

Pembrokeshire Branch's monthly E-newsletter to keep you informed on what CAMRA is doing in our County.

Feel free to contact us (e-mail addresses below) if you have any questions or suggestions.

Better still, why not come along to a Branch Meeting or Social? You will find us a friendly, welcoming bunch of fellow real ale and cider lovers who will be glad to see you.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL PEMBROKESHIRE CAMRA MEMBERS!

NADOLIG LLAWEN A BLYWYDDYN NEWYDD DDA I HOLL AELODAU CAMRA YNG NGHANGEN SIR BENFRO!

Remember to visit your local and enjoy a good pint over the Festive season. Our pubs need all the help they can get after CoVID and the cost of living crisis. Use them or lose them...

IECHYD DA!

WHAT WE'VE BEEN DOING:

MORE FINE PUBS FOR OUR NOVEMBER BRANCH MEETING

There was again an excellent turnout for our November Branch meeting in Little Haven. Branch activist Paul Padgett again gives us his account of the day:

Having boldly ventured to the south of the county last month, an intrepid band of Pembs CAMRA members heeded the call to "Go West, young man" on Saturday November 19th, although how many of us could be regarded as "young men" may be open to debate.

Our destination was Little Haven on the coast of St Brides Bay, which is certainly a very picturesque village and bay with impressive cliffs. Our first port of call was *The Swan*, which directly overlooks the bay. It was really quite busy, in spite of it being November, thanks in part to the Autumn Internationals rugby game from the Principality Stadium being shown on the TV. The friendly landlord, also called Paul, claims the *Swan* was built in 1785. It has a cosy interior with wood floors and tables, and the Bluestone and Bass beers were served by gravity from the barrels on view behind the bar. Sadly the Bass wasn't in top condition. The Bluestone beers were Stone Cold IPA and one I didn't know and can't find on the website called something like Wakahu. Also a pale, hoppy beer, but bit too citrusy or something for my malt-loving palate. As possibly none of us were totally over the moon with the beers on offer, it was decided to move on once the official business was concluded.

As the *Castle* was closed, we walked all of 20 yards or so to the *St Brides Hotel*. It's remarkable that somewhere as small as Little Haven manages to keep three pubs going (I hope that's not tempting fate!). We pondered that visitors and coast path walkers must help to boost their trade. Keith Johnson says in his book that the *Swan* closed in 2002, so someone did a good job of reviving a nice old pub. The *St Brides* was even cosier and full of character, and also boasted four hand pumps with Sea Fury, Atlantic, one that I've forgotten and my favourite Caffle West Bitter. The Caffle website describes it as "Chestnut coloured bitter from a blend of four malts", so the perfect pint for a lover of good old-fashioned bitters like yours truly. Eventually we all departed duly refreshed.

Another very enjoyable outing and, in my case, two more splendid Pembs pubs that I had never been to before but would most certainly return to.

We have a fine local hostelry planned for our next Branch Meeting and AGM next Saturday, 17th December, and two fine village pubs planned for the following Branch meeting in January (see below). Why not join us!

WHAT WE'RE DOING NEXT:

December AGM and Christmas Dinner: Saturday 17th December, 13.00, The Corner Piece, Rudbaxton.

Always a highlight of our year. Enjoy a sumptuous Festive Feast if you've booked it with our Chairman Nigel and regardless and enjoy fine local ales whilst electing your Branch Officers for the coming year. You are welcome to attend the AGM regardless of whether you are partaking of the Dinner. *Remember to bring your CAMRA Membership Card to vote at the AGM.*

T5 bus from Fishguard leaves 11.50, calls Letterston 12.04, arrives 12.15. From Haverfordwest the T5 leaves 12.40, arriving about 12.50. There are T5's to Letterston and Fishguard at 16.20, 17.09 and 18.39, arriving Letterston 16.34, 17.23 and 18.53, and at 16.55, 17.43 and 19.10, Fishguard, and to Haverfordwest at 16.07 and 18.07 arriving at 16.26 and 18.26. The T5 stops outside, or opposite, the *Corner Piece* if you ask the driver.

January Branch Meeting and Branch Social: one is on Saturday January 14th and the other on Saturday January 21st

This depends on whether and if there is a rail strike on either of the Saturdays (it is very unlikely there will be one on both!). If there is a rail strike on either Saturday, the **Branch Meeting** will be on the **strike Saturday** and the **Social** will be on the **non-strike** Saturday. Keep both dates free and watch this space for further announcements!

January Branch Meeting at 14.00, at The Bristol Trader, Quay Street, Haverfordwest SA61 1BE.

January Branch Social at 14.00 at The Station House, next door to the train station, **Whitland,** Carmarthenshire, jointly with Carmarthenshire Branch of CAMRA. This is one of the best pubs in West Wales, on the border between Pembrokeshire and Carmarthenshire. The landlord has promised to get in some special beers for us.

Train leaves Haverfordwest at 13.15 arriving Whitland at 13.37. Train back leaves Whitland at 17.48, arrives Haverfordwest 18.11 (in time for the last T5 bus northbound at 18.30). Train leaves Pembroke Dock at 13.09, calling Pembroke at 13.17 and Tenby 13.38, arriving at Whitland 14.13. Train back leaves Whitland at 17.16, arriving Tenby 17.45, Pembroke at 18.07 and Pembroke Dock 18.20.

February Branch Meeting: Saturday 4th February at the Ship Aground Dinas Cross at 14.00.

After the meeting we shall also sample the beers on offer – likely to include at least one from Coles - in the *Freemasons* almost across the road.

T5 bus from Haverfordwest 12.35, calling at Letterston 12.59 and leaving Fishguard 13.20 arrives Dinas 13.29. Bus back leaves Dinas at 17.35, calling at Fishguard 17.45, Letterston 18.02, and arriving at Haverfordwest 18.26.

February Branch Social – Brewpub Tour Special: Saturday 25th February, Cross Inn Cwmfelin (home of the Cerddin Brewery) and Coach Inn Bridgend (home of the Coach Inn Brewery).

Meet Haverfordwest Station 0900. The 0915 train from Haverfordwest arrives Bridgend 1128. The next train to Garth is the 1148 arrives 1207, or we could visit the *Coach* (10 mins walk from Bridgend station) and get the 1245 arriving 1302, or the 1345 arriving 1404. The *Cross* is 7 mins walk from Garth rail station.

To connect with the last T5 bus at 1830 from Haverfordwest to Letterston, Fishguard etc we will be on the 1601 from Bridgend arriving 1811. If we drink in Bridgend first then we will catch the 1519 from Garth arriving Bridgend 1537. If we start in Garth, we get the 1420 from Garth, arriving Bridgend 1438.

Final arrangements as to which pub we visit first will be made on the day once on the train from Haverfordwest.

NOTE THAT THIS DEPENDS ON THE TRAINS RUNNING ON THE DAY. Watch this space for further announcements if a strike is planned.

RECRUITMENT DRIVE – GET CAMRA LEAFLET STANDS INTO OUR PUBS!!

Our Secretary has obtained large supplies of the excellent “Ten Great Reasons to Join CAMRA” recruitment leaflet from CAMRA HQ. We also have supplies of the Welsh-language version, “10 rheswm gwyh i ymuno â CAMRA”. Furthermore we have the cardboard display stands for these. Our Secretary will demonstrate the origami needed to erect these at the next Branch meetings!

All we need now is for members to take a couple of stands and leaflets to put, with the landlord/lady’s permission of course, in your local real ale pubs. This will let local ale and cider drinkers see that there is a CAMRA Branch active round here, and hopefully recruit some more members.

Can you help? Let our Secretary know – at a Branch meeting when he will be able to give you the leaflets and stands or by email on secretary@pembrokeshire.camra.org.uk. In the latter case we can drop the leaflets and stands round to you or if that’s not feasible post them.

OTHER NEWS

Siaradwyr Cymraeg dal eisiau!

Hoffen ni estyn allan at y gymuned Gymraeg yn ein hardal. Mae Ysgrifennydd y Gangen, Steve, yn dysgu Cymraeg (wel, mae e'n newydd wedi basio ei arholiad Myndediad!) ond hoffen ni gynnwys siaradwyr Cymraeg rhugl wrth ysgrifennu erthyglau hon a chylchgrawn Cangen posibl yn y dyfodol. Gallwch chi helpu? Cysylltwch ag Ysgrifennydd y Gangen yn secretary@pembrokeshire.camra.org.uk

CHECK OUT OUR BRANCH WEBSITE:

www.pembrokeshire.camra.org.uk

Keep up to date with the latest goings on in the Real Ale Scene in Pembrokeshire. Articles and information always welcome to WebsiteCo-ordinator@pembrokeshire.camra.org.uk

Cheers!

Nigel Skipper Chairman chairman@pembrokeshire.camra.org.uk

Steve Brady Secretary secretary@pembrokeshire.camra.org.uk