

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:

WALES REGIONAL DIRECTOR PRESENTS OUR PUB OF THE YEAR WITH ALL-WALES AWARD

CAMRA Regional Director for Wales, Chris Charters, honoured our Branch by presenting the Wales Pub of the Year Certificate to *Cresselly Arms* landlord Steve Adams on Friday 12th July at 2pm. Our Branch Chair Alwen Thomas and a good turnout of local members made our RD welcome and enjoyed some excellent ale in this CAMRA National Heritage pub. CAMRA members are always welcome there, with a generous 10% CAMRA discount available if you show your Membership Card.

BRANCH MEMBERS GO UP THE COAST FOR SUCCESSFUL JULY MEETING

Branch members went up the coast to Newport for the Branch Meeting on July 20th. Our Branch Chair Alwen being away, Vice Chair Nick Miles ably stepped into the breach, welcoming new members and old to Good Beer Guide pub *The Castle*, at which some fine local ales were on tap. After the meeting, some members stopped off on the way back to enjoy an impromptu pub crawl of Fishguard.

Typical of our Branch meetings, where the, generally brief, business is followed by enjoying some fine beers and ciders with like-minded drinkers. Why not come along and join us next time?

WHAT WE'RE DOING NEXT:

August Branch Meeting, Saturday 31st August at 2.00pm at the Artramont Arms, Croesgoch, SA62 5JP.

Landlord Gareth promises a special welcome for us at this vibrant community pub on the A487 by the turn off for Porthgain. He usually opens at 2pm but will open early for members coming by bus.

Getting there:

T11 bus from Haverfordwest at 12.03 via St. Davids arrives 13.10. The T5 from Fishguard at 10.50 connects, arriving Haverfordwest bus station at 11.26.

Getting back:

T11 from Croesgoch 17.20 arrives Fishguard 17.55. T11 from Croesgoch 17.32 arrives Haverfordwest 18.28, in time for the T5 at 18.49 arrives Letterston 19.08.

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 were hoping to organise a Branch visit on the Saturday but this has proved impracticable due to the lack of suitable public transport to its out of the way location. However, Branch members travelling under their own steam will be very welcome to this fine hostelry.

BRANCH PRODUCING ALE MAP FOR ABERJAZZ FESTIVAL OVER AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY WEEKEND

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. Our Branch is helping produce a leaflet which will be available with a list of participating pubs.

2026 GOOD BEER GUIDE SURVEYING STARTS IN SEPTEMBER

Like most CAMRA Branches, we have surveyed pubs for inclusion in the Good Beer Guide in the January and February to appear in the GBG published in September. However, many pubs in our area are operating on a very restricted basis in terms of opening hours and range of beers and ciders on offer in the depths of winter. So the Branch has decided to do the bulk of its surveys in September, when our pubs are open more, and only do a quick check in the New Year that pubs surveyed have neither closed, been sold or otherwise changed radically since they were surveyed.

This means we need Branch members to survey their local pubs, checking opening hours, beer range and quality of beer on offer, in September. Please contact the Secretary on the e-mail address below to let us know which pubs you plan to survey and subsequently the results. We will be organising carloads with a designated driver to survey the more outlying pubs – again let the Secretary know if you are interested. A chance to taste good ale in pubs and help CAMRA – what's not to like?

In the long run, we would like to base GBG selection on beer scores submitted throughout the year on What Pub (see below for details), which is the correct nationwide CAMRA process, but currently so few members submit such scores that we cannot do this. Please start scoring your beers!

WALES PUB OF THE YEAR CRESSELY ARMS BEER FESTIVAL September 28th-29th Weekend?

Our Branch, and CAMRA's Wales, Pub of the Year, the *Cresselly Arms* at Cresswell Quay, has indicated it may well be holding a beer and cider festival over the last weekend in September, hopefully with minibus transport to and from the pub from Narberth or even Haverfordwest. If this goes ahead, we will be organising the launch of the 2025 Good Beer Guide at this Festival. Confirmation and details in our next Newsletter at the start of September.

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 be holding its usual Branch Meeting and Social there, and there will 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 JANUARY 29th – 1st FEBRUARY 2025

Branch members will be attending this top CAMRA Beer Festival. More welcome – you will need to book your own accommodation and transport.

PUBS AND BREWERIES NEWS

MUCH-LOVED HAVERFORDWEST PUB'S FUTURE IN DOUBT

The *Pembroke Yeoman*, a Good Beer Guide regular for many years, is now for sale as a pub for £350,000. Can members report any advertisements they see for this pub to the Branch via the Secretary, address below?

Local beer-lovers have raised £200,000 with hopes of external fund matching. Given the historic nature of the pub, Welsh heritage body *Cadw* is supporting saving it. Community buyouts have saved a number of pubs in our Branch area, and the Branch wishes every success to this rescue bid for a fine and historic Haverfordwest pub.

OTHER LOCAL PUB NEWS

The *Swanlake* at Jameston is being refurbished and the management says it will reopen when this is done. Work has commenced to rebuild the *Duke of Edinburgh* at Newgale following the recent fire. The *Ship Aground* and the *Freemasons' Arms* in Dinas are both up for sale as going concerns, in the latter case this has been so for some time. The *Farmers' Arms* in Mathry is under new management and it is reported the beer quality has markedly improved. Worth giving it a try!

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.

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.

Y Cross at Hayscastle Cross, owned by the local community, including several Branch members, is still in the throes of appointing a new Bar Manager, after the person appointed recently pulled out for personal reasons at the last minute. The pub is open 5-11 pm every day except Wednesdays when it opens at 3. 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?

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

FAMOUS ALES THREATENED AS LEGENDARY BREWERY SOLD OFF TO GLOBAL MULTINATIONAL

Marston's, who had owned famous beer brands such as Hobgoblin, Pedigree, Wainwright and Courage, have become the latest of Britain's once-proud brewers to stop brewing and degenerate into a mere pub landlord when they sold their 175-year-old brewery in Burton-on-Trent off to Denmark-based multinational Carlsberg in early July. Given that Carlsberg has already shut down once proud local ales such as Jennings of Cumbria and Charlie Wells of Bedford the omens are not good for their latest acquisitions.

Marston's is just the latest in a long and sad line of once-revered breweries to stop brewing beer – Young's, once of Wandsworth in south London, cut its last ties with brewing in 2011, Fuller's, once its great London real ale rival, sold out its brewing to Asahi, based in Japan, in 2019. Global brewing giant AB InBev gobbled up Bass in 2000 and Boddington's in 2011. The next year AB InBev shut down the brewing of classic real ale Boddington's, once the "Cream of Manchester". Whilst noted real ale brewer Dark Star of Sussex, having been bought up by Fuller's just before they sold out to Asahi, was shut down by its new Japan-based corporate owners in 2022.

Somewhat better news for us in Wales is that Brain's of Cardiff have done the opposite, selling off their pubs to concentrate on brewing good Welsh beer. This enabled them to clear their post-lockdown debt and hopefully the future for an iconic Welsh brewery is bright.

But that good news is a bright spot in a darkening ale landscape. As CAMRA National Chair Nik Antona said of the news from Burton-on-Trent "This is a worrying development for Britain's brewing heritage, with Marston's remaining brewing assets being transferred to a global brewing business which has already presided over the closure of historic breweries".

Real ale brewing, like real ale pubs, is under threat. Get active in CAMRA and defend our ale heritage, before it's too late.

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. Ideally we would like to base the whole GBG selection process on these scores, as many other Branches do, but that needs all of us to get out there submitting scores!

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