



Mad About Beer

MAY 2023

BACK WITH A BANG! - FESTIVAL PHOTO SPECIAL

The Maldon beer festival returned last week for the first time in 4 years and was a huge success. 60 ales and 15 ciders were enjoyed by around 1000 visitors, many of whom came for more than one day. Over 3000 pints were served over the 5 days of the festival, which started with “trade day” on the opening day, and included Maldon’s first ever “hat day” on the Thursday.

A total of 18 new CAMRA memberships were taken out during the festival, of which all but one were new members of our branch. A warm welcome to all of them and we hope to see them at a social event or festival very soon! Our official photographer took a host of shots during the festival and many of them feature on the following pages You may spot yourself there!

Festivals cannot take place without the support and hard work of volunteers. Many of our regulars returned and were joined by a number of “first timers”. All our volunteers looked resplendent in their festival shirts. Thanks are due to all the volunteers who helped make this a memorable occasion.

Our chosen charity was Farleigh Hospice. Around 900 raffle tickets were sold over the 5 days for a variety of prizes. We also had around £500 in donations and unused beer tokens contributed by our visitors.

Many of our visitors commented on what a great time they had, and were very complimentary about the festival and the volunteers staffing it. Lots of happy faces were seen over the five days and a variety of photos of our visitors are included in this newsletter. Thanks to all those who made the trip, and in particular, to one couple who collect the names of ales and ciders, the former is now close to 5600, which is a lot of beer! Our visitors had a wide range of ales and ciders to choose from, though there were as usual mixed views on their favourites.

Our new venue, the Cygnet Room, proved popular and especially on Friday and Saturday, when we had some lovely Spring sunshine. Thanks to Gary, Jackie and their team at the Swan Hotel for providing the venue, and for the Saturday afternoon BBQ.

Our newsletter includes the dates and locations for our next branch meeting and social, you can always find this information on our website.



THE MALDON BEER FESTIVAL—IT'S ALL ABOUT THE BEER!

You obviously can't have a beer festival without the beer! And cider of course! So we are starting our look at the festival with some photos of beer, in all its glory! Cheers!



THE FESTIVAL IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS!

Our festival was officially opened by the Mayor of Maldon, Councillor Andrew Lay. He enjoyed a beer or two along with our visitors.



FARLEIGH HOSPICE

Our chosen charity for the festival was Farleigh Hospice.



For over 40 years, Farleigh has been providing hospice care, free of charge, to people affected by life-limiting illnesses and bereavement across mid Essex. Our inpatient unit provides care and support to patients with complex care

needs. This can include symptom control, psychological support and rehabilitation to build confidence as well as respite care and more intensive support at the end of their lives.

Farleigh Hospice is incredibly grateful to Maldon and Dengie CAMRA for choosing to support our charity at the 2023 Maldon Beer and Cider Festival. It was fantastic to see so many people enjoying the event with friends and we are absolutely delighted to announce that it raised an incredible £1,886.58.



Farleigh Hospice is a charity that helps local people with life-limiting illnesses to live well and die well. This would not be possible without the wonderful support of organisations such as Maldon and Dengie CAMRA. It costs Farleigh Hospice over £21,271 every day to provide its care for our local community across mid

Essex. It's a charity that relies on the goodwill of people like you so it can continue to deliver this much-needed support completely free of charge to those who need it. Every penny you have raised will make a big difference to the people that Farleigh cares for.

Over the past year, we have faced an ever increasing demand for the care we provide, both in our inpatient unit in Chelmsford plus out in the community. We now receive an average of 376 new referrals per quarter. By supporting Farleigh you are allowing us to continue to be there when it's needed. Our heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you.



**AND A GREAT TIME WAS HAD BY ONE AND ALL—
OUR HAPPY VISITORS!**



OUR HAPPY VISITORS!



OUR HAPPY VISITORS!



OUR HAPPY VISITORS!



Thanks to everyone who came along to the festival and we hope you all had a great time! The photos certainly show lots of happy faces. So why not come along and join us at South Woodham Ferrers for our next festival, or to one of our branch social events, we'd love to see you!

And no festival can take place without our volunteers, here they are on the next page hard at work.



OUR BRILLIANT VOLUNTEERS!



ANNOUNCING OUR FESTIVAL WINNERS

And the award goes to.....

John Hubbard retiring from Gray and Sons Chelmsford Ltd received a “Services to the pub and brewing industry” award after 24 years at Gray and Sons not to mention a total of 40 years in the industry from Trumans and Ridleys Breweries.

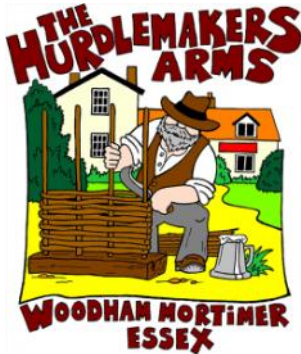
And finally, our hat day saw three big winners—one of whom was in fact Big Ears! Congratulations to Dave and Shaun for their sterling efforts and to Graham for his take on being coronated! We await the outcome of his trial.....



FUTURE SOCIAL AND BRANCH EVENTS

Back to normal business after the excitement of the festival!

Our next branch meeting takes place on Tuesday 23 May from 7.30pm at the Constitutional Club in Maldon. The agenda will be sent out to branch members ahead of the meeting. The club can be found near the Plume School, just off Fambridge Road and by the entrance to the White Horse car park. Ring the door bell to enter which is just inside the lobby door.



The next branch social takes place as part of the annual Hurdlemakers Arms beer festival in Woodham Mortimer. The festival starts on Friday 30 June, but Nettie and Gary have kindly agreed to open the previous evening for us! So please come along and sample a beer or two with your fellow MAD branch members on Thursday 29 June.



Details of future meetings and socials will be announced in the near future. Watch out for further announcements from your branch. We will also be announcing details of the award ceremonies for our Pub of the Year winners, these are expected to take place at each of our winning pubs so please come along and help them celebrate their awards.

NEXT BEER FESTIVAL

Finally, a reminder that our next branch beer festival is scheduled to take place in South Woodham Ferrers, in the Village Hall, from Thursday 5 to Saturday 7 October. We look forward to seeing many of you there, and will be looking for volunteers to help run the festival. We open at 4pm on the first day until 11pm, and then 12 to 11 on Friday and Saturday.

