

81ST EDITION

AUTUMN 2024



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South Devon CAMRA



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WELCOME

81ST EDITION

AUTUMN 2024



Hello,

After 7 years I'm leaving my post as editor of News & Brews magazine.

Thank you for reading; I hope I've been able to give you an entertaining and informative magazine.

Lawrence Stringer will be in the chair from Winter magazine on and I know he has much planned to continue giving you an engaging content and industry news and comment.

*All the best,
Andrew Thomson*



Also in this edition:

- **What's on in the South Devon region** (page 5)
- **Pub and brewery news** (page 8-10)
- **A tour of Teignmouth** (page 12-13)
- **New South Devon branch leisurewear** (page 15)
- **Sunshine Beer Festival report** (page 16-17)
- **Roger in the North** (page 20-21)
- **Grumpy's lost world** (page 24-25)

Please enter your monthly What Pub scores by the **6th** of the following month for them to be included on that month's database. For a 'how to' description of scoring see southdevon.camra.org.uk



THE BLUE ANCHOR

-TEIGNMOUTH-

We offer a constantly changing choice of 6 Real Ales on the bar and over 160 spirits.

A variety of events are held throughout the year with highlights during bank holidays and Christmas time.



BEER & CIDER FESTIVALS

Easter Weekend



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WHAT'S ON

BRANCH MEETINGS & SOCIAL EVENTS

Date/Time	Purpose	Location
7 September, Midday	South West CAMRA branches social	Blue Anchor, Teignmouth
10 September, 1930h	Social branch meeting	Torbay Inn, Paignton
18 September, 1100h	Midweek crawl	Start at Two Mile Oak, Abbotskerswell
8 October, 1930h	Branch meeting	Paignton Conservative Club
16 October, 1100h	Midweek crawl	Brixham – Start at The Vigilance
12 November, 1930h	Branch meeting	Queens Arms, Brixham
20 November, Midday	Midweek crawl	Start at The Barn Owl, Kingskerswell
14 December, Midday	Christmas social	Torbay Inn, Paignton
10 December, 1930h	Branch meeting	TQ Beerworks. Torquay
18 December, Midday	Midweek crawl	Start at The London Inn, Shaldon

BEER FESTIVALS 2024-2025

Date	Event	Location
6 – 8 September	Beer festival	Durant Arms, Ashprington
19 – 22 September	Abbfest	Fermoys Garden Centre
19 – 29 September	Cask ale week	At a real ale pub near you
5 October	Weymouth Octoberfest	Weymouth and Portland Rugby Club
19 October	Yeo Cider	Yeoford Community Hall
9 – 20 October	Beer festival	JD Wetherspoon pubs
24 – 26 October	Swindon CAMRA beer festival	Steam Museum
25 – 27 October	Halloween Beer Festival	Albert Inn, Totnes
30 November	Celtic beer festival	St Austell Brewery
6 – 8 December	Charity Beer Festival supporting Pete's Dragon	Queens Arms, Brixham
16 – 18 January 2025	Exeter Festival of Beer	Corn Exchange, Exeter

Please check individual events prior to attending

THE GREEN DRAGON

STOKE FLEMING

Alan and Georgie welcome you to their traditional village pub serving homemade food, local real ales, delicious wines, a large selection of gin, rums and other spirits.



We have a sunny patio and beautiful beer garden, during warmer months our alfresco bar will be open and in cooler months our log fire will be roaring.

We love to hold a variety of live entertainment, quiz and themed nights and an annual beer and music festival, throughout the year.

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We offer a 10% discount off real ales for CAMRA members (exclusions apply).

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PUB NEWS

£3.50 is what you'll pay at the bar for cask beer at the **Queens Arms** in **Brixham** on Mondays, while on Thursdays all purchases paid for in cash receive a 10% discount.

Pete's Dragons will be the charity supported by their December 6-8 beer festival. Founded in 2010 by charity CEO Alison Jordan, following the suicide of her younger brother, the Dragons have developed into experts in the field, running support services in Devon and North Somerset. 'It is our mission to reach those impacted by suicide and provide support that is timely, appropriate and carried out by professionals. We know that everyone experiences grief in a unique way and we believe that every person deserves bespoke help following a suicide'.

www.petesdragons.org.uk for more information and how you can help.

The **Palk Arms** in **Hennock** has been welcoming tourists throughout the summer with the Sunday afternoon acoustic sessions in the beer garden proving very popular with visitors and locals alike - so much so that musical interludes will continue indoors during the autumn and winter months alongside good food from the restaurant, quiz nights and numerous other events.

The **Upside Bar** in Queen Street, **Newton Abbot** launched with one real ale, Saltaire Amarillo on the bar alongside 17 keg beers.

Life goes on unabated for the **Albert Inn** in **Totnes** following the successful Summer Beer Festival. "Thanks to all who attended, although it wasn't the same without resident real ale stillage-meister Grizzly who was unwell!" commented landlord Giles Hawkins. Preparations are already taking place for the Halloween Beer Festival which will run 25-27 October. Guest beers, food & music from The Crowing will be on offer as well as...a RUM BAR!

Also coming up is the Albert Inn's 3rd annual Open Conker Championships on November 14th. Ever-growing, a £2 entry fee (for charity) will get you a chance to bash conkers (which will be supplied) with your fellow competitors - note - please bring your own safety glasses....

The **Bay Horse** in **Totnes** is delighted to welcome back landlord Rob Alexander after a bout of pneumonia which turned into something far more serious and led to a spell in intensive care. Although he is on light duties for the time being, no doubt he will be seen in the Bay Horse as the pub continues on its way - even though beer is off *his* menu for the while. We send him best wishes for his ongoing recovery.

BREWERY NEWS

Madgull Lemon Lager is new from **Bays Brewery**, a vibrant and refreshing small-batch special inspired by the iconic seagull. Bays Brewery Head Brewer, Will Freeland, said: "Madgull Lemon Lager is a bright, punchy beer that's easy to drink, with a refreshing citrus kick balanced by a smooth malt backbone, making it an ideal companion for outdoor activities and warm-weather gatherings".

Throughout 2024, Bays is also supporting a number of top Devon charities with the release of four limited-edition charity beers, all of which aim to give something back to the local community. »

BREWERY NEWS ... CONTINUED

» Latest Charity Brew, 'Chopper Ale' takes flight to raise much-needed funds for Devon Air Ambulance. Available in bottles, cask and beer boxes, the gorgeous golden ale is distinctly British in character, made using a blend of modern and traditional hops sourced from UK shores.

Bays will be donating 5% of every pint and bottle sold to Devon Air Ambulance, helping to keep its air ambulances flying and fleet of critical care cars responding during the busy season ahead.

The charity brew holds particular significance for its Head Brewer Will Freeland, whose son was assisted by Devon Air Ambulance following an incident in 2019. Its crew of critical care doctors and paramedics are busier than ever and attended 2,226 missions across Devon in 2023 alone, with this year expected to exceed previous records.

With two epic coastlines and acres of rural wilderness, Devon's geography can make it particularly challenging to get the right emergency treatment to patients when they need it most. Devon Air Ambulance Trust's two helicopters and four critical care cars play a pivotal role in saving lives in hard-to-reach places by delivering expert critical care to patients wherever they may be.

Will Freeland, said: "Having experienced the incredible work of the Devon Air Ambulance Trust firsthand, we are thrilled to be giving something back to an amazing local charity that is particularly close to Bays' heart. Taking off at the start of what will no doubt be a busy Summer season for its crew, 'Chopper Ale' is available to buy on the website, as well as in pubs and bars across Devon, with beer drinkers able to enjoy their pint in the knowledge that they are supporting a brilliant cause with every sip."

Tracy Owen, Corporate Partnership Manager at Devon Air Ambulance Trust, added: "We are so pleased to be selected by Bays Brewery to be one of their chosen charities this year. The new 'Chopper Ale' is sure to be a success and we hope that the people of Devon will support a local Devon brewery and their local air ambulance in making sure it really takes off! It is only due to the kindness and generosity of our supporters and business partners, that we can continue to maintain our life-saving service. Knowing that we were able to help a family member of Bays' makes this partnership extra special."

As well as 'Chopper Ale', Bays Brewery is supporting a number of other top Devon charities throughout 2024 with its limited-edition 'charity brews' concept. Completing the charity line-up in November will be 'Jingle Ale', a deep amber ale that will spread some festive cheer with 5% of proceeds supporting Children's Hospice South West (CHSW).

Life in **Bridgetown Brewery** may be quiet with brewer George enjoying a holiday in Thailand & Vietnam (no doubt finding inspiration for new beers) but there is still plenty of beer for the Albert Inn and other outlets to sell. A recent short trip to Belgium also looks likely to produce a special or two in the near future - perhaps at the Albert Inn Halloween Beer festival. The 2024 Kozbest collaboration (an approximately 4.4-4.7% malty best bitter) with Bridgetown BLO Grizzly Adams was once again voted a great success. »

BREWERY NEWS ... CONTINUED

» Jack and Jordan have moved **Copperhead Ales Brewery** to Totnes, and opened a taproom. For the past 6 years running a small brewery out of a garage in Newton Abbot and selling from a stall on Totnes market, they are now to be found at Unit 6, Burke Road, Totnes, TQ9 5XL. Check out opening times at www.copperheadales.co.uk

The fledgling 2-barrel plant brewery (provisionally named the **Hennock Brewing Company**) has now produced test batches of an IPA and a Best Bitter which have gone down well with Palk Arms punters (aka willing guinea pigs!). Hopes are that HBC beers will appear on Palk Arms hand pumps at some stage over the winter. The long-term plan is to eventually switch the brewery from the barn in which it currently resides to a permanent site under the pub itself. "Watch this space" said Palk Arms landlord and brewer Mike Rowland.

Sherman, a 6.4% IPA from **South Hams Brewery** has won 1st place in the CAMRA CBOB (Champion Beer of Britain) Southwest Regional blind tasting at the Chippenham Beer Festival in the IPAs (English & New World) Category. Sherman will go forward to the national blind tasting at the Great British Beer Festival in 2025.

Four more awards for South Hams from 2024 Maltingsfest: Gold for the mighty Sherman American Pale Ale; a Silver each for Eddystone and the dark and very 'proper' Devon Porter, plus a Bronze for the first appearance of the, all-new, Stones Pilsner.

The Durant Arms

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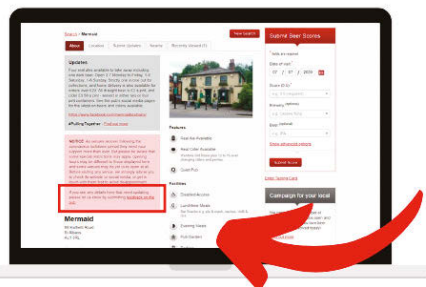
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TRIP TO TEIGNMOUTH

The day dawned fine so a number of us from South Devon and Exeter and East Devon branches assembled at the Jolie Brise (Wetherspoons), where after breakfast, we embarked on our ale sampling. Wetherspoons had a £1.99 offer on pints and the beers were in good form. Elgoods Red Rose and Dartmoor IPA were popular.

After this, our chairman Bob recommended the Teignmouth Social Club in Den Terrace so off we went and



Teignmouth Social Club



Molloys

found Teignmouth Brewery Deckhand in good condition along with Teignworthy Reel Ale and the ubiquitous Doom Bar. Bob then had to leave to travel to Dundee for the CAMRA members weekend so we next went to Molloys.

This pub was a GBG entrant a few years ago when Platform 5 brewery was still active, but now they have a mixture of beers available. These were Bays Topsail



The Jolly Sailor

and Devon Dumpling, St Austell Tribute and Doom Bar. Unfortunately, the Topsail was at the end of the barrel so we mainly sampled the Tribute which was in good form.

Several of our party felt like lunch so we walked over to the Jolie Sailor that does a good selection of food. Fullers London Pride made a rare appearance along with Dartmoor Jail Ale and (yes you guessed it), Doom Bar. We now had some decisions to make. The 'Jewel in the Crown' CAMRA wise in

Teignmouth is the Blue Anchor that opens at 2.00 pm, but we didn't want to miss opportunities in the other pubs, so went to The Devon Arms and sampled Teignmouth Deckhand and Portside, both being good. »

TRIP TO TEIGNMOUTH ... CONTINUED

» The Ship was next where there was a good selection of ales including St Austell Cornish Best (not the best apparently), Otter Rockin' Otter, and St Austell Proper Job. We did attempt the Newquay Inn but decided there wasn't anything of note ale wise so decided it was time to visit the Blue Anchor.

The Blue Anchor did not fail to delight with a very palatable Coconut Cherry Stout from Disruption brewery and a



The Devon Arms



The Ship

good selection of other ales and ciders. We will be hosting our Joint Devon branch social at The Blue Anchor in September. After a couple of beers, a few of us decided to embark homewards by bus and train.

Overall, a good day out with some outstanding beers and having reasonable weather helped a lot. It was also good to see some members from our adjoining branch (Exeter and East Devon)

Lawrence Stringer



The Blue Anchor

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NEW SOUTH DEVON CAMRA LEISUREWEAR

All garments have the new logo on the front. Short sleeve garments also have the CAMRA roundel on the sleeve.

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When we receive your order, a reply will be sent quoting South Devon CAMRA's bank account details. Please make payment to this account, then the order can be placed with the supplier

Please ensure you order the correct size; garments are produced to order and cannot be exchanged if they don't fit.

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569M	100% Cotton Short Sleeve Polo	£19.00
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RG122	100% Polyester Long Sleeve Fleece	£23.00
RX301	100% Polyester Long Sleeve Sweatshirt	£15.00
FR100	Mens 100% Cotton Long Sleeve Rugby	£21.00
FR101	Ladies 100% Cotton Long Sleeve Rugby	£21.00
BB15	100% Cotton Baseball Cap	£10.00



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or scan the QR code.



Delivery times will vary but we estimate it will usually be 3 - 4 weeks from placing the order with the supplier.



THE SUNSHINE BEER & CIDER FESTIVAL 2024

Organised by the South Devon Branch of CAMRA, it is run entirely by volunteers with the aim of introducing some good beers and cider. Held at Teignmouth Rugby Football Club, the Festival had 60 real ales and over 20 ciders. Our aim is to support brewers and cider makers across the country and to give our visitors an enjoyable environment to sample the best of real ale and cider.



This year we added a marquee on the offchance it may rain at some time...and it did! >>



THE SUNSHINE BEER & CIDER FESTIVAL 2024

>> During the festival there was a judging session for the South West part of the Champion Beer of Britain. The winners here go forward to be judged against winners from other areas and eventually the Champion Beer of Britain emerges.

We also had our own little contest for the 'Black Country' Beer of the Festival - won by Sarah Hughes Surprise.



Charity sponsored was Devon Air Ambulance.

Alan Cooke



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The Albert Inn

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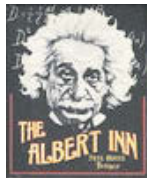


Bridgetown Brewery brews Albert Ale 3.8% abv; Bridgetown Bitter 4.2% abv; Shark Island Stout 4.5% abv and recently introduced Totnes Hemp Beer, Green Leaf 4% abv. There is also a selection of craft ales from around the world.

Yes, it is a pub with a darts team, a weekly quiz, people resolving their crosswords, people talking, joking, arguing and putting the world to rights. Our own ales brewed on the premises, traditional home made pies, curries, Sunday roasts etc.

However, it also provides a sheltered beer garden overlooking the Dart. Free WiFi. Regular live music, an open mic night for the adventurous or enthusiasts.

Would you expect culinary theme nights, an elaborate lunch menu; a wine list that will surprise you by variety and price? A large range of malt whisky; calvados and brandy to please the connoisseur? Give us a try you will be surprised.



Be part of the CAMRA story

Real ale is just the start...

Our story is your story.
So join us in supporting
everything from pubs, clubs
and drinkers' rights, to licensees
and breweries, uniting us in the
story we all love.

As a thank you for being a hero
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£30 of beer vouchers, quarterly
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Join the CAMRA story
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Campaign
for
Real Ale

Real stories, real people, **real ale**



NORTHWARDS

A trip up north again to visit relatives, north being anywhere above Birmingham.

First a stop off in Doncaster to check out a mate's canal boat and the clubhouse at the marina which sells a constantly changing 2 real ales. But next on to Leeds where a day trip around the town was planned with Mick. Now he is local and had a suitable list of venues, a quick check and I was impressed. We bussed into town; the trains were on strike but we went right into the centre. I was shown the Victorian shopping arcades which were fabulous and expensive.



Whitelocks Ale House



Templar Hotel

The first stop was Whitelocks Ale House a famous National Inventory and GBG pub - superb tile front on the bar. The beer was from Kirkstall, a big local brewery, their stout at 3.4% was a good start for the day and very tasty and acceptable. Next was Templar Hotel again NI and GBG, super wood panelling inside and tiling outside. A choice of 11 ales but I chose Tetley bitter 3.4% to drink, it was once brewed in Leeds. I drink local if I can.

No 3 was the Duck and Drake another GBG, an old-fashioned pub and big enough for music events. There were 15 real ales to choose from which included Timothy Taylors Golden Best, a light golden mild 3.4% and rare to find so I just had to drink it, to wash down a great pork pie. »



Duck & Drake

NORTHWARDS ... CONTINUED

» Now on to the Adelphi a really famous NI pub with a blue plaque as a Tetley Heritage Inn. I had been here many years ago but it is now much better, it is a big pub, well looked after with lots of fine wood, a superb hallway and magnificent staircase, I drank Leeds pale 3.4%, another good beer. You may have noticed that all the beers I had drunk were 3.4% and they were all in great condition but it was lunchtime! We had to press on to meet up with the ladies who were also exploring Leeds. The final venue was the Tetley, only pretty much next door, it was the old Tetley Brewery headquarters building. Now part is a bar and kitchen where we caught up with the day's adventures and had a meal. The barmaid dropped us in it by telling that we had been drinking pints all day, of course we were. The beers here were all from



Adelphi



Old Tetley Brewery HQ

Kirkstall brewery and I managed the Black Band Porter 5.4% and their bitter 3.6% to finish off the day, 5 great pubs, 6 good beers it was a good day.



Ye Olde Starre Inn

The next day meant a trip to York by train. It was not a designated drinking day but I did manage to get to Ye Olde Starre Inn for lunch. Another great NI pub and Helmsley Brewery Yorkshire Legend 4.3%. Then of course we had to catch a train so a quick stop in the York Tap (GBG) on the platform for Timothy Taylors Landlords Dark 4.3% and a very good way to end the day.

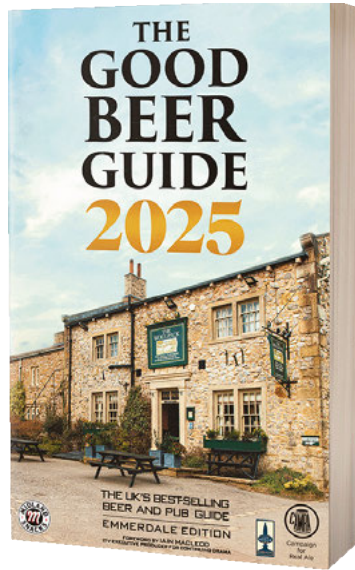
There is a lot to offer up North!

Roger Adams

THE GOOD BEER GUIDE 2025

The Campaign for Real Ale's (CAMRA) Good Beer Guide – the UK's best-selling beer and pub guide – is celebrating its 52nd edition with not one but two covers featuring two of the UK's favourite locals: Coronation Street's Rovers Return Inn, and Emmerdale's Woolpack. The Guide, which surveys 4,500 of the best pubs across the UK, is the definitive beer drinker's guide for those seeking the best pints in the nation's pubs.

Available from 26th September
www1.camra.org.uk/about/books






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THE WORLD WE HAVE LOST

Over the last 50 years, numerous breweries have gone, such as Boddington in Manchester and Shipstones in Nottingham. Further south there was Youngs in London, King and Barnes of Horsham and Eldridge Pope of Dorchester, as well as many, many more. They were proud of their regional identity and Strongs of Romsey had large billboards beside railway lines proclaiming that you were now entering The Strong Country. Imagine the modern equivalent 'you are now entering The Doombar territory' for the next 250 miles in any direction. With their demise went many wonderful beers like Youngs Special and Gales Prize Old Ale which could never be replicated elsewhere. Note that Prize Old Ale was a barley wine and a beer style that is virtually extinct. It had a cork top guaranteeing exploding in warm weather. What happened to these breweries? Some were sold off for property development whilst others were taken over by the likes of Whitbread or Greene King. We now see the rise of the Pub Co, merely running pubs and buying beer from others. In the good old days, you could have blindfolded me and dumped me anywhere in the country and I would know roughly where I was by the local beers available. If it was Morells then I would be somewhere in the Oxford area and if it was Ruddles I would be east of Leicester. There would be no chance of that happening today and I would be very confused. There appears to be a beer from Cornwall brewed in Burton on Trent and there is beer from Keighley in Yorkshire. It's a Pub Co and I could be anywhere.

Pub names give an excellent indication of local economic activity. All the Black Country towns had their own specialities like nail, scythe or lock-making. Pubs called the Nail or Scythe Makers Arms would be commonplace, but these are not sexy enough for the modern world and are replaced by names like the Olive Branch or Green Tree.

This gentrification denies local history which is primarily based on coal, metal or canal building. Worst still are the pubs given stupid names like The Monkey and Moon Rocket. This is sacrilege; what on earth have monkeys or moon rockets to do with local economic history.

The interiors of pubs have seen enormous changes and especially the urban or multi-roomed pub. There was a plethora of choices with many social conventions. Who would use the snug as opposed to the parlour? One thing for certain was that there was very unlikely to be a children's room. Where they did exist, they were governed by arcane rules with separate entrances and positioned so as the bar was not allowed with its sinful row of beer pumps to corrupt young eyes. Often, they doubled up as women only bars which was hardly an attractive proposition to young boys.

However, most children's experience of the pub was from the garden. I remember feeling a little lonely with my fizzy drink, crisps and usually the staffie dog. Suddenly, the door would burst open followed by the sound of merriment and accompanied by a cloud of cigarette smoke and then the door closed and the silence returned. I well remember the smokey Amber's Welfare Clubs around Stoke with the word welfare being a misnomer given the serious level of smoking. You really needed breathing apparatus and a torch to work your way to the bar. I remember vividly the yellow stained fingers as they puffed on their Capstan, thereby creating the fug and shortening so many lives. Why was this tolerated for so long? Back to the crisps and in those days there were no exotic flavours and it was all Smiths plain with twists of salt. The problem was that there was often none at all or worse still they could be doggy and no use at all. I always suspected that this was a deliberate ploy as they were sold by packet weight with more salt meaning less crisps. »

THE WORLD WE HAVE LOST ... CONTINUED

» There was a bowling green in the garden and a game was in progress. Suddenly the dog joined in chasing the balls and rearranging them having had a pee on the grass. All hell broke loose and I was in serious trouble

I was in a pub recently when a couple came with a very loud telephone playing a comedy show. It was not long before someone asked for it to be turned down. Eventually it was, with the comment that what did we expect as it was pub. What I expect is some respect for others. Now that many more family groups are going into pubs, do some parents feel the same as this couple that anything goes? I witnessed a family group eating where most of the food seemed to go on the floor rather than in their mouths with ketchup smeared across the table which all took some serious cleaning up. Had I behaved like that I would have been exiled to the garden for a month with the birds and dog to tidy up after me. Perhaps we should bring back children's rooms.

Finally, a brief word about food and the unnecessary use of adjectives, superlatives and meaningless words and phrases dominating food descriptions. Charles Dickens describes many meals in the coaching inns. What would he have made of his pork chops described as specially selected tender cuts of pork gently cooked to delicious perfection? He would have spluttered in his porter. I came across a new one last week. How do you sex up mushy peas? You call them gently crushed peas. What kind of garbage is this?

*Bola Southwell
Aka the Grumpy Old Man*

CAMRA MEMBER PUB DISCOUNTS

The following pubs give discounts to card carrying CAMRA members

Pub	Location	Scheme
Golden Lion	Brixham	10% off cask beers
The Queens Arms	Brixham	Mondays real ale £3.50 pint
The Cherub Inn	Dartmouth	10% off a pint
The Palk Arms	Hennock	15% off a pint Monday-Friday
The Sloop	Kingskerswell	10% off cask beers
Dartmouth Inn	Newton Abbot	30p off a pint
Maltings Taphouse	Newton Abbot	10% off cask & keg
The Railway	Newton Abbot	10% off bar bill
Torbay Inn	Paignton	10% off a pint
Waterside Inn	Paignton	10% off a pint
The Green Dragon	Stoke Fleming	10% off a pint
The Church House Inn	Stokeinteignhead	30p off a pint
The Castle Inn	Stoke Gabriel	40p off a pint
The Kents	Torquay	50p off a pint Monday-Friday
The Old Engine House	Torquay	10% off cask beers
TQ Beerworks	Torquay	10% off a pint
Yates	Torquay	10% off a pint
Totnes Brewing Co	Totnes	10% off TBC brews

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