



St Helens & Districts CAMRA Newsletter

JULY 2018

VOLUME 2, NUMBER 14

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CAMRA News

CAMRA Mass Lobby Day - 30th October 2018

CAMRA will be holding a Mass Lobby Day in Westminster, London on Tuesday 30th October 2018. This will be an opportunity to bring pressing campaign issues to the attention of up to 650 Members of Parliament (MPs). The purpose of the Lobby day will be to ask MPs to commit to the following CAMRA campaigns:

- Axeing plans to increase beer duty in the upcoming Autumn Budget. (UK)
- A permanent business rate relief for pubs in the upcoming Autumn Budget. (England)
- An urgent review of the Pubs Code so that the Market Rent Only option becomes a genuine choice for tenants. (England and Wales)

Our branch is able to nominate up to two members from each local constituency to attend the lobby day.

To be eligible for this role you will need to be able to communicate CAMRA campaigns effectively, feel confident in speaking to MPs, be presentable and a positive ambassador for CAMRA, and be able to give up a day to travel to London to take part.

Activity will begin with registration at a Westminster venue and will finish after a rally with high profile speakers at 5.30pm. The exact start time will depend on what time members arrange to meet their MP.

FAQs

- What is a Mass Lobby Day?

A Mass Lobby Day is an effective way to communicate to MPs and the Government about a cause which needs legislative change in a short time period, creating a sense of urgency. Meetings with multiple MPs on one single day encourages them to discuss our campaigns with Ministers, among each other within Parliament, and outline their support for our campaigns on social media.

- Why is CAMRA holding a Mass Lobby Day?

Lobby days are often linked to a Bill going through Parliament. In this case, the lobby day will be linked to the Autumn Budget which will take place in late November/early December.

Cider Bar, Cider Cooling, and Cider Taste Training at Great British Beer Festival 2018

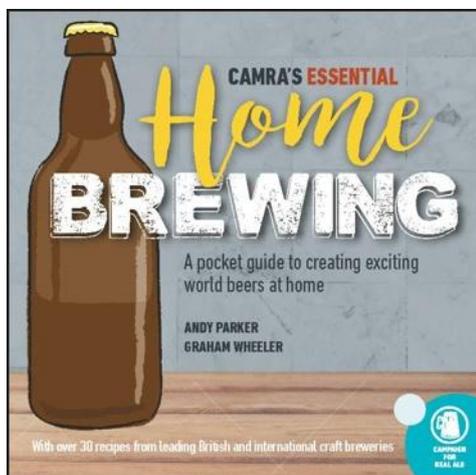
Cider Bar, Cider Cooling, and Cider Taste Training will take place again at this year's Great British Beer Festival. Each course is separate. Cider Bar Training includes all aspects of running a cider bar or cider festival, and includes planning, ordering, setting up of the bar, volunteer management, and a lot more. Cider Cooling Training is on the cider cooling kit available from the warehouse. Cider Taste Training covers the key taste and appearance attributes of the various styles of real cider & perry available.

There will be courses running on Wednesday 8th and Friday 10th August, and Cider Cooling on Saturday 11th August. Cider Cooling Training will start at noon, and takes about 1½ hours. Cider Bar Training will start at 2.30pm, and takes about 2 hours. Cider Taste Training will start at 5pm, and takes about 1½ hours.

If you are interested in joining any of these training courses then please complete the on-line Cider Bar Training form (<https://tinyurl.com/cbtgbbf18>) (by 3rd Aug) or fill in (and return) the form below (by 30th July). For further information, contact Chris on chrisjrouse@yahoo.co.uk or phone 07824 726108.

New CAMRA books for sale

New pocket guide for homebrewers



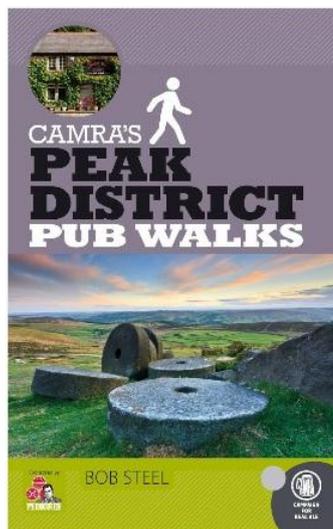
CAMRA's Essential Home Brewing, the must-have new pocket guide book for both old hands and novice homebrewers, is now available to purchase from the CAMRA shop.

Ever since real ale captured the nation's imagination in the 1970s, dedicated beer lovers have been trying to brew their own to replicated some of the fantastic recipes and flavours out there. Even if you have never brewed before or your brewing kit is gathering dust up on the shelf, CAMRA's Essential Home Brewing can help you get started on a new, exciting hobby.

For old hands at brewing, you can expand your brewing repertoire with over 30 recipes from leading British and international craft brewers. Easy-to-follow instructions and a variety of beer styles and recipes make this the perfect companion to suit everyone's taste.

CAMRA's Essential Home Brewing provides an introduction to homebrewing in a way that is easy to understand and follow. The book retails for £11.99 (£7.99 with CAMRA members discount). For more information visit <https://shop.camra.org.uk/books/home-brewing-beer-knowledge/essential-home-brewing.html>

Exploring the Peaks



CAMRA's Peak District Pub Walks is a pocket-sized travellers' guide to some of the best walking and pubs in the Peak District.

The breathtaking views and rolling mountains of the Peak District have long captured public imagination, and are home to some of the most unique and isolated pubs in the UK. Peak District Pub Walks will guide budding hikers through this stunning national park, highlighting some of the best walking and best pubs in the area, with options for any skill set and ability.

Written by Bob Steel, a geographer by profession and keen walker, this book explores some of the region's fascinating industrial heritage. It also contains useful information about local transport and accommodation. Since its last edition, it has been completely updated to reflect changes to the Peak District pub and beer scene.

Peak District Pub Walks 3rd edition retails for £12.99 (£9.99 with CAMRA members discount). For more information visit <https://shop.camra.org.uk/pdpw.html>

Pub & Brewery news

Pub news

St Helens CAMRA covers a large area that extends from the top end of Rainford (the Junction) across to Haydock, Clock Face, Sutton, Parr, Thatto Heath, Eccleston, Windle, Sutton Heath, Moss Bank, Rainhill, and on through to Prescot and Whiston. If anyone has any real ale or pub news from any of these areas or thinks that we could have a meeting or walk about between a few pubs to let us know via email newsletter@sthelenscamra.org.uk.

If any St Helens CAMRA area pubs would like to get beer or event information out via the Twittersphere just include the [@StHelensCAMRA](https://twitter.com/StHelensCAMRA) name in the Tweet to draw our attention to it & we'll be happy to retweet it to our followers.

Brewery news

Connoisseur Ales (www.connoisseurales.com)

The brewery opens its doors to the public on the first Saturday of each month from 2-10pm, and every Thursday 5-8pm. There is an on-site bar with up to eight beers on draught as well as real ciders.

In July there will be 3 new beers; a new summer ale BST, Gremlin and a Connoisseur-Dinkelacker, brewed in collaboration with Stuttgart. We hope to see you on our next open day on August 4th.

Melwood (www.melwoodbeer.co.uk)

The brewery has opened a Shakespeare themed micro pub called the 'The Bard' at 57 High Street, Prescot.

George Wright Brewing Company (www.georgewrightbrewing.co.uk)

Please note the recent announcement: "Following the takeover at George Wright Brewing co. we would like to welcome customers old and new. We are sticking with our traditional popular favourites, such as Cheeky Pheasant and Blonde Moment amongst other great cask beers. We are also moving into crafty, edgy keg lagers full of exciting hops. More focus on getting our bottled beer into bars/shops and hopefully installing a canning line in the near future".

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

Branch News

Beer Garden Survey

We are doing a survey of all the pubs in our area (St Helens, Prescot, Whiston) that sell real ale and also have a beer garden. If you can provide any information in this regard can you please send it us via email newsletter@sthelenscamra.org.uk.

Forthcoming Events

CAMRA socials

On Friday July 27th there will be walk round St. Helens town centre visiting pubs that have a beer garden. We will start the walk at The George at 7pm. **All welcome!**

Cricketers Beer Festival

...will take place over the weekend of 21/22 July 2018

Ruskin Beer Festival

...will take place over the weekend of 2/4 August 2018



Pub of Year presentation

The National Pub of the year award will be presented to The Cricketers Arms on 21st July at 7pm at the Cricks. All welcome to attend.

A certificate for the Regional Cider Pub of the year will be presented to The Cricketers Arms on September 1st at 1:30pm.

Liverpool Beer Week, July 20-27th

For more information go to #livbeerweek2018



Articles

Beer Scoring

One of CAMRA's core aims is to promote good-quality pubs, real ale, cider & perry. **CAMRA members are therefore encouraged to rate the quality of beverages in the pubs they visit using the National Beer Scoring System (NBSS).**

NOTE: the system is used to score the quality of cider and perry as well as real ale!

NBSS is used to judge beer quality in pubs on a 0-5 point scale and this assists CAMRA branches in selecting pubs for the Good Beer Guide. **NOTE:** enter the date you tried the beer if you score at a later date. Scoring is completed as follows:

0. No cask ale available
1. Poor. Beer that is between barely drinkable and drinkable with considerable resentment
2. Average. Competently kept, drinkable pint but doesn't inspire in any way, not worth moving to another pub but you drink the beer without really noticing.
3. Good. Good beer in good form. You may cancel plans to move to the next pub. You want to stay for another pint and may seek out the beer again.
4. Very Good. Excellent beer in excellent condition.
5. Excellent. Probably the best you are ever likely to find.

You submit your scores on the <http://whatpub.com> website, as follows:

Log into the *Whatpub* site using your CAMRA membership number and password, click on the "beer scoring" tab, click the [Start scoring] button, search for the relevant pub and then type in your scores in "Submit Beer Scores" form. Why not give beer scoring a try if you haven't done so already? Good luck!

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 August 8th at The Star Inn Rainford (11 Church Rd, WA11 8PX) at 8pm.

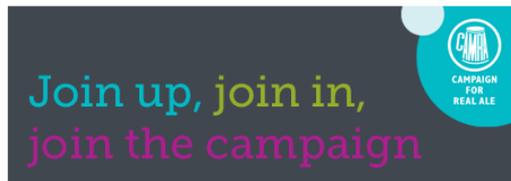
Committee meetings usually take place on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. All CAMRA members are welcome to attend these meetings. Committee meetings are always held at local pubs that serve real ale. All are welcome to attend our Committee meetings, but only Committee members can vote.

NEXT Branch Meeting

The next Branch meeting will take place on July 25th at The Lamb (St Helens town centre) at 8pm.

The August Branch meeting will take place on August 22nd at The Cricketers Arms (64 Peter St, WA10 2EB) at 8pm.

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. Most 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.



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>

