



Branch Newsletter - April 2023 (Beer Festival Special Edition)



Cygnets Room, Swan Hotel,
73 High Street, Maldon

Tues 25 - Sat 29 April 2023

Yes the big day is finally upon us. The return of the Maldon beer festival, in its new home this year, the Cygnets Room. We are pleased to return the beer festival to our largest town in our branch, for our 18th beer festival. We featured an article on our first ever Maldon festival in 2003 in our March newsletter, if you missed it, you can find the newsletter on our branch website.

Entrance to the festival will cost you nothing if you are already a CAMRA member – or just a £1 if you are not. But please remember to bring your CAMRA card with you, in case it's buried in your wallet or purse, here's a reminder what they look like!

There is a £4 charge for your festival tankard and all beer will be sold using beer tokens, these can be bought on admission and at any time during the festival. Any unused tokens can be cashed in as you leave, or you could alternatively donate these to our chosen charity, Farleigh Hospice. You can also have your glass deposit if you don't wish to keep the tankard as a souvenir.



“HAT DAY” THURSDAY

This year, the return of the Maldon beer and cider festival marks our first ever “hat” day. This has been a regular feature of the Great British Beer Festival (GBBF) at Olympia, where the middle day, Thursday, has always been hat day. In recognition of the imminent coronation of King Charles III, visitors are invited to don their crown, coronet or tiara for the day, Thursday 27 April. You can make your own and be as imaginative as you like, the wackier the better. You can even bring your own orb and sceptre if you feel like it! There will be prizes for the best head wear, both during the afternoon and the evening, during Hat Day. Feel free to take photos of yourself and your friends to celebrate this regal occasion, and send them in to the branch. The best ones will be included on the branch website.



ABOUT CAMRA

The Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA) was formed in 1971 and is still as relevant today as it was back then. With over 150,000 members (and over 350 locally), isn't it time you joined up? CAMRA's core aims are to promote real ale and pubs, as well as acting as the consumer's champion in relation to the UK's beer and drinks industry. CAMRA also supports the growing interest in real cider and perry. CAMRA members include not simply real ale enthusiasts and regular pub-goers, but also sociable members, who want to meet like-minded individuals, often at CAMRA festivals. We also represent those who want to learn more about beers and brewing. The Maldon & Dengie Branch of CAMRA might be one of the smaller branches nationally, but we pride ourselves on being a very active branch. You can ask about how you can join at the Membership/Product Stand today. If you join at the festival, you'll get £10 worth of beer tokens to spend while you are here, as well as a range of other benefits that membership will bring you.

Thank you to our sponsors



Chances are you'll be holding a glass of a Mighty Oak beer right now while reading this or, at the very least, you will see a barrel or two on show as you cast your eyes around the ranks of casks at this beer festival. If so, you will readily appreciate how lucky we are to be brewing such a wide range of delicious ales for local drinkers. We've been brewing consistently good ales since 1996, and we've been in Maldon since 2001, so we consider ourselves truly local and well-established. If you are from out of town, or new to Mighty Oak, then we highly recommend a taster or two during your visit to the beer festival, or drop into our Tap Room at the top end of Maldon High Street.

Treat yourself to a glass of Oscar Wilde (3.7%), a dark mild which punches way above its weight taste-wise and is a previous winner of the CAMRA Supreme Champion Beer of Britain. Our delicious warming dark stout "The Old Man and the Sea" (4.1%) is a rising star. By now, you'll guess someone at the brewery has literary aspirations! If the rain has stopped by now, you may prefer Captain Bob (3.8%), a lighter but very tasty session bitter that stands up to competition very well. If the sun starts to shine, try Maldon Gold (3.8%) which, as the name suggests, is like liquid gold on a hot day - unlikely in April, we know!

Whatever you choose, we at Mighty Oak wish you happy drinking as the beer festival returns to Maldon for the first time since COVID. Please join us in raising a glass of our special Majesty Pale Ale (4.3%) to celebrate the coronation of King Charles III. Cheers all.

Further details at www.mightyoakbrewing.co.uk or email sales@mightyoakbrewing.co.uk



Founded in 1981, Crouch Vale Brewery has survived to be today, the longest-established brewery in Essex. Crouch Vale are immensely passionate about what they do and massively proud of their hand-crafted, multiple award-winning beers. The company is (and has always has been) independent and privately, family owned. Crouch Vale Brewery also has its Tap Room 19 based next door to the brewery and also The Queen's Head, their wonderful pub in Chelmsford, a corner 'local' where the passion for good beer is reflected in the excellent quality of the cask ales on tap. A refurbishment of the pub has retained its character. 5 minutes walk from the train and bus stations, the pub is 300 yards from the Essex County Ground, home of Essex County Cricket Club, and close to all that Chelmsford city centre has to offer including its award winning pubs.

Further details at www.crouchvale.co.uk or email info@crouchvale.co.uk

Wibblers is a family-owned award-winning brewery which has been operating since 2007. Phil Wilcox has been brewing since 1990, when he started with a Boots kit behind his Mum's sofa! Slowly

he started to become more interested in the process and progressed to full mash home brewing. Having won accolades and awards from his Peers in County and National home brewing competitions, Phil and his father, Jeremy decided that maybe they could sell a few casks once in a while, so in 2007 it was decided to move Phil's 90 Gallon home brew kit to Joyce's Farm in Mayland, and become a Registered Brewery, expanding to a 20bbl main plant as well as Phil's old homebrew kit as the pilot plant. Every summer Phil spends a weekend with his homebrew friends and members of the Craft Brewing Association (CBA) and UK-Homebrew Digest sharing each other's beers and home brewing experiences and a 'Crafty and Wobbly' beer is produced as part of this weekend. We've seen Stoats, Badgers, Wabbits, Squirrels, Moles, Crocs, Turtles and Otters to name a few, these beers are never "run of the mill" The name is decided at the end of the brewing day, after several pints and with much laughter.

At Easter in 2016 the brewery relocated to the current site in Goldsands Road in Southminster housed in a re-stored medieval barn, enabling production to expand further and allowing the addition of more tanks for the production of ciders and lagers and also providing additional space for an onsite Taproom with Kitchen to provide food to compliment the ales, this became so popular an extension was added in 2018 for a restaurant with an extensive menu served Thursday -Sunday. An annual Family Fun-day and Beer festival is held over the late August Bank holiday weekend, with food, music, bouncy castles and a selection of beers from local breweries. Brewery group tours are available and you can even book a Brewer Experience day with the brewing team.

Further details at: www.wibblers.co.uk or e-mail sales@wibblers.co.uk





Farleigh Hospice

Farleigh Hospice is very grateful to Maldon and Dengie CAMRA for choosing to support our charity at the 2023 Maldon Beer and Cider Festival – thank you.

Award-winning hospice care

Farleigh Hospice provides award-winning care, free of charge, to people affected by life-limiting illnesses and bereavement in Maldon, the Dengie and across mid Essex.

We co-ordinate our care and support to meet the specific needs each of our patients, to help them live as actively as possible from their diagnosis to the end of their life. We also support their family and carers throughout their loved one's illness, and beyond. 93% of Farleigh's care is delivered out in the community and within our patients' own homes, which is where the vast majority prefer to remain.

Patients and their families can also access our wide range of care services and bereavement support at our hospice building in Broomfield, Chelmsford. We have a specialist inpatient unit there too where we provide care and support to those with complex care needs. This includes symptom control, psychological support, physiotherapy, respite care and more intensive support at the end of their lives.

Our new Maldon centre

We recently shared our exciting plans to redevelop a building near Maldon's Promenade Park into a new Farleigh centre. It will enable us to offer locally all of the hospice care and bereavement support that we provide in Broomfield - with the exception of the inpatient service – along with a large hall and a café. We will be keeping you updated on progress via the Farleigh website: www.farleighhospice.org

How you can support Farleigh

Farleigh Hospice is a charity that relies on the generosity of the local community to help us raise the £16,500 we need each day to care for everyone who depends on our services. There are many ways that you can support us including making a donation at www.farleighhospice.org/donate; volunteering at an event or at one of our local Farleigh stores; organising your own fundraising activity or taking part in one of our many exciting fundraising events:

Walk for Life on Sunday 14 May – 12km and 24km sponsored walk along the tow-path from Heybridge Basin to Chelmsford.

Danbury and Little Baddow Open Gardens on Sunday 11 June – Enjoy beautiful gardens and buy plants, produce, homemade crafts and refreshments.

Splash Out! on Sunday 9 July – An exciting new 5km family-friendly, wet and wild obstacle course at Maldon's Promenade Park.



To find out more and book, go to www.farleighhospice.org/events





Maldon and Dengie CAMRA Branch



BRANCH SOCIALS

We run a number of social events to which branch members are invited to come along and enjoy a pint or two with fellow members. At this year's festival, we are also having our April branch social. A free half pint is on offer to all MAD branch members, at two sessions, 12noon to 1pm on the opening day, Tuesday 25 April, and again during Hat Day, Thursday 27 April, between 5.30 and 6.30pm. Simply show your CAMRA card at the membership stand to get your free half pint ticket!

You can find more information about our branch social events in our regular newsletter, or on our branch website. Or simply get in touch with us. We arrange a variety of events during the year and this will feature a number of beer festivals as well as trips out for meals and a pint or two. You can find more information on our social events in our regular newsletter and on our website, or come along to our branch meetings where you can hear everything that is going on locally.

www.maldonanddengiecamra.org.uk



NOT ALREADY A CAMRA MEMBER?

Your membership helps CAMRA campaign for real ale, pubs and drinkers' rights. What your membership includes:

A welcome pack to help you make the most of your membership
Opportunity to campaign to protect pubs and save those under threat from closure.

Discounts on CAMRA books including our best-selling Good Beer Guide

Learning resources to help you discover more about beer and brewing

Free or reduced entry to over 180 beer festivals
£30 (single)/£40 (joint) of CAMRA real ale, cider and perry vouchers (accepted at all participating pubs including JD Wetherspoons, Proper Pubs, Classic Inns, Amber Taverns, S A Brains)
The Real Ale Discount Scheme where you receive discounts on pints at over 3,500 participating pubs with your membership card.

Exclusive member discounts from retailers and other outlets. Plus the Maldon and Dengie Branch chair will buy you a pint when you attend your first branch meeting.

10 great reasons to join CAMRA **What's yours?**
Discover your reason and join us today

SOUTH WOODHAM FESTIVAL

The South Woodham Ferrers festival takes place at its usual venue, the SWF Village Hall, running from Thursday 5th to Saturday 7th October. The festival opens at 4pm on the first day and runs to 11pm on each day. The Hall is located close to bus routes and SWF railway station. There will be a range of ales and ciders on offer. Why not make a note in your diaries now and come along and join us?

10th CAMRA South Woodham Ferrers Beer & Cider Festival

Village Hall, 25 Hullbridge Road, CM3 5PL

Thu 5th to Sat 7th October 2023



SMILE PLEASE!

We would love to see any photos you have taken at the festival. So please send your best "David Baileys" along to us. The best ones will appear in our next newsletter and we will include a bigger selection on our branch website and Facebook pages. Send your photos to: editor@maldonanddengiecamra.org.uk

