



St Helens & Districts CAMRA Newsletter

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CAMRA News

[AGM & Conference 20th – 22nd April 2018 University of Warwick, Coventry](#)

Your opportunity to meet, socialise, and discuss CAMRA policy and direction with members from across the UK, visit recommended pubs and enjoy organised trips. Visit the website at: <https://agm.camra.org.uk> – the dedicated site where members can find information about volunteering; voting in the AGM; activities and trips.

[ACVs](#)

It is now more than five years since the Localism Act brought in the Assets of Community Value regime. Because ACVs only last for five years, the earliest registrations are now expiring. Until 2015, ACVs offered little additional protection to pubs under planning legislation. The main reason for nomination was the ability for community organisations to lodge a purchase bid if the property was put up for sale. However, Branches which did achieve ACV registrations in the earlier period will no doubt wish to decide what, if any, action to take when or before those registrations expire. The legislation and guidance are both silent on the process. No obligation is placed on Councils to alert nominators to the impending expiry of an ACV, so the assumption must be that they won't do so. Nothing is said about re-nomination, so again we must assume that the process will start from scratch with a new nomination. Given that the registration criteria were met first time round, you would expect that, unless circumstances have changed significantly, the application will be accepted, so the same information can largely be used again. ACV status can still be valuable for pubs. On top of the community right to bid aspect, national planning guidance says that ACV registration is a 'material consideration' in planning decisions.

Branch News

AGM 2018 - Branch

The AGM for the branch will once again be held at the Sefton Arms on Wednesday April 25th at 8pm prompt. All card carrying CAMRA members are welcome to attend. Forms are available from our website for members to remain on the committee and for new members to apply.

Mild May

Our branch will be supporting mild in May by once again walking around the town, sampling some of the milds the pubs have to offer. Time, date and indeed start point to be determined.

Pub & Brewery news

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

Rail Ale trip Bury

Branch social to East Lancs Railway (ELR) and Bury market on May 12th. Cost is £7.50pp. Coach will be leaving the Cricketers Arms at 11am and returning at 6pm. To secure a place on the trip, just pop into the pub and find a member of staff. There aren't many places left, so you'd better hurry if you're still thinking of going.

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

We'll be celebrating mild throughout the month of May and there'll be plenty of pubs serving this wonderful drink, so you will be able to sample a few while you're out and about round the town. For the uninitiated, here's a bit of background about the drink. To some this will be very familiar, but it does make for a good read.

Mild is one of the most traditional beer styles which is enjoying a revival in today's real ale market. Usually dark brown in colour due to the use of well-roasted malts or barley, it is less hopped than bitters and often has a chocolaty character with nutty and burnt flavours.

Cask conditioned Mild is a rarity in many parts of the country, which is a crying shame because Mild is a distinctive and tasty beer. Mild is one of the oldest beer styles in the country. Until the 15th century, ale and mead were the major British brews, both made without hops. Hops were introduced from Holland, France and Germany after this time. This also started the trend on reducing the gravity of ale, as the Hop is also a preservative, and beers previously had to be brewed very strongly to try to help preserve them.

So what is Mild?

It is a beer which has its own taste and texture. Basically it is a beer that is less hopped than bitter. The darkness of Dark Milds comes from the use of darker malts and/or roasted barley which are used to compensate for the loss of Hop character. "Chocolate", "fruity", "nutty" and "burnt" are all tastes to be found in the complexity of Milds. However, not all milds are dark. Yorkshire brewed Timothy Taylors Golden Best is one of the best examples of a light coloured mild as is Bank's Original (the name changed from Mild to try to give it a more modern image). In Scotland, 60/- ale is similar to mild (Belhaven's being a good example).

Milds today tend to have an ABV in the 3% to 3.5% range, with of course some notable exceptions. In fact, a lot of the Microbreweries who try their hand at mild are bringing the alcohol content back up somewhat! Mild wasn't always weaker though. In the latter half of the 19th Century, milds were brewed to about the same strength as bitters as a response to the demand from the working classes for a sweeter beer, and in those days most bitters were around 6 to 7% ABV.

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 April 11th 2018 at the Abbey Hotel in Dentons Green 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 (/St-Helens-Districts-CAMRA-164286400299734), 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.

NEXT Branch Meeting

The next Branch meeting will take place on Wednesday April 25th 2018 at the Sefton Arms in St. Helens at 8pm.

Please note, there is no branch meeting this month due to our AGM being held on this date. However, all card carrying CAMRA members are welcome to attend.

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!!!



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>

