



# St Helens & Districts CAMRA Newsletter

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## CAMRA News

### General Election 2017 - Pledge for Pubs!

The General Election is just a few days away on Thursday 8th June. Together, we have an opportunity to build on our recent successes and make sure that beer, cider and perry, pubs stay at the top of the political agenda in the next five years.

CAMRA's 187,000 members are asking candidates to promote and celebrate Britain's 1,540 breweries and over 50,000 pubs by considering a range of measures to help make pub-going and beer drinking more affordable for UK consumers. Beer, brewing and pubs support nearly 900,000 jobs and contribute £23.1bn to the economy annually. Candidates are therefore being urged to ensure the sector is not left behind in the Brexit negotiations due to take place in the coming years. Pubs are a uniquely British institution which showcase our nation's brewing tradition while providing an essential community facility for those that use them. It is therefore critical that pub-goers and beer drinkers are not left behind when it comes to negotiating Britain's future over the coming years.

Why not contact the candidates standing for St. Helens North and South and ask them to pledge their support for pub-goers and beer drinkers in St. Helens by backing CAMRA's Election Manifesto?

We would like them to commit to do the following if elected:

- **Beer:** Celebrate and promote Britain's 1,540 breweries
- **Pubs:** Support action to help pubs thrive
- **Consumers:** Represent the interests of pub goers, beer and cider drinkers

Lobby your local candidates by clicking on the following link:

<http://www.camra.org.uk/pledgeforpubs/campaigners>

**How candidates can sign up and pledge their support**

Visit [www.camra.org.uk/pledgeforpubs](http://www.camra.org.uk/pledgeforpubs)

Email [campaigns@camra.org.uk](mailto:campaigns@camra.org.uk)

Phone **01727 798 447**



## Branch News

### Cider Pub of the Year 2017

Seven pubs were shortlisted for The Cider Pub of the year 2017. The contenders were:

1. The Cricketers Arms
2. The Glass House
3. The Junction Inn
4. The Lamb
5. The Skew Bridge
6. The Talbot Alehouse
7. The Turks Head



The overall winner was The Cricketers Arms. A certificate was presented to publican Andy Evans by Gill Yates and Jo Griffith on behalf of the St. Helens & Districts CAMRA branch on May 24<sup>th</sup> 2017.

### Mild Ale Trail by Paul Tallon

Well "Mild May" is upon us again and our annual mild trail took place on Friday May 12<sup>th</sup>. After speaking to a few landlords who wouldn't normally sell cask mild and the obvious ones who we knew would have it on anyway, we managed to get a circuit together and see what the choice and quality was around the town centre. I being a proper "flat rib" fan was very keen to partake even on a school night.

Meeting at the Turks Head we had a choice of 3 milds, namely:

- Salopian - Divine Comedy 3.9%
- Kelham Island - Mod Mild 3.7%
- Southport Brewery - Dark Night 3.9%

... the latter being a locale. All in good condition, I think the Salopian was the best in this hostelry.

Next on to the Talbot who were serving the following:

- Brass Castle - Hazelnut Mild 4.2%
- Castle Rock - Black Gold 3.8%

Both new to my palate and in excellent condition.

Next port of call was the Lamb who offered the following:

- Fixed Wheel - Mild Concussion 5.5%

Excellent dark ale, I believe this is where my vision started getting slightly blurred.

Onwards to the Sefton where we were greeted by

- Moorhouses - Black Cat 3.4%

This low ABV. beast probably helped me continue the tour.

Next was the Connoisseur Brewery who kindly opened especially for the occasion. On the bar was:

- Connoisseur - Black Smoker 4.1% another locale brewed by themselves.





We met up for our first pint of mild in The Turks



...then onto The Talbot



A pint in The Lamb



... followed by a pint in The Sefton



Cricketers Arms – Wild Mild



Connoisseur Brewery - Black Smoker

Phoenix Inn was the penultimate pub for us to visit which was my last one for the following reason:

- Sarah Hughes - Dark Ruby 6.0% (done in by Sarah again ha!)

The final pub on the tour was the current branch pub of the year, the Cricketers Arms, where my fellow "crawlers" inform me the following was served:

- Rudgate - Wild Mild 4.0%

Looking at people's check in's on the untappd app this was also in excellent condition.

To sum up, it was a good night had by all and I think all those involved should applaud all the Landlords who made the effort to make this night possible. The benefit to CAMRA and the industry is that, apart from those who took part, a lot of other people will have sampled mild for the first time and hopefully realised how good it can be.

## Forthcoming Events

### Rainford Pub Crawl on Friday June 16<sup>th</sup> 2017

All welcome and transport to Rainford will be provided by the branch.

The bus will depart from The Phoenix pub at around 7.15pm.

The order of pub visits is yet to be finalized. However, subject to time limits, an ideal itinerary would be to:

- Try out the Bottle & Glass, just off the By-Pass...
- ... on the way to The Junction, at Rainford Junction
- Followed by a crawl along Church Road in the heart of the village, visiting
  - The Eagle & Child
  - The Golden Lion
  - The Derby Arms
  - The Star Inn
- If there is enough time, and people left standing, we'll visit outliers such as The Red Cat and the Colliers Arms



Pub map taken from: <https://whatpub.com/>

### Ossett Brewery Tour and Rat Craft Beer Festival on Saturday September 9<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:sthelenscamra@hotmail.co.uk).

## Articles

### The Gods and Goddesses of Beer, Wine and Alcohol by Cara McFadyen

Throughout history and all the religious beliefs that have sprouted up over the centuries, there have been hundreds of Gods and Goddesses of beer and alcohol. They range from Gods with familiar names, such as Dionysus to Gods of whom many have never even heard of.

Here is a brief summary of a few of the Gods that I have researched:

One of the main factors in ancient and pagan religions is how similar some religious deities appear. This is a key feature with two male Gods of beer, entertainment and wine. They are Bacchus and Dionysus. Both are ancient Gods and in their worship and history, they were believed to have created alcohol, in particular wine. Dionysus is the older of the two beings, being an ancient Greek God and believed to be the son of Zeus. Bacchus was a Roman God and is the son of Jupiter. I find it very interesting that two religions have such a close link until I realised that the Roman's simply worshiped the ancient Greek Gods but simply renamed them.



*Bacchus and Ariadne by Titian © National Gallery*



*Ninkasi*

Unlike the Roman and Greek beliefs, the ancient Sumerians worshiped a Goddess of beer, Ninkasi. She was believed to have revealed the secret of brewing beer to man-kind. She isn't very well known, but when I found out that there were Goddesses of beer, I had to include her. She is certainly quite a marvellous Goddess when it comes to the secrets of beer.

In Norse mythology, it is believed that one of the Gods of the sea, Aegir, brewed ales for the other Gods. In winter he supposedly brewed ale for them which they drank at his home to keep them warm. His beer was known as Aegir's fire and the best part about Aegir's beer, and the cups that it was served in, was that the cups refilled themselves, so you'd never run out of beer. A living nightmare for today's hard pressed publicans.

In Africa, the Zulu people had a goddess of beer. Her name was Mbaba Mwana Waresa. I'm uncertain whether she is still being worshiped. It is believed that she created the first beer that man ever consumed. According to Zulu mythology she taught the people of South Africa the art of making beer.

Tezcatzoncatl, which I have no idea on how to pronounce, was the God of Pulque. This is a traditional alcoholic drink which is very similar to beer. He is also the God of drunkenness and fertility. Like many of the deities I've researched, there is not a lot of mythology on Tezcatzoncatl.

There are many more gods and goddesses of beer but there are some of the ones that I have researched. I have also come to the conclusion that beer is a very important drink not only in Britain but all across the world.



*Tezcatzoncatl*

*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](mailto:sthelenscamra@hotmail.co.uk).*

## NEXT Branch Meeting

The next Committee meeting will be held on June 14 2017 at The Skew Bridge Alehouse, 5 Dane Court, Rainhill at 8pm.

The next branch meeting will be held on June 28 2017 at the Talbot Ale House, Duke Street, St Helens at 8pm. All CAMRA members are welcome!

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>

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

