

North Sea Beer guide

A sample 'page' for discussion follows. 'Dutch' in italics.

I've left out pictures but I'm sure you can imagine interesting pictures with captions not just pub frontages.

Maldon, Essex, GB

An small historic coastal town 45 minutes south of Colchester on the estuary of the river Blackwater. You can walk along the quay and see the unique collection of traditional Thames sailing barges, go bird watching on the Essex marshes of 'the dengie' and visit one of the oldest libraries in the country.

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Chelmsford_(train): 35min. Mon-Sat: 1/hr 7am-9pm Sun:Every 2 hrs 9am-7pm
 Colchester_(train): 55min. Mon-Sat: 1/hr 7am-9pm Sun:Every 2 hrs 9am-7pm
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A12 to Hatfield Peverel. B1019 South East 5 miles (8km)
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(01621) 767676 Mon-Fri 10am-5pm
044 1621 767 676 Mon-Fri 10am-5pm

Events Jan: Mud race. *Mud race* Jun: Sailing barge regatta. *Sailing barge regatta.*

In town

At the top of the town, 2 minutes from the Plume library established in 1584, and right next to the Tourist information office, is the **Blue Boar hotel** where you will find one of the best tasting pints of Adnams in the country served direct from the barrel in quiet surroundings. You may stay the night here and is fairly tolerant of children during the day.

On the quayside (10 min walk from centre) you can enjoy watching the nautical activity and admire the Thames sailing barges. Visit the **Queens Head**, a Grays house, with typically 4 real ales and sit outside if the weather is fine. Refurbished with fine restaurant and wheelchair access.

Round about

1 mile north at **Heybridge** is the **Maltsters Arms**. This Grays house is a wonderful example of the 'back street boozier'. There are no frills but everyone is friendly, and two real ales are served straight from the barrel as they have been for over a century. A really wonderful atmosphere if you like mixing with ordinary people.

5 miles north east in the tiny village of **Little Totham** is the **Swan**. This is an example of how country pubs can be turned from a sad and marginal business into a thriving, award winning, centre of the community. Generally at least four real ales are served straight from the barrel and a choice of cider. This pub sets the standards for many to follow.

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Blue Boar	(Map)	GBG style info about phone number, food etc in symbols
Maltsters	(Map/directions/ <i>directions</i>)	
Queens Head	(Map)	
Swan	(Map/directions/ <i>directions</i>)	