

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:

MEDIA PUBLICITY FOR OUR WALES PUB OF THE YEAR

As announced in our Special Bulletin a couple of weeks ago, our Branch Pub of the Year, the *Cresselly Arms*, Cresswell Quay, went on to win CAMRA's Pub of the Year for the whole of Wales. Thanks to the efforts of our Branch Publicity Officer, Jon O'Brien, this was reported twice in the *Western Telegraph*:

<https://www.westerntelegraph.co.uk/news/24407177.cresselly-arms-kilgetty-named-best-pub-wales/>

<https://www.westerntelegraph.co.uk/news/24406675.waterside-village-pub-ranked-one-pembrokeshires-best/>

As our Pub of the Year is on CAMRA's National Heritage list, its success in the all-Wales PotY was reported there also

<https://pubheritage.camra.org.uk/bulletins/pub-heritage-bulletin-256-jun-2024>

(scroll down to Two Star Heritage Pubs)

Here's the CAMRA Pub Heritage Group's entry for our Pub of the Year, showing another reason why it is special:

<https://pubheritage.camra.org.uk/pubs/9096>

CAMRA Regional Director for Wales, Chris Charters, will be presenting the Certificate to *Cresselly Arms* landlord Steve Adams on Friday 12th July at 2pm. See below for more information.

BRANCH MEMBERS MEET AT QUIRKY HAVERFORDWEST BAR

There was the usual good turnout of Pembrokeshire members for our June Branch Meeting on Saturday 29th June. We met at the *Core of the Poodle*, a bar as quirky as its name. Run by Branch Member Malcolm, it is a record shop, selling a vast range of vinyl records (remember them?) and apparatus to play them. It also includes a bar, which normally sells Malcolm's own brews.

Currently the brewery on site is closed as a major refurbishment takes place. This will create a pub space behind the record shop and enhanced brewing facilities. Watch this space for news.

However, Malcolm laid on some fine ales on draught and in bottle for us and a good and worthwhile time was had by all. Why not come along next time and share the CAMRA Branch Meeting experience? Not just Branch business, but a good convivial time in jovial company.

WHAT WE'RE DOING NEXT:

Wales Pub of the Year Presentation: Friday 12th July, 2pm at the *Cresselly Arms*, Cresswell Quay SA68 0TE

Wales CAMRA Regional Director Chris Charters is coming to present *Cresselly Arms* landlord Steve Adams with his well-deserved Wales CAMRA Pub of the Year 2024 Certificate at about 2pm.

Shared taxis will be departing from Haverfordwest Bus Station around 1pm, going back afterwards. Please let the Secretary know on secretary@pembrokeshire.camra.org.uk if you are interested. The fare should be reasonable if enough of us share it.

Come along and see the pub CAMRA has voted the best in all of Wales!

July Branch Meeting: Saturday 20th July at 2 p.m. at the *Castle*, Bridge Street, Newport, Pembrokeshire SA42 0TB

We're going up the coast for our next Branch Meeting. Newport has several decent pubs, which we may well explore after the Branch Meeting. Should be a good day. See you there!

Getting there:

T5 bus leaves from Haverfordwest at 12.40, calls Letterston 11.59 and leaves Fishguard 13.20, arrives Newport Square 13.35.

15.39 bus back arrives Fishguard 15.55, Letterston 16.14, Haverfordwest 16.31. 17.39 bus back arrives Fishguard 17.55, Letterston 18.12, Haverfordwest 18.31.

ABERAERON BEER FESTIVAL, Saturday 10th August

See <https://www.aberaeronyachtclub.co.uk/aberaeron-beer-and-cider-festival>

This is reachable on the trusty T5 bus from Haverfordwest and Fishguard. Some Branch members usually attend and it is a chance not only to sample some interesting ales and ciders but also to meet our friends from Bae Ceredigion CAMRA.

***Rhos yr Hafod Gŵyl Gwrw* 17th and 18th August**

Bae Ceredigion's Pub of the Year, the *Rhos yr Hafod* at Cross Inn (Llanon) SY23 5NB is having its annual Beer Festival. We are hoping to organise a Branch visit on the Saturday. The pub is a few miles inland from the nearest T5 bus stop, so we are trying to find out if there is a way to get from bus stop to pub. Update in the next Branch Bulletin, or come to the Branch Meeting on July 20th and find out.

CARMARTHENSHIRE CAMRA BEER FESTIVAL 3rd-5th October

Carmarthenshire Beer & Cider Festival is back for 2024!

Thursday 3rd October 2024 5pm – 11pm

Friday 4th October 2024 12pm – 11pm

Saturday 5th October 2024 12pm – 11pm

£10 entry fee includes access to the festival across three days, 3 half pint tokens, festival glass, and a festival programme

CAMRA members get an extra token (bring your card!) Entry is pay on door – no advance tickets

Live music on Friday night

The festival will be held at its usual location: St. Peters Civic Hall, Nott Square, Carmarthen, SA31 1BA.

In its 28th year the festival has an extensive choice of over 40 real ales and ciders from across Wales and the rest of the UK, providing a great opportunity to try different & varying beers.

See <https://carmarthenshire.camra.org.uk/index.php/carmarthenshire-beer-festival/> for the latest news

Our Branch will no doubt be holding its usual Branch Meeting and Social there, and there will probably be a West Wales Area Social then too. Watch this space....

Interested in volunteering to work at the Festival, as several Branch members already do? Let the Secretary know at the address at the bottom and he will pass your details to our Carmarthenshire friends. Note they especially need help for put up on the Wednesday before, and take down on the Sunday after, the festival.

BRANCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, Saturday 14th December, *Hope and Anchor*, Goodwick

Keep the date of the most important meeting in the Branch's year free in your diaries. We are making a change from our usual venue, the Corner Piece, Rudbaxton. There will be our usual Christmas meal. More details nearer the time.

TEWKESBURY BEER FESTIVAL VISIT IN FEBRUARY?

We are hoping to organise a trip with accommodation to this top CAMRA festival next February. More details to follow.

GOOD BEER GUIDE SURVEYING IN SUMMERTIME?

Normally we survey County pubs for inclusion in the Good Beer Guide in January or February for the Guide appearing in September. However, it has been pointed out that, given the very seasonal, tourist-led footfall in many of our pubs, many of our pubs are partly or sometimes entirely shut at this time of year, and in any event not offering the range of ales and ciders they offer in summer. Therefore it has been suggested that we do an additional surveying round over the summer. A

decision on this will be taken at the Branch Meeting in July, but members are welcome to start surveying pubs in their area now, submitting their findings to the Secretary on secretary@pembrokeshire.camra.org.uk

Also members are encouraged to keep WhatPub up to date (see item below) and especially to submit beer scores on this site as also explained below.

Many Branches choose their GBG entries on the basis of these WhatPub scores, which is a fairer and more accurate way of choosing the pubs with the best ale in the County. But up until now we have had too few WhatPub scores submitted to do this. With your co-operation we could make this possible and improve our GBG selection process.

PUBS AND BREWERIES NEWS

A FEW PUBS OPEN

A new micro-pub, *The Star*, has opened in Narberth, on the old site used by Mad Tom's Seafood Restaurant near the Clock Tower. Meanwhile work continues apace to refurbish the *Farmers' Arms* on the Square in Fishguard, which is expected to reopen in the coming months. Also, as reported above, the *Core of the Poodle* in Haverfordwest is constructing a new dedicated pub area and brewery behind the existing record shop and bar.

WHILE MORE PUBS CLOSE

The Parsonage Inn, St Florence, now seems doomed to close for good after the local community could raise only 8% of the sum required to buy out their pub. The much-loved former GBG pub in Haverfordwest the *Pembroke Yeoman* has also closed and a planning application has gone in to convert it into residential accommodation. An objection may be raised to this. The *Royal George* in Solva is still for sale, now with two agents, for £500,000. It is hoped, but is not certain, that the buyer will reopen it as a pub. The *Stackpole Inn* is on sale for £1.5 million, but as a going concern so there is a reasonable likelihood it will not close.

Our Branch Pubs Preservation Officer, Alan Kilbey, like CAMRA as a whole, is campaigning hard to fight pub closures. A bad pub can always improve, but a closed down pub is gone for good. Your membership helps us defend our local pubs.

OTHER LOCAL PUB NEWS

The *Griffin* at Dale has been placed in the top ten coastal pubs in the county by Visit Pembrokeshire. The *Cambrian Arms* in Fishguard is now open 10-30 a.m. to mid-evening, Thursday to Sunday. The *Fishguard Arms* is advertising for a Bar Manager.

The *Royal Oak*, Fishguard, has just taken delivery of 3 casks from First and Last Brewery in Northumberland. These beers are not often seen in this area, but should be available in this local pub soon.

Y Cross at Haycastle Cross, owned by the local community, including several Branch members, is now open 5-11 pm every day except Wednesdays when it opens at 3. The kitchen has been

substantially refurbished and sundry other works have been, and are still being, done on the pub, resulting in a fine new glass door among other features. Interviews, in which our Branch is involved at the request of the Community Buyout Society Board of Directors, are in progress for a Bar Manager. That dynamic new Board, elected earlier this year, has already shown itself very committed to promoting Real Ale and Cider. Local Branch members are now visiting this pub between 3 and 6 pm every Wednesday. Why not join this weekly Branch social and get to know other Real Ale and Cider enthusiasts?

REAL ALE PROMOTION AT FISHGUARD'S ABERJAZZ FESTIVAL UNDER WAY

As reported last month, Fishguard pubs are planning to launch a "Real Ale Trail" around the town to coincide with the annual AberJazz Festival over the August Bank Holiday. There is expected to be an advertisement for this in the Festival Programme and a leaflet with details of participating pubs.

Other news?

Any local brewers, or publicans, doing anything likely to be of interest to local CAMRA members, and indeed local members with any news of developments on their local pub scene, 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

THE GENERAL ELECTION: CAMRA ISSUES OUR MANIFESTO FOR BEER

Whilst emphatically not telling anyone how to vote, members may like to cast an eye over CAMRA's "Manifesto for Beer"

<https://www1.camra.org.uk/take-action/general-election-2024>

and our Campaign's reaction to the Parties' Manifestos as they affect Real Ale and pubs

<https://www1.camra.org.uk/articles/2091> before voting on Thursday.

MORE AND MORE PUBS BEING TAXED OUT OF BUSINESS

80 pubs every month this year have been vanishing, repurposed or simply pulled down, across England and Wales, according to a recent analysis of official figures by property consultancy Altus Group. This rate of pub losses is up 56% on the same period last year.

Their findings show an accelerating decline in the number of pubs across the country. Two hundred and thirty-nine have closed down and either been demolished or converted into homes, offices or businesses so far this year.

Wales has seen the largest decline in pubs over the past year, with 70 pubs shutting down.

Altus Group's Alex Probyn said the burden of business rates was the main cause of the accelerating pub closures. Business rates are a tax based simply on the value of the pub's premises, taking no

account of profitability, i.e. the pubs ability to pay. The rising cost of living and the social aftershocks of the lockdowns have reduced the number of people going to the pub for a pint, whilst business rates remain high, driving more and more pubs out of business. Which in turn means they don't pay any business rates at all any more, so the policy is self-defeating in terms of raising public funds.

As Mr Probyn observed, business rates are "a tax that has risen 49% during the last 14 years with business, across all sectors, now paying £9.48bn a year more than in 2010."

The pub and brewing industry has written to party leaders ahead of the election to call for the reform of business rates as well as an immediate cut to beer duty, which is much higher here than across the Channel, to bring it in line with the European average.

In the meantime you can do your bit individually to help keep our pubs in business by enjoying a pint in your local as often as you responsibly can – it's use it or lose it as far as your local is concerned. Collectively you can help CAMRA campaign to save our pubs.

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