

Out Inn CHESHIRE

The independent guide for discerning pub-users

Free!



CAMPAIGN
FOR
REAL ALE

Issue 64
Winter 2014



Real Ale for beginners

...in the pub

It's on a **hand pump**.

You can see the bar person physically pulling the beer to serve it.

You may occasionally see beer served direct from the cask, by gravity from a tap.

You often see this at a Beer Festival.

If the beer you see is dispensed from a hideous sculpted or illuminated monstrosity on the bar, leave it alone; it's not **real** (it will be *lager*, *keg* beer or *smooth* beer. Leave that for the others and go for the tasty **real** thing on the hand pump).

...in the supermarket or off-licence



Read the label.

There may be a CAMRA logo like this one >

or the label may refer to a **yeast sediment**, to **cloudiness** or may actually call it "**Real Ale in a Bottle**" or "**Bottle Conditioned**".

Don't be misled by the silly names or fancy bottles and labels; you have to do your homework and read the label!

2 Oh, and it's always bottled. Tins are always very, very bad.



What's it all about?

Surely there is plenty of real ale: what is CAMRA needed for any more?

Lots of reasons!

- Much-loved pubs are closing at a frightening rate, lost for ever.
- Favourite brews are axed and well-loved breweries closed.
- Popular pubs are turned into theme pubs where many people no longer feel welcome
- Pubs with a good choice of real ales stop trying and sell only boring national brands, or even worse, just *keg beers*.

So what can you do about it?

⇒ **Go to the pub more often.**

There are many alternatives competing for your time and disposable income, but the only one of them that is in danger of disappearing after serving the people of this happy land for centuries, is the traditional pub.

There is a pub for everyone. Our pubs are a part of our precious heritage.

Very simply, you must **use them or lose them**.

⇒ **Be less timid when you go to the bar.**

With well over 3000 Real Ales to choose from in this blessed island, only the staggeringly unadventurous would stick to the handful of heavily advertised mass market brands.

You might find a truly great beer: **go for the hand pump**.

⇒ **Join us.**

The campaign is growing rapidly and has **over 167,000 members**.

People of all types and ages, united by a love of quality and choice.

Europe's most successful consumer organisation and its best social club.

Give us a call, or talk to us at one of our socials or Beer Festivals.

You will be most welcome.

**Your membership application form
is on the inside back cover.**





CAMRA: The Campaign for Real Ale.... is a volunteer organisation, the only body speaking for all pub users.

We are all doing this in our spare time,
because we care about real beer and good pubs .

CAMRA is the most successful consumer organisation of all time;
the voice of the consumer can make a difference,
even against uncaring Big Business.

We can't do it without you; we need your help.

New members are always very welcome.
If you have joined but not shown yourself yet please feel free to get in touch
so you can join in with the campaigning
and the fun.

*Most of us are house-trained,
and we like
to have
a good time!*

*Don't be a Beer Virgin
all your life!
Experience the Real Thing*



THE COVER SHOT

This issue's cover image is the welcoming sight of a roaring fire at Robinson's refurbished Red Lion in Pickmere.

What better sight after a walk or a bike ride on a cold winter's day than a homely log fire? Even better of course if there is some nourishing soup and tasty cask ale to hand as well. Definitely worth going out, in Cheshire!



ECCENTRIC ENGLISH ALES

Award winning English ales, brewed with passion in the Peak District. Available in casks or bottles.

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T: 01260 227777 / 227555 E: sales@winclebeer.co.uk

WWW.WINCLEBEER.CO.UK



Brew for a day.
A great gift for birthdays
or Christmas.

See website for details.

Brewed in Cheshire

Brewers – if you have any news about your brewery that you would like to see reported please email gary_chester@outlook.com or contact your CAMRA Brewery Liaison Officer.



LocAle Brewers

CAMRA's "LocAle" promotion supports local craft brewing; so watch out for posters and stickers in those pubs that serve a local beer.

Front Row of Congleton won a SIBA (Society of Independent Brewers) regional bronze award for **Pause** 4.5% chocolate stout and are now running 8 barrel plant, have started bottling and are supplying most local outlets

Happy Valley announced on Facebook that they were brewing a new beer; **Mill Town** 3.6%. This is a new ale and in the style of a traditional Old English Mild. The ale will be brewed solely with English Hops, some of which were grown in Bollington by Anthony Holland and Gareth Davies. This will be the first commercially available beer brewed in Bollington using Bollington Hops in over 100 years.

Mobberley Fine Ales opened their new **brewery shop** in November at Dairy Farm, Church Lane in Mobberley. Fresh beer is available for parties etc in a variety of cask sizes and as "beer-in-a-box". Handy for the excellent Church Inn while you are passing too!

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Wirral's **Peerless Brewing Company** won a bevy of awards at the SIBA North West Region Beer Competition recently

Knee Buckler IPA claimed gold in the strong cask bitter class as did **Jinja Ninja** for speciality cask ale, while silver went to the new **RIOT Stout** (premium strength cask ales category).

Knee Buckler is a deep golden cask-conditioned India Pale Ale with a *zingy hop finish*. It is hopped with US Cascade, Columbus and Citra hops. Jinja Ninja is brewed with root ginger, chillies and lemons and has won several awards since it was launched two years ago. RIOT is 'Russian Imperial Oatmeal Treacle Stout' *brewed with lots of oats for a full body and with treacle providing some sweetness*.

Sales have grown at 30 per cent a year and Peerless plan to double production capacity. Managing director Steve Briscoe said: "*This is terrific reassurance for the future as cask ale becomes increasingly popular.*"

Robinson's latest seasonal offering is Indulgence, 4.4% ABV mahogany coloured ale, said to be the perfect winter warmer. With aromas of roasted malt and fruity hops, the beer imparts the perfect balance of bitterness and aroma. "We've worked hard on creating the perfect balance of malt, toffee and citrus with a building bitter after taste. A dash of liquorice balanced by the addition of Demerara sugar creates a warm full bodied pint. It really is the perfect drink to be enjoyed next to an open fire during the cold winter nights."



Weetwood Brewery: The Brewery has been sold as a going concern. No staff lay-offs are expected and the original brewers are staying on as advisers to the new owners. Weetwood beers are always available in the **Traveller's Rest** in Alpraham, the **Bull's Head** in Mobberley and the **Commercial Hotel** in Wheelock as well as a variety of other Cheshire pubs including the Kalton & Barlow chain.



LocAle

Cheshire's Independent Craft Brewers

plus a few very close by

| | | |
|---|---------------|--|
| 4Ts (Warrington) | 07917 730184 | www.4tsbrewery.co.uk |
| Beartown (Congleton) * | 01260 299964 | www.beartownbrewery.co.uk |
| Blue Ball (Runcorn) | 01928 238442 | www.blueballbrewery.com |
| Bollington Brewing Co * | 01625 575380 | www.bollingtonbrewing.co.uk |
| Borough Arms (Crewe) | 07523 946730 | www.borougharmscrewe.co.uk |
| Brimstage (Wirral) | 0151 342 1181 | www.brimstagebrewery.com |
| Cain's (Liverpool) | 0151 709 8734 | www.cainsbeers.com |
| Cheshire Brew Brothers | 07890 567582 | www.cheshirebrewbrothers.co.uk |
| Cheshire Brewhouse (Congleton) | 07830 304929 | www.cheshirebrewhouse.co.uk |
| Coach House (Warrington) * | 01925 232800 | www.coach-house-brewing.co.uk |
| DB (Sutton Weaver) | 07739 325742 | www.dbbrew.com |
| Dunham Massey | 0161 929 0663 | www.dunhammasseybrewing.co.uk |
| Frodsham (Frodsham) * | 01928 787917 | www.frodshambrewery.co.uk |
| Front Row (Congleton) * | 07861 718673 | www.frontrowbrewing.co.uk |
| Goodall's (Alsager) | 01270 873669 | www.happyvalleybrewery.co.uk |
| Happy Valley (Bollington) | 07758 512080 | www.merlinbrewing.co.uk |
| Merlin Brewing (Arclid) * | 01477 500893 | mobberleyfineales.co.uk |
| Mobberley Fine Ales | 01565 873601 | www.norbrew.co.uk |
| Northern (Blakemere) * | 01606 301000 | www.offbeatbrewery.com |
| Norton Brewing (Runcorn) | 01928 579907 | www.peerlessbrewing.co.uk |
| Offbeat (Crewe) * | 07502 096 438 | www.piedbull.co.uk |
| Peerless (ex Betwixt) (Wirral) * | 0151 647 7688 | www.redwillowbrewery.com |
| Pied Bull (Chester) | 01244 325829 | www.sandstonebrewery.co.uk |
| RedWillow (Sutton) | 01625 502315 | www.spittingfeathers.org |
| Sandstone (Wrexham) * | 07851001118 | www.stormbrewing.co.uk |
| Spitting Feathers (Waverton) | 01244 332052 | www.tattonbrewery.co.uk |
| Storm (Macclesfield) * | 01625 431234 | |
| Tatton Brewery (Knutsford) * | 07738 150898 | |
| Topsy Angel (Warrington) | 01925 653326 | |
| Townhouse Brewery (Audley) | 07976 209437 | |
| Weetwood (Tarporley) * | 01829 752377 | www.weetwoodales.co.uk |
| Wincale (Wincale) * | 01260 227777 | www.wincalebeer.co.uk |
| Woodlands (Stapeley) * | 01270 841511 | www.woodlandsbrewery.co.uk |
| Worth (Poynton) | 01625 873120 | Paul.WorthBr@gmail.com |

Why are we listing these?

Because we believe that beer brewed in the traditional way and sold locally is a better product, creates local employment and is kinder to the environment.

We urge you to drink it when you see it and to ask for it if your local does not sell it.

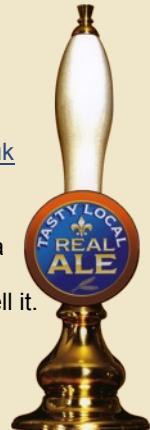
If you are a licensee we encourage you to sell local beers where you can, and if you are not free to do so, then ask your masters why not.

Your PubCo may have flexibility if you press them hard enough.

LocAle will give your business an edge.

* SIBA member (Society of Independent Brewers)

Cask Report 2014-15: The annual Cask Report compiled for the brewing industry states: "There's a beer revolution going on in Britain – and cask ale is right at its heart. Sales of cask beer, the number of people who drink it, breweries who make it and festivals that celebrate it are all increasing as good quality flavoursome beer continues to gather mainstream interest and popularity." www.cask-marque.co.uk/caskmatters



Landmark victory for beer drinkers, pub goers and licensees as Government defeated

After ten years of CAMRA campaigning, MPs have voted to introduce a market rent only option for licensees tied to the large pub companies - a move that will secure the future of the Great British Pub.

The Government was defeated with MPs from all parties voting in favour of a new clause to the Small Business Bill that will let PubCo licensees choose between a tied agreement and a market rent only agreement that will allow them to buy beer on the open market.

Allowing over 13,000 pub tenants tied to the large pub companies the option of buying beer on the open market at competitive prices will help keep pubs open and ensure the cost of a pint to consumers remains affordable. The large pub companies will no longer be able to charge their tenants prices up to 60 pence a pint higher than open market prices.

This simple choice should spell the end of PubCo licensees being forced out of business by parasitic high rents and tied product prices; a personal tragedy and a blow to the community.

CAMRA members lobbied their MPs to help make this happen. We are now urging the Government to accept the outcome of the vote.

[whatpub.com - your on-line pub guide](http://whatpub.com)

6 CAMRA, the Campaign for Real Ale provides a national online pub guide – whatpub.com – to help you find the best pubs to suit your needs. It features 47,000 pubs, around 36,000 of which serve real ale, making it the most definitive online guide to real ale in the UK.

[Whatpub.com](http://whatpub.com), automatically optimises for use on laptops, tablets and mobile devices, and has over thirty different search fields ranging from dog-friendly pubs to those that offer newspapers or live music, so [you can customise the search for your own preferences.](#)

Andy Shaw, CAMRA Director said “*WhatPub is the ultimate online pub guide for all pub-goers. It may even help encourage people who have stopped using pubs regularly, since WhatPub will help them find the ideal pub to suit their needs.*”

[WhatPub](http://whatpub.com) entries are written by local CAMRA volunteers. A full entry offers a description and pictures of the pub, the address, opening hours, who owns it, lists the regular real ales they stock, states whether the pub offers Guest Beers, highlights the main features e.g. availability of food, gives a map of where the pub can be located, sat nav reference, OS reference and highlights local transport.

Helpfully, of the 35,800 real ale pubs featured, around 22,000 have details of the real ales being served – taking the guess work out of a visit for real ale lovers.

[WhatPub](http://whatpub.com) also allows CAMRA members to score the quality of the real ales served in the pub which helps CAMRA select entries for a number of local and national Publications such as the Good Beer Guide.

Mr Shaw commented on the entries, “*WhatPub differs from any other pub web-sites which are based on details provided by the person who owns the pub, who may be a little biased!*”

This makes WhatPub totally independent.”

Visit whatpub.com or scan the QR code above on your Smartphone

- and enjoy our pubs!



CHAMPION BEER OF CHESHIRE 2014; PICKING A WINNER

The date; 14 November. The venue; Chester Racecourse. With 40 declared runners this competition, for the first time, involved all the brewers of Cheshire at one event (rather than as previously two semi-finals at different festivals). As in previous years all were blind tastings with the judges not knowing what beer they were drinking but only the style.



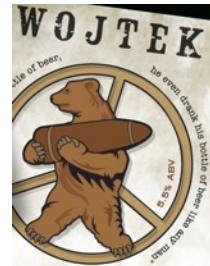
With an early start in cutting down the 40 to 8 finalists, each panel had 10 beers from which to select their favoured two.

The first panel selected *Weetwood Eastgate* and in a photo finish *Coach House Gunpowder mild* overcame *Tipsy Angel Angelic Mild*.

Soon afterwards the second panel reported their two beers over the hurdles to be *RedWillow Headless* and a local favourite from *Pied Bull, Gullabull*.

On completion, panels 3 and 4 started and soon reported their finalists as *Beartown Wojtek*, *Woodlands Midnight Stout*, *Blakemere Cosmic IPA* and *Lymm Dam Strong Ale* (a frisky little yearling at 7.2%).

With all 8 beers nominated, the finals panel (with not one of them carrying any pounds overweight) then commenced with the tough tastings, deliberation and scoring to pick the winner.



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And the winner romping home was **Woodlands Midnight Stout** (2nd in this race two years ago) with **Beartown Wojtek** galloping in a short head in front of the seasoned veteran **Coach House Gunpowder Mild**.



Well done to all brewers on the quality of the beers and we look forward to presenting the top three brewers with their awards in the winners enclosure early in the new year.

[Some first-time punters naively think of cask beers as dray-horses, but wiser judges of horseflesh know better, creating a new market for these locally-trained thoroughbreds. They know that those nationally-marketed donkeys can hoof it to the knacker's yard while they have a horse laugh. - (Mr) Ed]

Heg Beer is so Seventies!

So uncool!

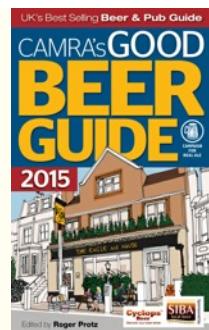
Do people really still drink it?

CAMRA's Good Beer Guide moves with the times as young drinkers discover real ale

New research released to mark the launch of CAMRA's Good Beer Guide 2015 shows that over a third of young people aged 18-24 have tried real ale and of those **87%** would drink it again.

Interest in real ale is increasing year on year and more young people are being attracted to the joys of Britain's national drink.

"It is fantastic to see more young people discovering and enjoying real ale - that old stereotype of real ale drinkers being in their dotage never was true, but now it's dead and buried. What's more, the Good Beer Guide relies on recommendations by local CAMRA members across the UK and as more young people discover real ale we hope to continue to see the guide adapt and evolve alongside the British pub." - Good Beer Guide Editor, Roger Protz.



New real ale drinkers are far more likely to be in this 18-24 age bracket. 65% of 18-24s tried real ale for the first time within the last three years, compared to 11% across all ages. So it is clear that real ale is not only attracting new drinkers - as one in ten real ale drinkers tried it in the last three years - but these new recruits are far more likely to be young.

"It's not just the demographic of real ale drinkers that is changing though, it's the places you can drink it too. As well as traditional country pubs and back street boozers which offer excellent real ale, the guide now has a growing number of modern city centre beer bars such as Port Street Beer House in Manchester." Roger added.

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The pubs in CAMRA's Good Beer Guide are nominated by local CAMRA, including young members such as Euan Antona, an 18 year old CAMRA member going to University later this year,

"Real Ale is something that should be enjoyed by everybody - age doesn't even come into it. I joined CAMRA as I really enjoy seeking out new real ales to try and visiting different pubs in my area - making the Good Beer Guide a pretty invaluable book to have for me! I'm also looking forward to joining the Real Ale Society when I start Uni later this year."

Around 28% of real ale drinkers are now aged between 18 to 34, a whopping 2.2 million people across the UK.

The Good Beer Guide is fully revised and updated every year with details of more than 4,500 pubs across the country serving the best real ale.

From country inns to urban style bars and back street boozers, all selected and reviewed by over 165,000 CAMRA members, it is your definitive guide to finding the perfect pint.

- Complete entries for over 4,500 urban and rural pubs, giving details of food, opening hours, beer gardens, accommodation, transport links, pub history, disabled access and facilities for families.
- Informative features section, with articles on pubs, beer and brewing, as well as beer festival listings from around the country.
- All pubs are nominated, evaluated and reviewed by local CAMRA volunteers and we never charge for entries
- Unique brewery section listing all the breweries in the UK - micro, regional and national - that brew real ale, with tasting notes for hundreds of their beers written by a trained CAMRA tasting panel.

CAMRA's Good Beer Guide 2015 is available to buy from all good book shops and directly from CAMRA at www.camra.org.uk/shop

Good Beer Guide Mobile; A mobile-phone based version of the Good Beer Guide is available for iPhone, Android and other devices..

CHESHIRE BEER FESTIVAL

All the months of planning came to fruition on 14 and 15 November when the **Cheshire Real Ale Festival** took place at Chester Racecourse.

This event has evolved from the Chester Real Ale Festival which ran for seven years at the Guildhall on Watergate Street.

This year's festival was a collaboration between all the Cheshire branches of CAMRA and held at a new venue that may have lacked the historic splendour of the Guildhall but provided excellent modern facilities and a significantly increased capacity.

Over 1,800 discerning drinkers from all over the country (plus visitors from Germany, Spain and the United States) eschewed the rival attraction of the Winter Wonderland funfair in the centre of the racecourse to attend the festival over the weekend.



In the process they sank almost 8,000 pints of real ale and cider from a choice of over 100 real ales, 20 ciders and perries and around a dozen varieties of bottled beers.

The cider proved so popular that several local pubs had to rally round to provide emergency supplies for Saturday evening.

The event once again hosted the **Champion Beer of Cheshire** competition which saw around 40 of the County's best ales vying

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for the award. After a marathon judging session starting at the ungodly hour of 10.30 in the morning the gold award was scooped by **Woodlands Midnight Stout** with Beartown Wojtek and Coach House Gunpowder Mild finishing in the silver and bronze award respectively.

In addition to the usual festival regulars the entertainment this year included a ukulele band, a magician and a 65 strong choir the latter certainly providing a few logistical challenges for the organisers. Other attractions included pub games and tombola with one 'lucky' winner insisting on parading around the hall wearing his prize of a less than flattering mankini.

As always with a new venue there were a few teething troubles which will be addressed next year if we return to the racecourse.

However the feedback from those attending has been very positive and it is particularly gratifying to report that 25 new members were signed up for the Campaign.

Thanks are due to all the sponsors, the pubs that sold tickets, the entertainers who gave their time for free, to Chester Racecourse for use of the excellent facilities and co-operation of the staff and especially to all those CAMRA volunteers whose efforts made the inaugural Cheshire Beer Festival such a success.

