



St Helens & Districts CAMRA Newsletter

MAY 7, 2017

VOLUME 2, NUMBER 1

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Chair's report

Welcome to our re-launched newsletter. Following the AGM in April we now have a new committee with a mix of experienced and new members.

The first thing we have decided to do is to get back into contact with members by newsletter, website, Twitter and Facebook. It is vital that we keep everyone informed of branch news and that you have a chance to have your say in how your branch runs.

I would also like at this point to give a huge thank you to my predecessor, Alan Healey and previous secretary Debbie Healey for the magnificent work they did for St. Helens CAMRA during their tenure. I hope to build on that work and involve as many members as possible in branch activity.

There are lots of ways you can get involved: Beer Scoring is the easiest and best way to let us know your feelings and also help your local pubs. You can also write articles for the newsletter, attend branch meetings or, if that's not your thing, we have a lot of social visits within the St Helens area planned to sample the delights of our pubs and clubs. Coach trips to other parts of the country are also a way to meet other members and discuss all things beer, cider and perry. You can also speak to your local pub manager or landlord about CAMRA, beer, cider and perry, as we hope to persuade as many of them as possible to have CAMRA membership forms, branch newsletters and copies of MerseyAle in their pubs. If you print this off and ask if you can put it in your local, word will soon get round.

Lots to think about and I hope you get inspired to join in and make the branch even more fun and successful.

If you see me out and about drinking, do come and say hello, I'm usually the one in the coloured hat.

Gillian Yates

Branch News

Pub of the Year 2017

Six pubs were shortlisted for the pub of the year 2017 using the beer scores submitted by local CAMRA members. The contenders were:

1. The Cricketers Arms - Town centre
2. The Griffin - Eccleston
3. The Phoenix Inn - Town centre
4. The Sefton - Town centre
5. The Talbot - Town centre
6. The Turks Head - Town centre

The overall winner was The Cricketers Arms. A certificate was presented to publicans Andy and Denise Evans by members of the CAMRA branch committee on April 13th 2017.



Cider Pub of the Year 2017

The Cricketers Arms has also been awarded The Cider Pub of the Year and their certificate will be presented prior to the next branch meeting on May 24th at 7:30pm. The cider and perry scene in St. Helens and Districts is very good at present and the list of pubs in contention for the award included The Cricketers Arms, The Glass House, The Junction Inn, The Lamb, The Skew Bridge, The Talbot Alehouse, and The Turks Head.

Community Pub of the year award

This year's Community Pub of the year was awarded to The York Hotel. Gill Yates, CAMRA branch chair, presented a framed certificate to The York Hotel on May 3rd 2017. For more information about this pub look it up on WhatPub at <https://whatpub.com/pubs/STH/62/york-hotel-st-helens>.



Forthcoming Events

Mild Ale Trail on Friday May 12th 2017

All welcome. Come to the Turks Head at 7pm and join fellow CAMRA members and friends on a tour of pubs in St. Helens town centre that offer a selection of cask mild ales.

Cider Trail on Friday May 26th 2017

All welcome. Come to the Turks Head at 7pm and join fellow CAMRA members and friends on a tour of pubs in St. Helens town centre that offer a selection of cider and perry.

St Helens & District **Camra Mild Ale Trail 12th** **May 2017**

Meeting at the Turks Head at 7pm then visiting the following pubs: Talbot Alehouse, The Lamb, The Sefton, Connoisseur Brewery & Tasting Room, Cricketers Arms, Phoenix Inn. All members and anybody interested in what camra does are very welcome. See you all at the Turks or en route!!!



invite you to
A CIDER PUB CRAWL
round town

on Friday 26th May, 2017 from 7.00pm

calling at
THE TURKS HEAD
THE TALBOT
THE LAMB
THE CONNOISSEUR BREWERY
THE GLASS HOUSE
finishing at
THE CRICKETERS

Joanne Griffith
Branch Cider rep

East Lancashire Railway & Rail Ale Trail on Saturday June 10th 2017

Anybody wishing to join this trip needs to contact Andy Evans at The Cricketers Arms ASAP; there are around 15 places left. The cost of the coach trip to Bury is £8, leaving The Cricketers Arms at 11am and returning around 6pm. You can buy a ticket to travel up and down the East Lancashire Railway or, alternatively, you can take this as an opportunity to enjoy the amazing Bury markets.

The East Lancashire Railway follows the beautiful Irwell Valley between Heywood and Rawtenstall, stopping at Bury Bolton Street, Summerseat, Ramsbottom and Irwell Vale.



Conveniently, these stops offer the chance to get off to wander about and sample some excellent real ales and ciders. There is even a pub on Platform 2 Bury Bolton Street Station, The Trackside, so you can have a pint or two while you wait for the train. There are a couple of quiet pubs in Summerseat, but be warned, they are quite a walk from the station. Ramsbottom has some excellent pubs within easy walking distance of the station. The Ramsbottom Tap on 43 Bolton St offers 10% off real ale to CAMRA members. A popular stop is the Irwell Works Brewery on Irwell Street that serves a range of their own beers, including Mad Dogs & Englishmen 5.5%abv, Copper Plate Bitter 3.8%abv, Steam Plate Best Bitter 4.3%abv and Tin Plate Dark Mild 3.6%abv. For more information about the East Lancashire Railway, including timetables and prices, go to <http://www.eastlancsrailway.org.uk/>.

Ossett Brewery Tour and Rat Craft Beer Festival on Saturday September 9th 2017



Anybody wishing to join this trip needs to contact Andy Evans at The Cricketers Arms. The cost of the trip is £15, including the bus, food, 4 pints and a tour of the brewery. The coach will leave The Cricketers Arms at 11am.

Local news

This will be a regular feature in future editions of the Newsletter. If any local CAMRA members, breweries, pubs or clubs in the St Helens & Districts area would like to post some news in the June edition of the Newsletter please write to us via email sthelenscamra@hotmail.co.uk.

Articles...

If anyone would like to write a short article or news story for the newsletter please send it us via email sthelenscamra@hotmail.co.uk.

NEXT Branch Meeting

The next branch meeting will be held on May 24 2017 at The Cricketers, Boundary Bar at 8pm. All CAMRA members are welcome!

If you are interested in joining CAMRA all the relevant details can be found at <http://www.camra.org.uk>

If you are planning a night out in St Helens, Rainhill, Rainford or Prescot download one of our Real Ale Pubs Maps. They are freely available on our website <https://sthelenscamra.org.uk/real-ale-in-st-helens/pub-walks>