

JOLLY BOYS IN MALDON FOR THIRD TIME

As most of you will be returning to Maldon for the third time, you will not be surprised that little has changed in the intervening three years, except that a few more businesses are now boarded up and closed except for estate agencies and charity shops that seem to multiply daily!

Maldon is fortunate that in the area we have four excellent independent breweries, namely Crouch Vale, Wibblers just outside Maldon and our own two brewers Mighty Oak and Farmers Ales (Maldon Brewing Company) and you might be lucky and find some of these beers on sale in the Town.

The ancient town of Maldon is situated on the River Blackwater where it joins the River Chelmer and was an early Saxon settlement, possibly even Roman.

King Edward the Elder fortified the Borough in 916 against the Danish assaults. In 991 the famous Battle of Maldon took place on the outskirts of the town near the causeway to Northey Island. A large force of Vikings, fresh from their sacking of Ipswich, sailed up the Blackwater and encamped on Northey Island. The Saxon Earl of Essex Brythnoth, with his Saxon force, met them on the causeway and finally gave battle on higher ground inland. The battle, it is said, lasted several days with the Saxons finally defeated with the death of Brythnoth.

At the time of the Domesday Book in 1086 Maldon and Colchester were the only two Boroughs recorded in Essex

Maldon is home to the Thames Sailing Barges and Oyster Smacks that are an impressive sight viewed under sail or even when tied up at the Town Quay an excellent opportunity should present itself from either of the first two establishments on our tour of the High Street. However way back in

To reach Maldon from London travel via Liverpool Street to Chelmsford, frequent trains at XX: 02.18.30.38 and 48 past the hour, with a journey time of 35 minutes approximately. On departing Chelmsford Station, turn right, cross over the road go under the railway bridge to the bus station, buses to Maldon depart from outside the Betting Shop at XX.05 and XX.35, service number 31 or 31X (the fast bus) departs at XX.05 or the pretty route on bus 31 at XX.35. Please note these buses DO NOT stop outside the Station entrance, journey times 35 or 50 minutes. Buses return from Maldon from outside the White Horse at XX.04 (31X service) or 34

(Travel on same trains to Witham and catch the Blackwater link from outside the station at XX: 12 and 42, returning from opposite the White Horse at XX: 25 and 55, journey time 40 minutes).l

We start out from the Hythe Quay at the bottom end of the High Street, alight at North Street, there are 2 public houses to choose from

Queens Head.01621 854112 (usually opens at 10:30). An old Gray and Sons house with a small front bar used mainly by the locals a rear bar along with a large outside area overlooking the River Blackwater with views to Bradwell Power station, the Promenade and depending on the tide, Maldon barges tied up at the town quay. Beers are normally Mighty Oak, Farmer's Ales Puck's Folly, Greene King IPA and Abbot, Adnams Broadside and bitter with a guest beer normally Coors Doomed Bar. The best and most reliable beer range in Maldon

Stay here until 11:25 then walk to

The Jolly Sailor: 01621 853463. Just over the road from the Queens Head. Beers served are mainly Greene King plus regular guest beers, opening times somewhat fluid.

Suggested times 11:30 until 12 Noon

On departing the Hythe walk up the hill past the church into the High Street, keep to the right hand side and pass the Warwick arms

Keep walking up the High Street passing the Swan Hotel built in 1392 and may be worth a quick visit if required, otherwise cross over at the crossing and head for the next port of call

The White Horse 01621 851708 A Shepherd Neame tied house, recently refurbished comprising of one long bar with a partitioned restaurant at the far end probably the best and cheapest stop for food in the Town, as mentioned before buses to Chelmsford depart from right outside and buses to Witham from opposite the pub

With this being the suggested lunch stop, times 12:10 until 13:00

Cross the road and bear slightly left to find

Two other pubs worth a visit the **Blue Boar 01621 855888** a former coaching inn and a hostelry since 1632, with two bars now home to **Farmers Brewery** which is situated in the old stable block at the rear of the pub, Farmers brews can usually be found in the Harness Bar along with Adnams and other guest brews, all beers are served direct from the cask.

Tucked away behind the Blue Boar is the **Carpenters Arms 01621 853833** a traditional Gray & Son public house mainly serves Adnams and Greene King and an occasional guest ale

Visit either or both these two pubs from 13:05 until your selected bus departure time

The walking time from the town Quay to the Blue Boar is just 10 minutes or perhaps 15 if not rushing, as the High Street is just a straight walk and each pub is visible from its predecessor (except the for Carpenters Arms) so just enjoy the day

Cheers - Barry