

## **GLOBAL PUB CRAWL**

**CANTERBURY: 4<sup>TH</sup> – 6<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2014**

**Host: Noel Burger**

The London Mensa First Friday Pub Crawl is off on its travels again. Following successful trips in the past to Oxford, Cambridge, Poland, Slovakia and Exeter, Canterbury is the chosen destination for this year's excursion on the weekend of 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> July.

The full itinerary is below.

### **Getting there**

Canterbury is easily accessible from London! Trains run from London St Pancras, Victoria and Cannon Street arriving at either Canterbury East or Canterbury West stations and can take less than one hour.

### **Contact details**

Noel Burger is your host. \_\_\_\_\_

### **Accommodation**

There is, of course, a wide variety of accommodation in Canterbury but by far the best value appears to be the University halls of Keynes College and Beckett Court both of which offer single rooms from £41 per night. At the time of writing there are still rooms available but I would advise booking soon as possible. Not all accommodation websites seem to show the University rooms but they are definitely on [www.booking.com](http://www.booking.com) and [www.universityrooms.com](http://www.universityrooms.com). Closer to the centre of towns the Premier Inn, the Victoria Hotel and the Cathedral Gate all had good value rooms.

### **Plan of action**

The main activities will be on Saturday, with a bit of sight-seeing and the main pub crawl but Friday is the traditional day for the Friday pub crawl, and a pub crawl there will be. On Sunday we will take a leisurely walk to another couple of pubs just out of town. All in all, you may as well make a weekend of it! However, if that's just not practical, just come along for one day, or one night. Hopefully we will also be supported by a good number of local members too.

### **Friday evening**

As the fastest trains arrive at Canterbury West, and the University is on this side of town, we will start the pub crawl on the west side too.

Full details are below with brief details available at [www.mensa.org.uk/local-events](http://www.mensa.org.uk/local-events) and posted to the londonmensa-announce yahoogroup nearer the time. Any updates will also be posted to these sites.

**1. 6:00pm – 7:00pm. The Monument, 37 St Dunstons Street, Canterbury, Kent CT2 8BZ.**

First of a few Shepherd Neame pubs over the weekend. Shepherd Neame is Britain's oldest brewer - and while 1698 is the Brewery's official founding date, there is clear evidence that its heritage pre-dates even this period. Familiar brews include Masterbrew, Bishops Finger and Spitfire.



**2. 7:00pm – 8:00pm. The Unicorn, 61 St Dunstons Street, Canterbury, Kent, CT2 8BS.**

I suspect this pub will be one of your favourites. Dating from 1604 it promises at least four real ales including a local guest beer. Has a lovely garden and I'm always pleased to see a bar billiards table. I only wish I could remember the rules. The food looked good and reasonably priced.



**3. 8:00pm – 9:00pm. Bishops Finger, 13 St Dunstons Street, Canterbury, Kent, CT2 8BN.**

A few yards across the road we have our second Shepherd Neame pub. Hopefully the weather will allow us to enjoy the large garden.



**4. 9:00pm – 10:00pm. The Black Griffin, 40 St Peter's Street, Canterbury, CT1 2BG.**

Head through the West Gate and into the Town Centre and we come to the Griffin. Looks a bit scary from the outside, but absolutely fine once inside. Good selection of ales and gets great reviews, especially for their food which is available to midnight.





**5. 10:00pm – 11:00pm. The Cricketers, 14 St Peter's Street, Town Centre, CT1 2BQ.**  
Across the road from the Griffin is the Cricketers. A small pub with bags of history.



**6. 11:00pm – 00:00. The Thomas Beckett, 21 Best Lane, Canterbury, CT1 2JB.**  
Bit of a Gastro pub but good reviews.



**7. 00:00 – Closing. The Old Brewery Tavern, Stour Street, Canterbury, Kent, CT1 2NR.**

The Old Brewery Tavern may look back to historical antecedents, but it is wholly contemporary in design, outlook, approach and style. With its striking sliding glass window, decking and bright modern furnishings it is anything but 'old' in feel.

Open until 2am, I expect it to be fairly trendy and probably have a bouncer on the door. Let's see if we can get in.



**Saturday daytime**

The pub crawl starts at 5pm but before then, spend the day exploring the historic city of Canterbury. Everyone is of course welcome to do their own thing but my proposed schedule is;

**11:45am – 12:30pm. Meet at The Old Buttermarket, 39 Burgate, Town Centre, CT1 2HW.**

There has been a pub on this site for over 500 years. Those from London will be familiar with Nicholson's pubs and the great range of ales available.



**12:30pm - 14:00pm. Lunch.** We will select a local restaurant or even eat in the Old Buttermarket itself if it's not too busy. This place may also be an option. [www.azouma.co.uk/lunchbuffet-menu.php](http://www.azouma.co.uk/lunchbuffet-menu.php)

**2:00pm. Cathedral visit.** Meet in the courtyard of the Old Buttermarket.

Canterbury Cathedral is of course the Mother Church of the worldwide Anglican Communion and seat of the Archbishop of Canterbury. Along with St Augustine's Abbey and St Martins Church it forms a World Heritage Site. [www.canterbury-cathedral.org](http://www.canterbury-cathedral.org). Entry is £10.50.



Other options might be a boat or punt trip on the river, a walk in Dane John Gardens or around the Roman walls. In addition Canterbury has no shortage of historic buildings and museums. See [www.canterbury.co.uk/tourist-information](http://www.canterbury.co.uk/tourist-information) for ideas.





## Saturday evening pub crawl

Timings are approximate and don't hesitate to call me if lost. Feel free to join at any time.

### **1. 5:00pm – 5:45pm. The Canterbury Tales. 12 The Friars, Canterbury, CT1 2AS.**

Across the road from the theatre but hopefully we'll miss the theatre crowds with an early visit.



### **2. 5:50pm – 6:45pm. The Millers Arms, 2 Mill Lane, St Radigunds, Canterbury, CT1 2AW.**

Built in 1826 to serve local mill workers, the Miller's Arms has long been one of Canterbury's favourite pubs. Next to the river it is another Shepherd Neame house.



**3. 6:50pm – 7:50pm. The Dolphin, 17 St Radigunds Street, Canterbury, Kent, CT1 2AA.**

Hopefully another highlight of the weekend, the Dolphin offers a great selection of beers from, amongst others, Gadds, Hopdaemon, The Old Dairy, Sharps and Taylor's. A local Camra pub of the year in 2012 it boasts a large garden and many intriguing features. There are Mecano models including one of the Empire State Building complete with King Kong. We will linger here a little longer as the food also looks good.



**4. 7:50pm – 8:40pm. The Parrot, 1-9 Church Lane, St Radigans, Canterbury, CT1 2AG.**

The Parrot is a hidden gem down a picturesque cobbled street and one of the oldest pubs in Canterbury. Good ales guaranteed and may be an option for food if you are looking for something slightly more 'gastro'.





**5. 8.40pm – 9.30pm. The Jolly Sailor, 75 Northgate, Canterbury, Kent, CT1 1BA.**

Noted as a 'rugby' pub but any games should be long finished by the time we arrive. The number of ales appeared limited during my research visit but worth a look if only for the architecture.



**6. 9.30pm – 10:20pm: The Bell & Crown, 10-11 Palace Street, Canterbury, CT1 2DZ.**

Noted for an unusual selection of well-kept local beers, the Bell & Crown seems to have universally favourable reviews. There is a board outside showing the succession of Inn keepers at the Crown & Bell paired with the succession of Archbishops at the Cathedral.



**7a. 10:20pm – 11:00pm. (Option 1). La Trappiste, 1 - 2 Sun Street, Canterbury, CT1 1DX**

The home of Belgian beer in Canterbury. You can see the full beer list on [www.latrappiste.com](http://www.latrappiste.com). My one concern is that it appears more geared towards seated diners and may not welcome, or cope, with a large group if they are still busy. If so, move on to Option 2...



**7b. 10:20pm – 11:30pm. (Option 2). The Old Buttermarket. 39 Burgate, Town Centre, Canterbury, CT1 2HW.** Worthy of a second visit but if you had your fill of this pub at lunchtime, pop next door to the **Shakespeare, 5 Butchery Lane, Canterbury, Kent CT1 2JR.** From their website they appear to be a sister pub to the Parrot, so should be good.



**8. 11:30pm – 1:00am Closing. The Thomas Ingoldsby, 5-9 Burgate, Canterbury, CT1 2HG.**

A typical Wetherspoon's pub with good value beers and varied clientele. You know what to expect!



**Sunday walk and lunch**

Sunday morning is free either to sleep off the previous night or explore further.

Ultimately we are heading for lunch at the **George and Dragon, King Street, Sturry, Fordwich, Kent CT2 0DB**. The George is a lovely traditional pub with a long and interesting history, a good value menu and a lovely garden. The pub is about 2.6 miles from **meeting point one** or just over 2 miles from **meeting point two**. The other option is to take a 4 minute train journey from Canterbury West to Sturry. From Sturry station the pub is a 0.25 mile walk.

**First meeting point: 11:30am – noon. The West Gate Inn, 1-3 North Lane, Canterbury, CT2 7EB.** Chosen for its proximity to Canterbury West station this looks to be a better than average Wetherspoons pub. There is really no need to be there at 11:30am if you are getting the train, or to leave with me at noon, unless joining the walk. Trains leave at 24 minutes past the hour throughout the day. I suggest the 12:24 or 13:24 to join us for lunch.





**Second meeting point: noon – 12:30pm. The Two Sawyers, 58 Ivy Lane, Canterbury, CT1 1TU.** From the West Gate Inn we'll walk down the High Street and Parade to the Two Sawyers to meet up with anyone who wishes to shorten the walk or who is staying on this side of the city. The Two Sawyers only opens at noon, so don't bother arriving early. Hopefully we'll have time for a half. ☺



From the Two Sawyers we will head out across Realm Wood and along a marked path to Fordwich. I have not walked the route myself but am assured it is not considered a difficult route. There are several gradients, a few stiles and cattle grids but it is on a solid cycle path so shouldn't be too taxing. If you have any doubts, please get the train.

I hope to reach the pub by about 1:30pm. We will then enjoy a leisurely Sunday lunch and couple of drinks before walking back. Return trains run from Sturry at 58 minutes past the hour.

