



Mad About Beer

APRIL/MAY 2024

MALDON FESTIVAL PHOTO SPECIAL

The dust has finally settled on another Maldon beer festival, the 19th version of our beer and cider festival. Following its return last year in a new venue—the Cygnet Rooms at the Swan Hotel—we saw nearly 1000 visitors coming along over the 4 days. On offer were 48 ales and 12 ciders, and the range of choice met with great approval from our visitors. Nearly 2900 pints were served during the festival, for which this year’s chosen charity was the Royal British Legion.

A total of 13 new CAMRA memberships were taken out during the festival, 5 joint memberships and 3 single ones. 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”, some of whom only joined CAMRA last year. The festival shirts were very popular and drew lots of compliments. A huge vote of thanks is due to all the volunteers who helped make this a memorable occasion.

We were yet again blessed with good weather for the second year running, especially on Friday and Saturday. Many of our visitors were able to sit in the sunshine, very welcome after a rather wet February. Obviously the sun shines on the righteous!

As with last year’s festival, many of our visitors commented on what a great time they had, and were very complimentary about the festival and the volunteers staffing it. Thanks to all those who made the trip, and in particular, to our returning 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—the Blueberry Porter being a real “marmite” beer.

Thanks to Gary, Jackie and their team at the Swan Hotel for providing the venue.

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



NEVER A BETTER TIME TO JOIN CAMRA AND SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL BREWERIES AND PUBS



**IT'S OPENING TIME! WITH THANKS TO THE MAYOR OF MALDON COUN-
CILLOR ANDREW LAY FOR CUTTING THE RIBBON (WITH A LITTLE
HELP FROM BRANCH CHAIRMAN IVAN LAMBERT) AND DECLARING
THE FESTIVAL OPEN**



OUR AMAZING VOLUNTEERS!



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



OUR HAPPY VISITORS!



OUR HAPPY VISITORS!



OUR HAPPY VISITORS!



OUR HAPPY VISITORS!



AND WELCOME SOME OF OUR NEW CAMRA MEMBERS!



OUR HAPPY VISITORS!



OUR HAPPY VISITORS!



OUR CHOSEN CHARITY—ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

The Royal British Legion is at the heart of a national network that supports our Armed Forces community. We're here through thick and thin – ensuring their unique contribution is never forgotten. We've been here since 1921 and we'll be here as long as they need us.

We are the country's largest Armed Forces charity, with 180,000 members, 110,000 volunteers and a network of partners and charities; helping us give support wherever and whenever it's needed. We provide lifelong support to serving and ex-serving personnel and their families.



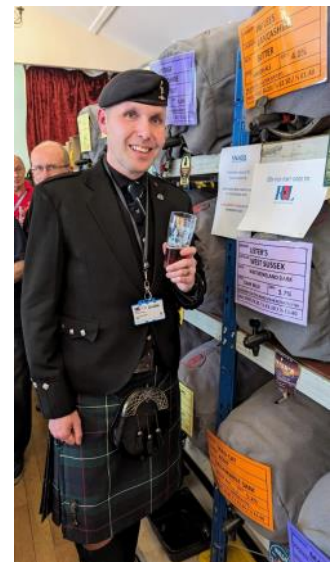
Our support starts after one day of service and continues through life, long after service is over. From providing expert advice and guidance, to recovery and rehabilitation, through to transitioning to civilian life – we can be by their side every step of the way.

And it's not just members of the Armed Forces but their families too. If there is ever a reason we can't help, our vast network will mean that we know someone who can. RBL works with politicians and officials at all levels to represent the interests of the Armed Forces community. Through our research and campaigning, we challenge myths about serving and ex-serving personnel.

Our manifestos outline key actions we think the government should take to improve the health, finances and wellbeing of the Armed Forces, veterans and their families.

Every year we lead the nation in commemorating and honouring those who have served and sacrificed. We remember those who lost their lives on active service in all conflicts; from the beginning of the First World War right up to the present day, as well as all those who have served and their families.

Every year in November, we distribute our paper poppies to raise vital funds to help today's Armed Forces community. And it wouldn't be possible without our incredible supporters. Whether you're a volunteer, member or proud Poppy Appeal collector – or however you choose to support us – we couldn't do it without you.



ANNOUNCING OUR BRANCH PUB OF THE YEAR

This year's festival saw the presentation of the certificate for the Maldon & Dengie branch pub of the year. The award went to the Queen Victoria on Spital Road, Maldon. Many congratulations to James, Paul and the staff at the Queen Vic! Here's our branch chairman Ivan making the presentation on the opening evening of the festival.



FUTURE SOCIAL AND BRANCH EVENTS

Back to normal business after the excitement of the festival!

Details of future meetings and socials will be announced in the near future. Our next social event, coupled with our next branch meeting, will be at the Purleigh Bell on the Friday night of their forthcoming festival. This will take place from 7pm onwards on Friday 3rd May.

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 3 to Saturday 5 October. We look forward to seeing many of you there, and will be looking for volunteers to help run the festival. We will be open at 12noon until 11pm each day.

