

Chelmsford & Mid-Essex CAMRA

Your Local Branch Newsletter



CAMPAIGN
FOR
REAL ALE

BRANCH DIARY

Colchester Winter Beer and Cider Festival - Sat 3rd Feb 2024

Visit by train to Colchester & the Colchester CAMRA Winter Ale Festival at Colchester Arts Centre, Church St, Colchester, CO1 1NF. Meet at 11am at Chelmsford Railway Station.

Branch Committee Meeting - Tue 6th Feb 2024 20:00

The Bakers Arms, 7 Maldon Rd, Danbury, CM3 4QH. All members are welcome to attend.

Great British Winter Beer Festival - Thur 15th – Sat 17th Feb 2024

GBBF Winter in Burton upon Trent Town Hall, Staffordshire DE14 2EB. Tickets available online. An official branch visit is not organised but please feel free to make your own arrangements to attend if desired.

Chelmsford and Mid-Essex Winter Beer and Cider Festival 2024

Sadly this event has been cancelled due to lack of a suitable venue.

Branch Committee Meeting - Tue 5th March 2024 20:00

The Original Plough, 28 Duke Street, Chelmsford CM1 1HY. All members are welcome to attend.

Rural Runabout by Minibus - Sat 9th March 2024 11:00

Pick up 11am opposite Chelmsford Railway Station for a trip out to some of the branches more rural and harder-to-get-to pubs, situated North of Chelmsford. There will also be a special requested visit to the Andrewsfield Milli-Bar at Saling Airfield, near Great Dunmow. Approx cost will be between £15-£20 per person, members only.

Branch Meeting and Social - Wed 20th March 2024 20:00

The Anne Knight room, Brewhouse and Kitchen, Duke St, Chelmsford, CM1 1LW. All welcome to attend, 8pm for 8.30pm start, *free pint for first time attending members*.

Our Annual Good Friday Ramble - Fri 29th March 2024 12:00

This year's ramble is from Great Baddow, walking (or bussing) into town, visiting pubs along the way. Starting at the Chelmsford Brew Co Taproom, Church St, CM2 7LE at midday. Further details to follow, everyone welcome to join, member or non-member.

Branch Committee Meeting - Tue 9th April 2024 20:00

The Endeavour, 351 Springfield Rd, Springfield, Chelmsford, CM2 6AW. All members are welcome to attend.

Visit to Maldon and the Maldon Beer Festival - Sat 13th April 2024

We will be going by bus from Chelmsford, so this is an open invitation for everyone to join us. Times TBC. Hopefully, Maldon Beer festival will be running from 10th to 13th in the Cygnet rooms located at the Swan Hotel in Maldon, again TBC. We will also be visiting some of the best pubs and taprooms in Maldon. In the past we have arranged walks to Maldon from Chelmsford, this is still a possibility but will depend on weather conditions.

Essex PotY Judging Trip by Minibus - Sat 20th April 2024

Depart from opposite Chelmsford Railway Station, time TBC. All members are welcome to join us to visit pubs which have been judged as Pub of the Year for each Branch in Essex. Usually to all four corners of the county and eight pubs visited. It's a most enjoyable day and we ask you to judge each pub on a variety of merits to establish which one is the best in Essex. Approx Cost will be £20 per person

BOOKINGS

For social bookings **CAMRA MEMBERS** by email socialsecretary@chelmsford.camra.org.uk or contact **Martin Joy** on 07878 624443 (**Social Secretary**).

Last minute arrivals may be accepted at some events but for most pre-booking is suggested or compulsory. On all Minibus trips you will be dropped off in reasonable walking distance to your home. Please note that for over-subscribed events we reserve the right to give priority to CME Branch members over members of other Branches or non-members.

NEW BRANCH BEER MATS

Chelmsford & Mid-Essex Branch now have their own Beer Mats encouraging CAMRA members to visit our branch website and to start scoring their Ales while they are visiting our pubs. There are QR codes to help link up along with website addresses. Keep a look out for the double sided Beer Mats as the Pub Campaigns team will be taking them around to the pubs during February. Don't forget support your local and score your Ales.



CAMRA member?

Please score your beer in this pub

Scoring your beer helps to

- monitor beer quality in pubs
- identify pubs for the Good Beer Guide

- 0 No cask beer available.
- 1 **Poor.** Beer that is anything from barely drinkable to drinkable with considerable resentment.
- 2 **Average.** Competently kept, drinkable pint but doesn't inspire in any way, not worth moving to another pub but you drink the beer without really noticing.
- 3 **Good.** Good beer in good form. You may cancel plans to move to the next pub. You want to stay for another pint and may seek out the beer again.
- 4 **Very Good.** Excellent beer in excellent condition.
- 5 **Perfect.** Probably the best you are ever likely to find. A seasoned drinker will award this score very rarely.

Score your beer today at WhatPub.com or use the Good Beer Guide web app by visiting goodbeerguide.org.uk



Campaign
for
Real Ale

Chelmsford & Mid-Essex CAMRA

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Branch Trip to Spa Valley Beer & Cider Festival

We took a full minibus, kindly driven by Dave Garrett, to this brilliant festival. We hadn't been since 2018 and it hadn't changed a lot, except for the prices. It was a tad expensive but I must say that every beer I tried was excellent & they had some superb choices. No refunds on the beer cards which meant you had to make sure to use up what you bought and led to some bargaining with the bar staff to see if they'd give you a slightly shorter measure if you were 10p or 20p short. With Steam trains, excellent food and entertainment from the Twunts, who were an absolute joy. They are a fun Ukulele band from Tunbridge Wells, they were brilliant with some excellent renditions of songs you would never associate with those small 4 stringed instruments. It was a really fun afternoon at the festival. Some of our group ventured off to the famous Pantiles in town, but reports were that the pubs there were disappointing.

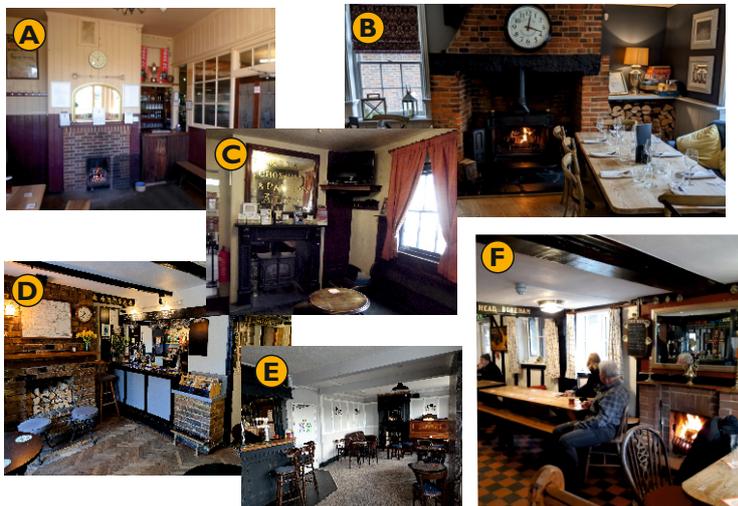


From here we visited the Nelson Arms in Tonbridge. This pub was voted best in Kent and is one of the 4 finalists in the National pub of the year competition. It is a really good pub with a fine selection of beers and had a real community feel about it. Reluctantly we left the pub after an hour or so, as we were due to visit an old haunt and somewhere we hadn't been to since before Covid. The Dartford Workings Men's Club. This CAMRA Friendly club serves a good selection of real ales and this was our last stop before returning to Chelmsford. Not as many beers as they used to have on but still a good selection on offer at very generous prices and some nice rolls to help wash it down with. They allow CAMRA Members but it's always polite to ask in advance. Great place to end our day, with some live entertainment from the Band who were playing Eagles and Rolling Stones covers, which is never a bad thing.



WHATPUB Photo Quiz

These CME pubs all have fireplaces but do you know which pubs they are?



FESTIVAL UPDATES

Winter Beer & Cider Festival 2024

Despite searching extensively for a venue for a February 2024 Festival, an available venue of sufficient size, and duration, and at an acceptable cost could sadly not be found. Two of the venues have been approached already to seek to resurrect the Festival in February 2025 & 2026.

Summer Beer & Cider Festival 2024

"Following the successful return of our Summer Beer and Cider Festival in July 2023, we are well underway with organising the 2024 Festival. We have a great team of people who volunteer to help organise things, some with lots of experience and some new to the task! Last year was quite a challenge as we had not held a Festival for 3 years and the world had changed somewhat leading to uncertainty. We had good attendance considering the weather was typically British and the financial outcome was positive. For 2024 we are planning a repeat, with some small changes to improve things. With our current volunteer team we are unlikely to grow much larger but will still deliver a Festival to be proud of. We are planning a thank you party for those who helped in 2023 for April this year where we will launch the volunteer drive for 2024"

Local Beery NEWS

Chelmsford Hockey Club Craft Beer, Cider & Real Ale festival - 9th - 11th Feb

The Oddfellows Arms Chelmsford Grand Opening Party - 10th Feb from 8pm

The Queens Head Boreham Beer Festival - 28th Mar - 1st April
Chappel Winter Beer Festival - 29th Feb - 2nd Mar
11am-11pm. Pre booked Tickets only

Maldon & Dengie CAMRA Beer Festival - 10th -13th April
St. George's Beer Festival at Brentwood Brewery - 20th April
12- 5pm



Visit our website @
chelmsford.camra.org.uk

Join CAMRA online @ join.camra.org.uk or pick up a leaflet in this pub or join up at our Summer Beer & Cider Festival