderful place to while away some leisure time, this unique local gem should be on everyone's list of must-see watering holes!

Opening Times: Tues 4pm - 10pm | Wed, Thurs & Fri 1pm - 10pm  
Sat 12pm - 10pm | Sun 12pm - 8pm

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

# Award winning beers from The Waterworks Brewery



Our **Pissior Porter** has recently won three awards including a **CAMRA Silver Medal for London & South East England** (Stouts & Porters)

We serve our full range of beers in the taproom along with a local lager, ciders, wines, gins and soft drinks. There is also live music every Sunday 3-5pm



**TAPROOM OPENING TIMES**  
**Fri 3-7pm, Sat 2-7pm**  
**Sun 1-5pm**

**BREWERY & TAPROOM**  
 The Old Dairy, Rye Road, Playden,  
 (opposite the old Peace & Plenty) East Sussex TN31 7UL

## Serving 10 local ales & 18 local ciders



Along with our own beers, we serve a good range of ales and ciders, We also have a selection of wines, gins and soft drinks and award winning Scotch eggs and pork pies.



**PUB OPENING TIMES**  
**Mon - Fri from 2pm**  
**Sat & Sun from 12pm**

**RYE'S MICRO PUB**  
 Tower Street, Rye, East Sussex TN31 7AT Tel: 01797 224110

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

# Beer Styles

Have you ever been to the bar and ordered what you thought was a bitter and ended up with a pale yellow coloured beer with grapefruit and mango notes and no characteristics of a bitter at all? Making sure that a drinker gets the sort of beer they were expecting is one of the two reasons for having beer styles. The other reason is so that it makes it less difficult to judge beers. It is far easier to evaluate, say, a mild against another mild rather than a mild, against a bitter, a stout, a blond and a barley wine.

But beer styles are anything but static. The oldest English named beer style could be argued to be Porter, which reportedly, gained its name from the porters who moved goods around London in the 1700's.

Many of styles allocated to beers by brewers have only materialised in the last decade or so. CAMRA's style review in 2019 was designed to encompass as many of both new and old styles as possible and put them together to make it easier to judge for the Champion Beer of Britain (CBOB). Most CAMRA categories encompass more than one beer style, allowing for more 'style fuzziness'.

**To help you get through the minefield, here are the main beer style categories that are being used:**

**Milds** – Can be dark or light but the key characteristic is that it is lightly hopped and 4% ABV or less.

**Bitters** – These are split into two: Session (4.3% and below) and Premium (4.3%–6.4%). Bitters are usually amber to dark brown with a balance of malt, fruit and hops. The fruit must not dominate

**IPAs** – These are strongly hoppy beers often with a high level of bitterness. Traditional British IPAs are amber to dark brown in colour with noticeable malty notes. New World IPAs are paler in colour with noticeable fruity notes.

## Pale Ales, Blonds and Golden Ales

Like bitters, these are split into two: Session (4.3% and below) and Premium (4.3%–6.4). The three beer styles in this category are refreshing, light drinking beers but there can be considerable overlap between them, thus the reason for pulling them all together:

**Pale Ales** – Dark gold to amber in colour, these beers are fruitier than a bitter with noticeable hops. They have a malty character but it is light.

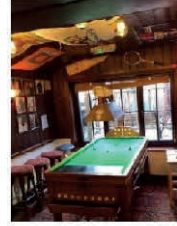
**Golden Ales** – Straw to gold coloured beers with pronounced fruity, citrus hop notes and may have a strong bitterness.

**Blonds** – Similar in colour to Golden Ales but are less fruity with hoppy notes from British or other European hops. ▶





**The Unicorn Inn**  
St Dunstan's  
Canterbury  
Tel: 01227 463187  
unicorinn.com



**A village pub in the heart of  
St Dunstan's**

*"Good Beer; Good Food; Good Times!"*

Follow us on:

Facebook

Instagram

Twitter



Traditional country pub, CAMRA Local POTY award pub, real ales, award winning home cooked food. Quiz nights, a selection of wines. Outside seating area.

**THE HAYWAIN**

Bramling, Canterbury Kent CT3 1NB

01227 720676

[thehaywain@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:thehaywain@hotmail.co.uk)

<http://www.thehaywainbramling.co.uk>

Opening times - Check different meal times

Monday and Tuesday closed

Wednesday to Saturday - Noon - 3.00pm, 6.00pm -11.00pm

Sunday - Noon - 4.00pm

**Beer Festival**  
★ May 14th - 17th  
2026



### Brown and Red Ales, Old Ales and Strong Milds

This category encompasses darker beers, with noticeable malty notes, up to 6.4% ABV. Again, there is a lot of overlap between the styles:

**Brown Ales** – May have fruity flavours such as raisins or sultanas but malt is the dominant flavour and can be sweet with chocolate and caramel notes. American versions have stronger fruity hops present.

**Red Ales** – As with Brown Ales and American Brown Ales, these beers are malty, sometimes with nutty flavours. Usually, less roasty than Brown Ales. Rye may be present, creating tartness. American Red Ales are fruitier and hoppier.

**Strong Milds** – These are milds over 4% ABV and have a light to rich malt character, sometimes with caramel and caramelised fruit. Lightly hopped.

**Old Ales** – Similar to Strong milds but have estery flavours (pears, bananas, pineapple, roses and sometimes berries)

### Stouts and Porters

These are split into two: Session (4.9% and below) and Strong (above 5%). There can be considerable overlap between the two styles.

**Stouts** – Black coloured beers with roasty malty flavours and aromas e.g. chocolate, caramel and

coffee notes. They have minimal hop and fruit notes. Added ingredients such as oats, oysters and lactose (milk stouts) give additional flavours.

**Porters** – These beers can be brown or black. Roasty as with Stouts but this is balanced by fruity notes such as damsons, black cherries, or caramelised fruits.

### Barley Wines and Strong Ales

These are beers, which are 6.5% and above; rich, complex, full bodied with noticeable alcohol. They may vary from dry to sweet, sometimes with honey notes and maybe bitter. Blond Strong Ales do not have the estery flavours of a Barley Wine. Dark Strong Ales may have chocolate and coffee notes, dark and caramelised fruit.

### Speciality

These are divided into two categories: Flavoured or Differently Produced. The former covers everything from fruits to culinary ingredients such as ginger, chocolate and honey. Differently Produced cover beers brewed with non-standard ingredients or techniques such as different yeasts, grains, sours and wood aged.

So next time you go for a drink, sample a beer and see if you can put it into one of the above style categories. It's often not as easy as you think!

**Christine Cryne**

## Canterbury, Herne Bay and Whitstable CAMRA now on Instagram



The branch now has an active Instagram running alongside a new website. If you want to see what Canterbury CAMRA has been up to follow them @camracanterbury, or visit the website at <https://canterbury.camra.org.uk>.

You will find photos of recent events and pub trails, not only in the branch area but throughout Kent, Sussex and, in the near future, a visit to some London pubs.

The branch always supports local pubs and their beer festivals together with the CAMRA bars at Cricket Week in Canterbury and at Faversham Hop Festival. All are featured through online channels.

Check the sites regularly for upcoming events. These can also be found at Meetup group, CAMRA Canterbury, Herne Bay and Whitstable. The branch actively welcomes new ale or cider drinkers to their events as well as CAMRA members from other branches.

Louise Coleman

**CAMRA Canterbury**  
7 posts 187 followers 41 following

Campaign for Real Ale  
Canterbury, Herne Bay &  
Whitstable  
👉 More about beer trails  
and events in MeetUp link  
📍 [www.meetup.com/camra...](http://www.meetup.com/camra...)

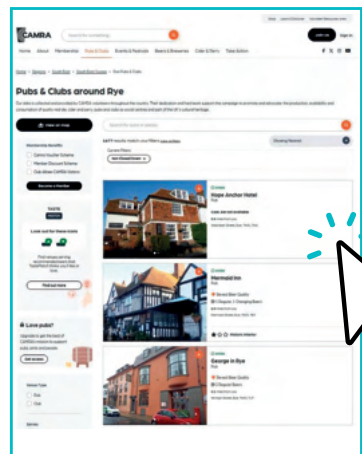
F... Mes... Cont... +

Lou's ad... HopFest ...

## How CAMRA can help you to find a pub

The ever-popular website WhatPub has disappeared and has been replaced with the newly developed [camra.org.uk/pubs](http://camra.org.uk/pubs). It is a free online guide to over 55000 of Britain's pubs, including 96% of those serving real ale. It takes the guesswork out of finding a good pub. The new site offers fundamentally the same information collected on WhatPub. In the search bar at the top you can choose Nearby pubs; Events; Beers & Breweries; Cider & Perry. On the left of the page there are over 50 filters to help you find what you want, for example a garden or WiFi. For each pub, there is the opportunity for you to suggest an edit. If you are a CAMRA member, you can put in a beer score. WhatPub had become a victim of its own success, enquiries there are redirected to the new site.

Brina Snipson



# Join CAMRA today

## Your support matters



Join with the direct debit form below, online at [join.camra.org.uk](http://join.camra.org.uk) or scan the QR code to get started.



Enter your details and complete the Direct Debit form below for a £2 repeating annual discount and a re-occurring membership.

Alternatively you can join online at [join.camra.org.uk](http://join.camra.org.uk) or call **0330 153 9924\*** (Weekdays 9am to 5pm).

### Your details (\*all fields compulsory)

Title\* ..... Surname\* .....  
Forename(s)\* .....  
Date of Birth (dd/mm/yyyy)\* .....  
Address\* .....  
.....  
Postcode\* .....  
Email address\* .....  
Daytime Tel .....

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

Title ..... Surname .....  
Forename(s) .....  
Date of Birth (dd/mm/yyyy) .....  
Email address .....

We will process your data in accordance with our Privacy Policy which can be found at [camra.org.uk/privacy-policy](http://camra.org.uk/privacy-policy).  
We will only send you communications you have consented to, see above tick boxes, and service-based communications. To manage your full set of communication preferences, please visit your online member account at [account.camra.org.uk](http://account.camra.org.uk).

### Direct Debit Instruction

Please fill in the whole form using a ball point pen and send to:  
**Campaign for Real Ale Ltd, 230 Hatfield Road, St. Albans, Herts AL1 4LW**  
Email: [membership@camra.org.uk](mailto:membership@camra.org.uk) Telephone: 0330 153 9924\*

#### Name(s) of Account Holder

#### Billing Address

#### Bank or Building Society Account Number

#### Branch Sort Code

Postcode .....

Payments will show as CAMRA Membership on your bank statement.

I understand that CAMRA has partnered with Stripe, who collects Direct Debits on behalf of CAMRA and confirm that I am the account holder and the only person required to authorize debits from this account.

Signature .....

#### Join today

**Single Membership (UK)**

Under 26 Membership

**Joint Membership**  
(At the same address)

Joint Under 26 Membership

#### Direct Debit

£34.00

£25.50

£42.00

£33.50

#### Non DD

£36.00

£27.50

£44.00

£35.50

Concessionary rates are available only for Under 26 Memberships

Please indicate whether you wish to receive our quarterly award winning magazine **BEER** by email OR post:  Email  Post

I wish to Opt-in to  General Communications  Branch Communications  
We will ask for your consent in future communications and you can log-in to [account.camra.org.uk](http://account.camra.org.uk) and edit your membership preferences at any time.

I wish to join the Campaign for Real Ale, and agree to abide by the Memorandum and Articles of Association which can be found on our website.

Signed .....

Date ..... Applications will be processed within 21 days



This Guarantee should be detached and retained by the payer.

### The Direct Debit Guarantee

- This Guarantee is offered by all banks and building societies that accept instructions to pay Direct Debits.
- If there are any changes to the amount, date or frequency of your Direct Debit, Stripe will notify you 2 working days in advance of your account being debited or as otherwise agreed. If you request Stripe to collect a payment, confirmation of the amount and date will be given to you at the time of the request.
- If an error is made in the payment of your Direct Debit, by Stripe or your bank or building society you are entitled to a full and immediate refund of the amount paid from your bank or building society.
- If you receive a refund you are not entitled to, you must pay it back when Stripe asks you to.
- You can cancel a Direct Debit at any time by simply contacting your bank or building society. Written confirmation may be required. Please also notify us. Setup of Direct Debit Instruction with Stripe on behalf of CAMRA.



The data you provide will be processed in accordance with our privacy policy in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulations. \*Calls from landlines charged at standard national rates, cost may vary from mobile phones.

Please post this direct debit form to our main office address: 230 Hatfield Road, St Albans, AL1 4LW

## Last orders for St Dunstan's

On Sunday 26th October landlady Kim Truelove shut the doors of the Eight Bells pub in London Road, Canterbury. Kim has taken a well-deserved retirement and the pub, unfortunately, remains shut and on the market.

The Eight Bells has long been an important local and community pub in the St Dunstan's area, known for excellent beer – a long-standing Good Beer Guide entry – as well

as its darts teams, quizzes, and famous Sunday lunches.

At the time of going to press the pub, part of the Admiral Taverns group, remains unsold and closed.



## Advertise in East Kent Drinker

Get your business seen across the region

5000 copies delivered to over 300 pubs

Full page only £120

Half page £75

Contact [nekcampa@outlook.com](mailto:nekcampa@outlook.com)

# THE HALVES

TWO

## Margate

PUB OF THE YEAR WINNER 2018, 2022  
HIGHLY COMMENDED 2023

A FREE VIEW WITH EVERY BEER

WEEKDAYS FROM 3PM  
WEEKENDS FROM 1PM



BEER FROM £3.50  
CIDER FROM £4  
WINE FROM £5

MARINE DRIVE  
MARGATE  
5 MIN WALK FROM TRAIN STATION



SHEPHERD NEAME



# Spitfire

## NEW-LOOK SPITFIRE TAKES TO THE SKIES

Spitfire Kentish Amber Ale is one of the UK's best-loved beers with an international reputation as a Great British Classic.

Since its inception as a one-off brew back in 1990, Spitfire has enjoyed phenomenal success, earning a Royal Warrant and protected status as a Kentish Ale.

Now, it has been given a bold new look - proudly brewed in Kent and honoured with a Royal Warrant from King Charles III, this beer delivers a true taste of British heritage.

### TASTING NOTES

Brewed using 100% Kentish hops, the finest malt, and water drawn from the artisan well deep beneath the Faversham Brewery, Spitfire Amber Ale combines the pick of Kentish hops to layer bitter orange marmalade flavour on top of sweet biscuits and caramel malts for a peppery dry finish.



**FIND OUT MORE**  
[shepherdneame.co.uk](http://shepherdneame.co.uk)  
[@shepherdneame](https://www.instagram.com/shepherdneame)