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THIRSTY TIMES



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for
Real Ale

**Chelmsford & Mid-Essex, Maldon & Dengie, North West
Essex and South East Essex CAMRA Branches**

**CHELMSFORD
SUMMER 2019**

BEER & CIDER



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From the Editor



Well, what do you know. No sooner is one era ushered out and the next ushered in, than it's time for the ushered-in era to be ushered back out again and another new one ushered in. That's a lot of usher-

ing. Please welcome from this edition onward South East Essex branch, with whose input we have expanded up from 40 to 48 pages from this issue forward.

Producing the expanded mag has been something of a white-knuckle ride, as it was touch-and-go to have enough advertising to cover it. Luckily a very late addition has allowed us to tip into the black, thanks to the girls and boys at Chappel who finally got over the line with their advert for the 33rd bash at the East Anglian Railway Museum up in Chappel & Wakes Colne. See you there, folks.

JUTE, JAM AND CAMRA

The dust has long-since settled on this year's National AGM in Dundee, some of which my Highlands and Western Isles buddies were involved in planning. If you managed to make it along, there was little of any real controversy this year, with the National Executive seemingly still struggling to digest the Revitalisation Project results. Of course, campaigning at a top political level is all but halted as Parliament convulses to give birth to Cameron's Nightmare Child. Maybe by the time you're reading this we'll all have a bit more clarity in our lives and will be getting on with beer scoring. I have my doubts.

PoTY PRESENTATIONS

The presentations are done, the snaps

snapped and certificates hopefully mounted by now. Congratulations to the West Road Tap and Farmer's Yard, SEE and MaD Pubs of the Year respectively. Micros are something of a gathering phenomenon, and this issue features yet another of their number, the Mile and a Third in Westcliff-on-Sea. Bizarre to think, that present-day micros are about the size and scale that village pubs have been for nearly their entire history, big urban pubs being largely a Victorian invention. Vive le micro, and we hope to see more of their ilk.

HELIONS BUMPSTEAD REDUX

Momentum is really gathering at this delightful community pub group. An update has kindly been provided on page 33. One of the presentations at Dundee was the pros and cons of establishing a Community Benefit Society along the lines of what is happening at Helions, to save much-loved watering holes. Search online for these, and please devote some thought as to whether founding a CBS might save an ailing pub near you...

SUMMER OF PUB

Continuing that theme, the latest campaign-let to emit from HQ is Summer of Pub, an exercise in getting boots on the ground and out to support our locals, meanwhile firing off photographic evidence of the same to [#summerofpub](#). Whereas the gold standard of 1967 was whether you *couldn't* remember it, hopefully responsible consumption will see us all come together again when September trundles round. Have a brilliant summer and, hey, let's be careful out there.

Ad multas cerevisias

Tony Vernon
editor@chelmsford.camra.org.uk

It's Back! Chelmsford Summer Beer and Cider Festival - by Luke Keatley-Clarke, BFO



Where?

Admirals Park, Rainsford Road,
Chelmsford CM1 2PL

When?

Tues 2nd - Thurs 4th Jul noon - 10pm

Fri 5th Jul noon - 11pm

Sat 6th Jul noon - 9pm

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.

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, 20 key keg and more than 100 ciders, perries and pyders to choose from, as well as the ever-popular Podge's Beer Bar and this year doing a number of special beers - **LAMBICS**

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!

- **The Vine Cellar** bring some great wines directly from the sun-splashed region of Languedoc / Occitane region of Southern France
- **Xpresso** New the very best Lavazza Tierra coffee beans to produce a full range of high-quality coffee products.
- **Axe throwing** [Yikes - Ed.]

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.

CAMRA members will, as always, enjoy free entry to the festival. Entry costs for non-CAMRA members are Tues-Thurs free before 3pm / £3 after 3pm. Fri free before 3pm / £3 3-5pm / £5 from 5pm. Entry all day Saturday is £3. **Become a CAMRA member** at the festival and get your entry refunded then 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 & Herts Air Ambulance and Home-Start Essex, 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, Instagram and Facebook. We look forward to seeing you there!

Luke Keatley-Clarke
hi@cbcf.info



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The Ale House Chelmsford

What we have to offer...

We are conveniently located in central Chelmsford, a stones throw from the bus and train stations. We're also just a 10 minutes walk to Essex County Cricket ground and a 5 minute walk to the High street.

The Ale House really is a great place for the discerning drinker. Everyday there is a selection of 12 Cask Ales, 9 Craft Keg Beers, 4 International Beers on Tap, 12 Traditional Still Ciders, 1 Keg Cider and over 100 different Bottles and Cans.

We unfortunately don't have space for a kitchen, but we welcome our customers to bring in their own food.

Pizza is by far the most popular.

The Ale House 24-26 Viaduct Road Chelmsford CM1 1TS
01245 260 535 - Thealehousechelmsford@hotmail.co.uk

Events

Hammerton Tap Takeover - Thursday 1st August
6 Cask 8 Keg

Beer Festival - Thursday 29th August -
September 1st
24 Cask 16 Keg

ELB Tap Takeover - Thursday 31st October
6 Cask 8 Keg

Beer Festival - Thursday 28th November -
Sunday 1st December
24 Cask 16 Keg

Xmas Beer Festival - 19th December – 23rd
December
24 Cask 16 Keg

Chelmsford Record Fair
1st Saturday of every Month.

Quiz Night
Last Sunday of every Month



Unexpected News - The Eagle Galleywood - by Kim Sutton



It's been a long three and a half years for the Eagle and community of Galleywood, trying endlessly to save their valued community pub. Although the Grade II listed pub was granted the status of being an Asset of Community Value (ACV) by Chelmsford Borough Council, the car park and garden were not included.

Hawthorn Leisure was eventually, after many planning meetings with packed rooms, whether held at the Parish Council rooms or the Council Chambers, granted planning permission to build a Co-Op shop within the garden and car park of the Eagle.

Over 3000 man hours were spent by the local residents, the Parish Council and CAMRA volunteers, to try and stop the planning for the shop being granted. The planning inspector made the final decision to agree the planning application, despite the fact that the villagers did not want the shop and there is already a Co-Op locally.

Shortly before planning was granted, Metro Inns (Suffolk) Ltd took over the tenancy at the Eagle and last year they employed Donna Sullivan as the landlady. Donna's vision was to make the Eagle a family-friendly community pub, with something for everyone, and

she hasn't let the community down. Donna carried on with her vision knowing that eventually the shop would be built.

But now for the unexpected news: on 28th March 2019 I had an email from the Manchester Co-Op group stating that they were able to confirm that they were no longer moving forward with a food shop at this site. The news was greatly welcomed by everyone, but this gave Donna extra enthusiasm to add more to the already well-stocked garden equipment.



The garden is now home to, (weather permitting), bouncy castle, soft play area, football net, swing set, slide, and a full size basketball hoop. The Eagle is dog-friendly and Donna will be introducing a free water supply for dogs in a quirky fashion, including individual water bowls.

A full menu is offered, including a children's menu and fresh pizzas made on the premises. A take away service is available. The Sunday roasts and sharing platters are also firm favourites.

Donna stocks several ales and ale options are regularly changed; an extensive range of wines, beers and

8th South Woodham Ferrers Beer & Cider Festival

Thu 3rd to Sat 5th October 2019

35 Real Ales & 10 Ciders

**Featuring Beers from the Thames Valley
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Opening Times:

Thu, 3rd Oct	4 - 11 pm
Fri, 4th Oct	noon - 11 pm
Sat, 5th Oct	noon - 11 pm

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Two minutes' walk from South
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Admission £1, Free to CAMRA Members

Special Souvenir Tankard or Refundable Glass Deposit - £3.50

Sat night: Live Music from D'Ukes

www.maldonanddengiecamra.org.uk



spirits with the ever expanding gin range keep customers happy.



*The Eagle
Scarecrow*



The pub supports local charity events including the Galleywood festival in June/July. Villagers make scarecrows and have fun with various activities bringing the community together.

Galleywood now has its family-friendly, community pub back and with Donna at the helm, and her passion for pubs, exciting times are surely ahead for the Eagle.

Kim Sutton
gretna123@icloud.com

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Public
Hall*

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Smallest Pub in Maldon wins local Pub of the Year Award - by Chris Harvey



The locals and owners of the smallest pub in Maldon (and probably in Essex) had good reason to celebrate recently, as the Farmers Yard received the Maldon & Dengie CAMRA Pub of the Year award. The 400-year-old building on the High Street is home to Maldon Brewing Company's micropub and bottle shop. The small, characterful public room has seating for twelve and a similar number of standing places.

Nigel Farmer (Director) and Mike Farmer (Manager) of the Maldon Brewing Company accepted the Maldon & Dengie Pub of the Year award from Chairman Chris Harvey at a special presentation in front of customers and CAMRA members.

Chris Harvey said, "The Farmers Yard was a clear winner in the vote held by local members for their Pub of the Year 2019, which is impressive when you consider that it only opened in September 2015. There's always a great selection of real ales, craft beers and

ciders on offer. The Yard may be small in size, but it has definitely won a big place in the hearts of many local people. Mike Farmer and his hardworking team make it a pub the area can be proud of."

Nigel Farmer added, "It is an honour to receive such an award and credit must go to Mike, Wendy and the rest of the staff for their commitment in maintaining micropub principles at the Yard. Our vision has always been to provide good beer in a good environment where conversation and friendship are encouraged. This award and comments from members of the branch last night encourage us that we are on the right track. All lovers of good beer and good conversation are welcome at Farmers Yard and we look forward to many convivial evenings in the future."

Pictured left to right are: Chris Harvey (CAMRA Maldon & Dengie branch chairman), Mike Farmer (Manager, Maldon Brewing Company) and Nigel Farmer (Director, Maldon Brewing Company).

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Chelmsford and Mid-Essex Pub of the Year Awards - by Claire Irons, Publicity Officer

Each of our finalists provide a friendly welcome, in good ambience and serve a changing range of interesting beer, including something dark throughout the year and out of the ordinary during Mild May.

and 2018. There is an action packed events diary throughout the year for those wishing to stimulate their mind and body as well as their taste buds.

The **Hop Beer Shop**, Chelmsford is a



The Woolpack is CME Pub of the Year 2019

The **Woolpack**, Chelmsford was the branch POTY in 2010 and 2011. Over the last few years Will Turner and his team have built on the success of the

previous managers, Dave and Mags. Now there are 5 beer festivals a year, with CAMRA members invited to the Wednesday night of festival week to sample festival drinks at only £2.50 per pint. Having refurbished the courtyard garden, bar areas and toilets, the extended

range of SIBA beers with CAMRA discount has been appreciated by customers. The branch has held the Christmas dinner for 50 odd people here with plenty of good cheer in 2017

are offered in the bag-in-box format from the cellar cabin along with 4 to 6 beers served on gravity, featuring Essex and UK breweries. Craft keg,

gem of a micro-pub with the wooden benches and tables made by the landlord John Prior, so that people are at eye height whether sitting or standing which helps the conversation flow with the beer and cider. 5 to 7 still ciders and at least one perry



The Hop Beer Shop is CME Cider Pub of the Year 2019

international bottled beer and bottled English ciders are available to drink in or take away. Having been branch POTY 2016 and 2017 it has been judged Cider Pub of the Year 2018 and 2019.

HOPSTOCK



THE BEST BEERS, OF THE LAST 10 YEARS

BEER & MUSIC FESTIVAL

OVER 50 BEERS & CIDERS

Plus: BBQ, LIVE MUSIC,
STALLS & CAMPING

WHERE?


THE COMPASSES, LITTLEY GREEN

WHEN?

**9TH-11TH AUGUST 2019
6PM FRIDAY-6PM SUNDAY**



CHELMSFORD
& MID ESSEX CIDER
Pub of the year 2017

 **THEHOPSTOCK**

THE COMPASSES

LITTLEY GREEN

THE HUFFER PUB





Joss, Davina and the team at the Compasses, Little Green are CME Pub of the Year Runner-up 2019

Owner Josh Ridley champions brother Nelion's award winning Bishop Nick beers, as well as other Essex breweries and country-wide choices.

Annual events include the Easter Steam Up, Hopstock Charity Beer Festival (a weekend in mid-August) and Yule Fest over Christmas week. In 2017 the Compasses was branch Cider POTY

The **Compasses, Little Green** is running out of space for all the CAMRA awards over the years. These include Essex POTY 2012 and 2013 and also East Anglian POTY 2012. The former Ridley's Brewery tap is famous for huffers (giant baps with a range of fillings), a changing range of great beer drawn from casks in the cellar and a varied range of 3 to 5 ciders and perry.

and this year was Runner Up for both POTY and Cider POTY. For CAMRA's designated Mild Month in May, 25 milds are heaven to fans of this style of beer. Modernisation of the toilets and kitchen this year will be appreciated by customers and staff but fear not the iconic Brewery Tap with the compasses on the wall will stay, emanating cosiness for the varied clientele.



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The Crouch Valley Rail Ale Trail

- by Chris Harvey



The warmer weather has arrived at last, and no doubt many of you are already looking for ideas for days out. Well, if you're a lover of real ale and enjoy a scenic train ride, why not try the newly launched Crouch Valley Rail Ale Trail this summer?

This voyage of real ale discovery travels along the Crouch Valley railway line from Wickford to Southminster in the heart of the Dengie Peninsula and was developed by Maldon District Council in partnership with Maldon & Dengie CAMRA and Essex & South Suffolk Community Rail Partnership with funding from the Magnox Socio-economic Fund and the support of Abellio Greater Anglia.

You will be able to explore two brewery taprooms, a micropub and several traditional pubs along the route which passes through historic towns, maritime villages, important wildlife reserves and picturesque views of the Crouch Estuary. The Rail Ale Trail booklets, which give full details of all the stops en

route, allow you to collect stamps for each pub or brewery tap visited, which means you do not have to complete it all in one go.

On collecting all six stamps, you'll be entitled to receive an attractive "Crouch Valley Rail Ale Trail" pin badge. The booklets are available from each pub, the Maldon District Tourist Information Centre and online at www.visitmaldondistrict.co.uk/RailAleTrail.

It is worth highlighting that some of the establishments listed in the guide have limited opening hours and several are closed on certain days – check on www.whatpub.com, CAMRA's pub website

The Crouch Valley Line and connecting services may also be subject to engineering works and planned cancellations. It is vital that you check for service disruptions, including for your return journey, before travelling. However, all the establishments are open over the weekend and from the

A VOYAGE OF
REAL ALE DISCOVERY
ALONG THE SCENIC
CROUCH VALLEY
RAILWAY LINE
SALTmarsh COAST
ESSEX



WWW.VISITMALDONDISTRICT.CO.UK/RAILALETAIL

beginning of July, the Crouch Valley Line should be operating normally every weekend throughout the summer months.

The Trail was officially launched at this year's Maldon Beer & Cider Festival in April. Chris Harvey, Chairman of Maldon & Dengie CAMRA said, "we really hope that the Rail Ale Trail will encourage visitors to explore the delightful scenery in the Crouch Valley, with the added bonus of being able to sample excellent locally-brewed beers at some great

pubs and brewery taps along the way."

The pubs/brewery taps on the Rail Ale Trail are: **One Green Bottle**, Battlesbridge; **Tap Room 19**, South Woodham Ferrers; **New Welcome Sailor** and **Queen's Head**, Burnham-on-Crouch; **Station Arms** and **Wibblers Tap Room and Kitchen**, Southminster. **STOP PRESS:** there's a new place to visit on the Trail - the **Posh Boys Brewery and Taproom** in Wickford!

charvey23@gmail.com





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2 Become a
BEER EXPERT

3 Enjoy CAMRA
BEER FESTIVALS
in front of or behind the bar

4 GET INVOLVED
and make new friends

5 Save
YOUR LOCAL

Find the
**6 BEST PUBS
IN BRITAIN**

Get great
**7 VALUE FOR
MONEY**

8 DISCOVER
pub heritage and the
great outdoors

Enjoy great
9 HEALTH BENEFITS
(really!)

10 HAVE YOUR SAY

What's yours?

Discover your reason
and join the campaign today:

www.camra.org.uk/10reasons



Campaign
for
Real Ale

SUMMER OF PUB

In May CAMRA launched a summer-long campaign to encourage pub-going called 'Summer of Pub', echoing 1967's 'Summer of Love'.

Members young and old are encouraged to share a positive, feel-good vibe, reminding everyone why they love their local. Throughout the summer we will be creating opportunities to head down to the pub to boost trade and demonstrate our support for our nation's pubs.

We will capitalise on significant dates in the calendar this summer, such as sporting events or public holidays, to continually rally people to head down to their local. Each event will

be promoted with a dedicated press release, social media support and branch outreach.

Members and non-members are encouraged to tweet photos and videos of happy pub-going to hashtag [#summerofpub](#), or send to email summerofpub@camra.org.uk where it will be posted for you.

Summer of pub runs right through till the final PUBLIC holiday on 26th August, more information at www.camra.org.uk/summerofpub where you can both read and submit further promotional ideas. One of the themes is writing an article for your local magazine on the 10 best local pubs - so get writing!

editor@chelmsford.camra.org.uk

*"Cask on,
tap in, ale
out." Eagle
sun-seekers
in April 2019*





The beer festival at The Bell Inn in Castle Hedingham is always a highlight of the summer, and this year is sure to be no exception. But for many of the pub's regulars and for those of us behind the bar it will not be entirely 'business as usual'.

Last November, Keira Dixon, one of our regular Saturday afternoon bar team, passed away after a battle against brain cancer that lasted more than 4 years. She was just 21 years old. Keira was a lifelong Sheffield Wednesday supporter, and it was at last year's festival that news reached The Bell of a partnership between the Owls and Thornbridge Brewery to brew The Wednesday, a 4% ABV traditional pale ale, as the club's official beer.

Unfortunately, Keira never got to try The Wednesday, and so on the 13th July, in tribute to a courageous young lady, one of her festival bar team mates and North West Essex branch member, Tim Nash, is embarking on a 190 mile bike ride from Hillsborough Stadium in Sheffield to Castle Hedingham in Essex, carrying with him a bottle of the club's official beer.

The ride is scheduled to take 5 days, passing through Nottingham, Melton Mowbray, Peterborough and Cambridge, before reaching Nethergate Brewery near Sudbury on the afternoon



of the 17th July, and then on to The Bell in Castle Hedingham, just in time for the opening of this year's festival.

Along the way, Tim will be raising money for St Helena who supported Keira and her family, and who continue to support many others facing incurable illness.

Further information about the ride, including the route, is online at www.justgiving.com/hillsborough-to-hedingham.

Members can also follow Tim's progress on social media by searching for @hillsborough2hedingham on Instagram and FaceBook and @hills2hed on Twitter.



Tim is keen to take the opportunity to explore pubs and breweries along the way and will be making extensive use of the GBG app on his phone, but he would welcome any recommendations from members regarding pubs and places that should not be missed. Please feel free to contact Tim via social media or

drop him a line of encouragement on hillsborough2hedingham@gmail.com.

And finally – if a man in a St Helena cycling shirt comes into your local pub looking hot and flustered between now and the 13th July, please treat him kindly!

magazine@

northwestessex.camra.org.uk

Photos courtesy Dixon Family and Tim Nash

New Direction for The Compasses

- by Claire Irons



The Compasses, Broomfield Rd, Chelmsford has a new management team at the helm who are aiming to focus on family and the local community. With over 30 years of experience in the pub trade Marc has Sian, Orlaith and Kevin to help this pub be the hub of the local community.

With the advantage of having two very different bar areas they can host a variety of events. The large saloon bar with wood panelling, stained glass partitions and tiled fireplace has plenty of space. Monthly events include popular soul



and ska nights. If that does not float your boat there will be live bands, quizzes and board games for pleasure. Various family games and a library provide leisure options, although relaxing on a sofa with a drink has its appeal.

The spacious public bar has a pool table, darts, Sky and BT sports. Both bars have free Wi-Fi. As well as the front patio by the car park there are two side patios which will get plenty of use especially over the Family Fundraising events for various charities with BBQ and fun activities.

What about the beer?

There will be a changing range of up to four cask ales on hand pump plus bag-in-box cider at reasonable prices. Another point for the Compasses is that it offers five newly refurbished chalets for rent. Being near the Chelmsford beer festival sites this pub could be an ideal place to stay.

publicity@chelmsford.camra.org.uk

An advertisement for The Compasses, Chelmsford. It features a photograph of the pub's exterior, a two-story building with a gabled roof. Overlaid on the image is text in various colors and fonts. The text includes the pub's name, management information, and details for a family weekend event.

COMPASSES, CHELMSFORD

Under New Management

FAMILY WEEKEND 13th/14th JULY

SATURDAY 13th

All day BBQ from 12:00

REWIND CLUB CLASSICS 8 - LATE

SUNDAY 14th

Children's Entertainer + Slime Workshop

Raising money for Farleigh Hospice,
Alzheimer's Society and Parkinson's UK

**The Compasses, 141 Broomfield Road,
Chelmsford, CM1 1RY (01245) 292051**

www.thecompasseschelmsford.com

Opening a Micropub is Easy...

- by Andy Ferguson, Co-Proprietor, Mile and a Third



(13th February). We got the keys the following week and finally started the fit out. One reason we liked the premises was that there wasn't much we needed to do. A bit of painting inside and out – thankfully the weather was mild for February; lots of shelves to build, furniture to unpack and finally... let's order some beer!

Friday 8th March 2019 finally came around and we

We hoped to be open in November 2018; we all know that slipped a bit! Our existing landlord sold the freehold of our premises at the end of October 2018. We were told we had to agree a lease with the new landlord. That meant waiting 28 days for them to complete. November came and went; the new landlord had not completed.

We were told 15th December was the deadline. All was looking good; we may open early New Year! However, the freehold purchase did not happen so the lease was not agreed in 2018.

Into 2019: chasing solicitors and estate agents on an almost daily basis. February rolls around and even our solicitor is getting fed up (probably from my emails!) and reads the riot act to both sides: one of you MUST agree the lease with us so we can start trading.

This finally happened on our birthday

opened for trading at 5pm. A few friends in to start with, then it all goes mad! Non-stop for the rest of the evening and roping in friends just to help with washing up and glass collection! It was a brilliant start, and glad to say it has continued. We have been well supported by drinkers of Westcliff, Southend and beyond.

A month after we opened, we did a Record Store Day event where we installed a turntable and speakers and said: bring your vinyl along to play. This proved popular, so the record deck has remained. Customers are free to bring along their own vinyl to listen to with a beer.

We have also had a couple of tap takeovers - first was Neon Raptor with five beers for the launch of Operation Mayfly, their new NE IPA. This event went smoothly, with only the Double IPA lasting the weekend.

Onto the late May bank holiday and the long planned Tiny Rebel Tap Takeover with 4 casks, 8 kegs and 2 cases of cans ordered. On Monday the delivery turns up. Only it's 17 kegs, NO casks and 47 cases of cans! Straight onto the phone to the wholesaler: what's happened? Well, we got the WHOLE order for the wholesaler NOT our own beer!

Wednesday – the courier comes for collection, but doesn't bring shrink wrap so collection is refused. Thursday – the courier returns for collection, but doesn't tell us when, so we weren't on site. We re-arrange collection for later that day, and tell them to bring shrink wrap – but guess what they forgot..?

We told them you ARE taking collection regardless, so the lorry was loaded one item at a time to jam in tight so the beer would not move. No sign of our beer, so we take 5 kegs and 2 cases out of the collected beer.

Friday – the wholesaler doesn't know where our beer is. Told them we will reject casks as they will not have time to settle. The Tap Takeover starts with only 5 Tiny Rebel beers out of 12 ordered, so becomes Tiny Rebel (keg) vs Arbor (cask). Saturday – delivery made at 9am (after us only leaving the site at midnight). Hang on! It's only 2 kegs - still one missing!

That evening we hear air hissing in the cellar but can't trace it. Sunday – quieter first thing and we can still hear air hissing. We try every Lindr line; it's not them. We take each keg out of the cellar and there's a problem with Clwb Tropicana. The keg was damaged in transit and there is a hole in it meaning the Lindr machine cannot pressurise the keg. Another beer lost.

Out of 12 beers ordered, we could only use 6 – not a good ratio. Still waiting to find out what the outcome of all this is!



MILE AND A THIRD

MICROPUB AND BOTTLESHOP

OPENING HOURS

Monday	4pm-9pm
Tuesday	Closed
Wednesday	12pm-10pm
Thursday	12pm-10pm
Friday	12pm-11pm
Saturday	12pm-11pm
Sunday	12pm-9pm



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CHELMSFORD & MID-ESSEX BRANCH

For more information or to book any of these events, please contact CME Social Secretary, Martin Joy on socialsecretary@chelmsford.camra.org.uk or 07878 624443.

Minibus trips driven by CAMRA volunteers include drop off near home, check www.chelmsford.camra.org.uk and social media for news and updates.

ALL SOCIAL AND CAMPAIGNING EVENTS ARE OPEN TO ALL CME MEMBERS (1800 non-actives, Come and join in!). We are friendly, sociable, love great pubs and great company (Find us with a smile +/- festival shirt). If you are not a member but would like to join in the fun JOIN CAMRA (special deals at festivals) Members are encouraged to score the beers they drink on whatpub.com or gbgapp.camra.org.uk.

JULY

Tuesday 16th – Branch Committee Meeting, Square & Compasses, Fuller St, CM3 2BB. 8 for 8.30pm start. All members welcome.

Saturday 20th – Epping & Ongar Railway Beer Festival. Meet 11am Chelmsford Station to arrange GroupSave tickets, train to Shenfield then vintage bus to and from the festival at North Weald, CAMRA discount, unlimited rides on the trains. Event 19th-21st July.

Wednesday 24th – Branch Meeting & Social, Cross Keys, 1 The Street, White Notley, CM8 1RQ. 8 for 8.30pm start. Free pint for new members attending their first meeting.

Saturday 27th & Sunday 28th – East Anglia POTY Judging Trip. Judging the

nominated pubs from each of the 6 EA region counties, overnighting Premier Inn Cambridge A14 J32.

Free minibus for the first day but contribution towards the second day's hire. Departing opposite Chelmsford station 11am Sat, pick up in Braintree & Witham if demand. Booking essential including own accommodation in Cambridge.

AUGUST

Friday 9th – Minibus to Hopstock Beer Festival. Depart 7pm from opposite Chelmsford railway station to visit 10th Hopstock festival, Compasses, Littlely Green. £10 includes drop off home.

Saturday 10th – Suffolk Pubs Tour. Day trip by minibus with Nigel Smith from Ipswich branch to some of the best pubs and hidden gems of Suffolk Depart 11am opposite Chelmsford Railway Station. £20 pp members only. Drop off home afterwards.

Wednesday 21st – Social to Clacton Real Ale & Cider Festival, St James' Hall, Tower Rd, Clacton-on-Sea C015 1LE. Make you own way, well served by public transport. Open invitation to everyone from 6pm. Free soft drinks for designated drivers. Event: 21st–24th, 11am–11pm Thursday–Saturday.

Saturday 31st – Visit to Gravesend & Darent Valley. Minibus for members only £15, Departs 11am from opposite Chelmsford Railway Station. Optional ferry from Tilbury to Gravesend and a visit to Iron Pier brewery. Evening visit to Dartford and the ever popular working mens' club (with CAMRA card, all welcome). Drop off home.

SEPTEMBER

Wednesday 11th – Branch Committee Meeting, Queen's Head, Lower Anchor St, Chelmsford, CM2 0AS. 8 for 8.30pm start. All members welcome.

Wednesday 18th – Branch Meeting & Social, Ship, Broomfield Rd, Chelmsford, CM1 1SW. 8 for 8.30pm. Open to all CME members, first time attendees receive a free pint.

Saturday 21st – Rural Pubs Runabout. Minibus departs from opposite Chelmsford Station 11am. Members £15 with drop off home. Plan to visit Writtle, Roxwell, Mill Green, Pleshey, Blackmore, Felsted, and Broads Green

OCTOBER

Friday 4th – Sunday 6th Visit to Troon and the Royal Ayrshire Beer Festival. Open to everyone. Please book own

transport /flights and accommodation. Plan to meet in Troon Friday evening, visit the festival on Saturday and Glasgow's best pubs on Sunday.

Tuesday 15th – Branch Committee Meeting, Queen's Head, 1 Church Rd, Boreham, CM3 3EG. 8 for 8.30pm start. All members welcome

Wednesday 23rd – Branch Meeting, Three Elms, Chignal St James, Mashbury Rd, CM1 4TZ. 8 for 8.30pm. Please make you own way there. Free pint for members attending their first meeting.

AGM: Wednesday 20th November, White Hart, Newland St, Witham, CM8 2AF. 8pm for 8.30pm start. Minibus if demand. All members encouraged to attend.

Check chelmsford.camra.org.uk and social media for news and updates.

SOUTH EAST ESSEX BRANCH

JULY

Tuesday 2nd Branch Meeting, Chesters Social Club, Eastern Esplanade, Southend SS1 2YP. 8.30pm.

We have been busy distributing our latest pub guide, that showcases some of the best pubs in our Branch. With dozens to choose from it was very difficult to decide which venues to include, but we have tried to feature a broad selection across our area, from town micropubs and brewery taps to country gastropubs and traditional public houses.

Our branch covers places as diverse as Stock, South Benfleet, Southend, Paglesham, Billericay, Rochford and South Hanningfield.



MALDON & DENGIE BRANCH

For more information or to book any of these events, please contact MAD Social Secretary, Mike Cutler at mjcutler59@gmail.com or 07754 206099 / 01621 850833.

JULY

Tuesday 2nd – Saturday 6th Chelmsford Summer Beer Festival, Admirals Park, Chelmsford. Social from midday onwards on Thursday 4th.

Friday 19th – Sunday 21st Beer Festival, Epping & Ongar Railway Line, North Weald Station. A fabulous day out with vintage buses, steam and electric trains running between Epping & Ongar railway stations, with real ale served on board the trains. Beer festival at North Weald station with 75 ales & 20 ciders. Heritage vintage buses leave from Shenfield station to North Weald on a regular basis. Social from midday onwards on Friday 19th. Meet in festival at North Weald.

Tuesday 23rd Branch Meeting, Bell, Main Road, Woodham Ferrers, CM3 8RF. 8pm. First pint FREE to new members attending their first meeting.

Thursday 25th – Saturday 27th Harwich Beer Festival, Redoubt Fort, Harwich. A great day out at a superb circular fort dating back to the Napoleonic era, with a chance to wander round historic Harwich and visit some of the pubs if you wish. Social on Friday 26th. Meet on platform 1 at Manningtree station for 11am train to Harwich.

Tuesday 30th Crazy Golf Tournament, Promenade Park, Maldon. Come along and have a bit of fun, and show off your golfing skills on this 19 Hole Pirate

themed adventure golf course. A new venture for us. Meet in Farmers Yard at 6pm for drinks first before we wander down to the prom for a 7pm golf start. Afterwards we have a table booked for dinner at 8.30pm in the Queen Victoria, Spital road, Maldon, which is optional. Places are strictly limited, so book early to avoid disappointment. Booking required for both Golf and Dinner by Friday 19th July.

AUGUST

Please note, there is **no** Branch Meeting in August.

Date TBA East Anglia Pub of the Year Judging Trip. Visit to the six county pub winners in Essex, Suffolk, Norfolk, Cambs, Beds & Herts. This will be done over two days. If you wish to take part in this interesting and important judging trip please advise of your interest by Monday 15th July so that appropriate transport can be arranged.

Wednesday 7th Great British Beer Festival, Olympia, London. A visit to this iconic beer festival. **BOOKING ESSENTIAL** and required by Monday 15th July to obtain tickets. Meet by entrance to platform 11 on Liverpool Street Station at 12.00 noon.

Sunday 18th Social & Barbecue, Hurdlemakers Arms, Post Office Road, Woodham Mortimer, CM9 6ST. From 2pm onwards. An afternoon of fun, food, beer and games. Could you be the Pétanque champion this year? Barbecue from 4pm, £10 per person or free to anyone who worked 10 or more hours at the Maldon 2019 Beer & Cider Festival. **BOOKING ESSENTIAL** (including any dietary requirements) by Friday 9th August.

Thursday 22nd Clacton Air Show & Beer Festival, Sea front & St. James' Hall, Tower Road, Clacton-on-Sea, CO15 1LE. A visit to this fantastic air show, (sadly no Red Arrows this year) and the Clacton Beer Festival. Meet in the festival from 11am onwards for a few beers before we wander down to the sea front around 1.30pm for the Air Show, then return to the beer festival afterwards about 5pm.

Friday 23rd – Monday 26th Cider Festival, Carpenters Arms, 33 Gate Street, Maldon, CM9 5QF. A festival for Cider lovers. John always puts on an amazing array of Ciders and Perrys for this annual festival, so come along and try something new and different. There will be beer available for the ale drinkers among us. We will be holding a social evening there on Friday 23rd from 7.30pm onwards, where we will also be presenting the award to John and the team at 8pm for Branch Cider Pub of the Year.

SEPTEMBER

Thursday 5th Chappel Beer Festival, East Anglian Railway Museum, Wakes Colne, C06 2DS. Mini bus pick up in South Woodham Ferrers 6.40pm at the Railway station. Pick up in Maldon 7pm All Saints Church, High street. This will then give us around 3 hours at the beer festival. Cost £10 per person. Booking required by Monday 2nd September.

NORTH WEST ESSEX BRANCH

contact@northwestessex.camra.org.uk

Monday 1st July Branch Meeting, White Horse, Mill Road, Ridgewell, Halstead, Essex, CO9 4SG. 8pm.

Monday 5th August Branch Meeting, Red Cow, 11 High Street, Chrishall, Essex, SG8 8RN. 8pm.

Saturday 14th Pub Walk around Chelmsford. Taking in 7 or so varied and different pubs, with lunch booked at the Orange Tree for 2pm. Meet in the Railway Tavern at noon for our first drink. Return to Maldon around 8pm. Booking required by Friday 6th September.

Tuesday 17th Branch Meeting, Swan, School Road, Little Totham CM9 8LB. 8pm. First pint FREE to new members attending their first meeting.

Friday 27th Witham Beer Festival, Public Hall, Collingwood Road, Witham, CM8 2DY. Social from midday onwards.

OCTOBER

Thursday 3rd – Saturday 5th Eighth South Woodham Ferrers Beer Festival, Village Hall, CM3 5PL. With over 50 beers, ciders and perrys. Featuring beers from the Thames Valley and Essex. Village Hall bar available for members to use, which will offer a range of Crouch Vale and Wibblers Ales (cash only). Open 4 – 11pm Thurs, and noon – 11pm Fri & Sat. Admission £1.00, free to card carrying Village hall & CAMRA members. Refundable £3.50 deposit on souvenir glass tankard. 2 minutes walk from station. Hot and cold food available all sessions. Music Saturday evening. For the first time this year we will be using beer cards with contactless payment available.

Monday 2nd September Branch Meeting, Stag, Duck Street, Little Easton, CM6 2JE. 8pm.

See the Branch Diary page for the current list of meetings www.northwestessex.camra.org.uk.

July

Essex Bottle Share, The Ale House, Chelmsford. Tues 2nd July, 7pm-? The long-running SBXS. Rock up with 2x330ml bottles of the same craft beer (or 1x750ml bottle). Check their online spreadsheet to see what beers have been there so you don't bring one that's been there before.

Chelmsford Summer Beer & Cider Festival, Admirals Park, Rainsford Road, Chelmsford, CM1 2PL. Tues 2nd to Sat 6th July. Brewery Bars, 300+ Real Ales, Key keg bar, 100+ Real Ciders, Perries & Pyders, Wine, Podge's Belgian Beer Bar, World food kitchen with over 15 different foods from around the world, family day attractions for the children on Saturday. Live entertainment all week.

Fabfest '19 – CANCELLED The Freight House, Bradley Way, Rochford, SS4 1BU. Fri 5th to Sat 6th July 2019. Cancelled due to low ticket sales (no trains running and an unexpected clash of dates with the Chelmsford beer festival cites as potential reasons).

15th Manningtree Beer Festival, Manningtree. 5.30-9.30pm Fri 12th and 12.30-9.30pm Sat 13th July 2019.

Al Festo 2019, The Sun Inn, Dedham. Sat 13th and Sun 14th July. Live Americana music, craft beer, cider, gin, prosecco, games, art and food.

July Beer & Music Festival, The White Hart, Margaretting Tye. Fri 19th – Sun 21st July.

Real Ale Festival, Epping Ongar Railway. Fri 19th – Sun 21st July. Cask Ales, cider, live music on and off the trains. Trains and buses run into the evening on Friday and Saturday. Our biggest Real Ale Festival to date!

Colchester Summer Real Ale, Cider and Craft Gin Festival, Colchester and East Essex Cricket Club, Catchpool Road, Colchester CO1 1XN. Thurs 25th – Sun 28th July. "Based at the picturesque cricket ground in Lower Castle Park it is a family friendly venue and event with music, food and of course a variety of real ale and cider. For 2019 we are adding a selection of craft gins and a variety of proseccos and sparkling wines to ensure there is something for all of Colchester's discerning palates!"

Harwich Redoubt Beer Festival, Redoubt Fort, Harwich. Thurs 25th – Sat 27th July. A great setting for a beer festival!

Dark Beer & Scotch Eggs Festival, The Old New Inn, Colchester. Thurs 25th – Sun 28th July.

August

The Ale House Beer Tap Takeover – Hammerton. The Ale House, Chelmsford. Thurs 2nd August.

Rodney Inn Beer Festival, The Rodney Inn, North Hill, Little Baddow CM3 4TQ. Thurs 2nd – Sat 4th August. 12 Beers in marquee, 3 in pub, 3 ciders in marquee & 1 in pub, Thai and English food, and music.

Essex Bottle Share, The Ale House, Chelmsford. Tues 6th August, 7pm-? The long-running SBXS, see July event for instructions.

10th Hopstock Beer & Music Festival, The Compasses, Littley Green. Fri 9th – Sun 11th August. Over 50 real ales and ciders, live music, vintage tractor ploughing and charity stalls.

24th Clacton-on-Sea Real Ale & Cider Festival, St. James' Hall, Tower Road, Clacton-on-Sea. CO15 1LE. Wed 21st – Sat 24th August. 70+ real ales (from cask and keykeg), ciders, perries, Essex wines, and Belgian and other International beers + free soft drinks for designated drivers.

Witham Beer Festival, Witham Hockey & Cricket Clubs, Maldon Road Park, CM8 1HN. Thurs 22nd – Sat 24th August. "We aim once again to bring you wide range of ales, lagers, ciders

and wines to enjoy, as well as some top class local musical entertainment, to make it an inclusive experience....."

Hammerton Tap Takeover, The Old New Inn, Colchester. Thurs 22nd – Mon 26th August.

The Ale House Beer Festival, The Ale House, Chelmsford. Thurs 29th August – Sun 1st September.

Coggeshall Beer Festival, Abbey Farm, Abbey Lane, Coggeshall. Thurs 29th August – Sun 1st September 2019

September

Essex Bottle Share, The Ale House, Chelmsford. Tues 3rd September, 7pm-? The long-running SBXS, see July event for instructions.

Chappel Beer Festival, East Anglian Railway Museum, Chappel nr Colchester. Tues 3rd (evening) – Sat 7th September (11am to 11pm).

Ipswich Beer Festival, Town Hall & Corn Exchange, Cornhill, Ipswich IP1 1DH. Thurs 19th – Sat 21st September. It's been a little while since there's been a beer festival in Ipswich, and the young (relatively speaking!) Hopsters guys have stepped up to the plate and their beer festival looks to offer a great balance of craft beer and real ale alongside cider, street food and music.

Witham Public Hall Real Ale Festival, Witham Public Hall, Collingwood Road, Witham CM8 2DY. Thurs 26th – Sun 29th September. "An intimate festival with with a convivial and relaxing atmosphere offering an interesting and unusual selection of beers from all over the country."

North Brewing Tap Takeover, The Old New Inn, Colchester. 26th – 29th September.

BILLERICAY BREWING CO. SUMMER BEER FESTIVAL THURS 25TH - SUN 28TH JULY 20+ REAL ALES AND CIDERS BY BILLERICAY BREWING & OTHER ESSEX BREWERIES

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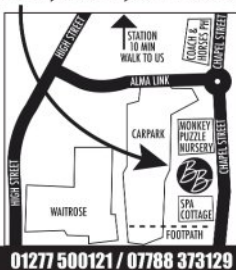
FRI 26TH - 11AM - 10.30PM

SAT 27TH - 11AM - 10.30PM

SUN 28TH - 11AM - 7PM

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Smooth black beer with a light and silky mouthfeel. Pours jet black with a soft white head. Aromas and flavours are that of dark chocolate, coffee and ripe dark fruits.

RADIO WAVE 4.2%

Juicy and tropical session American Pale Ale. A late addition of Centennial, Citra and Simcoe gives this beer its tropical fruit aromas

info@blueshackbeers.com

Pub News - by branch rapporteurs

South East Essex - by Maggie Pinto chair@see.camra.org.uk

We have presented three awards so far this year. First was our Winter Pub of the Season: the **Leigh on Sea Brewery Tap**. As you may gather from the name, the Tap is located at the Leigh on Sea Brewery (Progress Road SS9 5PR) where you can try their award-winning beers including Legra and Crowstone. Our seasonal awards are based on NBSS scores, so we rely on CAMRA members submitting scores at whatpub.com.

The LoS Brewery Tap is a cosy bar, with a friendly atmosphere inside, and tables outside for when the weather is kind. Popular events include beer festivals and music weekends; see their social media for details: Twitter [@LoSBrewery](https://twitter.com/LoSBrewery)



The next award was Pub of the Year: **West Road Tap**, 2 West Road, Westcliff-on-Sea SS0 9DA. The micropub is only two years old, but has made a massive impression on visitors. Up to six real ales are available on stillage. There are regular tap takeovers and food events, updates on Twitter [@westroadtap](https://twitter.com/westroadtap)

The most recent award was Club of the Year: **South Benfleet Social Club**, Vicarage Hill, SS7 1PB. The Club has won our award for six years in a row, and has also been awarded East Anglia Regional Club of the Year. Up to five real ales are served, in a spacious club with plenty of sport on TV. Popular beer festivals are held twice a year, as well as cider festivals and other events. Look for the Club on social media for updates on real ales and what's on.

The next award will be our Rural Pub of the Year: **The Shepherd and Dog, Ballards Gore**.

North West Essex - by Chris Rouse magazine@northwestessex.camra.org.uk



Railway Arms, Saffron Walden - the fight continues www.strap.org.uk

It is understood that the revised scheme submitted by Charles Wells Ltd will be decided at the Uttlesford District Council Planning Committee Meeting at the Council Offices on London Rd on 26th June at 2pm. The application has attracted a lot of interest with 22 submissions made by residents and both Saffron Walden Town Council and Essex County Council Place Services expressing concerns at the plans.

Pub News in Brief

Vine, Great Bardfield - understood to have changed hands on 1st May.

Plough, Birdbrook - reopened on Good Friday, selling GK IPA and Doombar. **Green Man, Toppesfield** - new tenants awaited. **Welsh Princess, Rayne** - new tenants sought. **Bell, Great Bardfield** - 'tankard club' on Tuesdays, £3 a pint if you bring your own container. **Crown, Elsenham** - bought by operator of Marne Inn, Bishops Stortford. **Kings Arms, Stansted Mountfitchet** - temporarily closed. **Kings Head, Hadstock** - Hadstock Community Pub Co, established to purchase and operate pub has been wound up. **George, Shalford** - understood to be experiencing operating difficulties. **Cricketers, Rickling Green** - pub closed and lease for sale (status of 'stablemate' Crown at Elsenham unknown). **Three Horse-shoes, Helions Bumpstead** - very successful 'launch' held recently and renovation work now underway.

Maldon & Dengie - by Chris Harvey
charvey23@gmail.com

Some concerning news about the **Compasses** in Great Totham. It is reported as closed at the moment, and its long-term future is unclear. Very sad, as this village pub was the CAMRA Essex Pub of the Year only three years ago. We aim to make contact soon with the owner to find out what his plans are, in the hope that it will be reopening soon.



There's better news regarding the **Mitre** in nearby Wickham Bishops. I paid a visit to the pub a few weeks ago and saw for myself the extensive refurbishment work which is being carried out by the owners. They have invested a lot of time and money in the project, and I think it will be a very attractive pub when completed. The owners have found a suitable tenant, and there will be at least two, possibly three real ales

available. The expectation is that the pub will open during the summer.



The Bell at Purleigh, a historic village inn with a very good local reputation for fine food and ales, is currently having a new extension built. The extension will include a new kitchen and bedroom accommodation. The existing building will be reconfigured to provide more seating space and new toilets, and the car park and gardens will also receive a makeover. Owners Kirsten and Julian Webb hope the work can be completed by the end of the year, but the pub is still open for business in the meantime.

There have been changes at the **Rose Inn** in Southminster. Jackie Ainger and Peter Chambers (who also own Dengie Taxis) have recently taken over as tenants of the charming roadside Gray's pub. Apparently, they have some interesting plans for the future. The pub was closed for refurbishment in May but has now reopened for business.

One of our local pubs is closed whilst it undergoes a refurbishment; **The Ferry Boat Inn** in North Fambridge has been closed for a while now and from the outside the work looks very extensive. No news on a reopening date at the moment, but we will try to find out more from the owners.

The lease for the **Mill Beach**, on the Goldhanger Road east of Heybridge Basin, has recently been advertised online for sale at less than £50,000 - it is

hoped that a decent tenant/pub company will decide to take on this attractively located pub, which is adjacent to the River Blackwater. The pub has been closed since November 2018 after the tenants decided to quit.

The **Black Rabbit** in Maldon is no longer serving real ale – apparently there was “no demand” for it. A couple of mainstream keg craft beers are available.

Chelmsford & Mid-Essex - by Rob West with contributions from branch members
pubnews@chelmsford.camra.org.uk

Monkey, Terling is being refurbished by Tony Baisden, the licensee and owner. He has worked in the pub trade before, and is familiar with CAMRA. The plan is to open in June with a larger restaurant area than before, offering traditional English fare. The public bar will remain, but of course it will be smaller. It will operate as a free house, and Tony wants to feature local breweries.

Willows, Cressing closed in mid-April and is being refurbished to reopen as an Italian restaurant. What is not clear is whether or not it is going to be only a restaurant, or a pub with a restaurant attached.

The Ale House, Chelmsford is having a beer festival Thursday 29th August -1st September with 24 cask and 18 keg Beers. A Tap Takeover from East London Brewing is planned for 31st October.

Ale related news for the **Woolpack, Chelmsford** is as follows..."*Many thanks to everyone who attended the Easter Beer Fest. A Summer Beer Festival (over 50 Ales & Ciders) is planned to take place August Bank Holiday Weekend Thursday 22nd - Sunday 26th. CAMRA pre-festival drinks on the Wednesday evening £2.50 per pint 8pm - 11pm. Halloween Beer Festival (Over 20 Ales & Ciders)*

Wednesday 30th October - Saturday 2nd October".

The **Compasses, Little Green** are having their annual Hopstock festival on 9th-11th August - it's their 10 year anniversary, so will be showcasing real ales and ciders we've enjoyed at the festival over the last 10 years. About 50-60 real ales and 20 ciders, live music and huffer BBQ will add to the fun.

The Rodney, Little Baddow are having their Annual Beer festival in August. It runs from Friday 2nd August at 6pm – 11pm. Saturday 3rd 12pm – 11pm (with live band Cu'de Groove playing in the evening) & Sunday 12pm – 8pm.

The White Hart, Little Waltham will be holding beer festival From Friday 23rd to Monday 26th August. Their sister pub the **Angel and Harp** in Great Dunmow is in the North West Essex CAMRA area and will be having their beer festival the weekend of 20th – 22nd September.

The **Woolpack, Witham** has a new landlord, Dean Fierheller, who has taken on the lease from Glenn Ackerman, confirmed that beers from Witham Brewery will continue to be sold at the pub.



A new place of interest has come onto the radar, now that the **Compasses, Chelmsford**, has new management. Marc Mcleod will be increasing the real ale choice to four hand pumps and introducing real cider. See the separate feature elsewhere in this issue.

Three Horseshoes Helions Bumpstead

Update June 2019 - by Richard Russell



Almost three months into village ownership of the Three Horseshoes we are making good progress towards an official opening later this year. Tenant recruitment is now our key priority and we would be delighted to hear from strong and imaginative candidates who like the idea of what is effectively a blank canvas and the prospect of working in partnership with a highly supportive community. Look out for a new recruitment campaign through industry press and social media.

Since taking ownership on 15th March, three highly successful and extremely well-attended events have raised the profile of the community purchase and provided welcome revenue for the community Society as well as local food suppliers Kitsch Hen and Mike Prentice. The first event was attended by local MP James Cleverly and his wife Susie. District Councillor Diana Garrod has been equally supportive. In a spirit of research, these events have enabled us to develop good relationships with a range of established East Anglian brewers including Adnams, Nethergate and Lacons. Craft beers with a continental twist from local producer



Wylde Sky have also gone down well.

Weekly volunteer working parties have already made great progress towards the restoration of the pub garden. We have clocked up more than 170 volunteer hours and the Saturday morning sessions have been both enjoyable and productive.

All new garden furniture, all constructed from heavy-duty recycled plastic and fully funded by a grant from Essex Council, has complemented the beautiful and expansive garden which is slowly emerging from the brambles.



Recent good news has included the award of a £10,000 grant from the Big Lottery which will go towards the renovation of the kitchen and a new central heating boiler.

So thanks to all who have supported us so far. The next event will be on the evening of the 6th July from 5pm and all are welcome. Beer from Adnams and Wylde Sky, and food from ever popular local caterer Michael Prentice.

Follow us on Facebook [@savethethreehorseshoes](https://www.facebook.com/savethethreehorseshoes) and Instagram [@helionspub](https://www.instagram.com/helionspub). Queries, suppliers and tenancy queries are very welcome by email on helionspub@hotmail.com.

*Pictures: Rick Reynolds, village resident
Helions Bumpstead Community Benefit Society Ltd
Registered Office: Sages End Cottage, Sages End
Road, Helions Bumpstead CB9 7AW
Community Benefit Society Reg. No.: 7533*



Cider Press - by Claire Irons, Cider Representative CME CAMRA and Essex Cider Co-ordinator

CIDER TRENDS

Westons Cider Report 2018 predicted fruit cider would account for half of all cider sold by 2023 but with fruit cider already accounting for 40% of volumes in 2019 –up from 36% the previous year– the company has revised its estimation to 2022. Draught cider now represents 74% of all cider sold in the on-trade and has grown 8.3% year-on-year in value and 5.5% in volume. 41% of cider drinkers view ABV as an important part of their decision-making, with a clear trend towards responsible drinking. 53% of respondents to their survey, said they looked at Alcohol By Volume, ABVs, for reasons of responsibility and wanting to stay in control.



Having volunteered on Chelmsford CAMRA Cider Bar at our festivals for ten years I have seen a phenomenal increase sales of cider with a particular swing towards fruit ciders at low ABV. Currently, any alcoholic drink above 1.2% ABV that is not wine, beer, black beer, spirits or cider is classified as a made-wine for tax purposes. This includes ciders made with the use of adjuncts such as fruit juice, hops or

botanicals. Made-wine is taxed at a higher rate between 4% and 5.5% than at 4% or less.

Consequently fruit ciders are more expensive than traditional ciders to buy from the producers and hence more expensive over the bar to consumers. Cider producers are meeting the market so that there has been an explosion of fruit ciders over recent years at 4% ABV. CAMRA encourages responsible drinking so our cider bars have a huge selection of low ABV ciders available but also cater for enthusiasts and connoisseurs. I research all year seeking out interesting ciders and perries visiting producers, various festivals and pubs. It is a hard and expensive unpaid job but rewarding of course!

With the resurgence of gin and health awareness I noticed on a recent trip to a supermarket that Rekorderlig, famed for sweet berry fruit ciders, have launched a botanicals range using what they call pear cider at 4% alcohol. Personally I prefer Real Perry (fermented pear juice, unpasteurised and still), and enjoy the delightful flavours and styles. Barbourne Dry Perry 7.4% matured in a whisky cask, from the CAMRA Cider Bar at Chelmsford Beer & Cider Festival, 2nd to 6th July, in Admirals Park, is definitely more exciting for me. How about you? You may try before you buy from the range of over 100 ciders and perries.

EAST ANGLIA CIDER PUB OF THE YEAR

The Woodbine Inn, Waltham Abbey has done the double again, repeating last year's success to be judged not only the best cider pub in Essex but also East Anglia.

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Tel: 07837907648
Email: ecsrealcider@hotmail.co.uk



As well as numerous CAMRA awards, Landlord Rob Chapman, proudly told me that The Woodbine is in the Trip Advisor Hall of Fame for winning the Certificate of Excellence for five consecutive years (2015 to 2019). The business has to have received consistently great reviews on Trip Advisor over the year to be considered. Like CAMRA awards they are earned on merit and not paid for.

To see what all the fuss is about. I suggest readers of Thirsty Times gather a group of friends to come along by

minibus, car or taxi on Saturday 13th July for 7pm for a fun evening when I shall be presenting the Essex Cider Pub of the Year 2019 award to Rob and Julie Chapman.



With CAMRA discount of 50 pence off a pint of real ale or cider you may have a flight of 6 thirds of cider or perry for only £6. Plus seven cask ales and even Giggler Cider Brandy from Suffolk to help the party atmosphere.

A Visit to Chelmsford Brew Company -

The only active brewery left in Chelmsford?



Next up was "Radio Wave", a beer brewed in the style of an "American Pale Ale". Usually, the combination of the words "American", "Pale" and "Ale" has this particular drinker beating a fast retreat, mainly due to on the admittedly few occasions I have tried an APA, I have found it akin to sucking a gooseberry, I dare say some welcome the experience, each to their own perhaps.



On a chilly Saturday morning in late January, several members of CME CAMRA gathered together to visit possibly the only active brewery remaining in Chelmsford, or, to be more accurate, Great Baddow. Located only a stone's throw from the old Baddow Brewery, we were welcomed by Hans and his father to show us around and share a beer or two. Hans Oelofse and his son Ben started brewing Blueshack beer in 2014 - named after their garden shed where the brewing was taking place. Having expanded their operation, Chelmsford Brew Co was formed in 2017 and now produce a range of beers in cask, keg and bottle form. Take a look at Blueshack Beers or Facebook for more information.

Onto the beers... We were met by the welcome sight of a tapped firkin of Port Jackson!



This one is an all too rare combination of a flavoursome porter combined with a session strength ABV of 4%. A well balanced combination of malt with hints of coffee and chocolate, it was well received by this author, who purely in the interests of research, felt the need to try a couple more.

However, for research purposes, I was willing to give it a go. Wow! I am glad I did, yes there are citric flavours within but these are not over-powering. These are far more subtle - rather than an assault on the senses - and they leave an impression of tropical fruits more than the British gooseberry, thankfully. To me, at least, this would be an ideal beer for warmer times to come (hopefully) in spring and summer. Then again, I wasn't complaining having it in late January.



Hans is bar manager at the Lion Inn, Boreham which thus also has his full range of cask ales available. Currently, Chelmsford Brew Co have their beers distributed by Gray & Sons as well as being available occasionally at the King's Head in Great Baddow. To my knowledge, bottle, casks and kegs are also available direct from the brewery, although it would be an idea to check on availability first.

Many thanks to Hans and his father for inviting us and sharing their time and beers.

Ian Rigden

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Campaign
for
Real Ale

Rose and Crown, Ashdon

- lots to do in Ashdon and a bit of history too!



Cambridgeshire. This emphasis on regional & local ale took another step forward with the sale of the first casks of "Ashdon Amber", brewed just a stone's throw away in Castle Camps, by Roughacre Brewery.

As well as having been listed in the Good Beer Guide for the last three years, the pub is renowned for its food, ranging from popular Sunday roasts (advisable to book in advance), fish and chips on Fridays or just a homemade soup and sandwich at lunchtime.

The Rose and Crown is a grade II listed building that has survived four centuries to become the last remaining pub in the village. During the Civil War, the area was predominately pro-Parliament, supporting Cromwell. It is reputed that the then recently-constructed Rose and Crown was used to imprison some of the monks attached to the Abbey in Bury St. Edmunds and they painted the panelled walls with simulated religious texts, so in the pub's Cromwell Lounge a portion of wall has 17th Century painting.

Justine and Hans have been running the Rose and Crown, Ashdon for four years. They have 5 hand pumps with Woodforde's Wherry as a house beer and 4 changing guest beers, usually including a mild, stout or porter. Regular suppliers include Colchester, Bishop Nick, Nethergate and Mighty Oak. In fact Hans recently calculated that over 80% of the cask ale served on the premises came from the four counties which most traditionally comprise East Anglia - Essex, Suffolk, Norfolk &

are many miles of footpaths and bridleways that take you into open agricultural countryside. Circular walks of various lengths can be planned around the pub. From exercising their two German Shepherd/Siberian Husky cross-breed dogs Hans and Justine know many of them well, and are happy to point punters in the right direction. Many of the paths and byways also make for excellent off-road cycling. There are also parts of the old Saffron Walden to Haverhill railway line that included Ashdon Halt, a windmill in the process of restoration (sails already replaced) and Ashdon Museum with its 'treasured collectables and lifelike rooms' depicting Ashdon past life' (www.ashdonvillagemuseum.co.uk for opening times).

As well as taking "Thirsty Times" from the North-West Essex CAMRA branch there are often copies of "Ale" from Cambridge branch as the pub is close to the county border.

Janet Drysdale

ViceChairman@northwestessex.camra.org.uk

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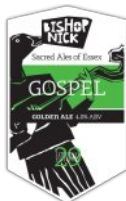
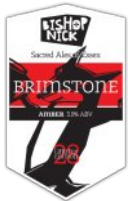
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Bishop Nick has got beers going out to a multitude of beer festivals around the county over the coming weeks: notably the Chelmsford CAMRA summer festival early July where we have a brewery bar. We're also taking a bar at the Great British Beer Festival at Olympia in August. We've just had our 6th Revelry Day open house at Bishop Nick for Father's Day – always a joyful occasion. Currently in circulation is our REVELRY 2019 beer – a deep golden summer ale brewed with US hops. Next up is BRIMSTONE an amber ale, 3.9% brewed with fragrant floral hops with notes of orange zest and sticky toffee. Our August offering will be another brand new Limited Edition called GOSPEL – an English golden ale at 4.8% - lovely biscuit malts balanced with summer fruit salad flavours. We're looking forward to the Essex Food and Drink Festival at Cressing Temple Barns where you'll find us in the Co-Op tent.



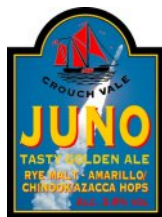
Head Brewer Hans writes: Greetings! The brewery is coming along nicely now. The cold room is done and happily housing many casks. We will have a stand at this year's CAMRA Chelmsford Summer Beer and Cider festival. We are so pleased and excited to be a part of it. We have brewed a special Porter for the festival and we can't wait to try it ourselves. My sister has now officially joined the brewery team. She will help us reach out to more of Chelmsford. Her name is Sunet and she is just an absolute delight. Our tasting room is also taking shape and will be open very soon. See

you all at the festival!



FINE ESSEX ALES

Colin tells us: Our beer for June is Juno (abv 3.9%), an American-



hopped rye beer. For July, it will be Saturn V – an all-barley mash American-hopped amber ale (abv 4.2%). We also have Citra (abs 3.9%).



Martin writes:

Synonymous with our brand name we have invented an equally naughty

but nice summer cocktail!! Gillian enjoyed making and testing lots of concoctions first of course! The cocktail was a best seller at Chelmsford racecourse recently. We design gift boxes on request. Our Prosecco tasting cider 'Gardener's Delight' is the perfect mixer as it is light, dry, bubbly and crisp – 1.5 litres is £10. We've called it Eve's Delight - after the naughty but nice bite into the apple! Light, dry and crisp on the lips with an intense injection of potent elderflower. •25ml Edinburgh Gin Elderflower Liqueur. •250ml Gardener's Delight sparkling cider. •Lemon, strawberry and/or lime zest, to garnish.



Mike informs us:

This year's prog rock series of beers are going well. Next up is the release of YYZ, a golden 5.0% beer full of big American hops. We have also collaborated with Hoppily to produce an exclusive bottled

beer called 'Turn it on Again'. A session IPA dry hopped with Mosaic and Eldorado. Hoppily spent the day digging out the mash tun and sniffing hops with us, and we can't wait to drink the beer at their HQ in Leigh-on-sea. We have a new addition to our core beer line up. Azimuth is a smooth and easy drinking bitter, brewed to a comfortable 3.9%. Originally produced as a one-off, it was so well received we have decided to keep on it the list. Amber in colour and hopped with Cascade for floral and fruity flavours.



News from Ruth:

Sales of our 5 bottled beers are growing rapidly: Maldon Gold, Captain Bob, Oscar Wilde, Jake the Snake

and Kings. New Beers:

PARGETER 4.3% a light copper ale with liquorice toffee and coffee start, a peppery overtone and a red berry finish from new hop variety Eagle.



PARADOX 4.1% Orange, mango and peaches from the amazing Olicana hop make this golden ale one not to miss this summer.

HERE COMES SUMMER 3.9% back by popular demand, our favourite summer pale blonde ale with plenty of the citrusy Centennial hop.



ADVANTAGE 4.2% Pilgrim and Progress hops impart cedar, orange, honey and gentle spicy overtone.



Abby writes: At Chelmsford Summer BF we will have our biggest range ever of all our products – cask, keg and ciders. Plus the launch of last year's Annual Flocculation brew Wobbly Dragon. Don't forget our

Summer Open day on 10th August, £15pp including 4 pints, a tour and talk by the brew house team.

Dengie Breeze is a working title for the first new brew made with Cluster and Godiva hops. Galaxy and Summertime are coming soon. Cider production is back up to capacity now that we have a new supplier of apple juice. We are canning again – Stoaty McMilkshake is a Chocolate and Vanilla Milk Stout based on our National Winter Champion Beer of Britain, Crafty Stoat.



Our Taproom continues to be busy so we plan to open at noon on Thursday and Friday instead of 2pm. Our new chef will be adding a specials board with dishes using our ales.



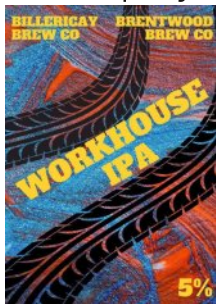
CME CAMRA's Martin Joy awards Champion Beer of East Anglia to Bishop Nick for Ridley's Rite (Gold, Bitters) and 1555 (Silver, Best Bitters) at their recent Revelry Day. Pictured with Martin are Head Brewer Alex Ratter, left, and MD Nelion Ridley, centre.

K8s Quiz Answers: 1.Admiral 2.Progress 3.Herald 4.Phoenix 5.Omega 6.Boadicea 7.Endeavour 8.Cascade 9.Challenger 10.Humulus Lupulus 11.Wolf of the woods 12.Chinook 13.Sterling 14.Polaris 15.Opal 16.Mosaic 17.Green Bullet 18.Cashmere 19.Sussex 20.Liberty

SEE Brewery News - by Maggie Pinto



Billericay Brewery News from Trevor Jeffrey: Production of the large volume Billericay beers has transferred to Brentwood's 20 barrel plant (only 4.5 barrels at Billericay). Brewing to the same recipe by Billericay staff ensures quality of the final beer is maintained. Trade sales operations have been combined so that only one van delivers both ranges of Brentwood and Billericay beers. The breweries remain separate companies. Billericay brewery does seasonal specials, small batch products and bottling our bottle-conditioned beers. At weekends extra seating and a pop up bar allow us to serve more people at our busiest times. Billericay and Brentwood breweries celebrated their partnership with a collaborative beer, Workhouse IPA. This 5% New England IPA is hazy and packed with a combination of 5 tropical hops. It's been very popular in cask, key keg and 330ml bottles.



Fable Brewery: Pilgrim's Path recently appeared at the Thurrock Beer Festival. Fable's cask beers will continue to be cuckoo brewed in Essex, with Sam brewing the keg and can beers in Bermondsey for distribution by Eebria.



George's Brewery: Established in 2010, George's Brewery brews distinctive craft real ales in Great Wakering, Essex and offers ales through local pubs and clubs, off-licences and also directly to the public

from the ale shop. The shop sells bottles, pins, and growlers, and is currently open on Saturdays, for details check social media or www.georgesbrewery.com. New branding was revealed in April for both



George's and Hop Monster beers; look out for the new pump clips at pubs throughout Essex including the Mayflower (Leigh on Sea), the Shepherd and Dog (Ballards Gore) and the Station Arms (Southminster).



Keppels Brewery: Dan and the team have been busy brewing Topsy Crow, Crows by the Crouch, Golden Crow, Home to Roost and more for pubs and festivals around Essex. Bottled beers and polypins are available to buy, as well as Brewer for the Day experiences. In motorsports news Bobby Thompson announced that Keppels are supplying the beer for British Touring Car Championship race weekends (but don't drink and drive). Hoppily have been selling Keppels special Vulcan beers for the Vulcan Restoration Trust. Look out for the next Visit the Vulcan open days in August and September. More news on Twitter [@keppelsbrewery](https://twitter.com/keppelsbrewery).



Leigh-on-Sea Brewery: Spring has been very busy with beers being sent to Brewdog (for their "Up and coming" event)



as well as lots of festivals, restaurants, pubs and clubs. Look out for the 6.3% Legra X - it has recently been enjoyed at the Mayflower (Leigh on

Sea). A celebratory "Grand" beer has recently been brewed for the 1000th beer at the West Road Tap (Westcliff). A beer and music festival at the brewery in early

May was very popular. The Tap Room is currently open Thurs 4-8pm, Fri 4-8pm and Sat 1-5pm at 35 Progress Road, Leigh-on-Sea, SS9 5PR.

NWE Brewery News - by Chris Rouse



Shalford brewed the festival ale for Braintree Real Ale Festival (BRAf) this year. It's a new recipe 4% Golden ale called Braintree Crystal, as it's the 15th anniversary of the festival. Shalford also supplied the elusive "Essex Beaver" to the festival. Other breweries from our area supplying BRAf were Courtyard, Pumphouse & Silks.



Courtyard Brewery is the latest new and exciting brewery to start producing beer in the county. It's a 6BBL system designed to perfectly fit into a 19th century coachhouse in the north Essex village of Gosfield by two guys passionate about producing ales traditionally, but with a 21st century twist.



Marc and Mark were so passionate about beer they decided that blending traditional craft ales with modern flavours and techniques was going to be a recipe for success. Their idea was to create three core beers from start to finish. Meaning everything from the brewing process to bottling and labelling is done on site in a true craft

style. Starting with Gold late last year, which is a light golden ale at 4.1%, where the plan was to produce an ale that would be drunk by real ale drinkers, but would also appeal to young so called lager drinkers.



An IPA quickly followed, again with the thoughts of drinkers in mind - this one is a session IPA at 3.8%. The latest addition is a porter called Dark at 5%, which like the other beers has the distinctive taste the name suggests, with a modern feel.

Future plans are to concentrate on these three beers, but to bring out specials now and again.

For more up to date events and information on Courtyard Brewery please follow their Facebook page ([Courtyard Brewery](#)) and Instagram page ([Courtyard Brewery18](#)).



OBITUARY - NORMAN COX



Norman Cox, a face that will be missed at the entrance to our Summer Beer & Cider Festival this year, passed away on Monday 21st January after battling cancer. Norman was Chelmsford & Mid-Essex Branch Vice Chairman and helped the branch organise ale trails, worked on the Entrance and Glasses at our festivals and came on many of our social trips. The last trip Norman took with us

was to Bristol. Although he was having chemo treatment at the time he managed to walk up the hill from the SS Great Britain to Clifton Village to the surprise of the people he was with. He was also able to meet some friends in the Bristol area while enjoying real ale in several pubs.

Many of our CAMRA members were surprised to hear that Norman was a British American Football Referee and was one of the longest serving members of the association. At his funeral we were all taken aback when we heard that he used to ski.

Chelmsford & Mid-Essex branch miss him as he was very helpful and was a great volunteer to work with. Our sympathies go out to Norman's family and friends.

*Doug Irons
Chairman, CME CAMRA*



Name the Hop by K8 ----

1. Nelson
2. A Pilgrims
3. Newspaper
4. Arabian bird
5. Greek letter

6. Queen of the Iceni
7. To strive
8. Waterfall
9. Space ship
10. What is the Latin name for a hop?
11. What does it mean?
12. North American tribe
13. Money
14. Missile
15. Sweet
16. Roman floor
17. Gone off shot
18. Type of wool
19. County
20. Freedom

Answers on page 41



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Please email letters, news, views and articles for possible publication to Tony Vernon, editor of Thirsty Times and to Claire Irons, Publicity Officer Chelmsford & Mid-Essex CAMRA. Thank you to all contributors and Vector Sum Consulting Ltd. The editor reserves the right to edit articles if required with the full article appearing on the CME branch website.

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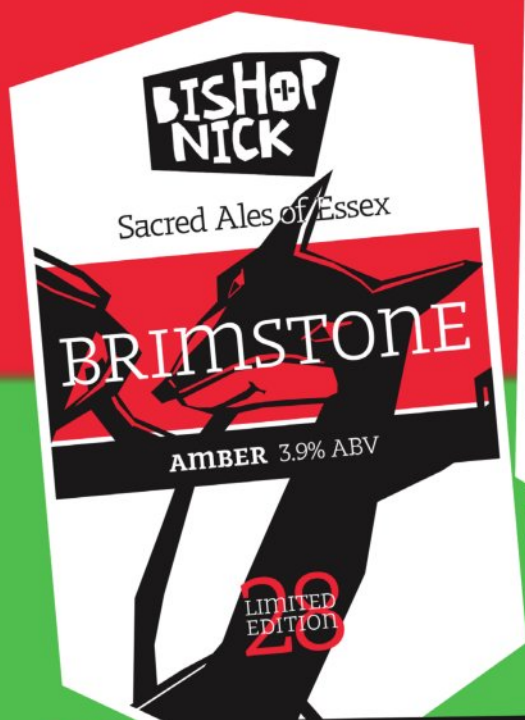
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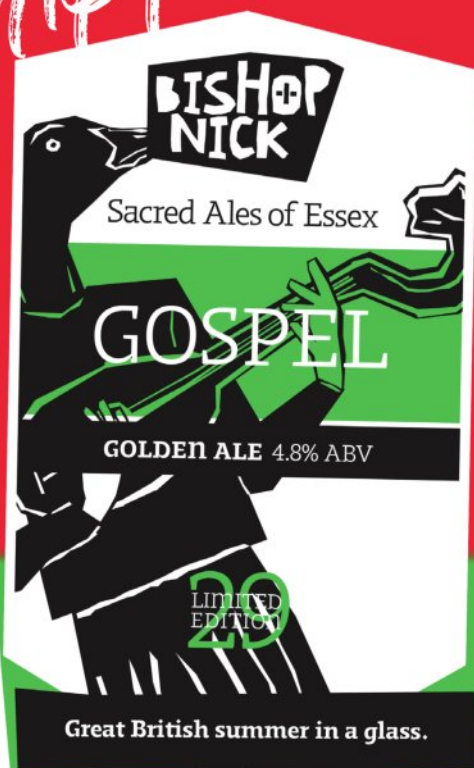
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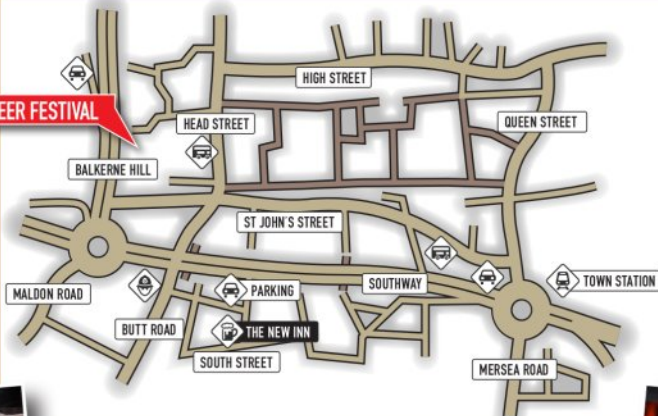


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