



Tendring CAMRA Newsletter

No 159



Suggestions for Social Activities, please contact Mick Hearn at social@tendring.camra.org.uk

Branch Meetings & Functions

All members are very welcome at Branch Meetings.

Rambale Wrabness to Manningtree Saturday 18th April
Branch AGM New Bell Harwich Saturday 25th April at 12.30pm
Harwich Ale Trail by public transport Saturday 2nd May
Brightlingsea visit by public transport Saturday 23rd May
Branch meeting Waggon @ Wix TBC Saturday 30th May at 12:30pm

You will find later activities on our diary page.

<https://tendring.camra.org.uk/diary/>

All dates/destinations may change. Car sharing may be available depending on numbers & your location...

**Tendring Branch Membership
now stands at
554**

The Challenges Facing Our Pubs

We all know that the hospitality industry particularly the traditional village pub, is facing a significant crisis. There is no single factor responsible for this downturn. Rather the combination of challenges, shifts in customer behaviour, rising beer & food costs, increasing utility bills, minimum wage, national insurance and business rates.

In light of these difficulties I encourage everyone to continue supporting their local pubs. We are all in this together, and with continued support there is hope that the British pub will remain a cherished institution for years to come.

The timing couldn't be better as we are beginning to experience the first signs of spring. With the occasional sunshine and the first bloom of spring flowers, we might even enjoy an optimistic sit in a beer garden, even if there is still a slight chill in the air.

Please note our much valued annual Clacton Beer and Cider Festival will soon come round (see dates below) and the organising team are in full flow with the arrangements. The staffing list will soon be available so I hope you will be offering your assistance? This year once again we hope to have a 'Beer from the Wood' and also a keg of Belgian Lindemans Kriek and Fruili. Also the 'ever green' Onion Band returns for a lively Saturday evenings entertainment.

Beer Festival Diary Dates

Little Bentley Beer Festival 24th - 25th April
Ship Kirby-le-Soken Beer Fest 30th April - 4th May
Harwich Ale Trail 30th April - 4th May
Kings Arms Frating Music & Beer Fest 23rd - 25th May
Colchester Summer Beer Festival 27th - 30th May
Thurrock Beer Festival 2nd - 6th June
Braintree Real Ale Festival 11th - 13th June
Ship Kirby-le-Soken Beer Fest 25th - 28th June
Manningtree Beer Festival 10th - 11th July
Chelmsford Summer Beer/Cider Fest 11th - 13th July
Clacton Beer & Cider Festival 26th - 29th August

If your 'local' is hosting a Beer/Cider related function and you would like it added to this list please let me have the details.



A Simple Bygone Time

Do you recognise this very attractive Off-Licence, noted for its immaculate lawns? Its location remains a point of curiosity, as does its current purpose. Notably, the building features a large underground cellar, which was once integral to its operations.

A lady who lived there with her parents around seventy years ago recalled some of its history. During their tenure, they ran a Christmas club, a tradition that brought considerable activity to the premises, especially when it came to boxing up all the orders during the festive season.

The passage of time has brought significant changes. The rise of supermarkets has largely ended this type of trade, and they continue to impact our pubs in much the same way.

QUOTE FOR TODAY

Pubs are more than just places to drink; they're the heart of our Essex communities.

They're where we celebrate milestones, catch up with friends, and find solace after a long day. But our pubs are facing a crisis. Let's raise a glass to our Essex pubs and ensure they remain a vital part of our lives for generations to come.

~ Gazette Editorial 7th February 2025