

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.

A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL PEMBROKESHIRE CAMRA MEMBERS!

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

Thinking about "Dry January"? You might also want give a thought to the health of your local. January is one of the hardest months of the year for our pubs, hit already by CoVID and the cost of living crisis, notably vastly increased heating and electricity bills. Customers cutting back in January is perhaps the last thing they need in the current circumstances.

WHAT WE'VE BEEN DOING:

FESTIVE AGM FEASTING IN DECEMBER

A record turnout of members enjoyed a splendid repast and some excellent Caffle ales at the *Corner Piece* in Rudbaxton on December 17th.

We elected the following Officers:

Office	Elected
Chair	Nigel Skipper
Vice Chair	Nick Miles
Secretary	Steve Brady
Treasurer	Nick Miles
Membership Secretary	John Padget
Media Contact	Jon O'Brien
Pubs Protection Officer	Nigel Skipper
Branch Website Administrator	Jon O'Brien
Branch Contact	Nigel Skipper
Pubs Database Co-ordinator	Paul Padget
GBG Co-ordinator	Steve Brady

Since the meeting Nigel Skipper has indicated that he would prefer to fulfil the role of Pubs Liaison Officer, keeping in touch with pubs in our area as he has been doing most ably for many years, rather than what would be a new role for him, Pubs Protection Officer, leading the Branch in defending pubs from closure. So would anyone like to step forward to be our Pubs Protection Officer, campaigning to stop pubs being closed down? Please let me or our Chairman know if interested, or come along to our next Branch Meetings or Socials and discuss it with us?

An example of the sort of thing in which our new PPO could play a leading role has recently arisen, when Branch members were amongst those to object to a Planning Application submitted over the Festive season holidays, to shut down the *Gwesty Bach* in Castle Morris, for over 35 years a thriving local serving good ale at the heart of its village community, to turn it into yet another second home for a wealthy outsider. We shall keep you posted on developments.

Meanwhile the campaign by the local community, in supporting which our Branch has been actively involved from the outset, to buy their village pub, the *Cross Inn* in Haycastle Cross, is gathering momentum. There may shortly be an opportunity to buy shares on advantageous tax terms in this project. Watch this space!

NEW MICROBREWERY OPENING IN HAVERFORDWEST

Our roving reporter, Paul Padget, discovered a new local brewery, *Core of the Poodle*, opening in the record shop of the same name. After dropping in on December 21st to investigate and sample the beers, he got the following e-mail from the brewer, which may be of interest to members:

Paul,

Thanks for coming along last night and for the chat about beer.

Early days for the brewing, but the aim is to provide small batch brewing with 5-6 core beers:

Haverfordbest - 4.2% best bitter, fuggles hops, straightforward brew and session beer.

Pembrokeshire IPA ~5.4% still working on the recipe

Dark Coast Mild 3.8% - dark mild, again still formulating the recipe

+ 1 other cask beer, to be determined.

In addition I'll produce the Kolsch and maybe other keg beer.

The aim is to sell for consumption in the shop and as off-sales (we sold a firkin last night) as well as some wholesale to a limited number of local outlets, but will see how the market develops.

Once a few more brews are in place, happy to host a CAMRA visit and further discussion.

Thanks

Malc

Dr Malcolm Herbert, Core Of The Poodle Ltd, 26 Market St, Haverfordwest SA61 1NH

We will, as ever, keep you posted.

Any other local brewers, or publicans, doing anything likely to be of interest to local CAMRA members please feel free to contact our Secretary and Newsletter editor, Steve, at the e-mail address below and we shall be delighted to share the glad tidings!

WHAT WE'RE DOING NEXT:

January Joint Branch Social with Carmarthenshire CAMRA on Saturday January 14th

Given there is a legal requirement to give 14 days' notice of industrial action, and none has been received affecting the railways for Saturday 14th, we are going to have our **Joint Branch Social with Carmarthenshire CAMRA on the afternoon of Saturday 14th at the Station House, next to the station in Whitland**. We will be joined by our neighbouring Carmarthenshire CAMRA members at this splendid hostelry, one of the best Real ale pubs in West Wales, and the landlord has kindly offered to try to get some interesting ales in for us.

Travel arrangements:

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

January Branch Meeting Saturday 21st January 2pm at the ***Bristol Trader***, Quay Street, Haverfordwest SA61 1BE at 14.00.

Bus T5 leaves Fishguard at 11.50 and Letterston at 12.04, arrives Haverfordwest 12.26 (in time for a pint and a spot of lunch at 'Spoons, which is very near the Bristol Trader), last T5 back leaves Haverfordwest at 18.30, arriving Letterston 18.53 and Fishguard 19.03

February Branch Meeting on **Saturday 4th February at the *Ship Aground* Dinas Cross** at 14.00. After this we shall also try the interesting local ales at the *Freemasons* in the same village.

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.

These two meetings are close together because they will discuss and decide what pubs we will submit for the **2024 Good Beer Guide, the deadline for which is 6th March.**

Please let me or our Chairman Nigel know any pubs not in the 2023 edition you think worthy of inclusion, and any in there you think no longer should be, and if so why (having permanently closed is, sadly, an all-too-common reason nowadays).

We will need to survey our GBG pubs, arrangements for which will be confirmed at the Jan. and Feb. meetings. This will involve visiting our best pubs and trying their ales – no doubt some will volunteer for this arduous task for the good of our Campaign! *Note that all discussion of GBG entries is confidential to Branch members, and any landlords or pub employees need to resile themselves and withdraw whilst we discuss these.*

The January meeting will also decide on our February Branch Social (rugby permitting). **The Brewpub Crawl at Bridgend planned for February is now on March 25th,** to avoid Six Nations matches – Wales are playing on the original date and we would not wish to clash with this!

March Branch Social – Brewpub Tour Special: Saturday 25th March, 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, “*Deg 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 hoffon 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