

Press Release.....Press Release.....Press Release.....Press Release...

July 1<sup>st</sup> 2009 – Canterbury, Kent - for immediate release

## **KENT CELEBRATES OUR AWARD WINNING BEER & CIDER MAKERS**

### **35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event - Kent Beer Festival – July 16<sup>th</sup> – July 18<sup>th</sup>**

Kent is the heart of the UK's Hop growing and has a long history of brewing stretching over several hundred years. 2009 marks the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the CAMRA Kent Beer Festival, the UK's second oldest.

To celebrate this occasion every one of the 10 Kent Breweries will be represented with beers and all of the ciders are from the 14 Kent producers. In total over 100 real ales, 20 ciders and over 30 foreign beers will be available for tasting by the 6000 fans expected to attend at Merton Farm just outside Canterbury.

In another first this year the event will be officially opened on Thursday the 16<sup>th</sup> by Canterbury MP Julian Brazier. Julian has long been a supporter of the pub and brewing industry in Kent and was delighted to support the festival. He commented "Our region has a rich heritage of brewing which also supports a wide range of rural and retail employment, coupled with the vital role pubs serve in our community structure it is important that we continue to address and promote CAMRA and the industry"

Gill Keay who has organised every one of the 35 Kent Beer Festivals commented "I would like to thank all the volunteer staff and the brewers who over the years have helped to make the Kent Beer Festival one of Britain's best-loved. Many of the breweries and cider makers present have grown over the years and collected an impressive amount of UK awards for their drinks. With new producers coming on-board in recent years I see a good future which the festival is keen to support and encourage...here's to the next 35 years!"

The event also has a good line up of live entertainment for all the family, Kent food, basic onsite camping and a free shuttle bus from the Canterbury Bus Station to every session. For more details of the opening times, beer & cider list and further information visit the website at [www.kentbeerfestival.com](http://www.kentbeerfestival.com)

**For more information and notes to editors see attachment**

## **Dates, Times and Ticket Information**

There are four festival sessions:

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July and Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July evenings (6.30 to 11),  
Friday lunchtime (12-4) – Free Entry  
Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> July (12-9).

For the Thursday and Saturday sessions, visitors just pay an entrance fee at the door of £4. Advance booking is essential for the Friday night session, but it is now completely sold out.

All sessions except Friday evening free entry to card-carrying CAMRA members

Location: Merton Farm, Merton lane, Canterbury. CT4 7BA

Free shuttle bus from the Park & Ride lay-by Canterbury Bus Station (near Canterbury East railway station) starts 15 minutes before each session and runs every 15-30 minutes. Or follow AA signs from Canterbury city centre; free parking on-site.

**Further information: [www.kentbeerfestival.com](http://www.kentbeerfestival.com)**

## **NOTES TO EDITORS**

1. Photographs of previous festivals and logo images available – please contact Simon Reed
2. For an interview before the festival with Gill Keay, Organiser, or Simon Reed, Publicity & Marketing Officer, please contact Simon Reed
3. Press event to “meet Julian Brazier” at 5.15 Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July prior to official opening at 6.30pm – to attend contact Simon Reed
4. Photo, filming and interview opportunities with Festival visitors & staff throughout event

**PRESS CONTACT: Simon Reed, Publicity & Marketing Officer 07768 364353 email: [seir.marketing@btinternet.com](mailto:seir.marketing@btinternet.com)**

## **Additional Information**

The Kent Beer Festival is Britain's second oldest festival organised by volunteer members of CAMRA (the Campaign for Real Ale). It started in 1975 and now attracts about 6000 visitors every year.

Since 1987, it has been held in a huge barn at Merton Farm near Canterbury, a great venue for a summer festival. Inside the barn, visitors can expect to find over 100 different cask beers and ciders, plus a wide range of foreign bottled beers.

At every session except Friday lunchtime there is entertainment ranging from a string quartet to jazz and tribute bands. There are food and T shirt stalls and souvenir glasses. Children are welcome in the stage and food areas.