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FROM THE EDITOR

Summer is nearly here, and as you read this it will be only a few short weeks before Admiral's Park in Chelmsford rings out with the sound of marquee pegs being hammered home, firkins and kils clanging as they are manoeuvred into place, and the joviality of real ale fans enjoying their drink of choice. Turn to Mary Pasquale's article about the Summer Beer and Cider Fest, or browse along to www.cbcbf.info where the marketing team have once more outdone themselves with a superb, animated website where you can also volunteer to help out.

Congratulations to the New Inn, Colchester, which was voted Essex County Pub of the Year only a couple of days before this piece was written. Honourable mentions go to first and second runners-up The Red Lion in Belchamp Otten, which headlines later in the NWE Pub News and CME PoTY The Hop Beer Shop in Chelmsford, which needs no further

explanation.

You'll remember my last editorial was mostly given over to CAMRA National Chairman Colin Valentine, and his appeal for as many members as possible to attend April's AGM and Conference in Bournemouth. I was one of over half a dozen members from our parish who made the voyage down to the south coast, and was both impressed and depressed at what I saw.

To get the bad news out of the way first, a cloud hung over proceedings in the form of a very recent personal attack by a well-known beer blogger on one of the executive committee; the sombre mood was then not improved by a schism between the committee and the membership present in the hall and further afield, which led to procedural changes made at the 2016 AGM being reversed. Finally, looking around me I was painfully aware of

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FROM THE EDITOR

CAMRA's need somehow to reconnect with prospective young members, who are being lost to spirits, mixers and worse.

Now the good news; the workshop sessions bounced with the enthusiasm of those present. The appreciation of where CAMRA actually was, and where it wanted to get to in terms of societal 'mind-share' was fully realised by the volunteers leading the workshops. To some extent I found myself wishing that the entire weekend could have been made up of such sessions and I left each and every one both having learned something and more enthusiastic about spreading the good news of beer.

To my surprise, having banged on in previous editions of Thirsty Times about some challenges being faced by CAMRA as it tries to reinvent itself, very few of these actually surfaced at the conference; for example the question of how the cider lobby interact in future with the beer brigade was entirely unaddressed. Rather the keynote speech, given by Paul Chase of CPL Training, focussed on the existential threat we all face from the anti-drinking lobby. The neo-prohibitionists, as Paul cast them in his passionate address, were in danger of ruining the hobby for the responsible many, in the name of correcting the few real wrong-uns.

Part of the fight back against the neo-pros is to be a new organisation under the CAMRA umbrella, named 'Drinker's Voice'. I was going to write a far larger editorial-cum-article about Drinker's Voice but unfortunately further discussion has been embargoed by HQ in St Albans while the budget is set and scope and aims defined. One thought recurred again and again – could DV be the future home of our cider, perry and nascent gin efforts? If whisky is part of the mix – pun intended – count me in; mine's a neat Ledaig 15 y.o.

Finishing on a lighter note, later on in this Summer 2017

issue Claire Irons previews this year's Recommended Pub Guide; many of you will have seen the 'recommended' plaques, proudly displayed at pub entrances around the branch and further afield. Do you recognise this pub from its fearsome display of gongs?:



All is revealed in the aptly-named 'All about Ale', later....

Finally finally, just time to mention 'Beer Day Britain', organised by sommelière Jane Peyton on 15th June; look at www.beerdaybritain.co.uk for more info. There's a song to download and learn - never let it be said that CAMRA doesn't broaden your mind!

Ad multas cerevisias,
Tony Vernon

editor@chelmsford.camra.org.uk

ALL CHANGE AT THE SUMMER BEER FESTIVAL

by Mary Pasquale, Summer Festival Marketing Manager

If you have been to the Chelmsford Summer Beer and Cider Festival before, you will definitely want to make a note of the dates (and book your annual leave!) for this year's festival. Running from Tuesday 4th July until Saturday 8th July, the festival will be open from noon until 11:00pm daily.

If this is your first year at the festival, you are in for a treat – relaxing in the sunshine in Admirals Park with over 350 real ales and more than 100 ciders, perries and pyders to choose from, as well as the ever popular foreign beer bar.

This year we have kept all the classic ingredients for a fantastic beer festival – great beers, a wide range of delicious food, live music and plenty of volunteers on hand to help – but we've added some new twists to make this year the best one yet!

For the first time we will be offering a small selection of keykeg beers. If you haven't had an opportunity to try beer served this way yet, here is your chance. There are 13 to choose from, so sample a few and you can decide whether you love the new tech or prefer the reliable cask.

This year we are shrinking our carbon footprint by not printing a festival programme and by banning the use of polystyrene and plastic by our caterers – it'll be all paper and wood based products.

Excitingly, in association with the Galvin Green Man, Howe Street, 100 people will have the chance to enjoy a free food and beer pairing starting at 3:00pm available Tuesday to Thursday only. The Green Man is owned by the Michelin starred Galvin Brothers, so they are bound to keep your taste buds tingling.

CAMRA members will, as always, enjoy free entry to the festival. Entry costs for non-CAMRA members are Tuesday-Thursday free before 5:00pm and £2 after 5:00pm. Friday £2 before 5:00pm and £5:00 after 5:00pm. Entry all day Saturday is £2. You can become a CAMRA member at the festival and get your entry refunded and free entry for the rest of the festival week.



Putting on the festival takes 250 volunteers 2,000 planning hours and 10,000 man hours on site. There are lots of opportunities to get involved, and many different roles available. So if getting involved and enjoying free beer sounds appealing, do get in touch with us and we will be pleased to welcome you on board.

As well as serving beer, we also use the festival to serve our community by supporting two local guest charities. This year they are Essex Search and Rescue and Essex Dementia Care who will be joining us at the festival raising money and awareness for their causes. They are hoping to top last year's total of £10,000.

For more details, or to volunteer, visit the website www.cbcf.info or search Chelmsford beer on Twitter and Facebook.

We look forward to seeing you there!

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GOOD FRIDAY PUB CRAWL TOUR

by Martin Joy

The idea of this Easter weekend's outing was to do a walk along Springfield Road into town, do a presentation at the Railway Tavern and finish off at the Woolpack Beer Festival. So starting off at the Endeavour, it was very nice to meet up with a good group of members including a few who had made the trek from Witham and one from Colchester, all ready for the day's adventure.

A really warm welcome at the pub from new landlord Mike and he also had four good beers on offer including, in tip-top condition, the excellent Harvey's Sussex Best.

A little further along the Springfield Road we looked into The Red Lion which does advertise real ales; sadly none were on view at the bar, so it was a quick exit. We did however take note of their advert for B&B at £25 a night.

The Oddfellows Arms was next pub along the route. Again, we received a really nice welcome from the landlady and were glad to see a good selection of five on offer, including ales from Bishop Nick, Wibblers and Mighty Oak plus Cornwall's much-loved Betty Stoggs.



A little off-piste but the next pub we visited was the Riverside Inn. Alas, this very impressive weather-boarded pub on the river had only two ales on offer, Doom Bar and Young's Bitter. The food they were serving did, however, look very good.



The Railway Tavern was next on the list where Doug, our chairman presented Jo with their runner's-up award in this year's CME Pub of the Year competition. Eight real ales on offer, including the impressive Dark Times Milk Stout from Bishop Nick; unfortunately this ran out soon after our arrival but was soon replaced by the excellent Adnam's Oyster Stout.

After popping across the bicycle park for an obligatory visit to The Ale House, where the usual excellent range of ales and ciders were on offer, it was on to the Ivory Peg (JD Wetherspoon). Food was more the order of the day here than beer, but we found another good selection of ales on offer including local ones from George's, Brentwood and Bishop Nick. Cheapest ales in town especially with the 50p vouchers that are kindly distributed to CAMRA members as well.



Hop Beer Shop was the next pub on the tour and the usual warm and friendly welcome plus good selection of gravity fed ales and ciders was on offer.



We finished the day at the Woolpack Festival which was in full swing and very busy.

All in all, another good pub crawl tour and once again it highlighted the fact that we have some really excellent pubs in our fair city of Chelmsford.

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NW ESSEX TOWN PUB OF THE YEAR 2017

THE KINGS ARMS, SAFFRON WALDEN

by Janet Drysdale

Our first ever Town Pub of the Year award went to The Kings Arms, Saffron Walden. The certificate presentation took place on Thursday 23 March. "Policeman are looking younger!" was the cry of our ageing parents. We are amazed, and pleased by a few young landlords who do not fill the typical stereotype of older licensees.

In North West Essex we have the energetic Ashley Ball, joint licensee with his mother at the King's Arms. This multi-roomed, market town pub with welcoming open fires serves businesses at lunchtime, and a group of faithful locals by night. A function room hosting quiz nights and live music sessions ensures all visitors are greeted warmly.



NW Essex CAMRA chairman Ian Fitzhenry presents the first Town PoTY award to Ashley Ball

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Ashley left school in 2005 and is now 29. He studied Business in 6th form, but after school worked on building sites and the pub in the evenings, before moving into the pub full-time. Always smiling and helpful, he listens to suggestions especially on beer range; thus there is often a dark (mild, stout or porter) as one of his 5 beers on hand pump plus a blonde, a bitter, a brown bitter or something new and interesting to taste.

Known as a fidget and not good at sitting still, he always feels he should at least be polishing glasses - maybe this is what helps him be a good publican! His favourite beers are golden and hoppy, interests include football (supporting Cambridge United), tasting new beers and travel when possible. His favourite food is an 8oz medium rare steak. He thinks the best thing about being a publican is the social interaction and for the future he wants to continue improving his pub.

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MAD PUB OF THE YEAR FOR THE SECOND YEAR RUNNING

The Compasses, Great Totham, awarded Maldon and Dengie Pub of the Year for the second year running

By Jennifer Baines


The Compasses, Great Totham has won the Pub of The Year 2017 for the Maldon and Dengie Branch for the second year running.

Alex and Hayley, landlords of The Compasses asked for the award to be accepted by Mitch and Shannon in recognition of their hard work as part of the team.

Pictured (from left to right) is Steve Dearing, MaD Branch Secretary, presenting the award to Mitchell Corrin, Bar Manager and Shannon Kendall, Head Chef at the presentation event in the pub.

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THE RIGHT KIND OF BEER

Alan Perryman previews this year's Epping and Ongar Railway Beer Festival

From the 28th to 30th July, Epping & Ongar Railway's North Weald station will host its 5th beer festival. With the range of ales expanded to 65, this year the festival celebrates 60 years since the first tube train rolled through the Essex fields.



For three days, heritage steam and diesel trains will amble through the forest, complete with onboard 'Flag and Whistle' bar serving drinks until the last train after dusk. Classic Routemaster buses will provide transport to and from the festival site, with pick up points at Epping (Underground, Central Line) and Shenfield (TfL Rail and Greater Anglia). The transport options mean there is no need to designate a driver and bring the car! Bus services will be evenly spaced into the evening, the last Epping service leaving when the bar closes and a later Shenfield service than in 2016.



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Drinkers will be treated to live music on Friday evening, Saturday evening and Sunday afternoon – if the last years are anything to go by, the late night trains will be harmonious affairs, filled with the sound of folk songs!

With the 60th anniversary of London's Underground just around the corner, this year's beer selection will feature many London and Essex breweries. Some beers will be brewed specially for the occasion and it is planned that a 60/- style will be on offer! A full list of ales and ciders will be published in advance, along with full details of the cuisine on offer. CAMRA members can purchase discounted entrance that include bus and festival train travel. Tickets are available on the day and for advance purchase at www.eorailway.co.uk.

alanperryman@gmail.com

Thirsty Times



[The editor adds: This article brings back memories of a most enjoyable Sunday afternoon in 1988, travelling with a girlfriend from our Central London halls-of-residence to the end of the Central Line in Ongar, a 'bucket list' odyssey that seemed to last forever.

We had been inspired by the film 'Bellman and True' in which tube stations east of Stratford and

unknown to central-area commuters, such as Loughton, Theydon Bois and North Weald, had featured as mysterious destinations in fairy tales told by Bernard Hill's father character to his son.

An interesting factoid learned that day was that all distances on London Underground are measured from Ongar station – which hasn't been owned by LU for nearly 20 years!]

HOP BEER SHOP

CME Pub of the Year and Highly Commended Cider Pub

by Doug Irons

The Hop Beer Shop in Moulsham Street, Chelmsford, is this year's Pub of the Year and also won the Highly Commended award in the branch Cider Pub of the Year competition. Pictured handing over the awards in late March are (l-r) Doug Irons, CME Chairman, John Prior proprietor and Claire Irons, CME Branch contact and cider pub judging for the branch and Essex.



PUB NEWS

CHELMSFORD AND MID-ESSEX

by Rob West

Please send CME Pub News to Rob West in plenty of time for publication, particularly pub events.

Mark Mcleod, manager of the **White Horse, Chelmsford**, has confirmed that the planning application to the council in January was to refurbish the flats upstairs and that his pub is definitely not under threat of closure. In fact he is excited to announce that he is due to marry Sian Phillips, manager of the Wine Cellar in Chelmsford in June. "This is a kind of licensed-trade take on the Billy Joel and Christine Brinkley story" he quipped; "She is a white upper-class mayor's daughter running a prestige town centre wine bar. I'm a black down-town lad from Melbourne whose claim to fame is that he has shaken hands with the Queen!!"



Mark has over thirty years experience running some of Chelmsford's most interesting establishments including The Hayloft Bar, the Countryman and the city's first nightclub Dee Jays. "I am pleased to say that the White Horse is still open and serving popular beers such as Oscar Wilde, Captain Bob and ever-changing live ciders. As you know, working in two separate places we don't get to see an awful lot of each other. But once married what a collaboration there could be. Watch this space...". Chelmsford and Mid-Essex CAMRA wish Sian and Mark well for their future together.

Wedding bells are also due to chime for Jo Green and Paul Teahon on 1st July so they apologise for closing the **Railway Tavern in Chelmsford** on their special day. Of course, the branch and their

customers will not be too put out and wish them all the best for their married life and continued success.

Some people may be sad to see the Pullman upholstery disappear from this railway-themed pub, which has been refurbished in order to make the seating arrangements more flexible and allow more people to enjoy the back bar. See the social diary for an illustration of the new seats and benches at our Good Friday pub crawl tour - you won't recognise the old place!



Still in the West End of Chelmsford, the uniquely-named **Royal Steamer** run by father and son team, both called Justin Healey, is due to close for a few weeks over the summer for refurbishments and will reopen with full pub opening hours and real ales on hand pump. Their sister pub, the **Kings Arms in Broomfield** reopened in April following refurbishment to have three handpumps: Adnam's Ghost Ship, Fuller's London Pride and a guest ale.

The Two Brewers in Chelmsford is being managed by a holding company so has limited opening hours. Hopefully it will fare better than the Bird in Hand which has recently closed.

The Eagle in Galleywood has re-opened, and joins five other pubs belonging to the new owner who has taken over the lease from Hawthorn Leisure. The delighted local villagers, known as the Eagle to Phoenix group, have fought a long battle to save their village pub and have it listed as an Asset of Community Value. With three hand pumps, pub grub including Sunday roasts and a thriving quiz scene it should be back as the hub of the village.

The Landlords of the **Beehive Pub & Restaurant, Great Waltham** are celebrating their first anniversary with live music, BBQ and Bouncy Castle on Saturday 15th July from 1pm till late. As usual they will have their regular beers Greene King IPA and Abbott plus a guest ale. Kathryn Mead, the landlady is looking forward to a great party with fun for all the family.

The Flitch of Bacon in Little Dunmow is the only pub in the village. However as part of a recent revamp the hand pumps have been removed and it is now a restaurant rather than a gastropub.

Having gained ACV status it was a surprise to all that the Leather Bottle in Pleshey closed suddenly in April, with the departure of previous tenant Keith Flint of the band Prodigy. However owners Viv and Arthur Warren soon had another tenant, Rob, who re-opened the pub on Easter Monday.

The White Horse, Witham re-opened on Saturday 29th April. This dog-friendly pub has been refurbished inside and now also has a function room available for hire. Owned by Hawthorn Leisure, the pub has three hand pumps of which two were in use on opening day for Mighty Oak Oscar Wilde mild and Maldon Gold. The regular

tipple is Greene King IPA and they have two guest ales but aren't doing food for a few weeks until the kitchen has been sorted out. It is jointly run by Phil Streetley and partner Carly Baker, formerly of the George in Witham, and Paul Baker who ran the Cross Keys in White Notley. We wish them good luck with their new venture and are pleased that they will stock Thirsty Times.

The Eagle in Braintree has extended opening hours from noon till midnight Monday to Sunday, so are now fully open on Mondays. Meals are served 12pm to 8pm Monday to Sunday. From Wednesday 24th May Marstons are replacing Matthew Clarke as the main supplier, which means that there will be no Greene King! Up to four changing beers will be offered, including one each from Adnam's and Marston's, one national and often a local beer. The pub is dog-friendly.

The Golden Lion, Braintree is being completely refurbished and should reopen in mid-August. Owner Glenn Akerman, also proprietor of Witham Brewery, will sell his No Name beer with a manager running the pub. **The Horse and Groom in Braintree** have a new head chef called Tony Price. He has cooked for more than ten years and apparently steak and ale pie has so far been their

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best seller. **The Swan in Bank Street, Braintree** have applied to have three tables and nine chairs outside their pub, subject to council agreement. From 24th May there will be an extra chef at the **Cross Keys in White Notley** with new meal times Monday to Saturday 12pm to 2.30pm, 6pm to 9.30pm and Sundays 12pm to 5pm.

Pub beer festivals that we know about: **Whitsun weekend Friday 26th to Monday the 29th May:**

• Baker's Arms, Danbury • King William IV, Braintree • Rose & Crown, Writtle • Three Elms, Chignal St James (CME Branch Cider Pub of the Year Runner Up presentation at 7.30pm Friday) • Wheatsheaf, Hatfield Peveral festival finishes on Sunday 28th May.

Although not our branch the Carpenter's Arms in Maldon (Maldon & Dengie Cider PoTY 2015-17) will also host their Beer and Cider Festival over the Bank Holiday weekend and so will The Norton Wine & Kitchen, Cold Norton with the theme Beers of East Anglia.

Hopstock VII, Compasses, Little Green fundraising for Farleigh Hospice Friday 18th to Sunday 20th August.



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The Woolpack, Chelmsford have changed the date of their late summer beer festival to avoid clashing with Chappel Summer Beer Festival at the East Anglian Railway Museum. With over fifty ales and ciders and live music every evening the new dates for your diary are 31st August to 2nd September.

Late August Bank Holiday weekend is always popular for Beer and Cider Festivals so keep an eye out and support the pubs, for example King William IV Braintree, Three Elms Chignal St James and The Queens Head in Boreham.

pubnews@chelmsford.camra.org.uk

MALDON & DENGIE PUB NEWS

by Chris Harvey
Chairman, Maldon & Dengie CAMRA

Let's start with some good news. The extensive restoration work on the fire-damaged **King's Head in Bradwell-on-Sea** has been completed. Owner of the historic village inn Richard King and pub manager Mick Clay opened the doors in late April. The pub will serve three real ales from Essex breweries, and also offer good home-cooked food. It's been a long wait for the people of Bradwell to get their pub back, but I'm sure it will have been worth it. Richard King has spent a considerable sum on the restoration/rebuilding work and I was very impressed with what I saw in late March when I viewed the pub.

We have managed to get another of our local pubs listed as an Asset of Community Value. **The Red Lion in Latchingdon** has joined the growing list of pubs in the Maldon & Dengie Branch area that have achieved this status. It is the only pub in a large village, and local people would have to travel long distances to find an alternative if it were to close its doors for good in the future. New tenants will soon be taking over at the pub.

Now for some very sad news. It transpires that the pub company Hawthorn Leisure has sold the **Mitre in Wickham Bishops**, to a buyer who intends to convert the pub into a delicatessen and beauty salon! Planning permission will not be required for this change of use, due to permitted development rights which currently exist for pubs. Fortunately, new legislation has been passed which will soon

remove these rights, but this will come too late to save the Mitre. There is now only one pub in Wickham Bishops, which is the **Chequers**.



The Bell in Tolleshunt Major, which is known locally as the "Beckingham Bell" is looking for new tenants. Gray & Sons are seeking expressions of interest to take over this attractive village local from Jan and Manfred Meier; the change is expected to take place in August.

The Ferry Boat Inn in North Farnbridge has reopened following a short closure whilst refurbishment work was carried out on the pub, restaurant and hotel rooms. The new owners are Tony Lee and Jay Doogan; they recognised that the pub needed a makeover in order to encourage the locals to start frequenting it again.



The Mighty Oak Tap Room and Farmers Yard in Maldon's High Street have both recently announced longer opening hours. The Tap Room is now open from 12 noon until 11pm on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, and the upstairs 'reading room' can now be used in the evenings. Farmers Yard now opens from 12 noon to 10pm Tuesday to Sunday.

charvey23@gmail.com

THE QUEENS HEAD



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NORTH WEST ESSEX PUB NEWS

by Dave Kenny and Chris Rouse

North West Essex Pub of the Year 2017



This year, the award went to **The Red Lion, Belchamp Otten**. The certificate presentation took place on Monday 20th March. This is a lovely local pub hidden away in the smallest of the Belchamps. Gavin, the landlord provides a warm welcome, as does their very friendly Labrador. The Red Lion always has top quality beer and cider, and an open fire in winter. There's also darts and a pool table to keep you occupied, along with occasional events.



North West Essex Club of the Year 2017

This year, the award went to **The Birchanger Sports & Social Club (BSSC), Birchanger**. The certificate presentation took place on Tuesday 11th April. BSSC is a thriving and growing social club and is committed to the highest quality real ale, cider and food along with other drinks. The club has been transformed in the past 2 years with a refurbishment, and celebrated its 125th

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Birchanger Beer Festival
23 - 25 June 2017
7pm Friday to 7pm Sunday

All welcome - No admission charge
Live music in Marquee. BBQ.

CAMRA award-winning
Club Wide range of real ales and
ciders all at £3.00 per pint

Birchanger Sports & Social Club,
229 Birchanger Lane, CM23 5QJ, 01279 813441
club@birchanger.com / www.birchangerclub.com

Anniversary in 2016. BSSC are proud to host their second annual beer festival from 7pm Friday 23rd June to 7pm Sunday 25th



June 2017. All are welcome, no admission charge, live music in a marquee, BBQ, wide range of real ales and ciders all at £3 per pint.

Save the Railway Arms Pub (STRAP), Saffron Walden

The Railway Arms, Saffron Walden was registered as an Asset of Community Value (ACV) on 30th March 2017, the culmination of over two years' effort in the face of great opposition from owners who have run it down over the last 3 years, closed it down in January and now seemingly wish to see it developed for housing. ACV status gives us six months breathing space to organise, raise money and use the Community Right to Bid in an effort to buy the pub. STRAP has achieved its primary aim and now needs to give rise to a new organisation with the aim of providing a professionally-run community pub.

The proposed format is a Community Benefit Society (CBS) established by, and for the benefit of, the local community. Community shareholders would decide the management strategy and ensure it sells good quality food and drinks at reasonable prices. It would also aim to support the widest possible range of interest groups & organisations and provide facilities to help address local needs. A community share issue would raise capital towards meeting the cost of purchase, any renovation and refurbishment works. Total costs are estimated to be in the order of £400,000. Assistance may be available from a variety of sources including grant funding and community loans.

A public meeting was held in Saffron Walden Town Hall on Wednesday 19th April, with the intention of turning the Railway Arms into a thriving community owned pub. Over 130 people attended. Please like us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/savetherailway1/), follow us on Twitter (@Summer 2017

savetherailway1/) or contact davekenny@gmx.com to become a member of STRAP and/or register an interest in the Community share issue.

The Kings Head Ridgewell Protection Group ACV, Ridgewell

by Chris Rouse and Chris Salt

The Kings Head, Ridgewell was registered as an Asset of Community Value (ACV), and the owners were recently refused planning permission for a change of use from Public House to private dwelling. Now the The Kings Head Ridgewell Protection Group ACV are trying to achieve a successful sale of the business to the community group for the benefit of the community and for the preservation of the pub for future generations. The group now has until 27th August 2017 to complete fund-raising and submit a bid. During this time, any potential sale of the business must be to another community interest group or approved by The Kings Head Ridgewell Protection group ACV. Contact Chris Salt (christophersalt@gmail.com) for further details.

magazine@northwestessex.camra.org.uk

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Charity Quiz Nights
Thursday Food Night
Legendary Sunday Lunch Roasts




SOCIAL CALENDAR

CHELMSFORD AND MID-ESSEX BRANCH

JUNE

Please note that for all trips in a minibus driven by our volunteer drivers the drop off is not a set route but we drop off our members close to their homes. This service is included in the fare quoted.

MAY

Saturday 27th May - Full Day visit to Brighton and Hove with optional excursion to National Cider Centre at Firle, Sussex

By minibus depart 9am opposite Chelmsford Station, £18 Members only. Visiting the best and most recommended pubs and micropubs. Stop at Dartford WMC on way home.

Tuesday 30th May - Saturday 3rd June - Colchester Summer Beer Festival

Arts Centre, Colchester, CO1 1NF. All members encouraged to attend and support this event run by Colchester & NE Essex CAMRA.

Tuesday 6th June - Saturday 10th June - Thurrock Beer Festival Civic Hall, Thurrock, RM16 2JU.

All members encouraged to attend and support this event organised by SW Essex CAMRA.

Saturday 10th June - Full Day Visit to Harveys Brewery in Lewes

In conjunction with Maldon and Dengie Branch who have kindly arranged this, followed by evening stop in Tunbridge Wells. By Coach, cost £25 per person. 9.30am Departure from bus stop adjacent to All Saints Church, Maldon then 10am pick up in Chelmsford, opposite Chelmsford Railway Station. Visit to Harveys Victorian Tower Brewery in Lewes including a brewery tour and tastings, with opportunity to visit and explore this beautiful county town with the castle, museum, Anne of Cleaves house and of course many great pubs. Scheduled stop on the way home in Tunbridge Wells and the historic Pantiles before returning to drop off in Chelmsford and Maldon.

Thursday 15th June - Social trip to Writtle visiting Chequers and Wheatsheaf Pubs.

By Taxibus from opposite Chelmsford Station or make your own way. Price and time to be confirmed.

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Wishbone
Saturday 10th June
Stony Road
Saturday 24th June
Headfirst
Saturday 12th August
Stony Road
Saturday 23rd September
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Saturday 7th October

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SOCIAL CALENDAR

Thursday 15th to Saturday 17th June - 13th Braintree Beer Festival

Hosted by Lions Club of Braintree and NW Essex CAMRA Bocking Arts Theatre, Braintree, CM7 9AE
All members encouraged to attend and support this event.

Saturday 17th June - Visit to Gibberd Garden Beer Festival and Presentation to the Woodbine Waltham Abbey, Essex Cider Pub of the year

Minibus opposite Chelmsford Station at 2.30pm cost £8 members only. Plan to visit the beer festival for a presentation to pub landlord Rob, by Herts & Essex Borders Branch then back to Woodbine Pub for a 7.30pm photo call. Drop off back to Chelmsford.

Sunday 18th June – Revelry Day at Bishop Nick Brewery

12pm - 4pm at the Brewery, 33 East Street, Braintree, CM7 3JJ. Beer, Brewery Tours, Shop, Food and Fun for all the family. All members encouraged to attend and support one of our local breweries. Please make own arrangements to attend: regular buses from Chelmsford and Witham to Braintree with Sunday saver tickets.

Weds 21st June - Branch Meeting, Battersford Court, Witham CM8 1AH

Minibus opposite Chelmsford Station departs 7.45pm, £7.50 per member or make your own way there. 8pm for 8.30pm start, first time attendees receive a free beer.



Thursday 29th June - Real Ale Runabout to Micropubs of Blackfen, Crayford, Eltham and Welling

By Minibus opposite Chelmsford Station departing 7pm. £12 members only. Plan to visit Penny Farthing, Door Hinge Ale House, Broken Drum and the Long Pond. Drop home Chelmsford circuit afterwards.

JULY

Tuesday 4th July to Saturday 8th July - Chelmsford and Mid Essex Summer Beer and Cider Festival

Summer 2017 Thirsty Times

Admirals Park, Chelmsford, CM1 2PL, Essex. All members encouraged to attend and volunteer for this prestigious event organised by CME CAMRA.

Saturday 22nd and Sunday 23rd July - East Anglia Region POTY Judging Trip, staying overnight in Norwich.

Visit the six East Anglia region Pubs of the Year (Beds, Cambs, Essex, Herts, Norfolk and Suffolk) to judge and score each one. By Minibus opposite Chelmsford Station, 10.30am departure. Free for Saturday but contribution towards hire of bus for Sunday. Limited to 16 places and members only. Please contact social secretary to book place and you will need to also book a hotel room in Norwich.

Saturday 29th July - Visit to Epping and Ongar Railway Beer Festival

Train from Chelmsford to Shenfield, where we collect the vintage bus to the festival – see feature article in this edition for more details or www.eorailway.co.uk.

Monday 31st July – Branch Meeting at the Hop Beer Shop and Micropub

Moulsham Street, Chelmsford, CM2 OLD. John has kindly offered to open as a private function for us to hold our meeting. 8pm for 8.30pm start. Please make own arrangements to attend, free pint for first time attendees. NB: Last branch meeting until September due to holidays.

AUGUST

Tuesday 8th to Saturday 12th August - Great British Beer Festival

At Olympia, London, members encouraged to attend and volunteer at this showpiece extravaganza.

Saturday 12th August – Social Visit to The Three Elms Summer Cider and Beer Festival

Chignal St James, Chelmsford, CM1 4TZ. Please make own arrangements to attend and support this event which runs from 11th to 13th August.

Friday 18th August – Visit to the Hopstock Beer Festival

At The Compasses, Littley Green, CM3 1BU. Minibus opposite Chelmsford Station at 7pm. Cost £8 members only. Drop home afterwards.

Thursday 24th to Saturday 26th August - Clacton Beer Festival

St James Hall, Tower Road, Clacton. CO15 1LE. All members encouraged to attend and support this beer festival, run by Tendring CAMRA branch.

SOCIAL CALENDAR

Saturday 26th August – Full Day Margate and Micropub Tour

Chance to go to Margate and surrounding areas of North Thanet and visit some of its many micropubs. By Minibus opposite Chelmsford Station 10am departure. Cost £15 members only. Drop home Chelmsford afterwards.

SEPTEMBER

Tuesday 5th to Saturday 9th September - 31st Chappel Beer Festival

At East Anglia Railway Museum, Chapel and Wakes Colne. Tuesday 6pm to 11pm then Weds - Sat 11am to 11pm daily.

Martin Joy, 07878 624 443

socialsecretary@chelmsford.camra.org.uk

MALDON AND DENGIE BRANCH

JUNE

Sat 10th June - Day Trip to Harvey's Brewery, Lewes, with Chelmsford and Mid-Essex Branch



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A visit to the historic Sussex brewery, with plenty of beers to sample. On the way home, we'll stop in Royal Tunbridge Wells to visit some of the town's good pubs. Coach departs 9.30am, All Saints Church, Maldon, £25 per person. BOOKING ESSENTIAL (limited places left). MAD members will have priority, so please book early to avoid disappointment

Mon 12th June - Branch Meeting

8pm, Blue Boar, Maldon, CM9 4QE.

Sat 10th - Sun 18th June - Swan Beer Festival

Swan, Little Totham, CM9 8LB. Informal social Thursday from 7.30pm.

Fri 30th June - Sun 2nd July - Hurdlemakers Arms Beer and Cider Festival

Hurdlemakers Arms, Woodham Mortimer, CM9 6ST. Informal social Friday from 7.30 pm

JULY

Tues 4th - Sat 8th July - Chelmsford Beer and Cider Festival

Admirals Park, Chelmsford CM1 2PN Essex. Members are encouraged to attend

Saturday 22nd July - Rail Ale Trail

Middy start: make your own way to the One Green Bottle, Battlesbridge, SS11 7RF. Take the Rail Ale Trail around the Dengie, visiting Battlesbridge, South Woodham Ferrers, Burnham on Crouch and Southminster. At the end, there'll be a barbecue at the Wibblers Tap Room. A minibus taxi will be arranged from Maldon to North Fambridge Station and back, if required. Dependant on numbers. (Pick up time to be confirmed).

Tuesday 25th July - Branch Meeting

8pm, Kings Head, High Street, Bradwell, CM0 7QL

Thursday 27th July - Redoubt Fort Beer Festival, Harwich

Bus 75 departs Maldon (WH Smiths stop) at 9.38 am. Breakfast at the Playhouse, Colchester, then train to Harwich. Optional evening meal at the Alma Inn in Harwich Old Town. Return to Maldon around 9.50pm.

AUGUST

Saturday 5th Aug - Rowhedge & Wivenhoe Walk

A repeat of a pretty riverside walk to the Albion pub in Rowhedge, and a few more as well. High Tide 11:41. Meet at the Wetherspoon pub The Playhouse in Colchester at 10am for breakfast.

SOCIAL CALENDAR

Thursday 10th Aug - Minibus Tour: North Chelmsford
7pm start, pick up at The White Horse, Maldon, CM9 5JP. Minibus tour around the pubs of North Chelmsford local area. Plan to visit The Lion, Boreham, Queens Head, Boreham, White Hart, Little Waltham, The Compasses, Little Green (opportunity to eat), Square and Compasses, Fuller Street and possibly the recently reopened pub in Terling if time permits. £7 per person. MAD Members only.

Sunday 27th Aug - Annual MAD BBQ

Noon Hurdlemakers Arms, Woodham Mortimer, CM9 6ST. Barbecue for Members, petanque/boules games to be played too. A fun afternoon of Food, Beer & Games.

£10 per person or free for volunteers who worked 10+ hours at the MAD Maldon Beer and Cider Festival 2017. Booking essential. Please advise of any dietary requirements.

MAD Social Secretary Mike Cutler
mjcutler59@gmail.com 07754 206099

NORTH WEST ESSEX BRANCH

Mon 5th June - Branch Meeting

8pm Red Lion, 6 Church Hill, Finchingfield, CM7 4NN.

Thurs 15th - Sat 17th June - Braintree Real Ale Festival

Bocking Arts Theatre (formerly Braintree Institute), Bocking End, Braintree, CM7 9AE.

Mon 3rd July - Branch Meeting

8pm White Horse Inn, Belmont Hill, Newport, CB11 3RF.

Tuesday 1st Aug - Branch Meeting

8pm White Lion, 6 Church Street, Sible Hedingham, CO9 3NS.

Mon 4th Sept - Branch Meeting

8pm Fox & Hounds, High Street, Clavering, CB11 4QR.

North West Essex Branch Contact:
contact@northwestessex.camra.org.uk

CIDER PRESS

By Claire Irons

Essex Cider Pub of the Year Competition

This year the competition was very close indeed with judges from five branches of Essex CAMRA involved in judging the six finalists.

The core facts:

Winner Woodbine, Waltham Abbey (Herts & Essex Borders)

Runner Up Odd One Out, Colchester (Colchester and North East Essex)

Highly Commended

Compasses, Little Green (Ch'ford & Mid-Essex)
Carpenter's Arms, Maldon (Maldon & Dengie)
Mawson's Micropub, Southend (South East Essex)
Ship, Kirby Le Soken (Tendring)

EAST ANGLIA CIDER PUB OF THE YEAR COMPETITION

Listed alphabetically for the counties the finalists are:

Bedfordshire : Engineers Arms, Henlow
Cambridgeshire: Drayman's Son Micropub, Ely
Essex: Woodbine, Waltham Abbey
Hertfordshire: Mermaid, St Albans
Norfolk: White Lion, Norwich
Suffolk: White Horse Inn, Edwardstone

I shall publish the results of this round of judging for the June CME branch meeting and in the autumn issue of Thirsty Times.



CIDER PRESS

CIDER PRESENTATIONS

The presentation for CME Branch Cider Pub of the Year took place on Easter Saturday during the Compasses Little Green 'Easter Steam Up'. Congratulations to Joss Ridley and his team for achieving this new award for them and also being Highly Commended in the overall branch Pub of the Year Competition (see feature on following page).

With May being designated a CAMRA Cider Month, the presentation for the Three Elms as CME Branch Cider POTY Runner Up will be at their Real Ale & Cider Festival on Friday 26th May at 7.30pm to get the party started for the Bank Holiday Weekend.

All branches are invited to attend the presentation for The Woodbine, Waltham Abbey as Essex Cider Pub of the Year. With CAMRA discount bringing the price to £3 per pint or £6 for a flight of six thirds there will be opportunity to try as many as you like of the thirty six ciders and perries on offer, plus seven cask ales. The great discount for CAMRA members has resulted in many more recruits for the Campaign.

Brendan Sothcott, chairman of Herts & Essex Borders CAMRA will officially present the award to landlord Rob Chapman at mid-afternoon on Saturday 17th June at the Gibberd Garden Beer Festival. There will be a repeat at the pub at 7.30pm for the press photo call, this time presented by Claire Irons, organiser of the Essex Cider Pub of the Year competition. See CME Social & Campaigning diary for details of transport arrangements or make your own way there.



CAMRA'S NATIONAL CIDER & PERRY CHAMPIONSHIPS

Following more than a year of local tasting panels and regional heats leading up to the finals held at

Reading Beer & Cider Festival at the end of April, the top awards were selected by a specially chosen panel of both experienced and novice judges.

The competition featured ciders and perries from across the UK, with each cider and perry judged on its individual taste, aroma, flavour, after-taste and overall appeal.

CIDER WINNERS:

GOLD Countryman, Medium (Devon)

SILVER Salt Hill, Autumn Gold (Berkshire)

BRONZE Gwatkins, Captain Gwatkins Rum Cask (Herefordshire)

PERRY WINNERS:

GOLD Nempnett, Piglet's Perry

SILVER Waulkmill, Mooseheid Perry (Dumfriesshire)

BRONZE Hartland, Perry (Gloucestershire)

CIDER BAR AT CHELMSFORD BEER & CIDER FESTIVAL

I shall endeavour to have all the winners of the National Competition on the cider bar at Chelmsford Beer & Cider Festival 4th to 8th July. There will be new speciality ciders including those with added fruit and refreshing elderflower plus many award winners from around Britain. Thank you to Berties Cider Company for supplying the FESTIVAL SPECIAL Panfield Apple Pye.

The cider bar is re-stocked all week including Saturday so come and sup in the sunshine (hopefully!)

Wassail!!

clairetironsg@gmail.com

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Tour 90: Christmas in Antwerp 2017
Fri 22 Dec – Weds 27 Dec 2017

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CIDER PUB OF THE YEAR

The Carpenters Arms, Maldon scoops hat-trick of CAMRA Branch Cider Pub of the Year Awards

by Chris Harvey

The Carpenters Arms in Gate Street, Maldon has won the Cider Pub of the Year Award for 2017 from the Maldon & Dengie Branch of the Campaign for Real Ale. The pub also picked up this award in 2015 and 2016.

Chris Harvey, Chairman of Maldon & Dengie CAMRA (right) is pictured presenting the award to landlord John Walpole and his partner Julia Wingfield at a special evening held recently at the pub.



charvey23@gmail.com

The Compasses, Littley Green is Chelmsford and Mid-Essex Cider Pub of the Year

by Doug Irons

The Compasses, Littley Green is 2017 Chelmsford and Mid-Essex CAMRA Cider PoTY. The pub also scored a 'Highly Commended' accolade and certificate in the overall CME PoTY competition.

Pictured are Joss Ridley, owner and Davina Parradine Bar Manager, with Doug and Claire Irons handing over the awards at the Compasses' annual 'Steam Up' rally and BBQ over the Easter weekend.



chair@chelmsford.camra.org.uk



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Our seasonal beer for July:

Navigator Alc 4.2 % Vol
Mid amber coloured bitter with a zesty citrus aroma. A complex balance of malty biscuit flavour and spicy fruit hop. A cracker!



Our seasonal beer for August:

Mermaid Alc 3.8% vol
Pale blonde ale, floral and refreshing. A Citrus and grassy aroma with lots of deep malty sweetness balanced by a zesty fruity hop and a gentle bitter finish.



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Email: thebrewer@earlsohambrewery.co.uk

ALE AND HEARTY – HOWE STREET’S GALVIN GREEN MAN

by Tony Vernon

One of the more interesting pub revamps of recent years in the Thirsty Times region has occurred in Howe Street, a few miles north of Chelmsford.

Those who frequented The Green Man in years gone by will remember it as a decent boozer with a garden large enough to host a barbie for hundreds of runners at a ‘Friday 5’ event, as yours truly was in the noughties before discovering real ale. After being converted by the Galvin brothers into possibly the most up-and-coming dining location in Essex the old place is, however, now unrecognisable.



Chris and Jeff Galvin chez eux

Galvin Restaurants are a chain with eight restaurants in England, two in Scotland and one as far flung as Dubai, UAE. All are in up-market locations, which makes Chris and Jeff Galvin’s choice of Great Waltham to join that select bunch all the more absorbing.

Founded by the brothers in 2005, the chain is positioned as “restaurants that are each unique, but sharing the common theme of high quality cuisine served in luxurious surroundings, with the USP of the presence of Chris or Jeff in their own restaurants creating a family experience”.



The real ale tie-in comes in the form of the Galvin Green Man just having been awarded the title of 'Best Pub in Essex' by no less august an organ than the National Pub and Bar Awards. Browsing over to www.pubandbar.com as exhorted by Galvin's press release, you learn that these are the awards hosted by Pub and Bar Magazine, currently in the H2O Publishing stable.

The Galvin Green Man now apparently competes head-to-head with pubs in Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Hertfordshire, Norfolk and Suffolk in Pub and Bar's 'East of England' competition hosted at BAFTA in London. Sadly, TT goes to press just before the final winners are announced on 23rd May but we'll report on how GGM fared in the autumn edition and wish them all the best. In fact, many of us will be seeing Galvin Green Man staff at this year's beer and food pairing event at the Summer Beer and Cider Fest - maybe even Chris and Jeff themselves - so we're sure to find out how they fared then.

Intrepid readers are invited to wander up to Howe



Street and feed back their impression to TT; reserve on 01245 408820, browse the menu at www.galvinggreenman.com. The restaurant is open till 11pm (10.30 Sundays) and the pub offers a perhaps unique experience in the area by opening for First Orders as early as 8am (9am Sat and Sun).

Bon appetit!

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Lauds Spiritual

by Martin Joy



Bishop Nick Brewery were recently awarded Silver for their Ridley's Rite in the Bitters category of the Champion Beer of East Anglia Competition. Pictured is Nelson Ridley accepting the award from Martin Joy, CME Brewery Liaison Officer for Bishop Nick.

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ALL ABOUT ALE

by Claire Irons

Recommended Pub Guide Launch

Since 2009 Chelmsford & Mid-Essex CAMRA have published their Recommended Pub Guide which, as you would expect, is a guide to pubs in the branch area that members recommend for having excellent real ale. We can only put seventeen pubs in the Good Beer Guide but of course we have considerably more pubs taking pride in serving real ale and real cider in great surroundings.

All the pubs featured in our guide were issued with different coloured plaque for each year and the publicans are proud to display the plaque given in recognition of their achievements and



service to their customers. See how many pubs you can find which have a plaque displayed for each year from 2009 to 2017.

The guide is FREE and full of useful details about the pub, the beer & cider, food and opening times, public transport, WiFi, dog friendly etc. As well as old favourites there are establishments featuring for the first time for you to explore and enjoy.

The new 2017 guide is being launched at the Chelmsford Summer Beer & Cider Festival 4th to 8th July but of course you can subsequently pick up your copy at the recommended pubs. The pub campaigns team have been busy surveying the pubs, to update the information on WhatPub and for the guide, then selecting worthy candidates using the CAMRA Criteria for Judging Pubs.

CAMRA CRITERIA FOR JUDGING PUBS

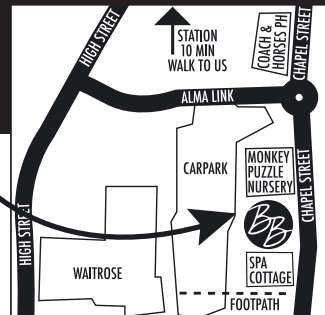
Category	Mark out of 10	Factor	Score
Quality of Beer/Cider /perry		x2	
Style/Décor/Furnishing/Cleanliness		x1	
Service, Welcome & Offering		x1	
Community Focus & Atmosphere		x1	
Alignment with CAMRA Principles		x1	
TOTAL SCORES			
COMMENTS			

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If you are not a member you may complete the membership form in Thirsty Times or visit www.camra.org.uk. The best deal is to join at the beer festival for many extra benefits including free entry to many beer festivals, free beer and a voucher for a free trip on our Social & Campaigning diary.

Campaign by Scoring the Beer on WhatPub.com to aid the selection of pubs for the Good Beer Guide. The more data provided by members scoring the beer throughout the year, that we have, ensures that only the best pubs selling consistently good beer go in. CAMRA members can score the QUALITY of the beer (not whether you like it) on a scale of 0-5 on WhatPub.com throughout the year for each pub they visit. For those not computer savvy collect beer scoring sheets from the membership stand at the festival, on social trips and branch meetings.

Answer to quiz question in editorial: The Square and Compasses, Fuller Street

publicity@chelmsford.camra.org.uk

WITHAM REAL ALE FESTIVAL

by Graham Green

“Last of the Summer Ale”?

As summer starts to recede and autumn approaches, Witham Public Hall Trusts thoughts are very much focused on their annual real ale festival. The festival is held each year in September within the lovely surroundings of Witham Public Hall so, come rain or shine, you will be guaranteed a relaxing pint in a friendly, comfortable and relaxed atmosphere.

The festival opens at 12 noon and closes at 11pm on Friday and Saturday the 29th and 30th of September. Admission is just £3 which includes a £1 deposit on your souvenir glass. Good hot and cold food will be available on both days.

If your looking for a festival that is becoming renowned for its choice of real ale from across the UK then this is the festival for you. We strive to bring you beers not normally found at local festivals. Find us in Collingwood Road, Witham CM8 2DY. Large car park opposite and just a 5 minute walk from the mainline railway station. Visit our website www.withampublichall.co.uk to get updates on the beer list nearer the time.

graham@withampublichall.co.uk

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BREWERY NEWS

Billericay Brewing Company

Trevor writes: Early 2017 has been a very busy time for Billericay Brewing, brewing to full capacity for the past 3 months and plans are now afoot to increase capacity. Spring special ales Billericay Bees (made with local honey), Gold Sovereign (with UK Sovereign hops) and Norsey Gold (US dry hopped) were all very popular in both bottle and cask. For May Mild Month, Mild Bill has made a reappearance along with a festival special Vanilla Bill with fresh vanilla added.



The next couple of beer festivals are now being planned. For Father's Day weekend (16th to 18th June) we have a mini beer festival in the micropub, featuring a dozen of our ales plus brewery tours on the Saturday and Sunday (booking essential). In addition we are brewing our traditional darker bitter My Old Man once again, as a perfect gift for dads. Then the next full beer festival will take place on 20th to 23rd July featuring twenty plus Essex beers and ciders over two bars in the micropub and brewery.

Further special beers for the coming months include Mayflower Pale (4.5% American style pale ale), Sex & Drugs & Rock & Roll (5.0% IPA) and Sun Corner Gold (3.9% refreshing hoppy summer golden ale).

Bishop Nick

Libby of Bishop Nick writes to tell us: We've been brewing for Britain lately. Non-stop! We've brewed and sold out of East Street (4.2%) blond ale brewed with extra pale malt. That went down extremely well with lots of anecdotal feedback that it was well received - we have limited stock in 500ml bottles still available. Our Milk Stout Dark Times (4.5%) came and went too (likewise still available in bottle).



We have introduced a brand-new core brand in bottle which will be available all year round. The limited number of casks have sold but we may well brew again later in the year. We have called it DIVINE and it is a 5.1% Premium Ale – a festival of English flavours featuring spice, nuttiness and caramel nodding to a celebrated Ripleys recipe of old. DIVINE is available now in Chelmsford Star Co-Ops as well as our regular bottle stockists.

At time of writing we are selling our Dark Mild (3.7%) in support of CAMRA's Mild Month of May initiative. And keep a look out for our Revelry beer which will be ready in time for... REVELRY DAY!! – celebrate Father's Day at Bishop Nick. A family fun afternoon with real ale, hog roast and children's entertainment. This annual open brewery event will take place from midday-4pm on site in Braintree on Sunday 18th June 2017. Bring a rug, your shades and your dad!

Summer Beer Festival time is upon us. Cambridge Beer Festival is next up and then our stand is booked for CAMRA's Chelmsford Beer and Cider Festival of course (first week of July) and we'll have our beers at the Braintree Beer Festival too – amongst others. We're setting up stall at Cressing Temple for the Essex Food and Drink Festival on 15th and 16th July.

In an increasingly challenging market place we are pleased to say we are still getting new stockists. Since the last issue of Thirsty Times we have crossed the threshold of at least thirty new outlets with our cask and bottled ales. You can find all our outlets and a full product list on our website at www.bishopnick.com. Our brewery shop is open on site to the public Mondays to Fridays 9am to 4.30pm. Ring us on 01376 349 605 and follow us on social media as BishopNickAle and @BishopNick or sign up for our newsletter at info@bishopnick.com.

Brentwood Brewery

Wendy Pike writes to tell us all the Brentwood Brewery News: Our next Beer Festival will be at Brentwood Brewery on Saturday 10th June from 10.30am till 5pm. We're celebrating Beer Day Britain, a week early, but the 10th is also World Gin Day, so essentially it will be a Beer & Gin Festival. Our mobile snack van, Beer Grylls, will be serving hot food and snacks and we're planning some live music too.

Thanks to everyone who came along to our St George's Beer Festival in April. It was a great day and lots of fun. With this year's Brentwood Festival on the horizon, we're busy working on a festival beer suitable for the occasion, to be named 'Legacy'. One contender recipe was trialed by festival-goers at our St George's Beer Festival under the name of Project. Feedback was encouraging but other options are under consideration; the brew recipe has not yet been finalised but will be decided soon because the Brentwood Festival is 14th – 16th July.

13th July is another diary date for you. We have a Brentwood Festival Preview Evening planned with beer, food and live music. Admission is free but numbers are limited. Tickets (free) need to be booked ahead with us at the brewery on 01277 200 483.

More dates for your diary: We're planning beer festivals at Brentwood Brewery on 9th September and a Christmas Beer Festival on 9th December. We've been collaborating on a special brew with Ongar Dads of Chipping Ongar



Primary School Association COPSA who, along with Ongar Round Table, help to organise the town's annual carnival and school fete. If you find yourself in the vicinity, look out for Chipping Chirper (approximately 5% ABV but tbc) from 23rd June when it is being launched at The Kings Head Inn in Ongar. It will be on sale there for a month. Chipping Chirper will also be available in the beer tent at the school fete immediately after Ongar Carnival, which starts at noon on Sunday 25th June. A donation per pint sold will be going to COPSA.



New Beers

This summer look out for Legacy 4% ABV. Also some new beers on the bar will include Mango Unchained approximately 7% ABV but tbc and the latest collaboration

brew with the Solvay Society, Creme Brulee 5.8% ABV a dubbel; both are from Elephant School Brewing.

Head Brewer Ethan Kannor is also working on a new wheat beer as well as a kölsch-style lager.

Contact Wendy Pike www.newswoozle.co.uk or 0792 590 7887 for more information.

Brewery Tours

Tours at £10 include a free gift and a pint, and are available on our Open Days on the first Saturday of the month at 11am and 1pm. To avoid disappointment, it is best to book ahead as places are limited. Next Open Days are 3rd June, 1st July and 5th August.

Events

We're looking forward to a packed summer programme of events. We'll be at:

Beer & Pie Event, The Castle, Great Leighs 3rd June.

Brentwood Strawberry Fair, Shenfield Common 17th June.

St Thomas' Church Beer Festival, in the graveyard 24th June.

Ingatestone Jazz Festival 1st July.

Chelmsford Beer Festival 4th – 8th July.

Brentwood Festival Preview Evening 13th July.

The Brentwood Festival 14th – 16th July.

We hope to see you out and about.



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For more Brentwood Brewery news, please visit the Brewery Blog or sign up for our monthly newsletter, The Beery News, at www.brentwoodbrewing.co.uk. Find us @ BrentwoodBrewCo, or if you do it the old fashioned way, pop in for a chat and a beer in The Tap Room, Brentwood Brewery's bar, Calcott Hall Farm, Ongar Road, Pilgrims Hatch, Brentwood.

Crouch Vale Brewery

Colin writes to tell us: Busy, busy here with various seasonal/occasional beers in cask and bottle- conditioned form Citra (abv 3.9%, cask and bottle-conditioned) Ruby Mild (abv 3.8%, cask only) Chinook (abv 4.1%, cask only) Brewers Gold Extra (abv 5.2%, bottle-conditioned only, cask is sold out but out in trade)

Coming soon

Essex Blonde (abv 4.7%, cask-conditioned only). Some interesting new hops arriving in the store this week for new beers, Ekuantot (US), Brewers Gold (France, yes, *France*), Azacca (US), Styrian Wolf (Slovenia), Cardinal (Slovenia), Waimea (NZ) and Blanc (Germany) - we're in for an interesting Summer!

Fallen Angel

The first quarter of 2017 has been an interesting one. We are developing an artisan brand of our labels to create a more contemporary style that is still very eye-catching as well as being easily recognisable as Fallen Angel. Watch this space!

We were very pleased to be invited by Essex Libraries to run bars promoting our real ales, as part of their Live Music Tours 2017 - after all alcohol is the lifeblood of folk music! The first performance by the popular Ray Cooper took place at Writtle library, our brewery home village. It was a huge success.

Festival season is ramping up, from the North East Chilli Festival to East Midlands Chilli Festival, Brighton, Dorset, Benington and closer to home the Essex shows including the ever-popular Essex Young Farmers show. This year we have our debut at a few more shows including the Maldon Smoke & Fire Festival. We are thankful to all our customers especially our local customers who are purchasing regularly locally and giving such great feedback. Our beers and ciders have also made their way into local AirBnB welcome packs.

Our smooth alcoholic ginger beer went down a storm at Mersea Island beer festival, along with beers and ciders from other Essex breweries. We are always happy to collaborate. While this is ongoing, we have also been asked to produce a particularly large quantity of our 'Fire in the Hole' Chilli beer for a major high street retailer gift pack, this will keep us busy. Watch out for Fallen Angel brews coming to a high street near you soon.

Maldon Brewing Co.

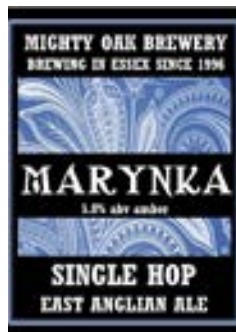
Just a snippet from Chris at Maldon Brewing Co: Farmer's Yard, Maldon Brewery's Micropub, has extended its opening hours. They are now Monday 5pm - 9.30pm, Tuesday to Sunday 12 noon to 9.30pm.

The series of 'specials' named after famous ships continues with 'Ark Royal' a 5.5% ABV brown beer and 'Golden Hind' a 3.9% ABV golden. These will be available in cask and bottle. After the success of our winter wheat beer 'Snowdrift' we will be brewing 'Sundrift' along similar lines- available at the beginning of July.



Mighty Oak Brewery

BREWERY NEWS FOR MIGHTY OAK BREWERY written by our lovely Jenny Land who, amongst her many jobs at the brewery, has taken on the role of PR and social media contact for the brewery: Summer is finally here again - and what better way to celebrate than with a pint of beer in the sunshine! As ever, we'll be bringing you four or five brand new one-off specials every month as well as our multi-award winning permanent beers.



"What's coming up?" I hear you say. Well, following the huge success of our first stronger-than-usual brew, Dr Alex is surging ahead- look out for Marynka 5.8% amber, hopefully on your favourite bar soon!

And the good Dr has been listening to customers' calls for more dark beers; look out for Endeavour 4.2% traditional which we would love your feedback on as we are thinking about basing a new permanent on this recipe (some further tweaking may still be done), as well as Old Man & The Sea 4.1% oyster stout which we are bringing back following rave reviews last autumn and are also considering adding to our permanent list. A stout in the summertime!? We think it will be a winner - watch this space! And did you know that we have a monthly e-newsletter with news of ALL our one-off special brews? To join this just email us at sales@mightyoakbrewing.co.uk and pop the word 'e-newsletter' in the subject box.

Great news for our Tap Room at no. 10 High Street, Maldon, which has extended its opening hours. We are now open every Monday from 5pm to 10pm, on Tuesdays,

Wednesdays, Sundays and all Bank Holidays (including Bank Holiday Mondays) from noon-10pm and on all Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays from noon - 11pm. Not only that, but our lovely reading room upstairs, with comfy sofas and plenty of space is now open all the time that we are open – so lots more space for you to spread out and enjoy your pint!

We really love to hear from our customers on Twitter, YourRound, Untapped etc, and do use your feedback to plan the recipes and styles of our one off specials to make sure we're sending out the beers that you love best. If you've enjoyed a pint then do let us know! Have a great summer everyone!

Round Tower Brewery

Simon at Roundtower writes to tell us: What a great time we are having here at Round Tower. We were amazed and honoured to win Beer of The Festival [*CME Winter Beer Festival – Ed*] with our Toffee Hammer, thanks for voting for us and all the support we receive.

As Toffee Hammer has been so well received, we have decided to make it into one of our regular beers alongside our Stout 4.3%. Currently it is only available in cask but we do have plans to pop some in bottles in the future. Over the next few months you may see a couple more regular beers appearing in pubs in the area.

We love the summer, who doesn't? Here's to getting out and about and enjoying a few beers in the sun! Don't forget to come and visit us at our bar at the Summer Beer Festival in Admirals Park in July, we'd love to see you all.

Wibblers Brewery

Abby writes to tell us: Having had a fantastic start to 2017 with all our special ales selling out, we are looking forward to the next couple of busy months and Chelmsford Summer Beer Festival, where we will have our own brewery bar. Plans are under way for some new specials and interesting brews for Chelmsford.

For those who don't know we have had a change of Brewery Assistant with Ollie leaving us in March to become a lumberjack! And Kim has joined us from another local brewery to assist Phil. Taproom & Kitchen continues to grow, main meals and Sunday lunch, with our range of burgers plus a selection children's meals are available. Four to six ales are available every weekend along with our expanded range of fruit ciders including Rhubarb and Custard, Raspberry, Peaches and Cream plus our lagers.

Hop Schmog, our 7% DIPA, has proved popular and a second brew is planned. Specials coming up are Copperhouse, 4.2% Golden, Galaxy 4.2% single hopped and incredibly drinkable, Summertime 3.9% light brown. Our Trade Day in April was well attended and it was lovely

to see so many of our trade customers seeing the brewery for the first time. Summer Public Open Day 26th August 12pm-4pm and we will be providing bars at several Museum of Power (Langford) events over the summer.

North West Essex Brewery News

by Chris Rouse

Silks Brewery, Sible Hedingham

Silks are going from strength to strength, with Molly's Jolly Mild being produced all year round. They will be brewing the festival beer for Braintree Real Ale Festival, which runs from Thursday 15th to Saturday 17th June at the Bocking Arts Theatre (previously The Institute), Bocking End, Braintree. In addition, Braintree Football Club Beer Festival is being organised by Ross Fogg of Silks on Saturday 22nd June 11am to 11pm, featuring all Silks' beers together with other Essex beers. £3 admission includes a commemorative glass (refundable).

Shalford Brewery, Shalford



From the brewery: After ten years on the old site we are finally moving to a new brewery site in Shalford itself. The new brewery offers more room and a better work flow. Nigel Lawes is currently working on a few new brews to commemorate the move and looking forward to even less of a commute than the previous three miles he has had to suffer!

Brewery News in Brief from North West Essex

Saffron Brewery, Henham, are producing more bottled beer, have introduced three new beers, and are considering two more new beers, including a mild. Nethergate Brewery, Pentlow, are still moving to Long Melford in Suffolk, but this is likely to be towards the end of the year. Pumphouse Brewery, Toppesfield, have produced approximately 30,000 pints in their first year and are planning to double capacity.

magazine@northwestessex.camra.org.uk

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- Cheshire Ring Cruise
- An Outsider's Tour of Maldon
- What's in a Name - Maldon BrewCo's beer names
- 'Give them Ale Enough' book review

THIRSTY TIMES

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