

## FEBRUARY 2023 BRANCH NEWSLETTER

Pembrokeshire Branch is delighted to send you our 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.

**NOTE BRANCH MEETING SCHEDULED FOR 4<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY IS NOW ON the 18<sup>th</sup>** – Wales are playing Ireland on the 4<sup>th</sup>, but there is no 6 Nations rugby on the 18<sup>th</sup>! See below for details.

### WHAT WE'VE BEEN DOING:

#### Convivial Two-Branch CAMRA Social on Saturday 14th January



About ten members of our Branch joined about the same number of members of our neighbours in Carmarthenshire CAMRA for our joint social on Saturday 14th, in the splendid surroundings of noted local real ale hostelry the *Station House* in Whitland, on the border between our two counties. An excellent time was had by all and new friends were made, bonded by our shared love of good beer. The merry scene is pictured above.

We hope that this will be the first of many joint activities of our two neighbouring Branches. We have invited Carmarthenshire to join us on our brewpub crawl in the Bridgend area on 25<sup>th</sup> March (see below).

## **PUBS AND BREWERY NEWS**

It is with great regret that we have to announce the demise of Caffle Brewery, after ten years brewing interesting local ales with quirky names. The brewer says that the economic situation, rising costs etc. make it impossible to carry on.

Sadly this is not an isolated case. We can do our bit by drinking lots of local beer and cider (responsibly, of course!) and **by supporting CAMRA's campaign to lobby our local MP's** to help save our pubs and breweries by writing to the Chancellor or asking a Parliamentary Question in the House of Commons asking the Chancellor to:

- *Reduce duty charged on draught beer and cider served in pubs and taprooms by 20% from August 2023, helping venues compete with the likes of supermarket alcohol*
- *Increase support with energy bills for beer and pub businesses from April*
- *Offer further funding for the Welsh Government to offer help with business rates for hospitality businesses, in recognition of their community value.*

To send an e-mail supporting this to your local MP click on <https://camra.e-activist.com/page/121106/action/1>

Any 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 tidings, hopefully better ones than the sad news above.

## **WHAT WE'RE DOING NEXT:**

**February Branch Meeting on Saturday 18th February at the *Ship Aground* Dinas Cross at 14.00.** After this we may 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.*

This meeting will decide what pubs we will submit for the **2024 Good Beer Guide, the deadline for which is 6<sup>th</sup> 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 are currently surveying our potential GBG pubs. If you want to join us doing this, let me know on [secretary@pembrokeshire.camra.org.uk](mailto:secretary@pembrokeshire.camra.org.uk)

*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.*

**March Branch Social – Brewpub Tour Special: Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> 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 – but we hope to have a Social somewhere in that case, so keep the date free.**

### **Carmarthen Beer Festival Needs YOU!**

Carmarthenshire hope to run their Carmarthen Beer Festival again in October this year. They badly need new volunteers to help with this, indeed, to make it possible this year,. Volunteers are needed not just serving behind the bar but setting up and taking down the stillages before and after.

Nick, our Joint Vice-Chairman, is a regular volunteer there but we hope that other Branch members will step forward to help make West Wales' premier CAMRA Beer Festival as successful as ever this year. Steve, our Branch Secretary has already put his name down! We hope other Pembrokeshire members will join us.

Interested? Contact our Secretary on [secretary@pembrokeshire.camra.org.uk](mailto:secretary@pembrokeshire.camra.org.uk) to put your name down. More information as it becomes available.

### **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](mailto: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](mailto:secretary@pembrokeshire.camra.org.uk)

### **CHECK OUT OUR BRANCH WEBSITE:**

[www.pembrokeshire.camra.org.uk](http://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](mailto:WebsiteCo-ordinator@pembrokeshire.camra.org.uk)

Cheers!

Nigel Skipper, Chairman [chairman@pembrokeshire.camra.org.uk](mailto:chairman@pembrokeshire.camra.org.uk)

Steve Brady, Secretary [secretary@pembrokeshire.camra.org.uk](mailto:secretary@pembrokeshire.camra.org.uk)