

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:

SUCCESSFUL MARCH BRANCH MEETING AT WETHERSPOON'S IN HAVERFORDWEST

MEMBERS ENJOY VILLAGE PUB'S EASTER BEER FESTIVAL

April Branch Meeting: Saturday 27th April 2 p.m. at the *Ranch*, Llanychaer. SA65 9TB

May Branch Social: Saturday 25th May, Milford Haven Beer Festival, Milford Haven

NEWYDDION TAFARNDAU A BRAGDAI

CAMRA SIR BENFRO YN CYHOEDDI EI THAFARN, TAFARN Y SEIDR A CHLWB Y FLWYDDYN

MAE 'R GROES, CAS-LAI, AR AGOR ETO!

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Bydd y Cylchlythyr hwn yn gwbl ddwyieithog yn fuan!

Siaradwyr Cymraeg dal eisiau!

WHAT WE'VE BEEN DOING:

SUCCESSFUL MARCH BRANCH MEETING AT WETHERSPOON'S IN HAVERFORDWEST

There was an excellent turn-out for our March Branch Meeting, including new members and longer-standing members attending their first meeting. New member Nicola is the Manager of the William Owen, our Wetherspoon's venue, and, as well as coming herself to her first Branch meeting, did us proud with our own meeting room.

Members chose our Branch Pub, Cider Pub and Club of the Year for 2024 – see Pub and Brewery News below. Possible excursions to Beer festivals outside our area, which would involve staying overnight, were also discussed. During and after the meeting, members enjoyed an excellent range of beers left over from Wetherspoon's national Spring Beer Festival.

Branch Meetings are not only worthwhile, but are also intended to be enjoyable beer-tasting and social events. Why not join us at our next one – see below!

MEMBERS ENJOY VILLAGE PUB'S EASTER BEER FESTIVAL

Branch members joined CAMRA members from over the border in Carmarthenshire at the annual Easter Beer Festival organised by the GBG-listed *Trewern Arms* in the picturesque and historic North Pembrokeshire village of Nevern on the afternoon of Easter Saturday.

21 real ales, some from local breweries and others from as far away as the Scottish Highlands were racked on gravity dispense, together with seven local real ciders and a perry. CAMRA members present agreed that Loch Lomond's delicious oatmeal Silkie Stout was beer of the festival.

We're going to Milford Haven Lions' Beer Festival on the seafront next month. Why not join us?

WHAT WE'RE DOING NEXT:

April Branch Meeting: Saturday 27th April 2 p.m. at the *Ranch*, Llanychaer. SA65 9TB

In our last Newsletter we reported on this hidden gem which has recently appeared on our local real ale scene. So we are going there for our next Branch meeting. Landlord Alun is opening the pub specially for us at 2pm, and will have a couple of good local ales on gravity dispense to wet our whistles during our meeting. After the meeting, those so inclined may wish to sample the ales on offer at the other pub in the village, the *Bont*, a short walk up the road.

Getting there:

If coming directly by car, the Ranch is on the B4313 Fishguard to Narberth road. The pub is not visible from the road, but you turn down a wide track. It is signposted clearly when heading northwards, but easy to miss southwards.

Or get the T5 bus to Fishguard at 12.35 from Haverfordwest Bus Station, Letterston Square 12.59 arrives Fishguard 13.13. Transport will be provided to Llanychaer from outside the Royal Oak in the square at 13.30.

Transport back will be arranged to connect with the T5 bus back at 17.50 from Fishguard, calling at Letterston at 18.02 and arriving at Haverfordwest Bus Station at 18.21.

May Branch Social: Saturday 25th May, Milford Haven Beer Festival, Milford Haven

We will be enjoying this excellent Beer festival organised by the local Lions Club. More details next month, but keep the date free!

NEWYDDION TAFARNDAU A BRAGDAI

CAMRA SIR BENFRO YN CYHOEDDI EI THAFARN, TAFARN Y SEIDR A CHLWB Y FLWYDDYN

Yn ein Cyfarfod Cangen ym mis Mawrth, dewisodd CAMRA Sir Benfro'r *Cresselly Arms*, Cresswell Key, fel ein Tafarn y Flwyddyn 2024.

Fel y dywedodd y Gangen yng nghofnod y dafarn ar WhatPub: *Wedi'i lleoli ar Afon Cresswell, mae'r hostel hon sy'n 250 mlwydd oed ac sydd wedi'i gorchuddio ag eiddew yn edrych yn ôl ar oes Fictoria. Mae tu mewn cegin fferm gartrefol, lle mae tân rhuadwy yn llosgi yn yr aelwyd, yn hafan i drigolion lleol ac ymwelwyr. Yn hygyrch ar gwch o aber Aberdaugleddau ar lanw uchel, mae'r dafarn hefyd yn gorwedd ar gyfres o lwybrau cerdded diddorol. Tafarn cwrw yn unig yw hon (dim bwyd yn cael ei weini), ond weithiau mae'r landlord yn trefnu barbeciws ar lan yr afon ar benwythnosau Haf. Enillydd teilwng – os nad ydych wedi ymweld â'r Cresselly Arms eto, dylech wneud hynny.*

Roedd y *William Owen*, Hwlfordd, *Fynnone Arms*, Newchapel, a'r *Mason's Arms* (a adwaenid hefyd fel *Y Rampin*) Cilgerran yn haeddiannol yn rhannu'r ail safle.

Dyfarnwyd Tafarn Seidr y Flwyddyn i'r *William Owen*, Wetherspoon's Hwlfordd. Mae ganddyn nhw bob amser o leiaf un seidr go iawn ar gael o fag mewn bocs yn yr oerach y tu ôl i'r bar. Yr *Artramont Arms*, Croesgoch, sydd â seidr go iawn lleol mewn cynhwysydd tebyg ar ei far, oedd yn ail eleni.

Clwb y Flwyddyn y Gangen ar gyfer 2024 yw *Clwb Rygbi Penfro*, Penfro.

Bydd swyddogion ein Cangen yn ymweld â'r sefydliadau hyn yn ystod yr wythnosau nesaf i gyflwyno eu Tystysgrifau iddynt, ac i fwynhau eu cwrw mân a'u seidr.

MAE 'R GROES, CAS-LAI, AR AGOR ETO!

Mae'n bleser gennym gyhoeddi bod y dafarn hon, a gyrhaeddodd y rhestr fer ar gyfer Gwobr Genedlaethol Cynilo Tafariandai CAMRA yn ddiweddar, bellach ar agor eto dan reolaeth newydd a etholwyd gan ei chyfranddallwyr cymunedol a chyda rheolwr Bar dros dro tra bod un parhaol newydd yn cael ei chanfod a apwyntied. Ar hyn o bryd mae ar agor gyda'r nos yn unig yn yr wythnos, trwy'r

dydd ar benwythnosau, ond gobeithio y bydd hyn yn newid yn fuan. Fel bob amser, dymunwn bob llwyddiant i'r fenter leol deilwng hon, a achubodd dafarn bentref 150 mlwydd oed.

PUBS AND BREWERIES NEWS

PEMBROKESHIRE CAMRA ANNOUNCES ITS PUB, CIDER PUB AND CLUB OF THE YEAR

At our March Branch Meeting, Pembrokeshire CAMRA chose the *Cresselly Arms*, Cresswell Key, as our 2024 Pub of the Year.

As the Branch put it in the pub's entry on WhatPub: *Situated on the Cresswell River this 250 year old, ivy-covered hostelry seems like a throwback to the Victorian age. The homely farm kitchen interior, where a roaring fire burns in the hearth, is a haven for locals and visitors alike. Accessible by boat from the Milford Haven estuary at high tide, the pub also lies on a series of interesting walking routes. This is a beer-only pub (no food served), but the landlord sometimes arranges riverside barbecues on Summer weekends. A worthy winner – if you have not yet visited the Cresselly Arms, you should do so.*

The *William Owen*, Haverfordwest, *Fynnone Arms*, Newchapel, and the *Mason's Arms (aka The Rampin)* Cilgerran were worthy runners-up

The *William Owen*, Haverfordwest's Wetherspoon's, was awarded Cider Pub of the Year. It always has at least one decent real cider on offer from a bag in a box in the cooler behind the bar. The *Artramont Arms*, Croesgoch, which has a local real cider in a similar receptacle on its bar, was this year's runner-up.

The Branch's Club of the Year for 2024 is *Pembroke Rugby Football Club*, Pembroke.

Our Branch officers will be visiting these establishments in the coming weeks to present them with their Certificates, and enjoy their fine ales and ciders.

Y CROSS, HAYSCASTLE CROSS, IS OPEN AGAIN!

We are delighted to announce that this pub, which deservedly made the shortlist for the recent CAMRA National Pub-saving Award, is now open again under new management elected by its community shareholders and with a temporary Bar manager whilst a new permanent one is found and appointed. Currently it is open evenings only in the week, all day at weekends, but hopefully this will change soon. As always, we wish this worthy local venture, which saved a 150-year-old village pub, every success.

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

YFEDWYR A THAFARNDUI YN CAEL EU PWYSO, MEDDAI CADEIRYDD CENEDLAETHOL CAMRA

Rhybuddiodd Cadeirydd Cenedlaethol CAMRA, Nik Antona, fod prisiau cwrw yn “bygwth gwneud peint yn yr ardal leol ostyngedig yn foethusrwydd”, ar ôl i ffigurau swyddogol y Swyddfa Ystadegau Gwladol a gyhoeddwyd ddiwedd mis Mawrth datgelu mai pris cyfartalog peint o chwerw yn genedlaethol oedd nawr yn £3.86. Flwyddyn yn ôl roedd yn £3.70, a £3.40 y flwyddyn cyn hynny.

Mae cwrw drud yn ymddangos fel polisi bwriadol Llywodraethau olynol: mae 54c o'r hyn rydych chi'n ei dalu am beint yn mynd i'r dyn treth ym Mhrydain, o'i gymharu â llai na 5c yn yr Almaen a Sbaen.

Fel y dywedodd ein Cadeirydd Cenedlaethol, “Bydd tafarndai a defnyddwyr yn teimlo'r wasgfa wrth i bris peint barhau i godi. Nid yw tafarndai, clybiau cymdeithasol ac ystafelloedd tap yn dymuno trosglwyddo'r prisiau uchel i'w noddwyr ffyddlon, ond gyda chostau nwyddau, biliau ynni a chyflogi staff ar lefelau uchel iawn, ynghyd â baich trethi busnes annheg, byddai'n cau. yr unig ddewis arall. Mae'r diwydiannau tafarndai a bragu'n croesi dros dirwedd economaidd gosbadwy sy'n bygwth eu dileu'n llwyr ac mae'r Llywodraeth wedi colli cyfle i gefnogi'r sector yng Nghyllideb y Gwanwyn yn ddiweddar.”

MWY A MWY O DAFARNDAI WEDI EU GORFOD ALLAN O FUSNES

Mae rhybudd Nik Antona yn cael ei gadarnhau gan ffigurau a gafwyd gan y cwmni cyfrifeg Price Bailey o dan y Ddeddf Rhyddid Gwybodaeth ganol mis Mawrth. Cynyddodd nifer y tafarnau a'r bariau a gafodd eu cau i'w lefel uchaf mewn mwy na deng mlynedd y llynedd. Mae ffigurau Gwasanaeth Ansolfedd y Llywodraeth yn datgelu bod 769 o fusnesau tafarndai wedi mynd yn fethdalwyr a chau i lawr y llynedd. Mae hynny'n fwy na dau'r dydd, ac yn gynydd o bron i 50 y cant ar y 518 o dafarndai a busnesau bar a aeth i'r wal yn 2022. A dweud y gwir, mae nifer y tafarndai a bariau sy'n cau hyd yn oed yn waeth nag y mae'r ffigurau hynny'n ei awgrymu, gan eu bod yn cyfrif busnesau, rhai sy'n berchen ar fwy nag un tafarn a bar, a phob un ohonynt yn cau pan fydd eu perchnogion yn methu.

Mae 17,090 o safleoedd trwyddedig wedi cau ers 2020, Amcangyfrifir bod 6,000 ohonynt wedi gwerthu cwrw go iawn.

Mae'r sefyllfa'n gwaethygu. Datgelodd arolwg gan y Ffederasiwn Busnesau Bach yn ddiweddar fod 1 o bob 8 busnes lletygarwch yn disgwyl cau'r flwyddyn nesaf, bron i bedair gwaith y gyfradd ar gyfer busnesau yn gyffredinol. Mae nifer o bobl leol hoffus sy'n enwog am gwrw a seidr da wedi cau i lawr yn ystod yr ychydig flynyddoedd diwethaf yma yn Sir Benfro, ac mae'n debyg y bydd mwy yn dilyn.

Wedi'u llethu gan gloeon clo a'u gwasgu gan drethi cenedlaethol a lleol uchel, mae ein tafarndai'n brwydro i oroesi. Ond gallwch CHI helpu i'w hachub. Gwnewch yn siŵr eich bod yn noddi eich tafarn leol, ac yn wir unrhyw dafarn sy'n gwerthu cwrw a seidr teilwng. **Yn fwy na hynny, byddwch yn actif a helpwch CAMRA i frwydro i achub ein tafarndai.**

MEGAKEGERI YN LLIO PYMPIAU LLAW FFUG MEWN TAFARNDAI

Mae'r gorfforaeth bragu ryngwladol Carlsberg, sy'n berchen ar Tetley a Marston's wedi dechrau gwerthu cwrw cemegol keg gan ddefnyddio pypiau llaw cwrw go iawn gasgen ffug. Bydd Cwmni Bragu Carlsberg Marstons yn marchnata “cwrw ffres” – pethau casgen gemegol dan bwysau – gan ddefnyddio pypiau llaw ffug. Mewn gwirionedd nid yw'r rhain yn pwmpio dim gan fod yr hylif pefriog a ddosberthir yn cael ei wthio allan gan bwysau nwy yn hytrach na'i dynnu â llaw.

Dywedodd CAMRA eu bod wedi cael gwybod gan CMBC y bydd ei gwrw ffres sy'n cael ei weini trwy dynnu â llaw yn cael ei labelu fel “cwrw wedi'i gyflyru gan fragdy”. Roedd ein Hymgyrch yn gyflym i nodi ei fod yn dal i fod yn gwrw keg. Fel y dywedodd llefarydd ar ran yr Ymgyrch “Nid cwrw ‘byw’ yw

cwrw keg. Unwaith y bydd yn gadael nid yw'r bragdy yn cynnwys unrhyw furum hyfyw ac nid yw'n cael ei gyflyru ymhellach, yn wahanol i gwrw cyflyru casgen, sy'n parhau i ddatblygu blas a charbonad yn seler y dafarn".

Fel y dywedodd Cyfarwyddwr Cenedlaethol CAMRA, Gillian Hough: "Mae'n ddryslyd pam mae CMBC yn teimlo'r angen i weini cwrw casgen trwy bympiau llaw yn y lle cyntaf pan fyddai'n ymddangos yn symlach ac yn fwy gonest ei weini trwy dapiau keg, fel gyda phob peth cynhyrchion keg eraill."

Felly peidiwch â chael eich twyllo gan y cynllun marchnata corfforaethol hwn i wthio keg ffis - cadwch at gwrw go iawn sy'n cael ei weini trwy bympiau llaw go iawn. Os gwelwch unrhyw bympiau llaw ffug CMBC yn ymddangos yn Sir Benfro rhowch wybod i'n Cangen, drwy'r cyfeiriadau e-bost isod neu drwy WhatPub, a byddwn yn dinoethi'r drwgweithredwyr.

NATIONAL NEWS

DRINKERS AND PUBS BEING SQUEEZED, SAYS CAMRA'S NATIONAL CHAIRMAN

Rocketing beer prices "threaten to make a pint in the humble local a luxury" warned CAMRA National Chairman Nik Antona, after official figures from the Office for National Statistics issued at the end of March revealed that the average price of a pint of bitter nationally was now £3.86. A year ago it was £3.70, and £3.40 a year before that.

Expensive beer appears to be successive Governments' deliberate policy: 54p of what you pay for a pint goes to the taxman in Britain, compared with under 5p in Germany and Spain.

As our National Chairman observed, "Pubs and consumers will feel the squeeze as the price of a pint continues to climb. Pubs, social clubs and taprooms don't wish to pass on the high prices to their loyal patrons, but with the costs of goods, energy bills and employing staff at sky-high levels, plus the burden of unfair business rates, closing would be the only other choice. The pub and brewing industries are traversing over a punishing economic landscape which threatens to wipe them out completely and the Government has missed an opportunity to support the sector in the recent Spring Budget."

MORE AND MORE PUBS FORCED OUT OF BUSINESS

Nik Antona's warning is borne out by figures obtained by accountancy firm Price Bailey under the Freedom of Information act in mid-March. Pub and bar closures soared to their highest level in more than ten years last year. Government Insolvency Service figures reveal that 769 pub businesses became insolvent and shut down last year. That's more than two a day, and an almost 50 per cent increase on the 518 pubs and bar businesses that went bust in 2022. Actually, the number of pubs and bars closing is even worse than those figures suggest, as they count businesses, some of which own more than one pub and bar, all of which close down when their owners fail.

17,090 licensed premises have shut down since 2020, An estimated 6,000 of them sold real ale.

The situation is getting worse. A survey by the Federation of Small Businesses recently revealed that 1 in 8 hospitality businesses expects to close next year, nearly four times the rate for businesses in general. A number of well-loved locals noted for good ale and cider have shut down in the last couple of years here in Pembrokeshire, and more will likely follow.

Crippled by lockdowns and crushed by high national and local taxation, our pubs are struggling to survive. But YOU can help save them. Make sure you patronise your local, and indeed any pub selling decent ale and cider. **More than that, get active and help CAMRA fight to save our pubs.**

MEGAKEGGERY STICKING FAKE HANDPUMPS IN PUBS

Multinational brewing corporation Carlsberg, which owns Tetley and Marston's has started selling keg chemical beer using fake cask real ale handpumps. Carlsberg Marstons Brewing Company is to market "fresh ale" – pressurised chemical keg stuff – using fake handpumps. These in fact pump nothing as the fizzy liquid dispensed is pushed out by gas pressure rather than being pulled by hand.

CAMRA said it has been told by CMBC that its fresh ale served through hand pulls will be labelled "brewery conditioned beer". Our Campaign was quick to point out that it is still keg beer. As a Campaign spokesperson pointed out "Keg beer is not a 'live' beer. Once it leaves the brewery contains no viable yeast and does not undergo further conditioning, unlike cask-conditioned beers, which continue to develop flavour and carbonation in the pub cellar".

As CAMRA National Director Gillian Hough said: "It's baffling why CMBC feels the need to serve a keg beer through cask ale hand pumps in the first place when it would seem to be simpler and more honest to serve it through keg taps, as with all other keg products."

So don't be fooled by this corporate marketing ploy to push keg fizz – stick to real ale served through real handpumps. If you see any CMBC fake handpumps popping up in Pembrokeshire let our Branch know, via the e-mail addresses below or through WhatPub, and we'll expose the perpetrators.

OTHER ITEMS

WHATPUB, CAMRA'S PUBS AND CLUBS DATABASE, NEEDS YOU!

Every establishment selling alcohol to the general public to drink on the premises is meant to be on the CAMRA WhatPub database, maintained in Pembrokeshire by our Pubs database Co-Ordinator, Paul Padget, and his team. See

<https://whatpub.com/>

Given the large area we cover with a relatively small number of active members, we often struggle to keep the information on WhatPub up to date. If you see something wrong or out of date on a pub's entry, please go the bit at the bottom of the entry where it says

"Seen some incorrect or missing details?"

[*Send an email to the CAMRA branch with your updates.*](#)

Click on the link (which is pub-specific - the one above is an example for the *Royal Oak* in Fishguard) and e-mail us with your corrections. Visiting CAMRA members and indeed members of the public do this, which the Branch appreciates, but we could do with more updates from local members who are more likely to know the pub and so be able to provide accurate information.

Also please feel free to score the beer you drink – see "*Submit Beer Scores*" link on the right hand side at the top of the WhatPub entry for each pub. You'll need to log on with your CAMRA

Membership Number and password to do this, but it greatly helps us to choose the best pubs to go in the Good Beer Guide each year.

MEET CAMRA MEMBERS NEAR YOU FOR A SOCIAL PINT

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.

Bydd y Cylchlythyr hwn yn gwbl ddwyieithog yn fuan!

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 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!

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

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