

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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BRANCH MEMBERS GO DOWN THE COAST FOR SUCCESSFUL AUGUST MEETING

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September Branch Meeting, Saturday 21st September at 1.00pm (NOTE TIME!) at the William Owen, Quay Street, Haverfordwest SA61 1BG.

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2026 GOOD BEER GUIDE SURVEYING STARTING IN SEPTEMBER

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WHAT WE'VE BEEN DOING:

NATIONWIDE PUBLICITY FOR OUR BRANCH PUB OF THE YEAR

Our Branch Pub of the Year, now Wales Pub of the Year, the *Cresselly Arms*, Cresswell Quay, featured in newspapers the length and breadth of our islands, from Belfast to Brighton, when CAMRA announced its list of Regional Pubs of the Year to the media in mid-August.

BRANCH MEMBERS GO DOWN THE COAST FOR SUCCESSFUL AUGUST MEETING

Branch members went down the coast to Croesgoch for the Branch Meeting on August 31st. Our Branch Chair Alwen welcomed a good turnout to the Good Beer Guide listed *Artramont Arms*. Landlord Gareth laid on some fine ales for us which we enjoyed in the late summer sunshine.

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:

Branch Social in the Wales CAMRA Pub of the Year, THIS SATURDAY 7th September 12.30 onwards

Our Branch Pub of the Year, the Cresselly Arms, Cresswell Quay, SA68 0TE was declared the best pub in Wales by CAMRA. Come and see why when they hold a Beer and Cider Festival this weekend, from Friday 6th to Sunday 8th.

Getting there and back

Transport is laid on for our Branch Social on Saturday from the Bush pub in Robeston Wathen at 12.30, coming back at 5. This connects with the 322 bus leaving Haverfordwest Bus Station at 12.10 and one going back at 5.15.

September Branch Meeting, Saturday 21st September at 1.00pm (NOTE TIME!) at the William Owen, Quay Street, Haverfordwest SA61 1BG.

Our county's only Wetherspoons always gives CAMRA a fine welcome. Manageress Nicola is an active Branch member, and a fine selection of ales and eats at excellent value prices is always available there. Come along and meet fellow ale and cider lovers in a convivial atmosphere.

Getting there:

T5 bus from Fishguard at 11.50, calls Letterston 12.04 and arrives Haverfordwest Bus Station at 12.21

Getting back

T5's back to Letterston and Fishguard leave at 16.15 and 17.00.

There are also buses connecting Haverfordwest with many other parts of our County.

CARMARTHENSHIRE CAMRA BEER FESTIVAL 3rd-5th October – BRANCH MEETING & SOCIAL Friday 4th

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, on the Friday afternoon, October 4th (details in our next newsletter)

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.

2026 GOOD BEER GUIDE SURVEYING STARTING 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!

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

GOOD NEWS – ONE PUB REOPENS AND ANOTHER'S BEER IMPROVES

The *Old Sailors* at Pwll Gwaelod, near Dinas Cross, which has been closed for some time, has now reopened as the *Sailors' Safety*. Meanwhile the *Farmers' Arms* in Mathry is under new management, and the quality of the real ale sold there has reportedly much improved. We wish both pubs every success.

COMMUNITY BUYOUT PUB MAKES PROGRESS

Y Cross at Haycastle Cross, owned by the local community, including several Branch members, is holding a Shareholders General Meeting on 5th September, when the Board of Directors will report on the extensive progress made in refurbishing this much-loved community local over the past few months. The kitchen has been renovated and the management hope to be able to offer food as well as good ale very shortly.

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

CAMRA NATIONAL CHAIRMAN NIK ANTONA STEPS DOWN

Sadly, our National Chairman, Nik Antona, has had to step down due to ill health. Pembrokeshire Branch wishes Nik a speedy recovery and salutes his many years of hard work for our Campaign. A new Chairman will be elected shortly.

CAMRA SUPPORTS HOME BREWERS WITH NEW BOOK AND HOMEBREWER OF THE YEAR COMPETITION

The Campaign's latest title, [The Modern Homebrewer](#) by Andy Parker and Jamil Zainasheff, debuts on 5 September.

CAMRA is supporting the next generation of brewers with the publication, which is a hands-on, practical guide to the most up-to-date techniques, ingredients, equipment and processes for producing professional-quality beer at home.

Ideal for both curious beginners and the most seasoned home brewers wanting to experience a new challenge, this ultimate guide features many world-class recipes from around the globe. Each chapter features a QR code link to videos, calculators, and other links to valuable brewing resources.

Many of today's most popular independent brewers first started their career as homebrewing hobbyists, and it is hoped CAMRA's new guide will inspire the next generation of beer-producing talent.

The two authors are prime examples of award-winning homebrewers who turned their passion into a profession.

Andy Parker is the owner and head brewer of Berkshire-based [Elusive Brewing](#) and champions the vibrant British homebrewing scene from where his love of beer and brewing developed. Elusive Brewing's flagship beer Oregon Trail West Coast IPA was awarded UK's Best IPA at the 2021 World Beer Awards, and Andy was named the British Guild of Beer Writers [Brewer of the Year](#) in 2022.

Jamil Zainasheff is a homebrewer, author, beer judge, and host of *The Jamil Show* and *Brew Strong* shows on [The Brewing Network](#). Jamil and his wife Liz, were, until recently, founders and owners of [Heretic Brewing Company](#), a 30-barrel brewery in California's San Francisco Bay area.

The book release coincides with the start of judging for CAMRA's [Homebrewer of the Year](#) competition.

Homebrewers can enter their beers into one of 11 categories to be judged at the [Nailmaker Brewing Co.](#) From there, the best of the best will then be judged at the [Bohemia](#), home of the [London Brewing Company](#), on Wednesday 2 October, with the winners announced on the day.

Entries are open until 6 September at: <https://gbbfhomebrew.brewingcompetitions.com/>

More information about the competition can be found here: <https://camra.org.uk/what-we-do/homebrew-competition/>

Any home brewers in the Branch interested in entering? Our Branch has picked the Wales Pub of the Year – perhaps we have the Home Brewer of the Year too!

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