

Branch Diary

Forthcoming Events

5 June Games Evening
The Mogul, Dover 8pm

Branch Meetings (All start at 8pm):

15 May *Royal Oak*, Capel le Ferne
19 June *Boars Head*, Dover
17 July *Saracen's Head*, Deal
21 Aug Sandwich, venue to be confirmed

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

Pub Events

26-29 May **Ale Festival**
The Plough Inn, Ripple

27-29 May **Dover Jazz & Blues**
Festival, *Louis Armstrong*,
Dover

Items for the Pub Diary section will be accepted from Pubs/Clubs that adhere to the spirit of the Campaign. Please check directly with the venue before travelling/visiting. CAMRA/Channel Draught will not accept any liability for any errors or omissions.

Channel Draught is Published and © 2000 by the Deal Dover Sandwich & District Branch of the Campaign for Real Ale. The Branch supports the campaign to retain Real Ale in pubs in White Cliffs Country.

Please drink sensibly!



Printed at Adams The Printers, Dour Street, Dover



Channel Draught

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

Issue 3 Spring 2000

The Admiral Penn Free House

This tastefully Dutch Style decorated Pub
Can be found on the Seafront of Deal

While enjoying your Heineken, Amstel and Grolsch Lagers
There are also

Traditional Real English Ales on sale
Bombardier, Bass and London Pride

Specials are Dutch Kopstoot and Jagermeister cold from
the fridge

Open Monday - Friday 6 PM - 11 PM
Saturday 11 AM - 3 PM - 6 PM - 11 PM

Closed on Sunday (Gone to the Pub)

YOUR HOSTS
ART, LINDA & NATALIE OUWERSLOOT

PHONE: 00 44 (01304) 374279
FAX: 00 44 (01304) 381460
E-MAIL ADDRESS
ADMIRALPENN@VIRGIN.NET

79 BEACH STREET
DEAL
KENT CT14 6JA
UNITED KINGDOM

Branch Contacts

If you have any queries about CAMRA in White Cliffs Country then please contact **Martin Atkins** (Branch Chairman) on (01304) 872484 or 201870 or **Dave Routh** (Area Organiser – East Kent) on (01304) 201743

Editorial Team: Paul Turvey, Dave Routh & Martin Atkins

Editorial Address: 33 East Street, Dover CT17 0DS

Advertising & Distribution: Martin Atkins (01304) 872484 or 201870

E-mail: dds.camra@topsy.demon.co.uk

Web: www.topsy.demon.co.uk/camra
www.camra.org.uk

Channel Draught is the Newsletter of the Deal Dover Sandwich Branch of CAMRA.

Channel Draught is normally published quarterly.

Advertising rates:

(please contact Martin Atkins for details)

3"x3" box - £12

Full Page - £30 – **½ Page** - £16

(other rates on application).

front page +50% / back + 30%

Format: Microsoft Word/Publisher or any common graphics format plus printed copy.

Copy by 20/06/00 for Summer issue.

STOP PRESS

Late breaking news that won't wait

The Battle of Britain is to have a change of landlord from April 28th. The future of the pub is unclear at present.

You can advertise here
for just £12 for a 3" by
3" box!

See the inside front
cover for details

In this Issue



Welcome to the third issue of Channel Draught, and a new look!

The big news is that the Winter Ale Festival held in February was a great success – in fact the best ever. Martin Atkins reports on one hectic weekend. The team responsible now takes a few months off before starting the planning for the next festival on 2-3 February 2001.

In the Spring issue of Channel Draught we have a Pub Crawl in Deal, a look at one of Dover's old pubs, a feature on local brewer Shepherd Neame, a few diversions plus all the local ale news. There's also a look at what CAMRA is and what it does.

Topsy
Editor

The Cabin
English Restaurant

Fully Licenced

Traditional & Game Dishes
Choice of Vegetarian

Selection of Draught Ciders, Perry
& Bottle Conditioned Beers
Over 100 Different Wines

Open Evenings Tuesday to Saturday
Open from 6.30pm Last orders 9.30pm

91 High Street Dover
Bookings Dover 206118
Roger & Pauline Marples



The Local News

Talk of the town in Dover is the *Eagle (Olde Irish Times)* which closed suddenly mid-March. There has been all sorts of speculation but the plain fact of the matter is that the licensee is no longer “on-site” and we all await developments. Dover Town Council has identified the building in its programme of improvements – see the display at the Council Offices in Castle Street. The original name was the Black Horse Hotel and it stood just outside the town. Any miscreants who fell foul of the law would be hanged just across the road.

The *Cherry Tree* is now selling Tetley’s after a brief period of fizz-only beer.

The *Dublin Man O’War* is in new hands and the beer (Greene King) was in good nick during a recent quiz night. Initial reaction from the locals was very favourable and although it’s very early days this local pub could be back on track so give it a try and support the new people there.

Just up the road at Kearsney station, *Pickwicks* is also making a comeback. Beer has to come from Whitbread but it has in the past year or two sold beer from local brewery Swale (Sittingbourne) as part of its contribution to “Kentish Fayre” publicity which is fronted by TV Crafty Cook and Classic FM guru Michael Barry.

The *Fox*, Temple Ewell and *White Horse* St James St., Dover, the are both in line for substantial alterations, courtesy of their owner, Whitbread. In both cases these involve upgrading the facilities but without causing wholesale destruction of traditional surroundings.

At the *White Horse* the proposals include extending the bar into the upper level at the rear, and knocking the two rear rooms and staff area between them into one, while at the Fox the main bar will be pushed through to the rear with the current bar and cellar moving to the side. Once the alterations are finished it would be interesting to hear views (either way) about whether “better or worse”.

Local Information

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

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

Useful numbers

Dover Tourist Info	01304 205108
Train times (Connex)	08457 484950
Buses (Stagecoach)	0870 2433711
	01304 240024
KCC Bus/Train line	08457 3696996

Kent Police	01304 240055
-------------	--------------

Dover Taxi Firms:	
Taxi (A1)	01304 202000
Taxi (A2B)	01304 225588
Taxi (Central)	01304 240441
Taxi (Club Travel)	01304 201915
Taxi (Heritage)	01304 204420
Taxi (Star)	01304 228822
Taxi (Victory)	01304 228888

Deal Taxi Firms:	
Taxi (Deal Cars)	01304 366000
Taxi (Jacks Cars)	01304 372299
Taxi (AI Cars)	01304 363636
Taxi (Castle Taxis)	01304 374001

Sandwich Taxi Firm:	
Taxi (AM Cars)	01304 614209



CAMRA

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

To join CAMRA, please complete the form below

Application Form to join CAMRA

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

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Signature _____ Date _____

I/We enclose the remittance for:

Single £14 OAP Single £8
 Joint £17 OAP Joint £11
 Unwaged/ Under 26* £8
 Disabled £8

*Date of birth required _____

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

For enquiries, phone 01727 867201

Channel Draught 3



Over 1900 pubs surveyed, including 1500 Real Ale pubs.

Information includes:

- 👉 Mild, Stout & Porter
 - 👉 Cider & Perry
 - 👉 Pubs with Accommodation
 - 👉 Disabled Access
 - 👉 Town maps
- and lots more**

Available now to CAMRA members at Branch Meetings

CAMRA members: £4.50
Cover price: £4.95

The *Yew Tree*, Barfreston is still closed, but as yet without any request for change of use. This has been rescued twice from closure, trade was drawn from a wide area (Dover, Canterbury & Thanet) and was a place to get out to despite its location. Previous owners have run the *Ship* at Sandgate and the *Admiral Owen* in Sandwich. At St Margarets the *Cliffe Tavern* appears to be undergoing an internal refit at present and may be closed for a while yet.

Meanwhile at Whitfield, The *Royal Oak*, for the time being at least, appears safe. The refusal for conversion to two dwellings last September has not been appealed against, and is now out of time, while the application for seven houses on the rest of the site has been withdrawn.

However neither proposal was technically against local planning policies and it would appear to be only vociferous opposition which won the day. As the owners (Pubmaster) apparently see the site as worth more for development than as a pub they are no doubt biding their time.

Not so good, however at the *Crooked Billet*, Ash, which has now been converted to a dwelling, with new houses built in the grounds.

However old buildings can be restored as at Capel Court (Capel le Ferne) where the *Lighthouse Inn* has been smartly refurbished. The original feature on top of the frontage still looks over the Channel coast. This used to be a country club but it closed a few years ago. Now it is a family restaurant but fully licensed as a pub with beers from Greene King.

Only a short bracing walk along the cliff-top walkway is the *Royal Oak*. Should the weather be on the damp side, the fire (a glorious range) will warm you whilst the excellent beers refresh you. I *strongly* recommend the Bangers & Mash to go with the ales, which change frequently.

THE ROYAL OAK

CAPEL-LE-FERNE
01303 244787

SELECTION OF 3 ALES
FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE
FOOD AVAILABLE
G.B.G. ENTRY FOR 10 YEARS

In north Deal however, another loss is on the way. Plans are well afoot to convert the *Jolly Gardner* into a community centre (funny, I always thought good back street locals were community centres). This leaves, by my reckoning, all of Deal north of Alfred Square with just one pub - the *Forester*, on The Marina. Considering the volume of new housing in the area, there should have been great scope for an enterprising local, or is this just a reflection of leisure activities being concentrated into town centres, and the reluctance of the current British population to leave their television sets.

As far as we know there is no immediate threat to any other pub in the area and we keep tabs of any likely changes. But if you know something that we don't then please give us a call, or better still take up community action yourself ! Talk to the licensee, the owner, your local District councillor. In thirty years of campaigning many pubs have been saved and some are doing very well.

Perhaps the best news is that the *Ravens* at Tilmanstone is still going despite plans to close down which were advanced well over a year ago. Here the beers come from micro-breweries scattered all around the country and jolly good they are too ! For those looking for a meal there is a daily home-made casserole dish plus traditional offerings. It is just about accessible on public transport being off the old main road – Bus 94 from Dover or Sandwich. The bus stops at the other pub *Plough and Harrow* which sells Sheps beer. The two are about 10 mins walk apart

However since the Beer Orders of the late 1980s and the development of non-brewing pub chains things have altered appreciably. On the large scale the trend would seem to be the splitting of brewing and pub owning. Carlsberg Tetley is now a brewing firm only, and it is widely reported in the City and financial press that it is only a matter of time before Whitbread and Bass sell their breweries and become pub owners only. Scottish and Newcastle, alone of the big brewers, apparently wish to keep a foot in both camps.

Non-brewing pub chains have now emerged as some of the largest pub landlords, while the traditional brewery with its tied estate is now largely limited to the small and regional brewers; and even here there are recent examples of operations being split. An added factor is the value attached to some older breweries who occupy valuable town centre or city sites.

If you feel concerned, and are not already a member, consider joining CAMRA, it costs only £14 a year (single membership) and as well as receiving our monthly newspaper "What's Brewing", and advantages like free or reduced entry to CAMRA beer festivals, you will belong to one of the country's foremost pressure groups and be contributing to preserving an important and very traditional part of British life.

Martin Atkins

**The Louis Armstrong
& The Canteen**
MAISON DIEU ROAD DOVER
as part of Dover's Jazz and Blues Festival
are proud to present
**Barry Palser's
Savoy Jazzmen**
on Monday 29th May live in The Louis
PIG ROAST PROVIDED BY THE CANTEEN
Fun Starts at 2p.m.

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

THE ALMA

West Street Deal
300 yds north from Deal Station

Traditional street corner local with varying selection
of four real ales from small & micro breweries

Open Mon-Sat 10-3 & 6-11 Sun 12-3 & 7-10.30
Telephone (01304) 360244

Free House & Regular GBG entrant



CAMRA

Aims and Intentions



What is Real Ale? Essentially it is beer or ale that is not pasteurised or otherwise tampered with. After brewing, living yeasts remain in the beer. When it is casked, and after the barrel is tapped & spiled ready for serving, it comes into contact with oxygen and fermentation starts again. It is this secondary fermentation that *naturally* carbonates the ale.

Non real ales (keg beers and lagers, nitro-keg ales, etc) use a variety of injected gasses and pressurised/constricted dispenses to try achieve the same result -in our opinion less successfully. There is also the matter of beer quality, irrespective of treatment or method of dispense, and many of us have for a long time felt that beer from the larger producers has tended towards a blander, less interesting product.

Obviously much of this is a matter of taste, and I do not think I am misrepresenting the average CAMRA member if I say that we have no wish to see the disappearance of all other forms of ale and beer. What we do want is choice, and the reason CAMRA was formed initially was that the brewing industry, particularly the large brewers, seemed intent on depriving us of choice.

In the early Seventies, when CAMRA was formed the future for Real Ale seemed very bleak indeed. Subsequent events have been something of a curate's egg. Initially CAMRA had considerable success and the large brewers appeared, superficially at least, to have acquired a recommitment to Real Ale, with new brews appearing and old ones being resurrected but most of them have since been ditched.

Small and regional breweries joined the bandwagon and began distributing their products far beyond their own locality, and micro brewers appeared, usually enthusiasts or ex-brewers, starting from scratch and producing beer and ale of extraordinary variety and range.

SEVENTH WHITE CLIFFS FESTIVAL OF WINTER ALES 4TH & 5TH FEBRUARY 2000

In Dover, Sunday January 23 2000 dawned fine and bright with a stiff breeze, and by 09.30 a small group had collected outside the Town Hall and were busying themselves with ropes and ladders.

The initial stages of the 7th White Cliffs Festival of Winter Ales was under way, and the group of enthusiasts sacrificing their Sunday morning were attempting to erect the festival banner, a new addition to our festival advertising. Unfortunately although successfully put in place across the High Street it had been constructed without due consideration to Dover weather, and a few days brisk wind left it hanging bedraggled on one side of the street. The banner has now been suitably reinforced by the manufacturer and we trust will give a better showing next year.



By contrast the Festival itself was a great success, and at 65 firkins of ale this was our largest ever and 40% greater than our previous largest in 1999. As usual the venue was Dover Town Hall, with the Connaught Hall providing seating and a stage for entertainment, and the adjoining Stone Hall, with its solid floor and even temperature, offering ideal conditions for the setting up and looking after of beer.

Arriving on the Monday before the Festival, the barrels were set up double banked, beneath the portraits of former Lord Wardens and other dignitaries, along the left hand side of the hall. There over the next few days and under the watchful eye of Festival Organiser, Dave Green, they were left to clear and settle so that by Festival opening, at 5 pm Friday evening, their condition was as perfect as it was ever going to be. All were 5% or over in strength, as we feel befits winter ale, and varied in style from the dark and heavy to pale and light, the strongest being something over 8%.

Among the brews were well known stalwarts like Pendle Witches Brew, 1066 and Dark Star; beautifully descriptive beers such as Comfortably Numb, Wobble Bob and Winter Glow; and some like T'owd Tup and Heavy Petting whose origins can only be guessed at - or perhaps, best not guessed at.

There was a time when the initial hour or so after opening on Friday was fairly



2000

quiet, with only a handful of eager drinkers in evidence, but that is now a long gone luxury and this year the hall filled rapidly from the start.

By about 8 pm we were approaching the hall's fire limit, and for a while had to close the doors, although our recruitment of extra staff avoided last year's congestion at the bar.

As with the last two years over half the beer was drunk on Friday night, with barrels being emptied from about 9 pm. The first to go, and thereby designated beer of the festival, was Comfortably Numb from Triple F of Alton who had it by a short head from Hopback's Winter Lightning. Entertainment was provided by Men in White Coats who gave a whole hearted and lively performance. Our total attendance for the evening was 729, with non-members outnumbering members by six to one - very much a locals night.

On Saturday the balance was different with enthusiasts from all around the country and from overseas arriving from our start at 10 am; and throughout the day members and non-members more or less balanced each other. By the time we stopped charging entrance our attendance had reached 500, making our Festival total about 1250. The mood also was quieter and more steady with families much in evidence in the afternoon.

Approaching Saturday evening there was a fair amount of supply of beer remaining but whether due to experience from the last two years, when we ran out, or over indulgence on Friday, customers were lacking for the last few hours. Bill Barnacle's Jazz Band, however, kept the atmosphere alive with its usual robust performance.

All in all a highly successful festival where the beer almost ran out late on Saturday evening. CAMRA donates part of the profits to a local charity with the rest of the dosh being put too good use in campaigning for your right to choose to drink what you want to an not what some faceless autocrat tells you are allowed to have.

Our thanks to all those who supported and helped us , whether local sponsors, CAMRA members, Townhall staff, or whoever, and also to all those who turned up and drank the beer. Thankyou all very much and hope to see you again next year.

Martin Atkins

Almost opposite is the **Royal Hotel**. Here there is a seafront brasserie where the beer is Spitfire. Nearby is the **Star & Garter** which is a very traditional hotel bar which also sells Sheps beers.

Head up through historic Middle Street and you will find the **Ship**. Most of the beer still comes from Bass thanks to Charrington's takeover of the local brewery but there is the joy of the high-strength Fuller's ESB plus one or other of the beers from the Swale Brewery in Sittingbourne.. Unlike most pubs the two-bar layout remains, complete with wood panelled walls and old naval prints. Open all day every day. Every now and again there are special events including live bands and historic re-enactions of long-gone stories.

Continue north and at the end of the street there is the **Prince Albert**. Essentially a restaurant but selling Master Brew. At the other corner of the square is there is the **Saracen's Head** which sells the stronger Shep's beers alongside Master Brew.

Back in the town centre there is the "**Strand**", formerly the Black Horse. This was altered drastically a couple of years ago from a hotel which had seen better days but with a charm of its own into a bright new venue for the younger set. Beer is supplied from Courage, including Old Speckled Hen. Nearby is the **New Inn** which has a couple of ales and is also refurbished.

On the seafront is the **Kings Head**, an old and cosy pub which offers a choice of ales. This is a popular meeting place but which places a premium on pump prices. Finally the **Port Arms** where you should find two or three ales supplied by Whitbread, for example Pedigree.

Getting there.....

For those travelling in/out of Deal public transport has been improved in the last couple of years.

Connex now run their trains half-hourly on Saturdays whilst Stagecoach run two buses per hour from both Sandwich and Dover and run hourly during the evening and on Sunday daytime. On the buses after 6pm (1800) the maximum bus fare is £2.00 – ask for an "Evening Explorer".

Otherwise transport within Deal is pretty patchy so try Shanks's Pony instead



Delayed in Deal

As with most of the towns in Kent the history of Deal goes back a long way and has had a long association with the military. The Deal Charter was signed in 1699, a year after Shepherd Neame were founded!

There are still a good number of pubs in and around the town and this article points you in the direction of some of those in the town centre. Our first port of call is the *Alma* in West Street. Last year owners Doug & Audrey won an award for the pub's floral decoration outside and they were then awarded **Pub of the Year 1999** in White Cliffs Country by CAMRA.

The house bitter is Shep's Master Brew but alongside are three beers which come from micro-breweries around the country. Over the last few years over a thousand different brews have featured. This is very much a traditional local and bar prices reflect this, but so too are the opening hours, so closed from 3 till 6.

Just around the corner in Duke Street is the *Deal Hoy* which is a Shep's house. Open all day with a selection of their brews including seasonal "Early Bird" which gives you all of the joys of spring. The guv'nor here is a CAMRA fan and has done a star turn on Bank Holiday weekends with an outdoor barbie and guest beers. Hopefully another one or two this year.

Leaving the *Deal Hoy* turn right and cross the High Street. Here you will find the heart of historic Deal, dating largely from the late 17th to early 19th centuries, when the Downs was one of England's principal naval anchorages. Deal never suffered too much from bombing raids so much of the old town is still intact. There are any number of back streets and alleys.

One of these is Market Street which leads up to the *Admiral Penn* (Oud Dutch Bar) in Beach Street. Here Art and Linda Ouwersloot offer Draught Bass, London Pride and Wells Bombardier, the latter being named after a famous Army boxer. The style here is very much aimed at relaxed conversation in convivial surroundings. – candles on tables and comfy seats. On a long summer's eve you can look out on the shipping movements whilst enjoying a pint. However please note that the bar is open only in the evenings (not Sundays) plus Saturday lunchtime.



Shep's News

As I write the attempt to take over the **King & Barnes** brewery in Horsham goes to a shareholders meeting – watch this space.

In the meantime Shep's has had a problem at its own brew plant.. This seems to have affected most or all of its brews but as yet the flying fickle finger of fate has yet to point to either cause or solution. Basically the beers look and taste a bit strange without being totally orrfff.....

What Shep's have done though is to succeed where mighty **Wetherspoons** have failed. Yes, Frinton-on-Sea in East Anglia which until now has remained resolutely dry (and believed to be the largest town around to do so) is to get a pub courtesy of our friends in Faversham. However in deference to local opinion there will be no music, pool, darts or happy hours. (*Source: Daily Mirror*). If you are feeling happy then try also Clacton which is just a bus ride or a bracing walk away – lots of pubs there.

Shep's have also agreed to supply **Spitfire** to the Wetherspoon chain on a national basis, not just here in M25 land. It is now the fastest growing Real Ale brand in the country. Watch out brand leaders **Tetley** and **Pedigree**, not to mention **Bass** which gets very little promotion from its owners these days.

The real problem at Faversham is that production has almost caught up with capacity and there is no room to expand. Minority beers like the winter **Porter** must be under threat. This time around it was heavily dosed with the taste of vanillin oak which overpowered the liquorice taste. If you like Spanish Rioja wine then you will recognise the unmistakable aroma.

Still, as they say, you pays yer money and gets yer choice. Better luck next winter. Either that or drink **Bishop's Finger** (aka Nun's Delight).

If we get to hear about the brewery takeover then we'll let you know..

Happy Gargling

Dave Routh

THE MOGUL

Tucked away at the top of the short but steep Chapel Hill near the busy roundabout where York Street joins Snargate Street and Townwall Street is a gem among Dover's pubs; the Mogul. You can approach it by foot from the junction. Just take the path leading past the Nu-age night club (what an apt name! Nuage in French means a cloud!) and the Unitarian Church. By road you have to turn off Townwall Street at the York St. roundabout then turn to the left halfway along York Street (heading towards the docks) and just keep bearing left until you find it!

When I first used it, the pub was known as the New Mogul. It was in the same family from 1908 until 1986. Nellie Willson, who was born there, retired through ill-health in March of that year and the pub closed two months later.

In Nellie's day, the pub was remarkably basic. There was no cellar (actually, there was, but it had collapsed during the Second World War on account of German shells descending in the vicinity). The beer, Gardner from 1885, the Thomson and Wootton, then Whitbread, was on gravity dispense, the casks being on wheeled wooden stillions. But it was Nellie who made the pub the legend that it became.

Nellie's language was as basic as the pub. For such a frail-looking little old lady she had a remarkable vocabulary. Indeed, you knew that you had become accepted as a 'local' when you began to get verbally abused upon entering, and if you were not, you knew that you had blotted your copybook somewhere along the line! A fellow licensee once confided to me that he considered her "A very rude old lady"! Despite this, she had a heart of gold. Now that she is way beyond prosecution in this world, I can reveal that she had a standing order for tobacco from continental lorry drivers which she would give away to elderly neighbours.

She delighted in her 'toys', with which she would alarm and delight young ladies visiting her pub for the first time. For instance, there was a mustard jar from which a pornographic item would leap out when the lid was removed!

Anecdotes abound about Nellie. For example, there was the new Whitbread Brewery Rep. His boss, tongue in cheek, had sent him along to inspect her cellar which, as I said, was full of rubble. Nellie excused herself for a moment and, on her return, straight-faced, presented the chap with a shovel and pickaxe!

And the stranger who asked her if she sold cigarettes. "I don't give the blankety-blank things away!", was the retort. Or the young man who asked for a Pimms for his lady friend. "This is a pub, not a blankety-blank greengrocers!" One of Nellie's proudest possessions was a Christmas card addressed to 'The Old Dragon who lives in a pub somewhere up a hill in Dover'. Needless to say, it arrived the day after posting!

After the pub closed in 1986, squatters moved in for a while, then, in November, it was almost destroyed by fire. I am pleased to say that at least one of the stillions had been previously 'rescued', and is in safe hands.

However, against all expectations, the Mogul (the 'New' had been dropped) reopened the following May. Nellie was invited along on opening day. "What do you think of it now?", she was asked. Nellie gave her opinion in no uncertain terms!

I am sure that Frank, and his wife Charlie, will not take offence when I say that, when the Mogul opened its doors again, it was a pretty run-of-the-mill pub. But over the past year they have transformed the place. Although the cellar had been re-excavated, stillions are now back, but of the modern, self-tilting variety. The beers mostly come from small independent breweries and there are usually two or three on tap with replacements maturing in adjacent casks. An attractive wooden floor has been laid down and a wood burning stove installed. Traditional and unusual pub games (Toad in the Hole for example) are very much in evidence. There are comfortable chairs to relax in. All in all, a great Dover pub to visit.

So come and try it. I'm sure that even Nellie would at last approve!

Jim Green