



Tendring CAMRA Newsletter

<http://tendringcamra.org.uk>

No 98

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

Branch Activities

All members are very welcome at Branch Meetings (start at 8 pm)
& Committee Meetings (start at 7.30pm) (only committee vote).

- 13th January Branch Cider POTY trip from the south
- 16th January Branch full Meeting Red Lion Manningtree
- 25th January social Burns Night Maybush Grt Oakley
- 5th February Branch Committee meeting Ship Grt Clacton
- 17th February Branch POTY trip from the south
- 20th February Branch full meeting Three Jays Jaywick
- 14th March Branch short meeting Village Maid Bradfield
- 24th March Branch pub walk-about Manningtree

All dates/destinations may be subject to change.

Transport is available for some of the above, if you are interested please contact Mick at the email address above

**Tendring Branch Membership
now stands at
754**

You can now vote for the branch Real Ale and also the Cider POTY (Pub of the Year). You can download the forms from the Tendring CAMRA website via the 'member's area'. If you are unable to print forms off please email me your address and I will post one to you. Your votes must be received by 20th February, voting instructions are on the forms. There is a Real Ale voting trip from the south of the branch on Saturday 17th February by mini bus, so if you live in or around Clacton and would like to join us please contact me.

It was very appropriate we did one of our Cider POTY trips early in January as dating back to around the fifteenth century in cider-producing regions a 'wassailing' ceremony was associated with Twelfth Night. This was featured in the Christmas edition of Upstart Crow (William Shakespeare) when professional wassailers (or out of work labourers) travelled from farm to farm receiving food and drink as payment for their services. This was during a lean time of year for food and work. The Saxon word 'wassail' roughly translates as to be hale or cheery, and is essentially an early form of saying 'cheers' or 'good health'.

In East Anglia at this time of year a similar event was Plough Monday when labourers with blackened faces travelled from farm to farm collecting money, if not received then the farmers lawns were ploughed up! An annual Plough Monday parade & Molly dancing takes place in Maldon.



This picture was taken during a branch Real Cider POTY (Pub of the Year) voting trip outside the Ship in Kirby-le-Soken (which was last years Cider POTY and a very photogenic village pub) records show it was an Alehouse back in 1788! We had a great turnout with 18 members taking part (there should have been 4 more but they had to pull out due to ill health). This far exceed my expectations and just goes to show the increased popularity of Real Cider and the pubs that serve it.

The other pubs visited (and in the running for this years Cider POTY) was the Railway Tavern Brightlingsea, Old Lifeboat House Clacton, Hanover Harwich and White Hart Weeley Heath.

Beer Festival Diary Dates

- Maybush Grt Oakley Beer & Cider Fest 9-12 Feb 2018
- Chelmsford Winter Beer & Cider Fest 14-17 Feb 2018
- Ship Kirby-le-Soken Craft Beer Festival 16 Feb 2018
- Great British Norwich Winter Beer Fest 20-24 Feb 2018
- Chappel Winter Beer Festival 2nd & 3rd March 2018
- Maldon Beer & Cider Festival 11-14 April 2018
- Harwich Town Redoubt Beer Festival 26-28 July 2018

QUOTE FOR TODAY

Old Apple Tree we wassail thee, and hope that thou wilt bear,
Hatfuls, capfuls, three bushel bagfuls,
And a little heap under the stairs.
~ Traditional apple tree wassail

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.

