

Pembrokeshire Branch is delighted to send you our monthly E-newsletter to keep you informed about 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.

HEADLINES:

2025 GBG SURVEY WELL UNDER WAY

February Branch Meeting and Social, Y Cross, Hayscastle Cross, Saturday 17th February, 2pm

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Recruitment Drive – Get CAMRA Publicity Material into our Pubs!!

Siaradwyr Cymraeg dal eisiau!

WHAT WE'VE BEEN DOING:

2025 GBG SURVEY WELL UNDER WAY

Throughout the past and coming few weeks, Branch members have been out and about surveying our local pubs for their worthiness, or not, to be included in the 2025 Good Beer Guide. Some

members who have not hitherto been active in the Branch have stepped up to the plate to help with this, which the Branch Officers really appreciate – our thanks to these members as well as to the regular activists who are, as ever, working hard to get this vital task completed in time.

Any member who feels a County pub is worthy of the Guide is welcome to survey the pub concerned themselves, and forward the results to the Branch Secretary for discussion at the February Branch meeting. Hopefully such proposers will themselves attend to argue the case for their proposed pub or pubs.

Note that the Guide is about *good beer*, not *good pubs*. A beautifully appointed public house with welcoming staff and a great atmosphere would therefore have to give way to a semi-derelict shack in a swamp staffed and drunk in by a bunch of orcs if the quality of the beer in the latter were superior!

Surveyors proposing a pub for inclusion should provide information about the ales on offer, including how many vary and if so where the varying selection comes from, opening hours in so far as known and any other information that may be helpful to the compiler of the final entry. Send proposals to me at secretary@pembrokeshire.camra.org.uk by Feb 16th.

WHAT WE'RE DOING NEXT:

February Branch Meeting and Social, Y Cross, Haycastle Cross, Saturday 17th February, 2pm

As reported in our earlier Newsletters, the community of Haycastle saved their own pub through a community buyout, which was recognised by the pub being shortlisted for a national CAMRA Pub-Saving award. We are therefore delighted that they will be hosting our next Branch Meeting. So far the quality and variety of the ale on offer has been outstanding.

This is the only Saturday in February when there are no Six Nations matches.

*Getting there: Y Cross is at Haycsatle Cross, the eponymous crossroads, itself, postcode **SA62 5PR***

If you want to come by public transport T5 bus from Haverfordwest 12.35, arrives Letterston Square 12.59. 11.50 from Fishguard Letterston 12.04. Buses leave Letterston Square for Haverfordwest at 16.04 and 18.02, for Fishguard at 16.34 and 17.23. Let us know (Secretary: secretary@pembrokeshire.camra.org.uk) beforehand and transport will be provided for you from and to Letterston Square.

This meeting will decide which Pembrokeshire pubs go forward for inclusion in the 2025 Good Beer Guide, to be published in September. *Note that any members present who own, manage or work in any of the pubs under consideration must declare their interest at the outset*, although they may of course speak and vote like any other Branch member on the inclusion (or otherwise!) of their pub. This is, of course, a very good reason why local publicans may wish to join CAMRA!

These discussions, and the final list arising from them, are STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL. CAMRA nationally insists that no information about which pubs are in the new GBG are leaked to anyone not a CAMRA member, and especially not to the pubs concerned, until the new GBG is published. This is important to the success of the Guide.

See you there!

ARGLWYDDES LEOL SY'N SIARAD CYMRAEG YN RHUGL ETHOLEDIG CADEIRYDDES CAMRA SIR BENFRO

Yng Nghyfarfod Cyffredinol Blynyddol y Gangen ym mis Rhagfyr, ymddiswyddodd Cadeirydd y Gangen ers amser maith, Nigel Skipper, ac etholwyd siaradwr Cymraeg lleol, Mrs Alwen Thomas, i'r Gadair.

MAE EIN CADEIRYDDES NEWYDD ALWEN YN CYFLWYNO EI HUN:

"I ddechrau o'r cychwyn cyntaf cefais i fy ngeni yn Lerpwl ac roedd fy rhieni o Ogledd Cymru. Symudon nhw i Nefyn pan o'n i'n 18 mis oed. Yn 4 oed symudon ni i Arberth. 18 mis yn ddiweddarach symudon ni i Ddoc Penfro, gan symud unwaith eto i Pennar ar ôl 18 mis arall.

"Yn 9 oed fe symudon ni eto y tro hwn i Dreletert lle buon ni'n treulio 5 mlynedd, nes symud i Abergwaun. Yna treuliais 5 mlynedd arall yno nes i mi briodi fy ngŵr Arwel yn 1972.

"Roedden ni wedyn yn byw yn Llanychaer gan fagu 4 bachgen tan 1997 pan symudon ni i Wdig. Roedd ein symudiad nesaf yn 2015, pan symudon ni wedyn i'n tŷ presennol yn Abergwaun.

"Rwy'n siaradwr Cymraeg rhugl fel y mae fy ngŵr a'm bechgyn. Mae gennym ni 15 o wyrion a 3 goryres. Mae fy mam yn dal yn fyw ond bu farw fy nhad oedd wedi bod yn blismon 30 mlynedd yn ôl. Mae gen i hefyd 3 chwaer sydd i gyd yn byw yn Sir Benfro.

"Yn y blynyddoedd cynnar tra roedd fy mhlant yn yr ysgol roeddwn yn gweithio fel glanhawr ysgol a hefyd fel glanhawr gwesty.

"Ar ôl hynny treuliais tua 5 mlynedd mewn amrywiol gartrefi gofal lleol cyn dechrau gweithio fel gofalwr ar wardiau amrywiol yn Ysbyty Llwynhelyg. Yna cefais fy nghyflogi fel gofalwr nos ar sail un i un am y 18 mlynedd nesaf gyda'r un teulu. Roedd hyn hefyd o dan y GIG.

"Rydw i nawr yn mwynhau ymddeoliad ynghyd ag Arwel. Rydym wrth ein bodd yn cymryd seibiannau byr yn y wlad hon yn ogystal â gwyliau tramor mor aml ag y gallwn.

"Fe ddaeth y ddau ohonom yn aelodau o CAMRA dros 20 mlynedd yn ôl, ac rydym yn caru dim mwy na mynychu gwyliau cwrw amrywiol lle rydym yn cyfarfod ag aelodau o grwpiau eraill ledled y wlad. Pan fyddwn yn teithio rydym yn mwynhau ymweld â bragdai a chymaint o dafarndai cwrw go iawn ag y gallwn ddod o hyd iddynt yn yr ardal.

"O ran fy hoff gwrw, mae'n ddewis anodd, gan fy mod yn hoffi cefnogi'r bragdai llai pryd bynnag y bo modd. Ond os yw'r Titanic Plum Porter ar dap yna byddwn bob amser yn dewis yr un hwnnw, gan fethu mai IPA fyddai hwnnw gan fy mod yn hoffi dau ben y sbectrwm.

"Un peth rydw i wedi sylwi arno yw'r nifer o yfwyr iau sydd bellach yn ffafrio cwrw ysgafnach yn lle'r lagers sydd wedi bod o gwmpas ers amser maith. Mae hyn yn wych i'w weld a gyda lwc fe fyddan nhw'n ymuno â ni'r henoed mewn digwyddiadau CAMRA yn y dyfodol.

"Rwy'n gobeithio bod hyn wedi rhoi cyfle i chi wybod ychydig mwy amdanaf.

"Alwen."

Mae Alwen yn edrych ymlaen at gwrdd â chi i gyd mewn Cyfarfodydd Cangen a digwyddiadau cymdeithasol yn y dyfodol.

LOCAL FLUENT WELSH-SPEAKING LADY ELECTED TO THE CHAIR OF PEMBROKESHIRE CAMRA

At our Branch AGM in December, long-serving Branch Chair Nigel Skipper stepped down and we elected a local Welsh-speaker, Mrs Alwen Thomas, to the Chair.

OUR NEW CHAIR ALWEN INTRODUCES HERSELF:

"Starting at the beginning I was born in Liverpool and my parents were from North Wales. They moved to Nefyn when I was 18 months old. At 4 years old we moved to Narberth. 18 months later we moved to Pembroke Dock, once again moving to Pennar after another 18 months.

"At 9 years old we moved again this time to Letterston where we spent 5 years, until moving to Fishguard. I then spent another 5 years there until my marriage to my husband Arwel in 1972.

"We then lived in Llanychaer brining up 4 boys until 1997 when we moved to Goodwick. Our next move was in 2015, when we then moved into our present house in Fishguard.

"I am a fluent Welsh speaker as are my husband and boys. We have 15 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren. My mother is still alive but my father who had been a policeman died 30 years ago, I also have 3 sisters who all live in Pembrokeshire.

"In the early years whilst my children were at school I worked as a school cleaner and also as a hotel cleaner.

"After that I spent about 5 years in various local care homes before starting work as a carer on various wards at Withybush Hospital. I was then employed as a night carer on a one to one basis for the next 18 years with the same family. This was also under the NHS.

"I am now enjoying retirement along with Arwel. We love taking short breaks in this country as well as holidays abroad as often as we can.

"We both became CAMRA members over 20 years ago, and love nothing more than attending various beer festivals where we meet up with members from other groups around the country When we travel we enjoy visiting breweries and as many real ale pubs as we can find in the area.

"As for my favourite beer, it is a difficult choice, as I like to support the smaller breweries whenever possible. But if the Titanic Plum Porter is on tap then I would always choose that one, failing that it would be an IPA as I like both ends of the spectrum.

"One thing I have noticed is the number of younger drinkers who now favour a lighter ale instead of the lagers that have been around for a long time. This is great to see and with luck they will join us oldies at CAMRA events in the future.

"I hope this has given you a chance to know a little more about me.

Alwen."

Alwen looks forward to meeting you all at future Branch Meetings and Socials

NEWYDDION TAFARND AU BRAGDAI

NEWYDDION TRIST GAN BESSIE'S

Yn anffodus bu farw Mrs Bessie Davies o'r eponym "Bessie's", y Dyffryn Arms, Pontfaen, ddydd Sadwrn Rhagfyr 16eg. Roedd hi wedi gweithio yno am fwy fyth o flynyddoedd nag y teyrnasodd Ei Diweddar Fawrhydi'r Frenhines.

Yma mae gwefeistr ein Cangen, Jon O'Brien, ar ran y Gangen, yn talu teyrnged i'r chwedl gwrw lleol hon.

Ffarwel Bessie

Mae'n annhebygol y bydd unrhyw un sy'n darllen yn anymwybodol o farwolaeth Bessie Davies, un o'r tafarnwyr sydd wedi gwasanaethu hiraf yn y DU. Cymaint yw ei enwogrwydd nes i'r newyddion am ei marwolaeth deithio'n gyflym o Gwm Gwaun, lle mae ei hannwyl Dyffryn Arms, i weddill y DU a'r Byd ehangach.

Yn adnabyddus i bawb yn syml fel Bessie, a'r Dyffryn Arms o ganlyniad fel Bessie's, daeth yn symbol o draddodiad a lletygarwch dros y 73 mlynedd y bu'n gweini cwrw trwy ddeor ystafell fyw enwog y dafarn. Yn y Cwm, daeth hi hefyd yn adnabyddus am fod yno pan oedd ei ffrindiau rheolaidd angen help llaw hefyd. Mae'n ymddangos y gall llawer o bobl leol fod yn ddiolchgar iddi am roi ei llaw yn ei phoced pan oedd angen rhywbeth arnynt i'w cael drwy amseroedd caled.

Siaradwr Cymraeg brodorol, er ei bod yn dafodiaith y gwyddys ei bod yn drysu ymwelwyr Cymraeg o'r tu allan i'r Cwm, byddai'n sicrhau bod yfwyr lleol yn siarad yn Saesneg pe bai ganddi westeion di-Gymraeg, gan ei gweld yn gwrtais i gynnwys pawb yn nhrafodaethau bywiog y dafarn. .

Wrth siarad â phobl a oedd yn adnabod Bessie, daw'n amlwg yn fuan, er mor groesawgar â hi, rioedd hi wedi gall hefyd fynegi ei barn yn rhydd yn y ffyrdd mwyaf di-fin. Mae yna lawer o straeon am yr ymwelydd a ddywedodd wrth Bessie y byddai ei wraig yn hoffi gwydraid o win, dim ond i gael gwybod, yn yr achos hwnnw, y gallai mynd yn rhywle a oedd yn gwerthu gwin.

Roedd Bessie's yn gwrw, a seidr, tafarn go iawn, cyn i neb feddwl am eu galw'n real, ac fe barhaodd felly drwy'r blynyddoedd main. Yn adnabyddus y dyddiau hyn am ei Bass yn syth o'r casgen, roedd y Dyffryn Arms unwaith yn gwerthu cwrw wedi'i fragu gan Bessie ei hun. Cwrw priodol, meddai, nid y stwff a werthwyd mewn tafarndai eraill, a ddiystyrododd fel "60 y cant fizz". Roedd hi'n rhedeg tafarn go iawn, gyda chwrw go iawn, felly boed yn Bessie's, a fydd yno bob amser, neu'n un o'r tafarnau go iawn eraill sydd gan Sir Benfro i'w cynnig, codwch wydraid o gwrw go iawn er cof amdani ac i rhoi ddiolch gallwch chi o hyd yfed hyn. . .

(Wedi'i chyfieithu gan yr Ysgrifennydd. Dyw ei sgiliau Cymraeg ddim yn debygol o ennill Cadair yr Eisteddfod Genedlaethol iddo yn fuan! Mae'n cymryd y bai am bob camgymeriad yn y fersiwn Gymraeg.)

PUBS AND BREWERIES NEWS

SAD NEWS FROM BESSIE'S

Sadly Mrs Bessie Davies, who had worked in and then been landlady of the eponymous "Bessie's", the Dyffryn Arms, Pontfaen, longer than Her Late Majesty had been on the Throne, passed away on Saturday December 16th.

Here our Branch Webmaster, Jon O'Brien, on behalf of the Branch, pays tribute to this local ale legend.

Farewell Bessie

It's unlikely that anyone reading will be unaware of the passing of Bessie Davies, one of the UK's longest serving publicans. Such is her fame that news of her death travelled swiftly from Cwm Gwaun, where her historic and much loved Dyffryn Arms is situated, to the rest of the UK and the wider World.

Known to everyone simply as Bessie, and the Dyffryn Arms, consequently, as Bessie's, she became a symbol of tradition and hospitality over the 73 years in which she served ale through the pub's famous sitting-room hatch. In the Valley, she also became known for being there when her regulars needed a helping hand, as well. It seems that many a local can be grateful to her for putting her hand in her pocket when they needed something to see them through hard times.

A native Welsh speaker, although of a dialect known to baffle Welsh visitors from outside the Valley, she would make sure local drinkers spoke in English if she had guests who spoke no Welsh, seeing it as only polite to include everyone in the pub's lively discussions.

Speaking to people who knew Bessie, it soon becomes clear that, as welcoming as she was, she was also capable of freely expressing her opinion in the bluntest of ways. There's a much repeated story of the visitor who told Bessie that his wife would like a glass of wine, only to be told that, in that case, she could "toddle" off to somewhere that sold wine.

Bessie's was a real ale, and cider, pub, before anyone thought of calling them real, and it stayed that way through the lean years. Known these days for its Bass direct from the cask, the Dyffryn Arms once sold ale brewed by Bessie herself. Proper beer, she called it, not the stuff sold in other pubs, which she dismissed as being "60 per cent fizz". She ran a real pub, with proper beer, so whether in Bessie's, which it will always remain, or one of the other real pubs Pembrokeshire has to offer, please raise a glass of proper beer in her memory and in thanks that you still can.

Other news?

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.

NEWYDDION CENEDLAETHOL

CAMRA YN GALW AR Y CANGHELLOR I "WNEUD 20%" AR DDYLETSWYDD CWRW A SEIDR ISAF YN Y GYLLIDEB

Mae CAMRA wedi lansio'r ymgyrch 'Make it 20%' ar y cyd â SIBA (Society of Independent Brewers) ac IFBB (Independent Family Brewers of Britain). Mae defnyddwyr a sefydliadau bragu am i'r Canghellor yng Nghyllideb Mawrth 6ed ymestyn rhyddhad treth drafft ar gyfer cwrw a seidr a weinir mewn tafarndai i 20%. Byddai'r mesur hwn, pe bai'n cael ei fabwysiadu, yn gymwys yng Nghymru.

Byddai gwneud y dreth a godir ar gwrw a seidr drafft 20% yn is na'r gyfradd arferol yn targedu cymorth i dafarndai a chlybiau cymdeithasol lleol, yn cynorthwyo bragwyr bach ac annibynnol y mae

eu cwrw yn cael ei werthu'n bennaf mewn tafarndai, ac yn annog pobl i fynd i dafarndai – gan helpu trwyddedes i gystadlu yn erbyn alcohol rhad archfarchnad.

Gallwch chwarae eich rhan yn yr ymgyrch hon. E-bostiwch eich AS lleol (PEIDIWCH â defnyddio'r offeryn CAMRA a ddarparwyd ar gyfer gwneud hyn gan fod ein Hysgrifennydd wedi canfod bod ein ASau lleol yn sylwi ar e-byst o offer ymgyrchu o'r fath ac yn eu gwrthod) i ofyn iddo ofyn i'r Canghellor, Jeremy Hunt eu defnyddio. y Gyllideb ar 6 Mawrth i:

- 1) Torri treth yn benodol ar gwrw a seidr drafft a weinir mewn tafarndai er mwyn helpu defnyddwyr, cefnogi bragdai lleol a lleihau cyfraddau cau tafarndai.
- 2) Cael gwared ar fiwrocratiaeth sy'n atal tafarndai rhag gwerthu cwrw a seidr i fynd adref o'r cynwysyddion drafft y telir amdanynt.
- 3) Torri TAW ar gyfer busnesau lletygarwch.
- 4) Gwnewch yn siŵr, at ddibenion dyletswydd, bod gan seidr o leiaf 50% o gynnwys sudd o leiaf er mwyn sicrhau cynnyrch o ansawdd i ddefnyddwyr.

Helpwch CAMRA i achub EICH tafarn leol!

Ein Haelodau Seneddol yw Simon Hart yng Ngorllewin Caerfyrddin a De Sir Benfro, e-bost simon.hart.mp@parliament.uk a Stephen Crabb ym Mhreseli Sir Benfro, e-bost stephen.crabb.mp@parliament.uk

NATIONAL NEWS

CAMRA CALLS ON CHANCELLOR TO “MAKE IT 20%” LOWER BEER AND CIDER DUTY IN THE BUDGET

CAMRA, has launched the ‘Make it 20%’ campaign jointly with SIBA (Society of Independent Brewers) and IFBB (Independent Family Brewers of Britain). Consumers and brewing organisations want the Chancellor in the March 6th Budget to extend draught duty relief for beer and cider served in pubs to 20%. This measure, if adopted, would apply in Wales.

Making tax charged on draught beer and cider 20% lower than the normal rate would target support to local pubs and social clubs, assist small and independent brewers whose beer is sold predominantly in pubs, and encourage pub-going – helping licensees to compete against the likes of cheap supermarket alcohol.

You can play your part in this campaign. E-mail your local MP (do NOT use the CAMRA tool provided for doing this as our Secretary has found that our local MPs spot e-mails from such campaigning tools and reject them) to ask him to ask the Chancellor, Jeremy Hunt to use the Budget on 6th March to:

- 1) Cut tax specifically on draught beer and cider served in pubs to help consumers, support local breweries and stem pub closure rates.
- 2) Remove red tape that prevents pubs making incidental take-home beer and cider sales from draught duty-paid containers.
- 3) Cut VAT for hospitality businesses.
- 4) Make sure that for duty purposes cider has at least 50% minimum juice content to ensure quality products for consumers.

Help CAMRA save YOUR local pub!

Our MPs are Simon Hart in Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire, e-mail simon.hart.mp@parliament.uk and Stephen Crabb in Preseli Pembrokeshire, e-mail stephen.crabb.mp@parliament.uk

MEET CAMRA MEMBERS NEAR YOU FOR A SOCIAL PINT

Branch members in the Hayscastle and Letterston areas have arranged to meet up regularly on Wednesday afternoons at the *Cross*, Hayscastle, to enjoy a friendly pint together and support their local real ale pub..

Why don't other Branch members in our spread-out, thinly-peopled County do likewise? If you are interested in meeting like-minded ale and cider drinkers near you, drop us a line on

secretary@pembrokeshire.camra.org.uk

with the contact details you'd like us to share and what sort of area you would be willing to meet up in and we'll put you in touch with other members near you who have done the same.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE PEMBROKESHIRE PUB?

We invite members to tell us which is their favourite pub in Pembrokeshire, and why. E-mail the Secretary at the e-mail address below. No submissions this month, so let's hear from you!

RECRUITMENT DRIVE – GET CAMRA PUBLICITY MATERIAL INTO OUR PUBS!!

We are starting to get results from our drive to get our excellent "*Ten Great Reasons to Join CAMRA*" recruitment leaflet, and the Welsh-language version, "*Deg rheswm gwyh i ymuno â CAMRA*", into our local pubs, but we still need to get more out.

Why not pick up some leaflets and stands for YOUR local at our next Branch meeting? Our Secretary has ample supplies and will also demonstrate the origami needed to erect the stands for them ready to go on the bar, with the landlord/lady's permission of course.

Can you help? Let our Secretary know at a Branch meeting when he will be able to give you the leaflets and stands or contact him 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 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!

Alwen Thomas, Chair chair@pembrokeshire.camra.org.uk

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