



- **Do some lobbying.** CAMRA often asks people to write to their MP or local councillor. The quantity of letters received is what makes an impact and it only takes a few minutes. If you would like to be involved, just ensure that CAMRA's Membership staff have your email address. Simply email camra@camra.org.uk saying that you are happy for CAMRA to contact you and quoting your name and either your address or CAMRA membership number.

- **Volunteer at a beer festival.** Most CAMRA festivals are looking for help and usually no experience is necessary. You can do anything from volunteering for a few hours to getting involved in the planning and maybe managing a section. And it's not all about serving beer and cider. There is front of house, glasses, membership, products and even sometimes games and catering. Contact any of the local festivals listed in the pages in What's Brewing or visit www.camra.org.uk/beerfestivals. There are CAMRA beer festivals happening most weeks of the year.

- **Work at a national beer festival.** Again, you don't need any experience to help at one of CAMRA's national events. These include the Great British Beer Festival in London in August and the National Winter Ales Festival, which takes place in the first two months in the year and the venue varies. You could also volunteer to help at CAMRA's Members' Weekend, which incorporates the AGM and Conference and always has a beer festival. Venues vary from year to year. Look out for more details in What's Brewing or on CAMRA's website.

A little more time?

- **Become a Brewery Liaison or Pubs Group Liaison Officer.** This entails meeting representatives, writing reports to keep the rest of CAMRA up to date and giving relevant information to the representatives. Contact your local branch in the first place.
- **Join a Branch Committee.** Each branch has lots of jobs that need doing and offer a great way of using your skills or gaining new ones. Some take a reasonable time commitment, others not so much. Besides the usual Chair, Secretary and Treasurer, typical posts include: press officer, public affairs officer, LocAle coordinator, pubs officer, webmaster, newsletter editor, cider coordinator, social secretary, membership secretary and young members' rep, so there is plenty to choose from! You can find details of the roles on the volunteers' section of the CAMRA website: www.camra.org.uk/jobguidelines
- **Join a Beer Festival Committee.** Anything from looking after beer to selling sponsorship! Contact your local beer festival. For a full list see: www.camra.org.uk/yearofbeer
- **Join a National Committee.** Some committees are on the lookout for people with specialist skills including IT, planning, finance, marketing, sales, PR, publishing and lots more. If you think this might be for you, see the list of committees and their remits: www.camra.org.uk/nationalcommittees

CAMRA has over 5,000 volunteers all over the country involved with doing everything from running branches, running beer festivals, lobbying MPs, liaising with breweries, surveying pubs and much, much more. Some involve going to meetings, many do not. There is something to suit everyone.

Why not get involved on your doorstep?

For more information contact:
BOLTON CAMRA
www.boltoncamra.org.uk

Volunteer Leaflet



CAMPAIGN
FOR
REAL ALE



www.camra.org.uk/volunteering



CAMRA, the Campaign for Real Ale, is run by its members supported by a small team of paid staff. Without members like you we would never have achieved our successes and seen the phenomenal growth of real ale and brewers.

Most members would like to do something to help but don't know where to begin. This leaflet covers how you can make a difference, whether you have only 10 minutes a month or could spare an hour per week. It all counts towards driving the Campaign forward.

What's in it for you?

- A chance to use your skills in a different environment.
- Satisfaction that you are helping to protect pubs and campaign for good beer.
- A chance to learn new skills such as writing, lobbying, project planning, tasting, people management and even public speaking – to name just a few.
- Sociability – needless to say CAMRA members like to meet up in a pub and it doesn't matter where you are in the country, there is a branch to welcome you, even if you are just visiting the area.
- Chance to go on brewery trips, meet brewers and understand more about beer.
- Fun – although what CAMRA seeks to achieve is serious, we believe in having fun while you are doing it.
- And getting involved with a not for profit organisation (which is what CAMRA is) always looks good on the CV!

This leaflet gives you just a few ideas of how you could get involved. See the volunteer section on CAMRA's website for more details: www.camra.org.uk or contact your local branch. You'll find the details of all branches at www.camra.org.uk/branches or, alternatively, you'll find the details of your local branch in the What's On pages of What's Brewing.



What could you do?

Not much time?

- **Become a beer scorer.** CAMRA runs a scheme whereby members fill in a form online about the quality of real ale they have drunk in a pub. Branches use the data to help choose which pubs are worth considering for CAMRA's Good Beer Guide. It doesn't matter in which pubs you do the tasting, whether at home or on holiday. It is particularly helpful in rural areas where branches can struggle to get around the pubs, no experience necessary (just read the instructions on the website) – and no meetings. Visit www.camra.org.uk/nbss for further details.
- **Adopt a pub (or two).** Most branches have more pubs in their area than they can possibly keep up to date with. All that is needed is to drop the local branch a note of any changes you see. This might be a change in landlord, a refurbishment, a change in beer stocking policy or the introduction of a real cider. All information is really welcome, so just contact your local branch.
- **Join a tasting panel.** After some initial training (usually about 2-3 hours), this requires someone to fill in tasting cards on the beer they have drunk. These descriptions go into the Good Beer Guide and the scoring is taken into account for CAMRA's Champion Beer of Britain competition. See www.camra.org.uk/tastingpanel for more details and where you can find the chair of the tasting panel closest to you. Please note you will have to log in to the Members Area to view this detail.

A little time?

- **Help with the local newsletter.** Most branches have a local newsletter or contribute to a regional one. You could write the occasional article, maybe on a local pub or pub crawl. Alternatively what about helping to distribute the newsletter? This would mean committing to visiting a few pubs when the newsletter comes out. The frequency can be anything from quarterly to monthly. Contact your local branch for more information.
- **Assist with the branch website, Facebook or Twitter.** Maybe write something for the branch website or help with social media. Some branches lack experience in this area and are looking for people with the skills to help. Contact your local branch if this appeals to you.
- **Survey some pubs. Once a year, branches:**
 - Survey their pubs to go forward to CAMRA's Good Beer Guide.
 - Undertake a prices survey; the information is collated centrally and then forms a national report on beer prices, which is used for campaigning as well as publicity.

Some branches also do local guides on an ad hoc basis, which require more comprehensive surveying. Contact your local branch if you would like to help.