



CAMPAIGN  
FOR  
REAL ALE

# Thirsty Times



The Compasses,  
Little Green  
is the 2012  
Pub of the Year!



Chelmsford The Birthplace  
of Radio, in 1912

Admiral's Park,  
Rainsford Road, CMI 2PL

Tuesday 10th - Saturday  
14th July

- Over 300 Real Ales
- Over 100 Real Ciders & Perries
- A wide selection of Belgian Beers
  - Local Wines
- Food served all day

[www.chelmsfordbeerfestival.org.uk](http://www.chelmsfordbeerfestival.org.uk)

Chelmsford and Mid-Essex Branch of  
CAMRA, the Campaign for Real Ale

Issue 001  
Spring 2012

# THE WHITE HART INN

'THE HOME OF REAL ALE

AND GOOD FOOD'

SWAN LANE,

MARGARETTING TYE, CM4 9JX

TEL.: 01277 840478

**DIARY DATE: OUR SUMMER BEER FESTIVAL  
THURS 19<sup>TH</sup> JULY – SUN 22<sup>ND</sup> JULY 2012**

**60 PLUS REAL ALES & CIDER, LIVE MUSIC**

**BBQ CHAMPAGNE & PIMMS TENT**

**A TRADITIONAL COUNTRY PUB**

**WITH A WARM WELCOME AND A GREAT ATMOSPHERE**

**ALWAYS SERVING AT LEAST 6 REAL ALES IN SUPERB  
CONDITION, STRAIGHT FROM THE TAP**

**[WWW.THEWHITEHART.UK.COM](http://WWW.THEWHITEHART.UK.COM)**



**ESSEX LIFE REAL ALE PUB OF  
THE YEAR 2011**

# Pub of the Year 2012

The **Compasses, Little Green** is the Chelmsford and Mid-Essex CAMRA Branch Pub of the Year 2012.

The picture on the right shows licensee Joss Ridley (left) being presented with the award by Nev Walker on Thursday 22nd March.

To coincide with the presentation Joss held an Equinox Beer Festival with 7 light beers and 7 dark beers available.



Nev said "Joss and his staff have made the Compasses a great community pub that people will go out of their way to visit".

The Compasses now goes forward to compete against the other Essex CAMRA Branches' Pubs of the Year for the title of "Essex Pub of The Year".

**Oakham ales**  
www.oakhamales.com Tel 01733 370500



# Pub News

Reports in Pub News are provided by local CAMRA members, licensees and Thirsty Times readers. Further news of changes at local pubs is very welcome. Please send news to [news@chelmsfordcamra.org.uk](mailto:news@chelmsfordcamra.org.uk).

We start this report with news that The **Golden Fleece** in the city centre will be



running a campaign through April & May called "Proud of our Ale". Look out for beers

from Adnams, Black Sheep, Brains, Brentwood, Crouch Vale, Wibblers and many others. There will be at least 4 and up to 6 ales available all the time. Even better news - CAMRA members get 20% off the price of these ales on production of their card. Look out for "The Only Beer is 6", brewed by Brentwood in support of Essex Cricketer Graham Napier's benefit season.

The Fleece has recently been redecorated, with new colours giving the pub a lighter feel. It is of course also noted for its live music and was named Music Pub of the Year 2011 in the Publican Awards. It has also been nominated for Best Venue in this year's Panic Awards ([www.panicawards.com](http://www.panicawards.com)). Voting has now closed and the result will have been announced by the time you read this.

Another contender for Best Venue in those awards is the **St Anne's Castle** at **Great Leighs**, which won the title in 2008, and in 2011 was recognised for its "outstanding contribution to music". There is a wide selection of music on offer – for details use [www.facebook.com/](http://www.facebook.com/)

[dave.stannescastle](http://dave.stannescastle). Highlights in the next two months include Ash Mandrake (21st April), Bluesman Kris Dollymore (28th April) & Nigel Burch & The Flea-Pit Orchestra (19th May). There is modern jazz from Interplay on the first Friday of each month. All events are free entry and start at 8.30 pm. You'll find 4 real ales in this GBG-listed pub. And take a look at the signboard – it was awarded Sign of the Year 2011 by the Inn Sign Society ([www.innsignsociety.com](http://www.innsignsociety.com)).



If Jazz is your thing you might want to know that the **Viper** at **Mill Green** had a very successful 1st Jazz Night in March. So popular was it that the Hot Mustard



Jazz Quartet will be back at the pub on the first Mondays of both May & June, 7th & 4th respectively. The pub also has a Folk Night on 23rd April.

Now, if you're a budding musician or group and would like somewhere to jam on a Saturday evening the **Flich of Bacon** at **Little**

**Dunmow** could be your first step to stardom. Give Neil or Theresa a call and hop on the airport bus



**4 Support your local pub - don't give them an excuse to close it!**

# Pub News

to our most north-westerly venue.

Something a bit different at the **Windmill, Chatham Green** on Monday 23rd April.



Peter & Elaine are hosting a cockney-themed St George's night. All your favourites –

jellied eels, pie, mash & (we hope) liquor! Lots of good pig's ear too. Live music in the Chas & Dave style. Pearly kings and queens welcome!

Next, exciting news of a specialist beer bar opening in Chelmsford. The Ale House, 24-26 Viaduct Road, right by the station, is scheduled to open around mid-April. It will have 12 handpumps serving beers from around the UK plus 6 more served by gravity. There will also be 15 carefully-selected imported bottled beers and 4 beers on draught from Dinkelacker in Stuttgart - a pilsner, a black beer, a wheat beer and a seasonal. Oh, and cider too. Open from 10 am every day, and boasting table service, this is a very welcome addition to the Chelmsford beer scene.

After all this talk of beer, how many people know we have Essex's premier cider provider in our branch area? The **Three Elms** at **Chignal St James** normally has an amazing 15-20 real ciders and perries on



offer as well as 4 changing real ales. And some of the finest accompaniments - pork pies, Scotch eggs, breakfast balls (you'll have to visit to find out!), pickled eggs, pork scratchings, plus more substantial meals. I quote from their website – “an idyllic location 3 miles from the centre of Chelmsford”.

Kevin & Christine Harley will be leaving **Chelmsford Cricketers** in July after completing 14

years at this Grays pub. They previously ran The Round Bush in Purleigh.



The Cricketers featured in the Good Beer Guide ten times during their stay and is a popular pub for CAMRA meetings. There will be many members sorry to see them go so call in and wish them a happy retirement.

Congratulations also to Julie Bennett, owner and landlady of the **Black Bull** at **Margaretting**. In March she celebrated 20 years at the pub, and for one evening all drinks were at 1992 prices. What did a pint cost then? Just £1.30. Happy Days!



On to less happy news as Greene King have been granted planning permission to convert The King's Head, Braintree into 3

# Pub News

flats, and an outbuilding into 2 further flats. Sad to see this 17th century grade II-listed pub close.

As we go to press the **Three Horseshoes** at **Bannister Green** is closed and, we hear, will remain so for 3 months. This ex-Ridleys pub with its beautiful village green location was recently put up for sale by Admiral Taverns. We hope for good news on this one.

Another grade II-listed pub currently closed is the **Willows** at **Cressing** which has featured in all four editions of our Recommended Pubs booklet.

The **Jack & Jenny** at **Witham** is yet another pub that is closed, hopefully only while the owners, Brakspear, look for a new tenant. This is one of only two Brakspear pubs in our area, the other being The Chelmer Inn at Springfield

## Do you want to own a pub?

The **White Horse, Widford** which has been known as the Masons Too Steak house since 2006, is now up for sale.

## Pub Beer Festivals

Now, after the flurry of beer festivals at Easter here are the dates of some upcoming pub beer festivals:

**Chelmsford, White Horse 20th—23rd April.** The White Horse is holding a beer festival on St



George's weekend from Friday until Monday. They will be having ales from Redemption, Windsor and Eton, Devilfish, Crouch Vale,

Nethergate and Mighty Oak, with 14 different ales over the weekend.

**Bakers Arms, Danbury 4th-7th May.** 12 real ales and 4 real ciders. Live entertainment on Sat, Sun and Mon. Bouncy castle, trampoline and toy tent. BBQ and the Bakers Arms renowned Fish & Chips.

**Chelmsford, Barista 31st May – 4th June.** At his second summer festival landlord Dan promises a unique selection of ales & bitters from national brewers and guest specials from our local favourites, also a great selection of Belgian and Fruit beers.



With live music and a barbecue.

**Braintree, King William IV 2nd - 4th June.** Alongside the cask ales and ciders there will be a barbecue and live music.

**Margaretting Tye, White Hart 19th - 22nd July.** An established favourite this one with over 60, and probably nearer 80, beers, ciders and perries. More details in our next issue. By the way, did you know

that Liz who runs the White Hart has another pub – The Star at nearby Ingatestone? A



Grays house this one and well worth checking out. If you know it from years ago you'll hardly recognise it after its superb refurbishment.



## Rose and Crown

Richards & Kate offer a warm welcome at the Rose & Crown, where you will find a wide selection of Real Ales, with Sharps Doom Bar and two weekly changing guest ales on tap.

Good country menu featuring local produce, cooked in a traditional way. Private dining area seats 20 plus 16 in the bar, also available to hire for private functions.

**TWO Pints for the price of ONE with this advert!**

Mimnows End, Great Waltham

Tel: 01245 360359

[www.roseandcrowngreatwaltham.co.uk](http://www.roseandcrowngreatwaltham.co.uk)

## The Ship

18 Broomfield Road, Chelmsford

01245 265961

**Well established family run pub**

**Good selection of six real Ales**

Accommodation available

Close to Chelmsford Train and Bus station

### FRESH FOOD SERVED

- Breakfast from 10am
- Lunch 12 - 3 All Week
- Evening 17.30 - 9 exempt Sundays
- Sunday Lunch 12 - 4

*Grant, Jo and Alison wish Chelmsford G. & R. U a successful Beer Festival*

# PUB

**LOUNGE & GARDEN**

TASTY BRITISH FOOD

REAL ALES

HANDCRAFTED PIES

FINE WINES

COFFEE, TEA & CAKES

CYDER & LAGER

RELAX, TALK, EAT & DRINK

  [www.theoddfellowsarms.com](http://www.theoddfellowsarms.com)

**01245 490514**

195 Springfield Road Chelmsford CM2 6JP

*Oddfellows  
Arms*

## Save ££s on printed beer glasses direct from the factory

Pocket the difference, with printed beer glasses at direct from the factory prices brought to you by Festival Glass.

As the UK's leading independent glass decerator, supplying printed glassware to CAMRA members throughout the UK, there's no need to go elsewhere - just deal direct with the factory and save money!

With over 25 years' experience, we're experts in our field. We've produced glasses for the Great British Beer Festival for 10 years and the National Winter Ales Festival since 2003.

We offer you the following and more...

- 1-8 colour decoration
- Etched and embossed effects
- Wide glassware range from stock
- Short lead times
- Minimum orders from just 250 units
- Reliable on-time delivery
- Polycarbonate re-usable plastic available

Don't delay, get in touch for your FREE quotation.

Email: [sales@festivalglass.co.uk](mailto:sales@festivalglass.co.uk)

Call: 01422 382 696 Fax: 01422 368 148

or visit: [www.festivalglass.co.uk](http://www.festivalglass.co.uk)



**Festival Glass**  
Printed glassware for all occasions

Putting your name on everyone's lips!

Festival Glass Ltd, Unit 6, Colindale Business Park, Out Lane, Hendon, Middlesex HA2 0BJ



CAMPAIGN  
FOR  
REAL ALE



# Brewery News

## Brentwood Brewing Company

Having weathered the winter storms, the team at the Brentwood Brewing Company are gearing up for a great Summer of beer and events!



team at the Brentwood Brewing Company are gearing up for a great Summer of beer and

An early mark in your diary must go to the Brentwood Beer & Music Festival being held from 6-8 July at the Brentwood centre, 3 days of live bands combined with a beer festival with over 100 ales for you to sample! See online for details, and camping is available! Think of Glastonbury with Ale (and hopefully without the mud!)

Our latest offerings to greet your taste buds include Boston Brown (a Brown Ale brewed using New England hops!), a couple of new charity beers - namely 'Mikes Marathon' which is supporting blind physio Mike Conyers in his marathon running events, and 'The Only Way is 6' celebrating Essex cricketer Graham Napier's world record of holding the most '6's in an innings! Sales of both of these ales will be supporting various charities and if you're stocking the latter then Graham is available for pub appearances - ask the Brewery office for details!

We also have 'Essex Lager' currently available in bottles. For a real lager and a change to mass produced fizz, give it a try!

Watch out for our famous 'Summer Virgin' - she will be



back in May!

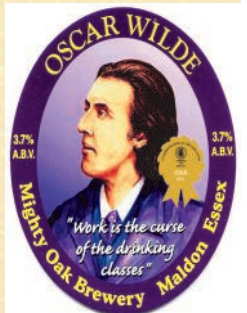
We have secured planning permission for a new Brewery which will feature a visitor area and a bar, and make visits to the Brewery a much more visitor focussed event. In the meantime our 'Brewery Experience days' are still proving very popular - with many ale enthusiasts as well as licensees attending for the day to see how we make the stuff! Further details are on the website [www.brentwoodbrewing.co.uk](http://www.brentwoodbrewing.co.uk) which itself will be revamped in the very near future!



I was in a pub only last week, when the strangest thing happened.....a Penguin walked up to the bar and spoke to the barman asking 'Have you seen my Dad?' After a brief pause, the Barman replied, 'I'm not sure.....what does he look like?' The futures bright - the futures Beer!

## Mighty Oak Brewery

Having reached absolute brewing capacity just before Christmas Mighty Oak have now increased the size of their plant to allow for 6 x 15 barrel brews per week. Sales of



**8 Support your local pub - don't give them an excuse to close it!**



# Brewery News



Oscar Wilde are continuing to increase and they are now looking at bottling some this champion brew for sale in hotels, pubs and farm

shops.

There is new website in the offing, which will feature the quirky design from their artist Paul, who has worked with them from the very beginning of the brewery back in '96. Paul is responsible for designing their little 'Tommy Cooper' chappy who appears on many of their pumpclips and in the company logo, he also produces the artwork for their popular monthly specials; Snakes this year, Cars last year etc.

New beers in the next couple of months are said by the brewery to be:

**April: Addled Adder** 4.1% An amber best bitter that highlights the exciting new Polish hop variety Junga. The aroma is intense, fruity and hoppy whilst the finish is crisp and refreshing.



**May: Mortal Coil** 4.6% Dark Mild for the month of May. Full bodied, slightly sweet, strong dark mild, with biscuit and coffee malt character and a delicate hop aroma.



**June: Snake In The Glass** 3.5% A golden, refreshing light ale, brewed with top quality East Kent Golding and Pilgrim hops that impart a traditional, grassy



floral character and a hint of lemon.

**Egg Head** 4.3% Blonde, First Gold hop - citrussy, fruity and slightly spicy.

**Snap Dragon** 3.9% Ruby Ale brewed to celebrate St George.

**Diamond Liz** 4.5% Blonde ale for the Diamond Jubilee

## Felstar Brewery

News in from Franco at The Felstar Brewery at Felsted. He has developed three new beers, covering a wide spectrum of styles, all of which should now be available from the brewery based at Felsted Vineyard. Look out for the brown tourist signs but ring ahead on 01245 361504 to see which beers are in stock.



The first is "Tradition", a 3,8% abv beer which as the name suggests a traditional dry hopped bitter. Those who went to Franco's charity day last autumn may well have sampled this one.

Second is "Lightburst" which is a golden citrusy beer brewed with pale malt and Citra hops. It is 4%abv and caters for the huge demand for this style of beer that is certainly attracting the younger end of the market as well as many connoisseurs who appreciate this particular American style of hop. Without doubt it will sell fast, so

# Brewery News

get to the brewery shop for a bottle or two before this disappears.

Finally, Franco also has a new dark beer, brewed in the style of an old ale, one of his favourite styles of beer. It is a 4,8%abv (colour) called "Witchcraft" and like all of his beers, should be well worth seeking out.

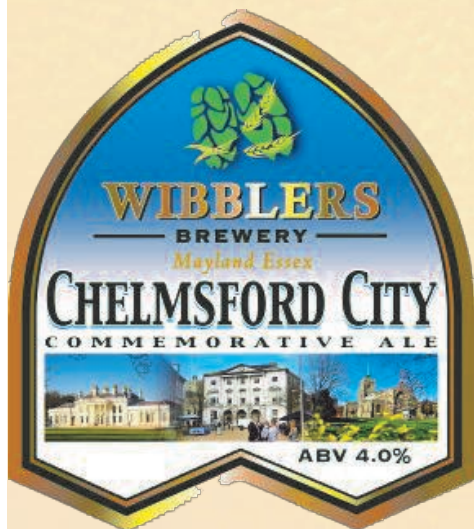
## Wibblers Brewery

Wibblers brewery has brewed a special beer to celebrate Chelmsford achieving city status and guess what they are calling it.

Chelmsford City 4% abv is a session bitter using three hops, Challenger, First Gold and Pilot, which when combined give the beer hints of spice and citrus.

They are initially be brewing 13 barrels of Chelmsford City but will keep on making it if the demand is there

Look out for the pump clip depicting three of the city's landmark buildings Hylands House, Shire Hall and Chelmsford Cathedral. You should see it across



Chelmsford over the next week or so in the following city centre pubs: Royal Steamer, Barista, Railway Tavern, Golden Fleece, Orange Tree and the Woolpack. Out in the provinces it will be available at the Griffin (Danbury), the White Hart Inn (Margaretting Tye), the Lion Inn (Boreham), the Norton and the Rose & Crown (Writtle). Enjoy!

## Highwood Brewery

Essex and London are now awash with new breweries starting up all over the place. However, in the immediate environs of Mid Essex we have had only one new start up in the last couple of years.

Highwood Brewery is a strange set up with much of their beer being offered through Alebox direct as part of Cann Do Beers Ltd. They are based at Highwood near Writtle with a 5 barrel plant but their beers are difficult to come by at local pubs.

At the moment apparently they brew two beers the 3.6%abv light copper coloured Essex IPA and a slightly stronger version, the 3.8%abv White Knight.

The occasional barrel of Essex IPA has been available over the past year at the Dog & Gun at Great Leighs and the Fox & Goose at Cooksmill Green out on the A414, but it is not known where you can sample the White Knight. Highwood are planning to launch a new beer in May but we do not know where it may appear locally.



# PIPERS CRISP CO

MADE BY FARMERS

Crisps as they should taste.



[www.piperscrisps.com](http://www.piperscrisps.com)

telephone: 01652 686960



# Chelmsford Summer



**Opening Times:** Tuesday 10th July - Saturday 14th July, 12 noon-11pm.

**Location:** Admiral's Park, Rainsford Road, CM1 2PL.

**How To Get There** The festival is only a 10 minutes walk from the town centre. The No 51 bus passes the site generally every 30 minutes until 7.30pm.

**Entrance:** FREE to CAMRA members. Non members free until 5.30pm. After 5.30pm, £4 Tuesday to Thursday, £5 Friday and Saturday. Join CAMRA at the event and get your entrance fee refunded. Refundable £3 deposit on Festival Glass if returned by 11.15pm.

The Chelmsford Summer Beer and Cider Festival is an established institution in the city and is the premier outdoor event in Chelmsford.

The main aim of the festival is to give local beer drinkers the opportunity to taste beers that they will never normally see in the local pubs. A secondary aim is to persuade local pubs to offer the beers that we are promoting at the festival.

**Volunteers** The festival is organised and

run by members of CAMRA who are all unpaid volunteers. We always need more helpers, so if you can help at any session please contact Derek Beaumont, [beaut62@tesco.net](mailto:beaut62@tesco.net), 01245 264128.

**More Details** Please contact Derek Beaumont, [beaut62@tesco.net](mailto:beaut62@tesco.net), 01245 264128.

Also visit our web site for updates [www.chelmsfordbeerfestival.org.uk](http://www.chelmsfordbeerfestival.org.uk).

**Real Ales** This year we are planning to have over 300 real ales with strengths from a bit over 3% up to 11% covering all beer types. The beer list is currently being put together but a LocAle bar will feature beers from as many Essex breweries as possible including the two newest, Bishop Nick and Colchester. Non-Essex breweries featured should include Harveys, Hawkshead (including the excellent Windermere Gold), and some of the many new breweries that have sprung up in London recently. A number of the more popular beers, such as Hop Back Summer Lightning and Oakham JHB should be available for the majority of the festival's duration.

**Real Cider and Perry** This year we have added Cider to our title which reflects its ever growing popularity; our sales of real cider and perry have grown enormously



**12 Updates to beer festival details - [www.chelmsfordcamra.org.uk](http://www.chelmsfordcamra.org.uk)**

# Beer and Cider Festival

over the last few years and this year we plan to have over 100 ciders and perries available.

**Belgian Beer** Podge's popular Belgian Beer Bar will as always offer a wide selection of distinctive Belgian beers.

**Wine** For wine lovers we have local Essex wine from Felstar.

**Food** The food selection is very wide and very good ranging from Tim's Hopleaf BBQ - burgers, sausages (from a local butcher), Leon's very tasty vegetarian dishes, a Hog Roast, Nuch's Thai Kitchen, Olives and Things, a Bratwurst stall, and the Cheese and Pie Man.

**Families** On Saturday we have our Family Fun Day (until 6pm) with plenty of things for children to do: Funfair including a giant inflatable slide, children's rides; face painting; and ice cream. Wrist bands for unlimited rides are £5.

As this year is the Centenary of Radio we hope to get a Radio Shack where children of all ages can learn about Radio from its early days to today and have a go at presenting on the radio themselves. Chelmsford has always called itself 'The Birthplace of Radio' since Marconi established himself in the town in 1912.

**Entertainment** Last but not least the entertainment. We pride ourselves on the quality of the bands we put on and this



## Chelmsford — The Birthplace of Radio in 1912

**Admiral's Park,  
Rainsford Road, CMI 2PL  
Tue 10th - Sat 14th July**

- **Over 300 Real Ales**
- **Over 100 Real Ciders & Perries**
- **A wide selection of Belgian Beers • Local Wines • Food served all day**

[www.chelmsfordbeerfestival.org.uk](http://www.chelmsfordbeerfestival.org.uk)

year's list is a cracker:

- TUE 8pm **KiKi** - Dynamic rock and pop covers duo playing classics hits.
- WED 8pm **Crossroads** - Acoustic hits from the 50s/60s, Country, Skiffle and Blues.
- THU 8pm **In Blue Skies** - 5-piece Acoustic Pop band with an energetic upbeat twist.
- FRI 8pm **Happy Hour** - Top party band, performing classic tracks and anthems from the 00's
- SAT 1pm **The Lady Killers** - New Orleans Jazz Band
- SAT 3pm **Sloe Gin Blues Rock Band** - Blues guitar rock classics
- SAT 8pm **One Step Behind** - UK's premier Madness tribute band.

Please respect our neighbours and avoid parking in roads adjacent to the Festival, very limited parking is available in the nearby free car park.

# Spotlight on Grays

Gray & sons were originally brewers and maltsters, opening their brewery in Springfield Road (close to the High Street) in 1828. From 1870 to 1954 they also brewed in Maldon to supply the growing number of pubs in that area. They stopped brewing in 1974 but kept their pub estate which, with very few changes, still exists today.

Still a family company, they own 50 pubs in Essex, of which 16 are in our local area.

- Boreham: Queens Head
- Chelmsford: Cricketers, Endeavour, Fox and Hounds, Oddfellows Arms, Orange Tree, Railway Tavern, Sir Evelyn Wood, Star, United Brethren
- Galleywood: Horse & Groom
- Hatfield Peverel: Cross Keys
- Ingatestone: Star
- Mill Green: Cricketers
- Springfield: Tulip
- Writtle: Wheatsheaf

The good news for real ale drinkers is that Grays' landlords are free to sell any beer which the company can source. Local breweries' beers are widely available and each month landlords are sent a list of 10 guest beer suggestions from around the country. This means that many Grays pubs offer an ever-changing selection of lesser-known beers alongside some established favourites.

Grays were recognised for their support over many years of cask ale and local brewers by a CAMRA special award. The presentation, on behalf of all CAMRA Essex branches, was made by Mike Woods, Essex Area Organiser, at the recent Chelmsford Winter Beer & Cider Festival.

Receiving the award from Mike (left) are Liz Meers and John Hubbard (centre) from Grays. Also in the picture is Nigel Sadler representing SIBA – the Society of Independent Brewers.



How about a tour of the Grays pubs in our area, or even all 50 (it has been done). To encourage you we aim to spotlight one of their pubs in each issue.

## Podge's Belgian Beer Tours

**Beer & Heritage,  
24 – 27 Aug 2012**

**Abbey Beer Pilgrimage,  
20 – 24 Sept 2012**

**Christmas in Bruges,  
22 – 26 Dec 2012**

**[www.podgebeer.co.uk](http://www.podgebeer.co.uk)**

Ring 01245 354677 for details

*Driving people to drink since 1994*



# 65 and Never Been to Chelmsford City

For my friend's 65th birthday we decided to try somewhere different for a few celebration drinks and where better, we thought, than the new City of Chelmsford. So, following a Wetherspoon's breakfast, we caught the number 59 bus from Harlow and arrived 45 dry minutes later at Chelmsford bus station.

Whilst quaffing a decent pint of Oxfordshire Ales Neck 'n' Neck and a Red Fox Mild, respectively we checked our Good Beer Guide and the local bus timetable for a plan of action- I should add that we were merely route planning as our plan of action to sample a good range of decent beers had already been well and truly decided. Saying goodbye to the much improved Railway Tavern, we caught the number 42 bus out to Broomfield and the Angel. Here, recovering from the bus journey- it's funny how even a 15 minute trip can make you thirsty- we enjoyed the garden sunshine whilst sipping Brentwood beers.

Back centrally, we ventured into Barista with faces dropping as not a hand-pump could be seen. However, our smiles quickly returned when Gemma, the young lady behind the bar, pointed out the ceiling-suspended real ale gravity dispense with three beers on offer. We old-timers are renowned for having two GBG scoring guidelines- the "B" standing



for beer in the first and barmaid in the second. Although we are past scoring along sexist lines, we are pleased to report that the Barista scored high in both categories and we left, after good conversation. feeling that the world was good.

A decent walk brought us to the Oddfellows Arms where Maldon Gold, Black Sheep Bitter and Doom Bar were on offer. We certainly enjoyed our rest in the pleasant covered garden area but were



d i s a p - pointed to find that the beers w e r e

served a trifle too cold. However, by this time our stomachs were doing the directing and we found ourselves making Wetherspoon's our next call with an enjoyable meal from their Curry Menu.

An after-dinner stroll took us to the Orange Tree where there was an almost too-tempting choice of 7 beers. Whilst supping a lovely pint of Wibbler's Galaxy, we sadly realised that time was getting on and unfortunately had to decide to give the Queen's Head a miss if we were to meet up with some of the Chelmsford branch members in the Woolpack which is where we headed in the glow of the street lights.

So all too soon came the hour when with great regret we had to leave following some good beer and a good crack with the Chelmsford crowd. And on the bus home we reflected that, whilst the Chelmsford of old always had some decent pubs, our visit to the new City had been a good one!

**Ivan Bullerwell**

# Branch Diary

**Wednesday 25th April** Branch Meeting at The Oddfellows Arms, Springfield Road, Chelmsford. No bus to this meeting, which starts at 8.30pm. All members welcome.

**Tuesday 1st May** Real Ale Runabout to Woodham Mortimer, Maldon & Little Totham. Bus departs opposite Railway Station at 7.30pm, fare £9 members/OAPS, £10 non-members.

**Saturday 5th May** Mild Crawl of Chelmsford. Our annual (well, apart from last year when it didn't happen!) 'May is Mild Month' Crawl around Chelmsford pubs selling Mild, some selling it especially for the occasion. Start at the Oddfellows Arms, Springfield Road, Chelmsford with a 12.45pm departure to the next pub. The full schedule is still being organised and full details will be put on the website once confirmed.

**Wednesday 16th May** Branch Meeting at The Compasses, Little Green, this years Pub of the Year. Bus fare £5 members, £6 non-members. Depart from opposite Railway Station at 8pm. All members welcome.

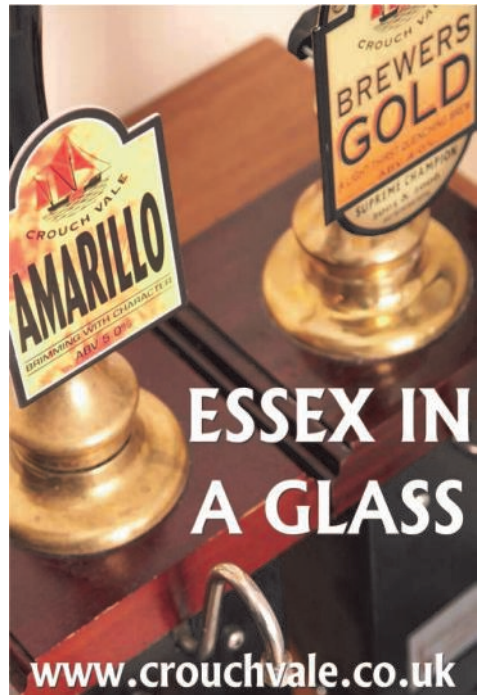
**Saturday 26th May** Visit to National Collection of Cider & Perry, Firle (optional) & Lewes, hopefully preceded by a brewery visit. The hope is to arrange a brewery visit somewhere on the way to Lewes but at the time of having to go to print the details are still to be confirmed. Updates will be posted on the website. Then onto the Cider Centre via a Lewes drop off for those who don't want to visit, then after an hour or so at the Cider Centre back to Lewes for a while before doing a couple of pubs on the way back. Depart Chelmsford opposite Railway Station 10am, fare £22 members/£24 non-

members. We should arrive back in Chelmsford (Lower Anchor St) before 11pm. **Please book in advance for this by Sunday 20th May.**

**Tuesday 12th June** Real Ale Runabout to Newey Green, Fyfield & Aythorpe Roding. Bus departs opposite. Railway Station at 7.30pm, fare £9 members/OAPS, £10 non-members

**Wednesday 20th June** Branch Meeting at the Original Plough, Chelmsford.

An up to date listing of social events can be found on the web site: [www.chelmsfordcamra.org.uk](http://www.chelmsfordcamra.org.uk), or contact the Social Secretary, Brian Debenham, [brian@bdebenham.co.uk](mailto:brian@bdebenham.co.uk).



# Branch Contacts

**Chairman & Essex Brewery News**  
Chris 'Podge' Pollard,  
podgehome@blueyonder.co.uk,  
01245 354677

**Social Secretary**  
Brian Debenham,  
brian@bdebenham.co.uk,  
01245 600294 / 07905 698161

**Chelmsford & Mid-Essex Pub News,**  
Bryan Grimshaw,  
bryangrimshaw@hotmail.com

**Chelmsford CAMRA Beer Festival,**  
Derek Beaumont,  
beauat62@tesco.net,  
01245 264128

# Thirsty Times

Thirsty Times is published by the Chelmsford and Mid-Essex Branch of CAMRA, the Campaign for Real Ale (© 2012) All rights reserved.

Views or comments expressed in this publication may not necessarily be those of the Editor or of CAMRA.

**Editor** To contribute news or articles contact **Andy Shaw**, 01480 355893 (h), 07802 485449 (m), or news@chelmsfordcamra.org.uk.

**To Advertise** To place an advert or enquire about our rates please contact: **Neil Richards**, 01536 358670 or N.Richards@btinternet.com

Printed by Portland Print, Tel 01536 511 555

**Deadline for Summer 2012 issue (002) is Thursday 17th May 2012.**

**A Campaign of Two Halves**

Fair deal on beer tax now!  
Save Britain's Pubs!

**Join CAMRA Today**

**Complete the Direct Debit form opposite and you will receive 15 months membership for the price of 12 and a fantastic discount on your membership subscription.**

Alternatively you can send a cheque payable to CAMRA Ltd with your completed form, visit [www.camra.org.uk/joinus](http://www.camra.org.uk/joinus) or call 01727 867201. All forms should be addressed to Membership Department, CAMRA, 230 Hatfield Road, St Albans, AL1 4LW.

<b>Your Details</b>		Direct Debit		Non DD
Title _____ Surname _____	Single Membership	£23	<input type="checkbox"/>	£25
Forename(s) _____	(UK & EU)			
Date of Birth (dd/mm/yyyy) _____	Joint Membership	£28	<input type="checkbox"/>	£30
Address _____	(Partner at the same address)			
_____	For Young Member and concessionary rates please visit <a href="http://www.camra.org.uk">www.camra.org.uk</a> or call 01727 867201			
Postcode _____	I wish to join the Campaign for Real Ale, and agree to abide by the Memorandum and Articles of Association.			
Email address _____	I enclose a cheque for _____			
Tel No(s) _____	Signed _____ Date _____			
<b>Partner's Details (if Joint Membership)</b>	Applications will be processed within 21 days			
Title _____ Surname _____				
Forename(s) _____				
Date of Birth (dd/mm/yyyy) _____				

01/06

**Campaigning for Pub Goers & Beer Drinkers**      **Enjoying Real Ale & Pubs**

**Join CAMRA today - [www.camra.org.uk/joinus](http://www.camra.org.uk/joinus)**

**Instruction to your Bank or Building Society to pay by Direct Debit**

Please fill in the details below using black ink only and send to:  
**Campaign for Real Ale Ltd**  
230 Hatfield Road, St Albans, Herts AL1 4LW

**Service User Number** 9 2 6 1 2 9

**Name and full postal address of your Bank or Building Society**

To the Payee: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

**Name(s) of Account Holder** \_\_\_\_\_

**Branch Sort Code** \_\_\_\_\_

**Bank or Building Society Account Number** \_\_\_\_\_

**References** \_\_\_\_\_

**FOR CAMPAIGN FOR REAL ALE LTD OFFICIAL USE ONLY**

This is a part of the instruction to your Bank or Building Society

Membership Number \_\_\_\_\_  
Name \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

**Instructions to your Bank or Building Society**

Please pay Campaign for Real Ale Limited Direct Debits from the account mentioned on the instruction subject to the safeguards covered by the Direct Debit Guarantee. I understand that this instruction may remain valid until I cancel the Direct Debit and I will be billed automatically by my Building Society.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Banks and Building Societies may not accept Direct Debit instructions for some types of account.  
**This Guarantee cannot be detached and retained by the payer.**

**The Direct Debit Guarantee**

**1** The Guarantee is offered by all banks and building societies that accept instructions to pay by Direct Debit.  
**2** If there are any changes to the amount, date or frequency of your Direct Debit the Campaign for Real Ale Ltd will notify you 10 working days in advance of your account being debited or in alternative agreed. From receipt of the Campaign for Real Ale Ltd to collect a payment, confirmation of the amount and date will be given to you on the 1st of the month.  
**3** If a payment is made in the payment of your Direct Debit by the Campaign for Real Ale Ltd at your bank or building society you are entitled to a full and immediate refund of the amount paid from your bank or building society. If you receive a refund you are not entitled to any refund on the bank where the Campaign for Real Ale Ltd asks you to.  
**4** You can cancel a Direct Debit at any time by simply contacting your bank or building society. Your bank or building society may request that you provide them with a written request.



# A LOOK BACK IN TIME

## 10 YEARS AGO

CAMRA challenged Prime Minister Tony Blair to bring in full pint legislation for draught beer as Leader of the House Robin Cook described short measure as a 'clear public scandal' and pledged the government to 'bear down as hard as we can'. Secondary legislation for 100% pints had been drafted and was awaiting sign-off by Trade Secretary Patricia Hewitt, but Ms Hewitt announced new plans to enshrine in law the industry guideline for 95% pints. CAMRA Head of Campaigns Mike Benner reacted 'The Labour Party has been promising a full pint since 1997 and now appears to be proposing to make it legal to serve a pint that is 5% short'. CAMRA surveys had shown that a quarter of pints fell below the 95% guideline.

CAMRA feared the closure of many small breweries and pubs as a result of a government decision to revoke the 1990 Beer Orders, which had enforced restrictions on pub ownership by big brewers and guest beer rights for brewery-owned pub chains of more than two thousand pubs. Although no brewers then owned that many pubs, CAMRA feared that the loss of the beer orders would encourage brewery take-overs and closures, remove important regulation of tie agreements between brewers and pubs and allow restrictive covenants to prevent new owners from operating buildings as pubs.

American brewer Coors were the new owners of the major parts of the Bass brewery business, ordered by the government to be sold by Inter-



brew following its acquisition of Bass and Whitbread. Coors announced the closure by the end of 2002 of its Bass brewery at Cape Hill, Birmingham (formerly Mitchells and Butlers) with the loss of 320 jobs.

Benskins Bitter, originally brewed in Watford, was withdrawn in early 2002. Allied Breweries had closed Benskins in 1972 but had revived the beer as a well-liked cask beer, brewed for different periods of time at various Allied plants.

Cask Marque, the industry accreditation scheme for quality of real ales served in pubs, spread its wings with a Distributors' Charter for the real ale supply chain. Stipulations for warehouses to adopt the charter included refrigerated storage, a rigid stock management policy and at least 14 days shelf life remaining after delivery to pubs.



## 25 YEARS AGO

Batemans was saved after George Bateman and his family trust became sole owners of the Lincolnshire brewing concern two years after George's brother and sister John and Helen Bateman had decided to sell their combined 60% of the family company. Batemans Victory Ale was launched in celebration of the rescue, which CAMRA attributed to 'dogged determination' to retain independence for the brewery on the part of chairman George Bateman,



# A LOOK BACK IN TIME

who said 'It took two long hard years, but the process could not be accelerated. It was vital to save the beer, the pubs, the workforce and the local community'. He had talked to over twenty companies in search of a 'white knight', but eventually managed to raise funds to buy the company outright after securing a realistic valuation of the business and demonstrating that the company was developing.

CAMRA's 'Big 7 in 87' campaign was launched as a co-ordinated attack by CAMRA and its branches on Britain's seven big brewing groups]: Allied, Bass, Courage, Watney, Whitbread, Scottish & Newcastle and Greenall Whitley. The campaign was designed to draw attention to threats such as takeovers, local monopolies, beer prices, lager and the threat to draught mild. Co-coordinator Steve Parry asked branches to use their newsletters and campaigning events to highlight the worst excesses of the Big Seven brewers and encourage them to 'mend their ways'.

Watneys sold its Edinburgh based Dryborough brewery and 155 strong pub chain to Allied Breweries, who closed the brewery with the loss of 29 jobs.

A CAMRA delegation visited Vaux brewery in Sunderland to protest at the company's decision to close their Lorimer and Clark production plant in Edinburgh. Meanwhile Lorimer and Clark's general manager Dan Kane was finalising a management buyout plan for the Edinburgh brewery.

The Watney group announced a £5m ex-

pansion of its Ruddles brewery in Rutland to meet demand for draught Ruddles County, which they anticipated would be on sale in two thousand Watney pubs by the end of 1987.



Afternoon drinking was brought in 25 years ago by a new law that allowed restaurants to serve drinks with meals in the afternoon. This was interpreted as a green light for pubs to serve drinks with meals.

Two real ale microbreweries were set up in China by Peter Austin's Ringwood Brewery, to bring to forty the number of microbreweries supplied to overseas countries by the Hampshire company.

## Paul Moorhouse

### Red Fox Brewery

*Brewing Beer The Traditional Way*



The Chicken Sheds,  
Upp Hall Farm,  
Salmon's Lane,  
Coggeshall,  
Essex, COG 1RY

Phone: 01376 563123  
Mobile: 07866 987845

### Regular Beers

Red Fox Mild 3.6%  
Red Fox Bitter 3.8%  
Black Fox Porter 4.8%  
Red Fox IPA 3.7%  
Hunter's Gold 3.9%  
Wily 01' Fox 5.2

E-mail: [info@redfoxbrewery.co.uk](mailto:info@redfoxbrewery.co.uk)

Website: [www.redfoxbrewery.co.uk](http://www.redfoxbrewery.co.uk)



# HALF PINTS



Hackney council appear to have saved the revered real ale pub the Wenlock Arms in

Shoreditch, North London. The Wenlock was threatened by a plan to demolish and replace it with a block of flats. The council rejected a planning application last autumn but the new owners were set to demolish the pub regardless. The council have now extended a conservation area which means that planning permission is needed for demolition – this appears unlikely to be granted.

Marstons has launched a new monthly series of twelve single hop cask ales using an international range of hop varieties including American Citra, French Strisselspalt, Polish Marynka, New Zealand's Wai-iti and Kohatu and Galaxy from Australia. Some of these hops are produced in small quantities and there will be limited quantities of the special brews.

Minimum pricing for alcohol in Scotland could reduce alcohol consumption, stifle competition and make it harder for new entrants to enter the market, according to the Office of Fair Trading in a submission to the Scottish Government. Minimum pricing was introduced in a Bill by the Scottish parliament last autumn. CAMRA supports minimum pricing as a measure to encourage more responsible drinks consumption on licensed premises and to stop loss-leading promotions in supermarkets at below cost price. CAMRA has proposed a minimum price of 45p per alcohol unit and warns against raising the minimum to a level that would have an adverse impact on sensible moderate drinkers patronising the on or off trade.

Wadworths have joined other cask ale brewers in launching a 2.8% ABV real ale, to take advantage of reduced duty

on beers at or below 2.8% which was introduced by the government last October. Wadworths' new beer, named Small Beer, is brewed with six malts and three hop varieties, and will sell at a typical price of £2.50 a pint – Wadworths are passing on the duty relief to their customers.



Somerset brewer Butcombe has set up a website for its bottled beers following a doubling of sales in a year. Butcombe's



new Recommended Retailer award has also been launched to encourage good practice in retailing.

Hydes, based at Moss Side, Manchester, is planning to shut its brewery and move production by the end of this year to a new site with a state of the art brewing plant. Hydes is also selling its free trade business to Blackburn brewer Thwaites, who will brew some Hydes beers under licence for a while. Thwaites also plan to relocate their brewery – they are selling their Blackburn town centre site to Sainsburys and, with the help of the local authority, looking for a place in the area to build a new plant.

Pub is the Hub's latest Local Community Services Champions initiative was launched at the Cornish Arms in St Meryn near Padstow, owned by Rick and Jill Stein. The initiative encourages local councils to support pubs to diversify into



# HALF PINTS

providing other local services. Pub is the Hub was initiated by the Prince of Wales in 2001 to bring local authorities, local communities, licensees, pub owners and breweries together to promote services within rural pubs.

Molson Coors promoted its Animée beer in January with a three-week sampling tour of locations close to outlets across the UK. Animée is aimed at women in the 18 to 35 age group and is available in a choice of crisp rose and zesty lemon flavours as well as a clear filtered version. Carlsberg has launched Eve, a 3.1 per cent beer-style fruit spritzer for women.



A new 'schooner' two thirds of a pint glass launched as an aid to responsible drinking in British pubs appears not to be popular. It was seen as a suitable size for branding and expected to fill a perceived demand for a beer volume between a half and a pint. Molson Coors has supplied the glasses but says interest is very low, and some major managed pub companies, including Wetherspoons and Spirit, have not used them. CAMRA has agreed that the public appears to be indifferent to the new glass, but has promoted one third of a pint glasses at its events for a number of years, and would like to see them adopted more widely in the trade provided that pricing is fair.



**Paul Moorhouse**



**The Maldon Brewing Co. Ltd.**  
Farmer's Ales  
**The Maldon Brewing Co. Ltd.**

Our Brewery Shop is always open for Sale  
of our Bottled Beers  
Minipins (17pt) Polypins (34pt) Firkins (68pt)  
available to order

**Tel: 01621 851000**  
[www.maldonbrewing.co.uk](http://www.maldonbrewing.co.uk)



Visit us for Craft Brewed Ales  
**The Stable Brewery**  
Silver St. Maldon. CM9 4QE.



**SHALFORD**  
**BREWERY**  
Fine Ales From ESSEX

Shalford Brewery is located in rural Essex.  
A range of ales are available to meet the needs  
of the discerning drinker. Light refreshing  
bitters through to classic stout.

*Diamond Jubilee  
Special Bitter  
3.8% ABV  
available from April*



[www.shalfordbrewery.co.uk](http://www.shalfordbrewery.co.uk)  
nigel@shalfordbrewery.co.uk 07749 658512

# Have you Wibbled today?



"Daft name? Great Beers!"

**Award Winning Ales**

Call us on 01621 772044  
or email [info@wibblers.com](mailto:info@wibblers.com)





# Diamond Jubilee Bank Holiday Weekend

**31st May-4th June**

**Unique selection from National Brewers &  
guest specials from our local favourites.**

**Great selection of Belgian & fruit beers**      **LIVE Band  
& Barbecue**

Barista **CAFÉ LOUNGE BAR**  
[www.baristachelmsford.com](http://www.baristachelmsford.com)  
44/45 Duke Street, Chelmsford, (opp. Bus Station)



# BRENTWOOD



Enjoy Brentwood Beer, Lager and Cider at your party, BBQ or just to drink at home

Or join us for the ultimate  
**BREWING EXPERIENCE**  
and become a brewer for the day!

**Order now 01277 375577**  
or visit [www.brentwoodbrewing.co.uk](http://www.brentwoodbrewing.co.uk)

Beer available in cases and polypins for local  
**FREE HOME DELIVERY**

Please drink sensibly, [www.drinkaware.co.uk](http://www.drinkaware.co.uk)