



St Helens & Districts CAMRA Newsletter

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WEBSITE:

<https://sthelenscamra.org.uk>

EMAIL:

contact@sthelenscamra.org.uk

FACEBOOK / TWITTER:



[/St-Helens-Districts-CAMRA-164286400299734](https://www.facebook.com/St-Helens-Districts-CAMRA-164286400299734)



[@StHelensCAMRA](https://twitter.com/StHelensCAMRA)

Contents

CAMRA news	1
Branch news	2
Pub & brewery news	2
Forthcoming Events	3
Articles	3
Next committee meeting	4
Next branch meeting	4

CAMRA News

Opportunities to join the Young Members Working Group

The Young Members Working Group, an offshoot of the Membership Committee, advises CAMRA on the views and needs of Young Members (those aged 18-30) and ensures the Campaign continues to attract the next generation of campaigners for real ale, cider and perry.

The group currently is looking for Regional Young Members Coordinators in the Merseyside & Cheshire region. For more information about the Group and to volunteer for one of these roles please contact Ash Corbett-Collins ymmarketing@camra.org.uk.

Club of the Year 2019 (COTY)

In the last 15 months the number of clubs selling real ale recorded on WhatPub has increased significantly (see below):



The deadline dates for the National Club of the Year 2019 Competition (the club which shows the greatest commitment to quality real ale, cider and perry) have been confirmed as the following:-

- Branches to send a nomination to the Regional Director – 11th March 2018
- Regional Winners – 12th August 2018
- Super Regional Winners - 23rd October 2018
- Announcement of National Winner – to be made spring 2019

Branch News

Branch Pubs Officer

The position of Branch Pubs Officer has become vacant. We hope to have this position filled again as soon as possible. If you're interested and have got what it takes email contact@sthelenscamra.org.uk by the end of February.

If you are a local CAMRA member why not put your name forward?

The role of Branch Pubs Officer involves:

- Coordinating Branch campaigns to promote pub going;
- Looking for opportunities within our area to celebrate the unique contribution that pubs play in the community;
- Helping to maintain an accurate Branch database of pubs (access to the internet/computer required);
- Encouraging Branch members to provide updates on pubs in the Branch area;
- Ensuring that pub campaigning is regularly raised at Branch meetings;
- Liaising with the Branch Publicity Officer to publicise relevant pub campaigns.

The role typically involves a commitment of around 2 hours a month, plus the time required to attend branch meetings. At key times, which could be a major local campaign, a higher level of commitment might be required.

Pub & Brewery news

The BARD (micropub)



A new Shakespeare inspired micropub will be opening in Prescott in February, so keep a good look out people.

There's an empty unit on High Street just dying to be filled with the chatter of people and the clinking of glasses. It will be the town's first micropub and will contain lots of references to the man himself.

With a limited capacity of around 40-50 people, the pub will serve a selection of quality award winning real ales from local breweries and craft beers from across the country.

Other drinks will be available, including soft drinks for the designated driver or anyone for that matter, the possibility of a selection of ciders and traditional bar snacks.

Its opening hours will be Monday – Friday 4pm – 10pm and Saturday, Sunday and Bank Holidays 12noon – 10pm.

If anyone would like to include any Pub & Brewery news in the newsletter please send it us via email pubsofficer@sthelenscamra.org.uk.

Forthcoming Events

St. Helens Pub of the Year (P.O.T.Y.)

It's that time again, the forms have been issued, so let the scoring commence. Picture the scene. It's your day off, could even be the weekend. There's nothing on TV, so you find yourself scratching your head, wondering what to do. Then you notice your Camra card and suddenly it hits you. New Year, new P.O.T.Y. So you grab your pen and your coat and leave the house with purpose. With form in hand and a smile on your face, you enter your chosen pub, order your drink of choice, sit back and enjoy the surroundings. And you're not just restricted to real ale while scoring for Pub Of The Year. If you fancy a change then why not get yourself a real cider/perry. The choice is yours as they say.

You can score all the pubs in a single day if you prefer or you can spread it out over a number of days. Providing the form is completed by the closing date it doesn't really matter how you tackle it. Your vote could make a difference. The difference between winning and runner up. We have a wealth of pubs in St. Helens and long may it continue. Support your local, support the top six and help continue the growth of St. Helens as a real ale and real cider town. If you can't find a form from a participating pub, then you can always download a copy from the St. Helens Camra website, along with a copy of the judging criteria (<https://sthelenscamra.org.uk>). All entries must be submitted by email on 28th February, or dropped off at the Union on 5th Mar at 8pm. Happy scoring!

Please note, all pubs on the form must be scored and a valid Camra membership number issued, otherwise the form will NOT count

Socials in 2018

We are actively seeking ideas about pulling together a program for 2018. If anyone has any ideas about any good beer festivals or places of beer & cider interest please get in touch and let us know what you have in mind.

If anyone would like to publicise an event in the newsletter please send it us via email newsletter@sthelenscamra.org.uk.

Articles

Would you drink 150 year old beer? (by Kevin Yates and gently modified by the newsletter team)



That's a question we asked ourselves at the brewery as we resurrected a recipe from the history books. As St Helens gears up for its sesquicentenary, celebrating the town's last 150 years, our brewery has been working hard to honour the milestone with an especially poignant brew. We have been working with a beer historian for the past few months, searching through old brewing records from the Greenall Whitley brewery. After searching through many old purchase ledgers and recipe books, we uncovered a recipe for a pale golden ale at 3.7% that was being brewed in St Helens in 1868; we later decided that "1868" was a great name to give to the beer. While converting the measurements from bushels and pecks, it became clear that as well as English barley malt and Kentish hops, used too were hops imported from Bavaria. As most ales at that time would use only ingredients grown in the UK, this must have been an extra special brew. It's been a great experience researching for this beer. It has flavours of orange and cedar, with a biscuit background, and it's delicious.

From 1762 until its closure in 1975, Greenall's was located on Hall Street, just a stone's throw away from Wolverhampton House, the former ironmongery on the corner of Church Street and Shaw Street where we (Connoisseur Ales) are based. The local theme runs strong through our brewery with other beers such as Lucem, taken from St Helens' Latin motto Ex Terra Lucem ("from the earth comes light"), and Providence Pale after Providence Hospital, originally located on George Street; the latter being released in the memory of sister Duffy who died in 2015, shortly after the brewery was launched. The image we've chosen to represent this new beer is local too. It was inspired by a picture taken by photographer Frazer Nairn, and brings back personal memories. We wanted to strengthen the local connection even more by choosing an icon to represent what St Helens means to our family. I chose Sutton Manor Colliery because my family are all from the area.

The beer will be brewed throughout 2018, and officially launches in early February (2nd) to be served at a civic reception in the Town Hall to guests including visitors from St Helens' partner cities - Stuttgart, Germany and Chalon Sur Saone, France. If you weren't lucky enough to get an invitation to the Town Hall event, don't worry, as "1868" will be available on draught at any of our brewery's monthly open days, and will start appearing in local pubs and bars soon thereafter. Bottles of the brew will be available from CatHop Beers in Rainford.

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

NEXT Committee Meeting

The next Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday February 28th 2018 at the Cricketers Arms at 8pm.

Committee meetings usually take place on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. All CAMRA members are welcome to attend these meetings. Committee meetings are always held at local pubs that serve real ale. All are welcome to attend our Committee meetings, but only Committee members can vote.

Information about the Branch, including the dates and venues of future meetings and social events, can be found on our website (<https://sthelenscamra.org.uk>), our Facebook page, Twitter (@StHelensCAMRA) and via our monthly Newsletter. If you need any more information about the Branch please contact us by email at contact@sthelenscamra.org.uk. If you have any news about the beer and/or cider in your local, or any news about events being held locally, please contact the Pubs Officer via pubsofficer@sthelenscamra.org.uk.

Please note that the branch and committee meetings for this month have been switched. This is to help with the collation of the P.O.T.Y. forms which are due by the end of this month

NEXT Branch Meeting

The next Branch meeting will take place on Wednesday February 14th 2018 at Clock Face in Prescot at 8pm. This will be another one of our local pub walks around the area, so if you plan to attend, make sure you're there in plenty of time.

Branch meetings usually take place on the 4th Wednesday of the month. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss current issues and have a general catch up with local brewery, pub, and beer festival news. These meetings are quite informal and fairly short (on average between an hour and an hour and a half). Our CAMRA Branch meetings are always held at local pubs that serve real ale.

NOTE: If you are a St. Helens CAMRA member and you are attending your first meeting we will buy you a pint as a welcome to the branch!!!

Join up, join in,
join the campaign



CAMRA is more than just promoting great beer.

- It's very sociable - you'll meet others who share your interest in all things beer (or cider/perry!)
- CAMRA offers a range of training for volunteers - including Emergency First Aid, Food Hygiene, Stewarding and Health & Safety
- You'll gain skills to enhance your CV
- CAMRA volunteers are a wonderful mix of people, of all ages, from all walks of life

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>

