



Mad About Beer

NOVEMBER 2023

SOUTH WOODHAM FERRERS BEER FESTIVAL

The 11th South Woodham Ferrers beer festival took place in early October at its now usual venue, the Village Hall.

Over 650 people visited the festival during the three days it was open. They were able to sample 36 real ales and 10 ciders, as well as the ales on offer in the village hall bar. There were also samples available for spirits from Mighty Oak, sales of the spiced rum went very well!

The festival charity this year was the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) and we had a “crew” visit us on the Saturday, including a volunteer dressed to save, in full Lifeboat equipment. The festival raised around £350 for the charity.



There was a presentation to Mighty Oak for their two recent awards, a national bronze for Captain Bob and a regional gold award for Oscar Wild. Congratulations!

We also had a visit from the Men2sing choir, who serenaded us with a range of songs on the Friday evening and who are based in South Woodham and rehearse at the village hall. You can spot one of our volunteers—Ivan Lambert—in the photos of the choir!

With thanks to our official photographer Dave Dove, a selection of photos from the festival is on the next few pages.

No beer festival can operate without volunteers, and we were again very thankful to those who gave up their time to help run the event. If you have never volunteered at a beer festival before, why not come along and give it a go. Our next festival is scheduled to take place in Maldon in early April 2024 and we will be looking for volunteers ahead of the dates. So if you are interested or want to know more, please get in touch with us.



SWF PHOTO COLLECTION



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BRANCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

All CAMRA branches are required to hold an annual general meeting (AGM), to receive annual reports, and to elect a committee to run the branch for the following 12 months.



Our branch AGM will take place on Tuesday 14 November 2023, at the Bell pub, Main Road, Woodham Ferrers, CM3 8RG, starting at 7pm.



The meeting will commence with a Special General Meeting (SGM). There is one item on the agenda for this, approval of the Branch Constitution. This has been redrafted by the Committee so it is in line with the model constitution laid down by CAMRA. The draft has been approved by CAMRA head office and now requires approval at branch level.

The SGM will be followed by the branch AGM. This will include reports from the Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary and Membership Secretary, followed by the election of the committee for the year from November 2023 onwards.



The AGM will be followed by the usual branch meeting. This will include a review of the recent South Woodham Ferrers beer festival.

Agenda papers have been sent out via email to all branch members who have opted to receive communications in that way. They are also available on the branch website.

Anyone who would like to take on the roles of Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary or Membership Secretary of the Maldon and Dengie CAMRA Branch should send in their nomination to stand via email or in writing, this can be sent via email to:

secretary@maldonanddengie.camra.org.uk

or in writing to Chairman Maldon & Dengie CAMRA, c/o The Queen Victoria, Spital Road, Maldon, Essex, CM96ED.

All nominations require the signature of both a proposer and seconder, both of whom should be members of Maldon & Dengie CAMRA.

The election of the branch committee will be by voting on the night of the AGM. Branch members attending are eligible to vote at the meeting so please ensure you bring your CAMRA membership card along with you.

WHAT'S COMING OUR WAY

Maldon Beer Festival 2024

The festival will be back next year! After a very successful 2023 festival, planning has already started. We are looking at different venues, including the Cygnet Rooms which hosted us earlier this year. The festival is likely to take place during the school Easter holidays.



MIKE IS THE CHAMPION!



The annual branch bar billiards tournament, part of our branch social activities, took place in late October at the Chequers pub Goldhanger. After a sterling contest, our treasurer Mike Cutler was crowned champion. Here he is receiving the much-coveted trophy from Chris Harvey. Congratulations to Mike on his success.



The evening also saw a long service award made by our branch chairman James Burrell-Cook to Dominic Davies, who has been licensee of the pub for 21 years. The pub is renowned for both its food and its range of ales, and occupies a central position in the village of Goldhanger. Congratulations to Dominic, here's to the next 21 years!



BRANCH CHRISTMAS SOCIAL

Our Christmas event this year takes place at the Hurdlemakers Arms in Woodham Mortimer. This will take place on Friday 15 December, 7pm for a 7.30pm start. The menu is shown and is also available on the pub website.



Please get in touch if you are interested in joining us.

BOOK NOW 01245 225169

The Hurdlemakers Arms
Pre-Christmas Menu 2023
 Home Made Cream of Leek & Potato Soup
 finished with double cream served with a crusty baguette. (v)

Or

Traditional Prawn Cocktail
 Succulent prawns on a bed of crisp lettuce
 served with brown bread & butter. Accompanied by chef's home made marinade rose sauce (g)

Or

Hurdlemakers Plate
 a coarse Andouille pate, served with apple & plum chutney and warm toast

Or

Bread & Olives
 Crispy ciabatta bread, green & black olives with olive oil & balsamic vinegar

Or

Tossed Babyleaf Salad (v) (gl) (ve) (no cheese or crustons)
 a tossed smoked cheese, sweet pineapple, baby leaf & tomato salad with crustons & balsamic vinaigrette

Or

Traditional Roast Turkey
 moist succulent turkey, served with sausage meat and chestnut stuffing, chocolate and bacon (gl)

Or

Slow Braised Pork Belly
 Tender Pork Belly in a light barbecue gravy with crackling

Or

Roast Leg of Lamb
 in rosemary & redcurrant gravy, with a Yorkshire pudding (gl)

Or

Box* Rib Eye Steak
 cooked to your liking served with button mushrooms & grilled tomato (gl)

Or

Poached Salmon in Dill & Mushroom Sauce
 poached fresh salmon in a creamy white wine, dill, and button mushroom sauce (gl)

Or

Walnut, Almond & Vegetable Roast (v)
 fresh seasonal vegetables & mixed nuts lightly roasted
 served with two Yorkshire puddings and vegetable gravy

Or

Mediterranean Tart (gl) (v) (ve)
 A gluten free, vegan aubergine tart with sautéed potato & butternut squash sauce

Or

Traditional Christmas Pudding
 served with creamy brandy sauce

Or

Chocolate Fudge Cake
 rich chocolate cake with whipped cream
 chocolate flake and chocolate sauce

Or

Vegan Salted Caramel & Chocolate Cake
 Served with vegan ice cream

Or

Strawberry Cheesecake
 a creamy cheesecake topped with fresh strawberries
 served with whipped cream & home made coulis (gl)

Or

Apple Pie
 served with custard or ice cream

Or

Dairy Vanilla Ice Cream (gl)

Or

Coffee and Mince Pies

*includes a cracker and party popper

Adults £34.95
 Rib Eye Steak £4.00 supplement
 Children (under 12) £23.95

This menu is available between Monday 27th November & Saturday 23rd December 2023
 Parties over 6 will be asked to pre-order and a non-refundable deposit of £5.00 per person will be requested.
 We can cater for all dietary requirements. (gl) means low in gluten, (v) vegetarian, (ve) vegan
 Please make sure you tell us when you order as dishes will not be low in gluten or vegan unless requested.



SCORES ON THE DOORS

The next time you head to a pub for a beer or two, take a minute to ponder on how your experience can not only help future visitors, but also contribute towards selecting the best pubs in the area. All the scores submitted by branch members count towards the selection of the Pub of the Year, a much coveted award, and reported elsewhere in this newsletter.

How do you score your beers? The National Beer Scoring System (NBSS) is based on a points system. You can find more information on this at their website here, but in brief, this is how it works.

<https://camra.org.uk/take-action/national-beer-scoring-system/>

0. No cask ale available.
1. *Poor*. Beer that is anything from barely drinkable to drinkable.
2. *Average*. Competently kept, drinkable pint but doesn't inspire in any way.
3. *Good*. Good beer in good form. You may cancel plans to move to the next pub.
4. *Very Good*. Excellent beer in excellent condition.
5. *Perfect*. Probably the best you are ever likely to find. So why move to another pub?

You can submit half point scores if you can't make your mind up!

We have tried to make it as easy as possible for you to score the beer you drink. You can submit your scores on line through the WhatPub website (<https://whatpub.com>), or you should find our new scoring boxes in the pub you are visiting (see photo). But we are also providing you with some scoring sheets that you can take with you, fill in, and send back to us WHO/WHERE? If you turn this page, you will find some blank scoring sheets, simply print the page and you have your sheet! You will also be able to find the scoring sheet on our website.

Remember, all the scores you submit go towards selecting our Branch Pub of the Year, and our entries in the Good Beer Guide.



On the next page, you can find the score sheets you will see in the scoring boxes we have delivered to every pub. Feel free to print these off and use them, especially if the box isn't visible in the pubs you visit! But please let us know as we would like to find out which pubs don't have these readily accessible.

