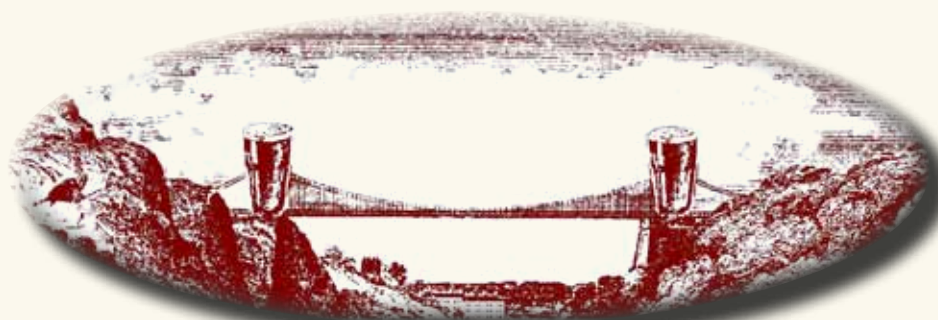




**CAMPAIGN
FOR
REAL ALE**

AWARD-WINNING



www.camrabristol.org.uk



**CAMPAIGN
FOR
REAL ALE**

PINTS WEST

Multi-award-winning magazine of the Bristol & District Branch of CAMRA, the Campaign for Real Ale
(incorporating the Bath & Borders Branch)



**Some contributions that, for
whatever reason, could not be
accommodated in the printed
version of Pints West**

Views expressed are those of the individual authors and not
necessarily supported by CAMRA.

Best in the West

(The text of this article by Andrew Swift is in Pints West, but not the full results.)

The annual beer festival held by the Society of Independent Brewers (SIBA) at Tuckers Maltings in Newton Abbot is not only an opportunity for brewers in the South West to showcase their beers before a large and appreciative audience; there is also a competition in which panels of experienced tasters judge the beers on offer. Not surprisingly, it is this competition, more than any other, which brewers want to win.

This year, the overall winner was Discovery bitter from Forge Brewery at Hartland in Devon, which also brewed the champion beers in 2010 and 2011. The silver medal went to Wills Neck bitter from Quantock and the bronze to Glastonbury's Thriller Cappuccino Porter.

The overall winners were selected from the beers that won the individual rounds for different beer styles. Two Bristol breweries received awards in this stage of the competition. Arbor Ales won a gold for its Mild West and a silver for its Black Eyed PA, as well as gold medals for two bottled beers – Yakima Valley IPA and Breakfast Stout. Bristol Beer Factory won a silver for its Acer bitter and a bronze for its Milk Stout.

Over in Bath, it was good news for Abbey Ales which won a silver for Abbey Mild, while bronze awards went to Box Steam Brewery for Funnel Blower and Moles for Tap Bitter.

All the gold medallists go forward to the national competition at Nottingham in February 2013. Next year's festival at Tuckers Maltings runs from 18 to 20 April 2013, with judging taking place before the doors open to the public on the 18th.

The full results for 2012 festival were as follows:

OVERALL CHAMPIONS

Gold: Forge Discovery
Silver: Quantock Wills Neck
Bronze: Glastonbury thriller Cappuccino Porter

Standard Milds

Gold: Arbor Ales Mild West
Silver: Abbey Mild
Bronze: Otter Mild

Standard Bitters

Gold: Forge Discovery
Silver: Bristol Beer Factory Acer
Bronze: Moles Tap Bitter

Best Bitters

Gold: Quantock Wills Neck
Silver: Forge Litehouse
Bronze: Gidley's Dartmoor Valley

Premium Bitters

Gold: Hogswood Kernow King
Silver: Dorset Brewing Co Yachtsman
Bronze: Jollyboat Plunder

Strong Bitters

Gold: Penpont An Howl
Silver: Ramsbury Chalkstream
Bronze: Keltek King

Premium Strong Beers

Gold: Art Brew Spanked Monkey
Silver: Arbor Ales Black Eyed PA
Bronze: Exmoor Beast

porters, Strong Milds, Old Ales & Stouts

Gold: Glastonbury Thriller Cappuccino Porter
Silver: Yeovil Ales Stout Hearted
Bronze: Bristol Beer Factory Milk Stout

Speciality Beers

Gold: Dartmoor Three Hares
Silver: Box Steam Funnel Blower
Bronze: Quantock Ginger Cockney

BOTTLED BEERS (OVERALL CHAMPIONS)

Gold: St Austell Smugglers Grand Cru
Silver: Arbor Ales Yakima Valley IPA
Bronze: Moor Beer Revival

Bottled Bitters (up to 4.9%)

Gold: Moor Beer Revival

Bottled Bitters (over 5%)

Gold: Arbor Ales Yakima Valley IPA

Bottled Gold Beers

Gold: Forge Litehouse

Bottled Speciality Beers

Gold: Arbor Ales Breakfast Stout

Bottled Porters, Milds, Old Ales & Stouts

Gold: St Austell Smugglers Grand Cru

Readers' Letters

The half pint premium

I thought this may interest the readers of Pints West which I would put under the heading of 'the half pint premium'.

A group of six who have been drinking ale since the sixties visited the Swan at Almondsbury (on the A38) in February 2012. Two of the three hand pumps were in operation and we all enjoyed the Wychwood Dirty Tackle. It was in fine condition and under the magic three quid mark at two ninety five. At the end of the evening I went for a final half and gave the barmaid one pound fifty.

When she said to hold on I was ready to say keep the odd pennies, but no, she wanted more money. Under three pounds for a pint but one pound seventy five for a half. I am ready to have the price rounded upwards as pubs seem to hate copper coins and are not too keen on the five pence either, but to add on an extra twenty five pence - well that is just too much.

A man at the bar who may have been something to do with the pub gave his opinion that this was standard practice - well not in my experience. Furthermore, if they do this, what other little dodges will they get up to? This pub is now firmly off my list but is this a widespread practice? Not often drinking half pints I don't know.

Regards,
Bill Balchin
(21/02/12).

Micro-pubs

I have followed Pints West after I moved north 17 years ago – as a regular of The White Hart (Batheaston) now closed – member of the skittles team, etc, – your publication really has kept me in touch with my past. Thank you.

The immediate present and future for such watering holes is dire. However I read an article recently about 'micro pubs'. I am actively putting together a business plan for this approach.

It almost goes back to the 'beer house' concept but would source small volumes of real ale – open Mon-Fri 1700-21.30, Sat/Sun 12-2.00 – maybe not in existing licenced large premises.

Anyway what do you consider the application of my concept – if you agree then I would like to package it in order that others could follow on more easily and make it freely available.

Yours,
Bob Foster
centralheatking@btinternet.com

The crowd on the Bath Ales brewery visit on 17th April



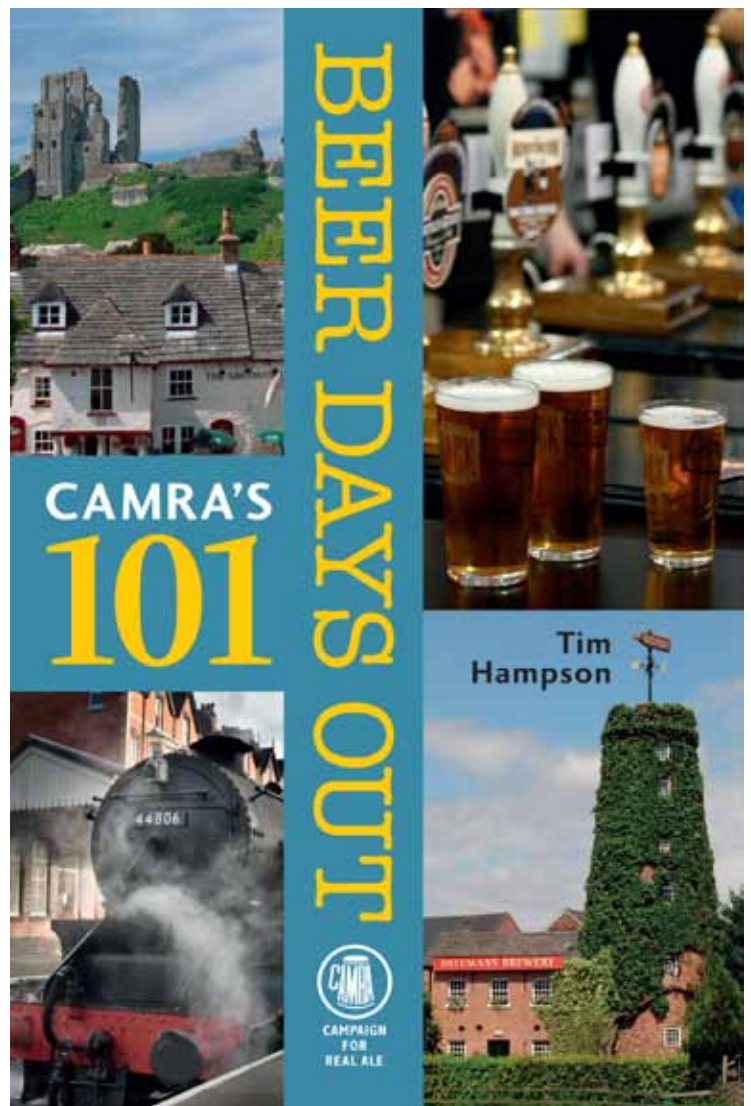
101 Beer Days Out

CAMRA Books is proud to announce the release of 101 Beer Days Out. The brand-new guide book will be published on Monday, 28th May 2012. 101 Beer Days Out (RRP £12.99/CAMRA Member Price £10.99, ISBN: 978-1-85249-288-5, Paperback) has been painstakingly compiled by Chairman of the Guild of Beer Writers and What's Brewing journalist Tim Hampson.

The book brings together a variety of ale-themed days out that can be enjoyed by the whole family. Tim Hampson's recommendations range far and wide to highlighting venues, events and activities from England, Scotland & Wales. Coming out just in time for the summer the book is bound to be packed in many a suitcase for the holiday season.

The listings are arranged geographically and take in everything from the Museum of Kent Life to Edinburgh's historic pubs and Scottish Ale Festival to the Llangollen Railway's Ale trail in Wales. Every entry is illustrated with fabulous full-colour photography and include full details of attraction opening times, contact details, the best ways of getting there, what to see, what to do and, of course, what to drink.

CAMRA will be making a selection of promotional material available to the venues featured. Venues will receive confirmation of their inclusion in early May. 101 Beer Days Out will be available from the CAMRA shop (www.camra.org.uk/shop) and branch copies can be ordered from CAMRA HQ for sale at festivals & events.



Mr A Gazzard, Keynsham, Bristol
19th April 2012
Dear Steve

Hello there. For a while now, in my case about a year, there's been all this talk within CAMRA about changing the 'tankard' logo.

The first I heard about this is when it got mentioned at the AGM in Sheffield last year. I've been hearing, reading about it, and it seems to have been an ongoing thing ever since.

This is something I don't like. I am firmly against. I really do feel that CAMRA should not change their logo.

I've written an article why I don't think CAMRA should change the logo. Potentially to go in the Pints West.

Cheers, Tony Gazzard.

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Should CAMRA change its logo for a new one? Strictly not.

It was a while back now. I'm not too sure how long back, but the Strategy Review Group asked if the 'tankard' logo for the Campaign for Real Ale was the right image for our future. Therefore does it need to be changed for a new, different, logo? I suppose we can all have our different reservations on this.

The first I heard of this was when it got mentioned when I was at the CAMRA Annual General Meeting in Sheffield in April 2011. Ever since I've been hearing about it, reading reports on it. There was also a discussion about it at this year's CAMRA AGM at Torquay at one of the workshop venues. It's something that hasn't gone away. Sooner or later there's got to be a solution, with an end all and be all to it. My personal view on this is strictly not. I would say by far leave the CAMRA logo as it is.

CAMRA is now in its forty-second year, since the campaign started. Over the years to its present, has come on leaps and bounds. The membership is growing at present it's at about 137,000 members and is regarded as being the largest pressure group in the UK. Possibly even in Europe. That's among its other achievements. All this has been accomplished with the tankard logo. I believe that this is our logo trademark to take us into the future.

The 'tankard' logo has become our symbol of what we stand for, it typifies us, that has so far seen us through thick and thin. It's what the media recognises us for. Indeed, like now any other company or organisation. How can you go and just change that overnight? By and large companies, organisations, whether they are large or small, they normally keep to the same logo that they have always been renowned for. The principles are identical with CAMRA.

I firmly believe that if CAMRA changes our logo it will be a recipe for disaster.

I can remember going back to 1996 when British Airways decided to repaint their tailfins, which I believe was to try to give themselves more of an international representative identity. Sadly from their part it

all crash-landed. It was also costly. Redundancies were announced at the time, with a strongly adverse reaction from the public. The union-jacked planes were quickly introduced back again.

In 2001 the Post Office decided to change their well-known crown. I wonder what their motive was. It was something like a circular multi-coloured object kind of thing. I understand that it was supposed to be trendy. After a costly loss it all got binned like our domestic household rubbish.

You really seriously have to be careful when you go about rebranding your trademark symbol of what you have always been renowned for because is it going to inspire with its powerful appetite and pride.

Incidentally British Telecom. They changed their logo, within a year they had changed it back.

So does CAMRA need a new logo? I think examples that have been mentioned speak for themselves. I think this is something not to be disregarded or to refuse to pay attention to.

This group of groups of people who are representing an interest who feel we should have a new logo, is it because they want something that pertains to be more colourful, modern, something that is more distinctive, full of freshness, to be more effective? All these scenarios and theories have been done, tested and tried before as has already been emphasised.

CAMRA hasn't been doing too badly for itself, in fact it's been doing very well, along with its large army of volunteers which the campaign relies on.

This isn't a time when we should go arguing and getting at one another, at the end of the day nothing must go to sidetrack ourselves from something we all love - Real Ale, a drink we all like passionately.

Do we need to be having to go down that road allowing ourselves to be going into unworthy insignificant acts of play for a new logo? I can't see the point.

If our distinctive symbol identifying us for what we stand for hasn't broken, then why change for another? I don't believe that our tankard logo is iconic. Simply because CAMRA isn't old enough for it to be, but I do think it has become independent in time in a timeless way.

Let's don't divert our attentions away from the important issues. Let's all keep our concentration on the challenges CAMRA as a pressure consumer organisation has to face. Such as the excessive tax duty we all have to pay on a pint. Pub closures. These wretched pubcos starving out their tenants. Our 800+ small breweries face high costs in producing their beers. Whereas the microbreweries receive a 50% beer duty reduction. This should also apply to the small breweries.

I could go on but that's just a few examples of many what we should be turning our attention to. Least of all fighting for the taste, quality of real ale.

Just before I round off, may I say are we going to be growing into the hands of the submission, what I exactly mean by that is, are we going to be submitting our powers from those with the powers who want to keep our tankard logo over to those who want to change it? I hope not.

Anthony Gazzard