



St Helens & Districts CAMRA Newsletter

NOVEMBER 2017

VOLUME 2, NUMBER 7

WEBSITE:

<https://sthelenscamra.org.uk>

EMAIL:

sthelenscamra@hotmail.co.uk

FACEBOOK / TWITTER:



/St-Helens-Districts-CAMRA-164286400299734



@StHelensCAMRA

Contents

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

CAMRA News

Membership price changes

Following motions passed at this year's AGM, price increases on member subscriptions will take effect as of 1st of January 2018. Members will be notified of all the changes in the December edition of What's Brewing. A sample of the changes in membership subs are as follows;

- Joint Full membership reduced by £0.50
- Single Full membership no change
- Concession and Under 26 membership will go up by £2

Branch News

A Merseyside pub is named among the top four pubs in the country

The Cricketers pub has been named one of the top four pubs in the country in CAMRA's Pub of the Year awards, one of the most respected and well-known pub awards in the UK. The Cricketers will be presented with an award for its achievement on the 18th November 2017 at 3 pm.



A regional Pub of the Year winner in 2015 and 2016, this is the first year that the Cricketers has made it to the super-regional round of the competition with the chance to secure the national title.

Owner Andy Evans said: "We are absolutely ecstatic to be named one of the top four pubs in the Pub of the Year competition! When we bought the pub over four years ago it was boarded up and hadn't actually sold cask ale since the 1980s. Since taking it over we've done everything we can to make it a good community pub, with 13 cask ales on and regular jam nights, pub quizzes and charity events. We've also got some big plans for installing a microbrewery next year. We are really proud to be part of the cask ale scene and would like to congratulate all the other pubs in the running - including our local rivals the Wigan Central! We hope to bring the accolade home to Merseyside this year."

Nick Bosley, CAMRA's Regional Director for Merseyside and Cheshire said: "After winning the regional award in both 2015 and 2016 it's a well deserved third time lucky for the Cricketers on reaching the final. In less than five years, Andy and Denise have converted this former keg-only pub to a destination pub offering 13 cask beers of all styles (both local and from further afield) and over 10 ciders and perries. On the principle that a pub is always a 'work in progress' they continue to make small changes to improve the pub. As a strong rugby league pub they also look forward to a final against local rivals Wigan."

Other finalists in the competition include local rival Wigan Central in Wigan, as well as the Stanford Arms in Lowestoft and the Weavers Real Ale House in Kidderminster. The four finalists will now have the chance to win the National Pub of the Year award, which will be announced in February 2018.

St Helens & Districts CAMRA pub of the year awards

St Helens CAMRA held a celebration evening on Wednesday 18th October 2017 in the function room of the Honey Rose Charity Foundation, attended by CAMRA members and publicans from the St Helens district to give awards to various pubs and bars serving real ales and ciders to thank them for their hard work during the previous year. The bar was ably manned by Brian from Honey Rose and the wonderful food was supplied by The Tartan Tearooms in Rainford. The evening was hosted by the branch chair, Gillian Yates, and the awards were presented by committee members.

The awards given out reflected the beer scoring done throughout the previous year by CAMRA members.

Pub of Merit awards went to:

- The Abbey
- The Glass House
- The Lamb - for its work in promoting real cider.
- The Skew Bridge in Rainhill
- The Star at Rainford
- The Wheatsheaf Sutton Leach

Community Pub awards for those pubs working in and with the local areas were given to:

- The Beer Engine in Whiston
- The Junction at Rainford
- The York

Pub of Excellence awards go to those pubs voted highest by CAMRA members and appear in the Good Beer Guide representing St Helens.



This year these pubs were:

- The Cricketers Arms
- The Griffin Eccleston
- The News Room
- The Phoenix
- The Red Cat at Crank
- The Sefton
- The Talbot Ale House
- The Turks Head

The Cricketers Arms was also presented with its Pub of the Year Certificate by Regional Director Nick Bosley who explained that the pub was also the Regional pub of the Year for Merseyside and is in the last 16 for the National Pub of the Year to be announced at the end of the year.



St Helens is lucky to have so many real ale pubs and currently 77 pubs in St Helens district serve real ale and some serve real ciders. This is great news for such a small area and the quality and choice is improving all the time. If you have any news about the beer in your local, or any news about events being held, you can contact the pubs officer whose address is on the St Helens CAMRA website.

Branch Pubs Officer

Neil Mather was elected to the position of Branch Pubs Officer at the Committee meeting on 11 October.

Pub & Brewery news

Melwood Brewery

Melwood Brewery has announced that they will be offering brewery tours from mid November 2017. They will be held on one Saturday per month and will accommodate around 20 people at £10 per head, including beers (2 keg, 2 cask) and food.

Their range beers are also being re-branded in a way that will reflect the location of the brewery, being based in the heart of Knowsley Park on the old Lord Derby estate.

The brewery is venturing into bee keeping and will commence the brewing of honey beers from summer / autumn 2018. Also in 2018, the brewery will be hosting a Music and Beer Festival on August 18th (more news to follow).

Finally, beers going into production at the time of writing include St Stephen Xmas Beer, a milk stout and a damson stout.

Forthcoming Events

Socials in 2018

In 2017 there were a number of well attended social events, for example the East Lancashire Railway trip and the Ossett Brewery tour. 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 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 Committee Meeting

The next Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday November 8th 2017 at The Coach & Horses, Rainhill, L35 4NZ at 8pm.

There is a Committee meeting on the 2nd Wednesday of every 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.

NEXT Branch Meeting

The next Branch meeting will be held on Wednesday November 22nd 2017 at The George, George Street, St Helens, WA10 1BU at 8pm.

There is a Branch meeting on the 4th Wednesday of every month to discuss current issues and have a general catch up with local brewery, pub, and beer festival news. Most meetings are quite informal and fairly short (on average between an hour and an hour and a half). All are welcome to attend our Branch meetings, members and non-members of CAMRA alike, but if it comes to a vote only CAMRA members can vote at Branch meetings. 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>

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>

