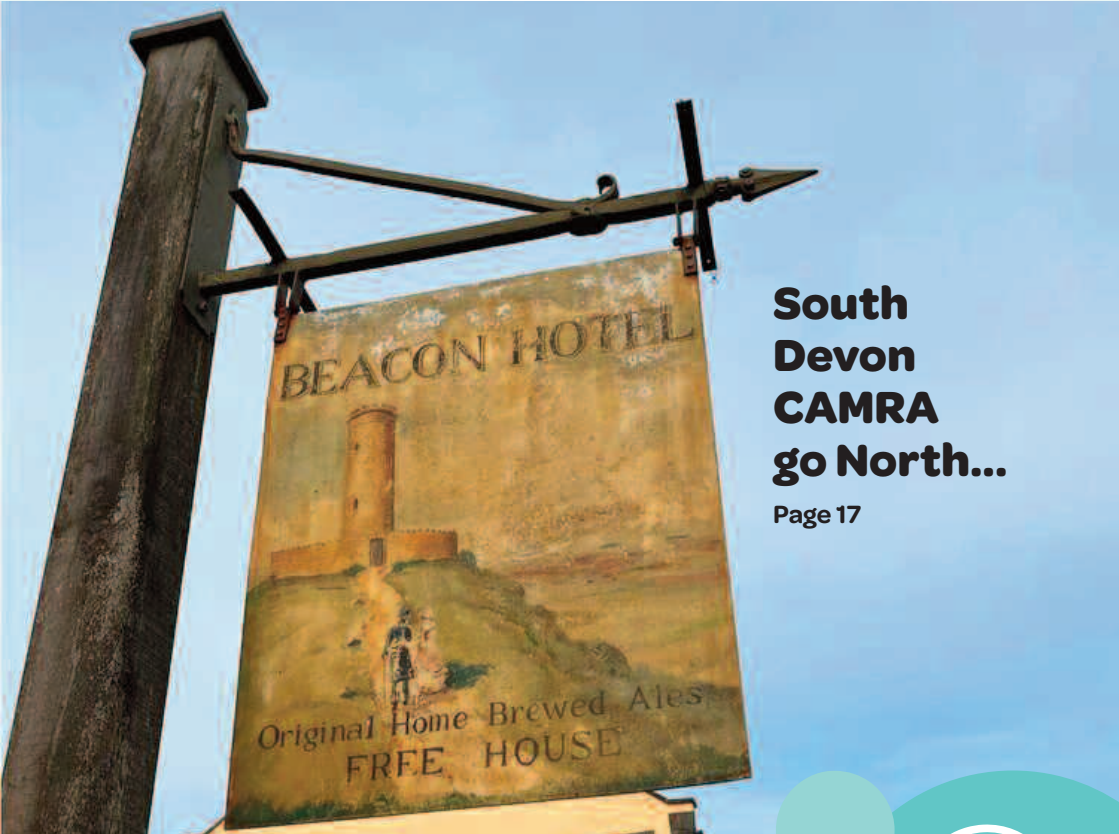


82ND EDITION

WINTER 2024



**South
Devon
CAMRA
go North...**

Page 17



South Devon CAMRA
Supporting Real Ale in the South West



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WELCOME

to the Winter 2024 edition of South Devon CAMRA branch magazine.



I'm Lawrence, your new editor, having taken over from Andrew Thomson. Initially I would like to thank Andrew for successfully editing and managing this magazine for a number of years and wish him well in the future.

Andrew was 'News and Brews' for a long while and the amount of work he did is shown by the fact there are three or four of us now involved in its production. I'm the editor and am ably accompanied by Ian Packham who handles the advertising and is our branch Treasurer and Vice Chairman, and Alan Cooke and David Wheeler our website and Whatpub coordinator and branch secretary respectively who head up the magazine distribution. They are also assisted by a number of our members who visit pubs and clubs to deliver the finished article.

In this edition you will find a mixture of Pub and Brewery news together with various articles written by CAMRA members and of course some of the old favourites such as Mr Grumpy. The heading on the front cover refers to the visit we made to Sarah Hughes brewery in October to present an award which they had won at our Sunshine Beer festival in July and there is more on this inside, together with details of our trips and beer festivals during the next few months. There is also an 'outside inn' article written by a couple of members of another CAMRA branch who accompanied us on one of our midweek socials.

Finally, here's a trivia question. Have you ever been Zebra Stripping? Well if you habitually alternate between alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks in a session apparently that's what you have been doing.

I do hope you enjoy reading this edition and please let me know if you have any news or information that can be included in future editions.

*Cheers for now,
 Lawrence Stringer*



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IN THIS EDITION...

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- **Pub and Brewery News** (page 8-9)
- **Dawdling in Devon** (page 12-13)
- **All Branches Social** (page 16)
- **South Devon Visit The Black Country** (page 17)
- **Seven Go Mad for Dorset** (page 20-21)
- **Grumpy's Lager Drinker's Con** (page 24-25)



THE GREEN DRAGON

STOKE FLEMING

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

You can find us on the South West Coastal path and the bus route. We are very dog friendly.

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

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WHAT'S ON

BRANCH MEETINGS & SOCIAL EVENTS

Date/Time	Purpose	Location
28 December, Midday	Post Christmas social in Totnes.	Start at the King William IV 45 Fore St, Totnes TQ9 5HN.
14 January, 19:30	Branch formal meeting	Maltings Taphouse Newton Abbot
22 January, 12:20	Midweek social to Ivybridge.	Meet Ivybridge station for arrival of 11.43 train from Teignmouth (Newton Abbot at 11:51 and Totnes at 12:04)
11 February	Branch formal meeting	Paignton Con Club (GBG selection)
19 February, 11:00	Midweek Social to Salcombe and Kingsbridge	Meet at Totnes station for the 164 bus. Return via Kingsbridge.
11 March, 19:30	Branch meeting	TQ Beerworks, Torquay
19 March	Midweek social to Ashburton and Buckfastleigh. Check website for latest information.	

BEER FESTIVALS 2025

Date	Event	Location
16 -18 January	Exeter Festival of Beer Exeter - see advert in this issue for opening times etc.	Corn Exchange EX1 1BW
31 January – 2 February	Albert Inn Winter Beer Festival	The Albert Inn, Bridgetown Totnes.
6 – 8 February	TQ Beerworks Winter Beer and Cider Festival - see advert in this issue	TQ Beerworks 1 Abbey Crescent. Torquay TQ2 5HB

Please check individual events prior to attending

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

The Blue Anchor, Teign Street, Teignmouth, Devon, TQ14 8EG
016267 72741 www.facebook.com/theblueanchorteignmouth

The Albert Inn

Home of Bridgetown Brewery

32 Bridgetown Totnes TQ9 5AD
01803 863214

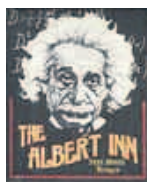


Bridgetown Brewery brews Albert Ale 3.8% abv; Bridgetown Bitter 4.2% abv; Shark Island Stout 4.5% abv and recently introduced Totnes Hemp Beer, Green Leaf 4% abv. There is also a selection of craft ales from around the world.

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.



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Good Beer Guide 23 Years & Britain's Best Real Heritage Pubs Guide
The Holy Grail of all Pubs - Phillip, CAMRA Member

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Open Daily Throughout The Year

PUB NEWS

The Albert Inn, Bridgetown, Totnes had a cracking Halloween Beer Festival. Many thanks to all - staff, musicians, catering and most of all everybody who attended" said landlord Giles Hawkins at the end of another highly successful festival. By the time you read this the Albert will have also have hosted it's annual Bridgetown Open Conker championship and a Burns Night bash.

Meanwhile the dates for the Albert's Winter Beer Festival have also been announced as Friday January 31 to Sunday February 2nd. This as normal will showcase the Bridgetown Brewery beer range (plus one or two specials) and a couple of ciders.

The big news for this quarter is that **The Bear and Blacksmith** in **Chillington** has reopened and is being run by Lou and her partner James who have moved to Devon from Kent where they ran successful pubs in and around the Sevenoaks and Tunbridge Wells areas.

In **St Marychurch**, the **Crown and Sceptre** also has a new landlord who reports that trade is growing. Dispensing ales from smaller casks has proved effective in improving beer quality.

In Wellswood, **Torquay, The Kents Tavern** has new landlords who have refurbished the kitchen and hope to retain four real ales on the bar.

The Palk Arms in **Hennock** continues to move in the right direction after a successful summer. More events are planned during the winter to tempt customers into the warm welcoming surroundings of the renovated pub. "Onwards and Upwards," said Palk landlord Mike Rowlands who also hopes to brew more test batches on his recently-acquired brewery for his customers to try.

On the subject of Winter festivals, **TQ Beerworks** in **Torquay** have a Winter Beer and Cider festival from 6th to 8th February.

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



BREWERY NEWS

Local Brewery **Bays** scored a record six accolades at the Food Drink Devon Awards 2024/25. Devon Rock came out on top, winning the much-coveted Platinum award, with the family-run brewery also given Gold in the Sustainability Pioneer and Retailer categories. Devon Dumpling and Pure Gold also both received Silver in the Producer award. Bays have brewed a seasonal ale for Christmas. Jingle Ale is a dark amber beer. Very apt for the Winter season and the fourth of Bays charity range of beers this year.

Over in Totnes, **Bridgetown Brewery** report the sad demise of Brewer George's umpteenth-year-old Burco boiler, but George has taken possession of a new 50L test brewing kit. Doubtless the fruits of George's experimenting will be available to sample at the Albert Inn Winter Beer Festival (31st Jan 2nd Feb 2025) along with the rest of the brewery beer range.

Now Festival season is over **Riviera Brewing** is busy for Christmas, Beers in production are: Christmas Gold 4%, hoppy, Santa Express 5.2 % a spiced special amber ale, Donner & Blitzed, a 4.2% session Amber plus the popular dark Ale Drunken Porter 4.1%.

These Cask Ales can be found on the pump in the Railway Inn, Tuckers Maltings Tap House in Newton Abbot and the Upside Ale Bar in Paignton from mid December.

Independent, family owned **Sandford Orchards** is celebrating two more awards for its hugely popular session cider, Devon Red. It scooped a Gold at the Food Drink Devon Awards and a Silver at the Great British Food Awards. These are in addition to the Gold it was awarded at the Taste of The West Awards earlier this year.

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Exeter Corn Exchange
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Public : £12 – inc. entry, glass, beer list and £4 of beer tokens

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DAWDLING IN DEVON

Nigel and Carol Fox from Huddersfield CAMRA branch visited us in February 2024 on our midweek social and wrote the following article when they returned home. We are pleased they had such a good time and happy to include their article in 'News and Brews'. Obviously the details are correct as of February this year.

"A coach trip with quite a few beers involved."

Carol and I booked with Caledonian Travel for a trip to stay in Torquay for 4 nights. We had a look at the local CAMRA scene and found out that South Devon had a trip to a small place called Chagford. An email to Alan Cooke at the branch sorted things out for joining them on the outing. More of that later.

Monday went quickly with obviously a fairly long trip down to Devon. The hotel was ok but the food at teatime was poor and so was throughout the week. We decided on a fairly short evening in Paignton the bus stop being just across the road from the Torbay Hotel and running until around 2am (First take notice!!!).

Around 20 mins to Paignton saw us at the Upside bar close to both bus and rail stations –it being in the end the only pub we visited as one other was closed. We had beers from Teignworthy which were good and also a couple of local ciders which were excellent. Back to Torquay and a decamp to Wetherspoons was had to finish the evening with beers from Teignworthy again and also Bays-the quality was very good indeed we thought.

Tuesday we thought was going to be fairly quiet as we explored Devon with the superb Devon bus ranger ticket(although one of us has the OAP bus pass so a nice freebie).In Exeter the Turks Head initially didn't look much from the outside but once in it was a revelation –it being a microbrewery with superb food-the beers had were Golden Axe, Dickies Best, Hand Off and also one from Hanlons all were very good indeed and the food was excellent and totally recommended. The staff also knowledgeable and chatty. Also that day we called in at the Chevalier in Exeter and Oakham 12 Monkeys which was OK. The end of the day was at the Railway in Newton Abbott which we didn't know had stopped brewing unfortunately. The beers were ok but Carol really wasn't happy with her Titanic Plum Porter (watery was the comment),my Dartmoor Jail ale was OK A quick pint in The Green Ginger spoons at Torquay finished off a rather good day(Ilkley Ruby Jane was good).

Wednesday was the Chagford day so looking forward to it we had a decent breakfast and set off to meet the branch at Exeter St Davids station for the 173 bus at 11.30am. Bus was late by about 15 mins though. To say the bus trip was interesting is a heck of an understatement-The first 20 mins or so are fairly standard but soon the large hedges and narrow roads appeared and we had to stop 3 times for cars to reverse and let us through. »

DAWDLING IN DEVON ... CONTINUED

» The back of the bus was full of the unruly mob going to Chagford and conversation was plentiful. Arrival around 12.40 and the four pubs were all within immediate sight in the small village/town? The Three Crowns, Ring O Bells and Globe all had basically the same beers on either Otter or St Austell which was a little disappointing although totally drinkable. The Chagford Inn however was much better and had a beer on from Tavistock and also a good cider too which we had. All too soon however we had to leave as the 15.20 is the last bus from Chagford to Exeter and arrival there was around 16.30pm. Carol and I decamped across the road from St Davids station to the Angel for a snifter and found to our liking beers from South Hams which were more than palatable; Eddystone and Stumble Bee were the two on.

Train back to Torquay and a visit along the road from our hotel to TQ Beerworks, fairly new by the sound of it and very good too as we had the Torbaydos and also a couple of bottled ciders. A very heavy day on the pop was had and we left TQ at 11.40pm much the worse for wear. Thursday was a bit of a dead one for us both on all fronts as the beer took its toll from the night before and the weather was shocking so we just toured round on the bus most of the day. Totnes was as nice as ever though apart from the breweries not being open, we did however opt for the King William IV for a Butcombe Original which was OK. Bussed it to Paignton and Henrys Bar for the almost ubiquitous Dartmoor IPA, Again OK only. Back to Torquay and the Green Ginger came to our rescue with a couple of cracking beers Ramsgate SheSellsSeaShells and Nottingham Centurion.

Home time on Friday and the long trip back.

A good few days though and if anyone is going to Devon please get in touch with the cracking people at either South Devon or Exeter CAMRA and you will have a really good day out.

Nigel & Carol Fox



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Campaign for Real Ale

Real stories, real people, real ale



ALL BRANCHES SOCIAL

BLUE ANCHOR, TEIGNMOUTH, SEPTEMBER 2024

The idea behind these meetings was to get together informally and socialise outside the restraints of more formal regional gatherings. It was originally conceived just for the four Devon branches, but it has now expanded to include Cornwall with Somerset and Bristol branches also now in attendance. The choice of venue has to be determined by good rail and bus connections. The inaugural meeting took place at the Beer Engine in Newton St. Cyre just above the station and now served by more stopping trains on the Okehampton line. It is also a brewery with lots of space to accommodate at least 60 people. They were also able to provide an excellent outside buffet whilst watching the trains go by.

I then suggested that South Devon host the next event in September 2023, but this was postponed for a year because of rail strikes. In September 2024 it went ahead with about 60 attending from at least 6 branches and much beer was consumed. I asked the landlord how much exactly and suggested 3 firkins His reply was and the rest. Unfortunately, the weather was not the best which restricted outside access. This meant that most of us were forced indoors which made it more difficult to circulate and talk to other members from other branches. Superb value pasties were on offer and went down very well and I can confirm that Exeter and East Devon ate the most pasties and are officially the greediest branch

A good day and thanks to Adele and Luke for all their hospitality. About 80 pounds was also raised for the Rowcroft hospice which was a superb achievement

The 2025 event is planned to be in Plymouth.

Bola Southwell

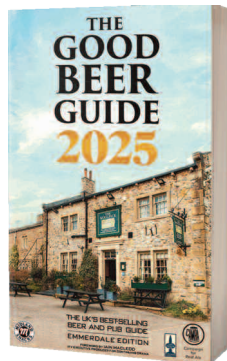
THE GOOD BEER GUIDE 2025

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.

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SOUTH DEVON VISIT THE BLACK COUNTRY

At our Sunshine Beer Festival I July, the winner of the regional beer of the festival was Sarah Hughes' 'Surprise'. Branch members were invited by the brewery to present their award and a valiant four made their way by Motor Caravan and other means to the shadow of Sedgely Beacon Hills where sits the Beacon Hotel and Brewery.

The brewery dates from 1852 and was bought by Sarah Hughes in 1921. It remained open, brewing home brewed ales until 1957 when it closed. The brewery was restored by John Hughes, the previous owner's grandson in 1987 and has been brewing ever since.

On arrival they were given the usual brewery tour which in the words of Dave Buckler (one of the four)



Head Brewer Ricky Follo, gave us a tour of the brewery - everything is gravity fed with the brewery being on 3 levels - everything is still very olde worlde with just a few newer additions - the majority of the equipment dates back to the beginning of the last century. Ricky described the brewery as a 'museum'. The presentation took place afterwards. We headed to the bar after this to sample some of the beers and meet up with Les and Jackie who arrived soon after. We were joined by Gary Timmins, CAMRA National Director and John Corser, Chairman of Dudley and South Staffordshire CAMRA branch.

This wasn't the end of the hospitality provided by Dudley and South Staffordshire CAMRA members who invited Dave and Amanda., Les and Jackie to their Saturday social. More on this is in Dave's article on our website and thanks must go to Dudley and South Staffordshire branch for looking after the few from South Devon who made the trip.

The brewery and hotel are holding a beer festival the Dudley Winter Ales Fayre on 28-30 November.

Lawrence Stringer

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SEVEN GO MAD FOR DORSET

Four of us met up at The Union rooms for a spot of breakfast before departing by car to Dorset where none of us had been before.

Our first port of call was a lovely village of Cerne Abbas, famous for the chalk sculpture of a Giant; a naked man with a large “erect manhood” wielding a club. This is also happens to be the symbol of the Giant Dingle magazine from West Dorset CAMRA branch.

It was here where we met up with Bristol Pete. Then after it was a gentle stroll through the village to have a drink in the Royal Oak where a sample of Mill Porter by Cerne Abbas brewery went down very well with a beer score of 4. The weather was very good and we were able to sit outside in the beer garden.

Then it was off to check into our hotel in Dorchester before heading off to visit a few of the local pubs. Our first pub was The Blue Raddle and a chance to try Gurt Stout, once, again from Cerne Abbas brewery which was excellent. The local micro pub Convivial Rabbit located down a small alley way was also visited.

On the high street was Tom Browns, a popular pub with a large selection of both cider and craft beer. What was also noted was in many of the pubs we visited in Dorset many pubs had a skittle alley. After breakfast the good Captain and The Funny Man had a quick visit to see The Tutankhamun Exhibition as well as a quick visit to The Jurassic Park museum complete with dinosaurs, which they had to tell us, were not real!

Then we were off to our next destination of Portland, which is almost an island south of Weymouth. It is famous for Portland stone which has been used in many buildings around the world and forms part of The Jurassic coast world heritage site. The harbour of Portland and Weymouth is one of the largest natural harbours on the planet and was an important embarkation port for D-Day, as well as being used for the sailing events for the 2012 Olympic Games. Just over the causeway is the port area where you can visit The D-Day museum and see part of the huge mulberry harbour used during D-Day out on the water.

After a quick look around it was off to visit Portland Bill at the top of the island famous for its red and white lighthouse. It was here where we met up with The Colonel who had travelled down from Blackpool to join us. Then it was a short bus ride to visit The George Inn where London pride and Courage Directors were on offer. Then it was Portland Social club, formally a Royal British Legion club which welcomes CAMRA members. Available was very pleasant session pale ale from Gloucester brewery.

Just across the road was a very shabby looking pub called The Royal Portland Arms, the sort of pub which is easy to walk by. Looks however, can be deceptive indeed. The beers were superb, especially Mariners Clearwater. A proper pub with no music or TV distractions with friendly people. Well worth a visit. »

SEVEN GO MAD FOR DORSET ... CONTINUED

» Then we were off again by bus down to the beach area and a visit to the Cove House Inn, a popular folk music venue. Box Steam Tunnel Vision was very well received. Our last pub visited was the nearby Ship Inn where we had Adnams broadside.

The following day we were off to Bridport via the lovely seaside town of West Bay where we all met up at The West Bay Hotel for a spot of lunch. On offer was a selection of Palmers ales from the nearby brewery.

Upon arriving in Bridport our first pub visited was the Tiger Inn where I had Jurassic from Dorset brewing company. The nearby Woodman pub was where we found Sunshine Reggae from Fine Tuned Brewery. The Pursuit of Hoppiness, a micro pub on the high street, was so busy with many people drinking outside we decided to visit later in the evening. It was worth the wait. This was an excellent night concluding with taking in live music and Tally Ho in the Ropemakers.

On our last day we visited Lyme Regis where the sunshine really bought out the crowds. It is a lovely picturesque place. The Lyme Regis brewery tap was visited and Lyme Gold, Revenge and Tow Mill best were all sampled and enjoyed. It is worth noting that it doesn't open in the evenings.

After a leisurely stroll along the beach our last pub visited was The Cobb Inn again Palmers ales were on offer.

Sitting outside eating some seafood from the nearby wet fish shop was a perfect way for us to finish our trip along the Jurassic Coast.

A great few days with jolly company as well.


Phil Ward

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ARE LAGER DRINKERS BEING CONNED?

I last drank lager many years ago and was not impressed. It was somewhat superficial, lacking taste and depth, cold and fizzy and relatively expensive.

Although I can't recall the year, I quickly returned to drinking Young's Ordinary bitter. You might well ask is Grumpy now writing about lager rather than real Ale?

I have been looking at the machinations of the multinational brewing companies operating across borders. In particular, where the lagers are brewed and whether any deception might be involved. It should be obvious that it would be totally uneconomical to transport a heavy and bulky product like beer around the world rather than produce it in the country of sale. However, it would appear from surveys that many people believe that the beer is made abroad and imported in to this country. Nothing can be further truth as all lagers sold in the UK appear to be brewed in this country. Much is made of snow packed mountains, sun drenched plains and medieval Germanic names all invoking romantic and nostalgic imagery. Unfortunately, the UK brewing locations hardly enhances these images.

One of the more recent lagers on the market is Sierra Madri. Clearly a Spanish company with Sierra bit referring to the jagged teeth on a saw resembling mountain peaks. It's brewed at Tadcaster and when I went there was no sign of the jagged peaks with the highest point being a disused railway viaduct over the river. That lesser known part of Bavaria called Northampton produce Kronenbourg, Carlsberg, San Miguel and Fosters. A far cry from most people's memories of San Miguel quenching their thirst sitting around a holiday pool. Another glamour spot is the Magor brewery in South Wales producing the delicious Budweiser, Stella Artois and Corona originally from The Czech Republic, Belgium and Mexico. Not to be left out, Manchester is the home of Heineken, Moretti and Cruzcampo. Burton on Trent has Carling and Luton has Becks and Chiswick, Peroni. This is not fully comprehensive and the whole picture is highly complex.

Clearly, brand loyalty in the lager market is very strong. A few years ago, a local publican brought in some quality Czech lager and attempted to sell it at a highly competitive price. He was unable to sell it as the clientele wouldn't shift from their Fosters to something they didn't know. Obviously, it was not about price with the whole image created by advertising being more important. Generally, lager advertising was low on substance, but high on the image aspects. The Hofmeister ad featured a cuddly bear with a jack the lad approach to life. The ads had to be withdrawn when it was realised that the age group most readily identifying with the products were the under 12s. Then there were the Fosters ads which were both very simplistic and chauvinistic as when the truck laden with beer collapsed when a bottle of sherry for the 'sheilas' was added. There was also the Stella ad informing us that it was reassuringly expensive. During the football European cup I was very much amused that English fans were only to be sold half strength beer which would make it about 2.5 percent. »

ARE LAGER DRINKERS BEING CONNED? ... CONTINUED

» My first thought was that it was not a lot weaker than some of the British lagers. My second thought revolved around practicality and how to avoid selling it to native Germans? Don't mess with a German's beer unless you want a riot on your hands unfortunately, English football fans have a bad reputation and when football is at the Millenium Stadium the bars are closed. On the other hand, when rugby is on the bars remain open. What does this tell us? Rugby followers are more likely to be real ale drinkers and yet cause very little trouble. On average real ale is probably a little stronger and this cannot explain the different behaviours. Is it a matter of volumes. Lager is probably easier to drink whereas 8 pints of a 4 percent beer would wreck quite a few people.

Back to the question of whether lager drinkers are being conned. If a sizeable number of lager drinkers believe that their lager is brewed abroad and the brewers don't disabuse them of this view or quietly acquiesce in this interpretation then the con seems complete.

Bola Southwell
Aka the Grumpy Old Man

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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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