

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.

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WHAT WE'VE BEEN DOING:

PUBLICITY FOR PUB OF THE YEAR PRESENTATION

A number of Branch members turned out at short notice on Saturday April 6th for the presentation of our Branch Pub of the Year Certificate to the *Cresselly Arms*, Cresswell Quay. Our Chair, Mrs Alwen Thomas, handed over this well-deserved certificate to pub landlord Steve Adams.

Presenting the award, Alwen said "The *Cresselly Arms* is a traditional village pub at the heart of the local community, focussed on serving an interesting range of real cask ale in tip-top condition. This is exactly the sort of pub CAMRA is campaigning to preserve and defend. We made the *Cresselly Arms* our Pub of the Year in 2015 and I am delighted to say that, while the landlord may have changed, the character of the pub and the character of its ale have been staunchly upheld."

Pub landlord Steve, who took over the 250-year-old pub in September 2021, having been landlord of the nearby *Lawrenny Arms* for 15 years, replied that he really appreciated the award and was always happy to support CAMRA.

Thanks to a well-drafted and distributed Press Statement from Branch Press Officer Jon O'Brien, our Pub of the Year presentation, with a photo of Alwen presenting the Certificate to Steve, featured prominently in the *Western Telegraph* and the *Tenby Observer*.

This splendid pub deserves our support and is well worth a visit if you have not done so already.

PEMBROKESHIRE BRANCH SECRETARY PROMOTED

Steve Brady, our Branch Secretary and editor of this newsletter, was appointed Area Organiser for CAMRA covering West Wales by Wales Regional Director Chris Charters at the Regional Meeting in Cardiff on April 12th attended by Steve and our Chair Alwen. In addition to his Branch role, Steve will co-ordinate and support the three West Wales Branches, ours, Carmarthenshire and Bae Ceredigion.

RECORD TURN OUT AT HIDDEN GEM FOR APRIL BRANCH MEETING

The best turn-out of Branch members for many years enjoyed a warm welcome from *The Ranch*, a cosy pub tucked away in Llanychaer, for our April Branch Meeting on April 27th. Landlord Alun, who is a CAMRA member, laid on Coles and Gwaun Valley beers in superb condition on gravity dispense for us.

This proved that Branch Meetings are not only worthwhile but are also enjoyable beer-tasting and social events. Why not join us at our next one – see below!

WHAT WE'RE DOING NEXT:

Branch Cider Pub of the Year and Pub of the Year Runner-Up Presentation, *The William Owen*, Haverfordwest, Thursday 9th May, 2-45pm

We will be presenting *William Owen* manageress and active Branch member Nicola with these certificates next Thursday, after which there will be a social in our County's only Wetherspoons. There is an excellent cheap meal deal there in the afternoons also.

Getting there:

T5 bus at 13.50 from Fishguard, calling at Letterston 14.04, arrives Haverfordwest Bus Station at 14.24. It's about a ten-minute walk to the pub from the Bus Station.

Going back, there are T5's north leaving Haverfordwest at 16.15 and 17.04.

May Branch Meeting: Saturday 18th May 1.30 p.m. (NOTE TIME!) at the *Old Farmhouse Brewery*, Upper Harglodd, St Davids, Haverfordwest SA62 6BX

This month's Branch Meeting is in a first-rate local brewery. Let's hope we can organise a drink up in one!

Getting there:

If coming directly by car, the Old Farmhouse Brewery is up a signposted turning off the A487, on the right if going from St David's, after the one for Dr Beynon's Bug Farm. It's a couple of miles from the country's smallest city.

Or get the T5 bus from Fishguard to Haverfordwest at 10.50, 11.04 from Letterston Square, arriving Haverfordwest Bus Station at 11.21. This connects with the T11 at 12.03 from Haverfordwest Bus station, stopping at St David's at 12.51 and then going on toward Fishguard at 13.00. The bus will stop on request by the brewery a few minutes later. Alternatively, there is a 12.00 T11 from Fishguard arriving at about 12.35. The T5 from Haverfordwest at 10.40, Letterston 10.59 connects.

Going back, the T11 for Fishguard leaves shortly after 15.25, arriving 16.08. T5 south leaves at 17.50. The T11 for Haverfordwest leaves at 15.30, arriving Haverfordwest Bus station at 16.38 connecting with a T5 toward Fishguard at 17.04.

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

We will be enjoying this excellent Beer Festival organised by the local Round Table, starting at 1 p.m

See <https://www.milfordwaterfront.co.uk/whats-on/the-big-beer-festival-2024>

Trains from Haverfordwest to Milford Haven Rail Station, a short walk from the venue, run at 12.39 and 14.39, taking about 20 minutes. There are trains back at 17.06 and 19.12.

WEST WALES BEER TASTING PANEL BEING SET UP – VOLUNTEERS WELCOME

Interested in learning more about tasting ale? West Wales CAMRA is planning to set up an Area Beer tasting panel. To do this, we need volunteers to undergo a one-day Beer Tasting Course provided by CAMRA nationally. The cost is under £20 for the day, and you get to taste a variety of beers. It is

hoped to hold the course in Carmarthen later this year. Several Branch members have already indicated they are interested. If you are too, contact ao.westwales@wales.camra.org.uk

PUBS AND BREWERIES NEWS

WEST WALES CAMRA - JUDGING OUR AREA PUBS, CIDER PUBS AND CLUBS OF THE YEAR

At our March Branch Meeting, Pembrokeshire CAMRA chose the *Cresselly Arms*, Cresswell Key, as our 2024 Pub of the Year, the *William Owen*, Haverfordwest's Wetherspoon's, as our Cider Pub of the Year and our Branch's Club of the Year for 2024 was *Pembroke Rugby Football Club*, Pembroke.

These now go forward for the West Wales round of CAMRA's National Pub, Cider Pub and Club of the Year competition. The winner goes into the Wales round, and the Wales winner into the final UK-wide competition.

Members of the two other West Wales Branches will be visiting and judging our Pub, Cider Pub and Club, and in return our members should visit and judge as many as possible of their entries (nobody can judge their own Branch's entries!)

These are:

Carmarthenshire

Pub of the Year : *The Stag and Pheasant*, 34 Spilman Street, Carmarthen, SA31 1LQ

Club of the Year Pontyberem Working Men's Club, 2 Furnace Terrace, Pontyberem, Llanelli, SA15 5AE

Bae Ceredigion

Pub of the Year: *Rhos yr Hafod*, Llanon, SY23 5NB

Cider Pub of the Year: *Tŷ Seidr*, 16 Corporation St, Aberystwyth SY23 2BT

Pembrokeshire members are welcome to call in unannounced and survey these establishments. Survey guidelines and forms are available from :

<https://www1-camra.s3.eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/26121350/POTY-Procedure-October-2023.pdf>

Print off the Form, complete it after visiting the pub or club, scan it in and email it to the Area Organiser at ao.westwales@wales.camra.org.uk **BY SUNDAY MAY 30th**

MIXED NEWS ON LOCAL COMMUNITY OWNED PUBS

Good news from Y Cross, Hayscastle Cross, which is open and thriving under a new Board of Directors. A permanent bar manager is expected to be appointed soon.

The White Hart at St Dogmael's now has Caroline James as its bar manager and holds regular events including a history group, Welsh and English bookclubs, quiz nights, prize bingo, folk music nights, Welsh singing and games nights. They are appealing for more shareholders: more information at <https://whitehartinn.cymru/buy-a-share/>

Sadly the local community has failed to save *The Parsonage Inn*, St Florence, which had recently closed, citing high running costs.

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.

NATIONAL NEWS

CAMRA LAUNCHES “HANDPUMP HIJACK” CAMPAIGN

Following our report on this issue in our April Branch Bulletin, CAMRA nationally has now taken this up. HQ says:

Big brewers’ plan to mislead consumers

For generations, a handpump on the bar has been a sign of quality. Where cask is well kept, consumers can be sure of a spotless cellar, well-trained bar staff and a commitment to offering the best of UK brewing.

Now, Carlsberg Marston’s Brewing Company – one of the world’s largest brewery conglomerates – has resorted to misleading consumers by hijacking the handpump to serve its “Fresh Ale” product. CMBC says this is “preserving the beloved hand pull ritual that delivers the traditional theatre of serve that ale is famed for”.

CAMRA believes consumers deserve better than CMBC play acting at serving cask – a product they claim to champion while closing breweries and removing cask lines from bars. Our handpump hijack campaign calls on brewers to be proud of all their whole range of beers by serving them in a way that won’t mislead their customers.

What has CAMRA done so far?

CAMRA has written to National Trading Standards and Trading Standards Scotland asking for an investigation into the products, and whether the Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations have been breached. It’s hoped that Trading Standards bodies across Great Britain will take coordinated national action to address this misleading practice.

What is ‘Fresh Ale’?

One of the factors that makes cask unique is that it doesn’t leave the brewery as a finished product. Instead, the conditioning that completes the brewing process is done at the pub, and relies on the skills, timing and experience of the staff and licensee.

On the other hand, most beers, including lagers, some kegged beers, and ‘Fresh Ale’ are ready to drink when they leave the brewery. These beers have a longer shelf life, and can be easier to serve.

Brewers often make both these types of beer, and CAMRA believes they should market them accordingly, so consumers know what they’re getting. ‘Fresh Ale’ is not a cask beer, and hijacking a handpump to sell it as if it was, is unfair and misleading to pub-goers.

So what’s next?

This is just the start of the campaign. CAMRA will keep the pressure on brewers who are part of this handpump hijack.

So far, CMBC has three beers in their 'Fresh Ale' range. They are Wainwright Gold, Wainwright Amber and Hobgoblin IPA. At least one other brewer that has launched a 'Fresh Ale' product designed to look like a cask beer at the bar.

Beer drinkers can help by:

1. **Let us know if you come across 'Fresh Ale' in your local.** You can do this by using the 'Send an email to the CAMRA branch' button at the bottom of the relevant WhatPub venue page to alert your local branch.
2. **Send us photos of 'Fresh Ale' pump clips.** We need to find examples! Email or tag us on social media.
3. **If in doubt, Ask if it's Cask.** We need consumers to make licensees aware of the issue of misleading dispense and explain why you won't be buying it.

There are very few Marston's pubs in Pembrokeshire, and so far we have seen no examples of Handpump Hijacks. Brains pubs are owned by Marston's, so worth keeping an eye on for this, but again we have not seen any evidence they are doing this locally either. This may change, so if you see "Fresh Ale" on offer in this way, report it to the Branch, with photos of pump clips if possible, at secretary@pembrokeshire.camra.org.uk

OTHER ITEMS

NEW CAMRA PUBLICITY MATERIAL FOR OUR PUBS NOW AVAILABLE!!

We now have lots of the new CAMRA Recruitment Leaflet – "Join the CAMRA Story" in English and Welsh, plus stands and posters. They need to be got out to our pubs.

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.

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!

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