

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:

HAPPY BREW YEAR TO ALL OUR MEMBERS!

WHAT WE'VE BEEN DOING:

A SPLENDID REPAST FOLLOWS A SUCCESSFUL AGM

WHAT WE'RE DOING NEXT:

DEADLINES FOR OUR BRANCH: 2026 Good Beer Guide List, 20th February, Branch Pub of the Year 9th March

CARMARTHENSHIRE CAMRA BIRTHDAY PARTY – Saturday 4th January, 2pm at the New Coracle Tavern 1 Cambrian Place, Carmarthen, SA31 1QG

JANUARY BRANCH MEETING, Saturday 11th January, 2pm *The Star*, 5 Market Square, Narberth, SA67 7AU

JANUARY BRANCH SOCIAL, Tour of Templeton's Beer Distributors (with FREE BEER) Saturday 25th January, 1.45 pm

SELLING ADVERTISING TO FUND OUR NEW BRANCH MAGAZINE, Puffin Pints, UNDER WAY SOON

TEWKESBURY BEER FESTIVAL VISIT 5th to 8th FEBRUARY 2025

SIBA BEERX, LIVERPOOL, 19th and 20th MARCH

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HAPPY BREW YEAR TO ALL OUR MEMBERS!

A Happy New Year with much enjoyment of good ale and cider in fine local pubs to all members.

Special wishes for a successful New Year to our brewers, cider makers and publicans, who are struggling in difficult times. We really appreciate your efforts to make and serve the drinks we love.

We can all show our appreciation to those who bring us our enjoyment by spurning the kill-joys' "Dry January" and making a point of dropping in to our favourite hostelrys for a few , helping them get through an especially difficult time of year.

The past year has been a good one for the Branch. Our membership has increased, as has attendance at Branch meetings and activities. Next year we hope to launch our Branch magazine, *Puffin Pints*. It will be a good year for you to join us at meetings and activities, if you haven't already.

WHAT WE'VE BEEN DOING:

A SPLENDID REPAST FOLLOWS A SUCCESSFUL AGM

Members tucked into a first-rate Festive Feast at the *Hope and Anchor*, Goodwick, following a well-attended Annual General Meeting of Pembrokeshire CAMRA.

The following Branch Officers were elected:

Chair	Alwen Thomas
Vice Chair	Nick Myles
Secretary	Steve Brady
Treasurer	Nick Myles

Membership Secretary	John Padget
Publicity Officer	Jon O'Brien
Pubs Officer	Nigel Skipper
Pubs Preservation Officer	Alan Kilbey
Branch Website Administrator	Jon O'Brien
Branch Contact	Alwen Thomas
Pubs Database Co-ordinator	Paul Padget
GBG Co-ordinator	Steve Brady
Cider Officer	Jimmy Whitworth
Social Secretary	Nick Myles
Branch Dog	Biggles
Deputy Dog	Lester

Thanks are due to John Padget for organising the much enjoyed Branch Christmas Dinner.

As this one showed, Branch meetings are social occasions as well as business ones. Why not join us next time and see for yourself.

WHAT WE'RE DOING NEXT:

DEADLINES FOR OUR BRANCH: 2026 Good Beer Guide List, 20th February, Branch Pub of the Year 9th March

This means that the January and February Branch meetings, where these are highlighted for survey and then chosen, are especially important. Come along and back your favourite pub!

CARMARTHENSHIRE CAMRA BIRTHDAY PARTY – Saturday 4th January, 2pm at the *New Coracle Tavern* 1 Cambrian Place, Carmarthen, SA31 1QG

We have sent in numbers for this to Carmarthen, which they need for the buffet etc. If you have not already let us know you are coming, you cannot unfortunately just turn up on the day. However, if you haven't told us but would like to come let our Secretary know as soon as possible and he will see if he can squeeze you in.

Getting there:

T5 bus from Fishguard at 10.50, calls Letterston 11.04 and arrives Haverfordwest Bus Station at 11.21. 322 bus for Carmarthen leaves Haverfordwest Bus Station at 12.10 arriving Carmarthen Bus Station 13.15. The venue is a few minutes' walk from there.

322 back leaves Carmarthen Bus Station at 16.32 arriving Haverfordwest Bus Station at 17.45. T5 north leaves 18.49.

Train from Haverfordwest leaves 13.18 arriving 13.56, if it is not cancelled. The rail station is 20 minutes' walk from the pub. Trains back leave at 17.58 arriving 18.37. connecting with the T5 north from the station at 18.45. There is a 19.41 arriving 2019.

We also hope to have our annual get-together with Carmarthenshire at the *Station House* in Whitland, run by the brother of the landlord of the *Cresselly Arms*, Branch and Wales Pub of the Year, at some point in the New Year – watch this space.

JANUARY BRANCH MEETING, Saturday 11th January, 2pm *The Star*, 5 Market Square, Narberth, SA67 7AU

The *Star* is a new arrival on the County real ale scene, a micropub on the former site of Mad Tom's Seafood Restaurant by the Town Hall. They normally have at least one real ale on gravity dispense on the bar. Let's give them a bit of a leg up by turning up in force. Armed with suggestions for pubs to be surveyed for possible inclusion in the next CAMRA Good Beer Guide, entries for which will be decided at the February Branch meeting.

A pub crawl of Narberth may very well follow the meeting.

Getting there:

T5 bus from Fishguard at 11.50, calling Letterston at 12.04 arrives Haverfordwest Bus Station at 12.26. 381 bus from Haverfordwest Bus Station at 13.02 arrives Narberth at 13.25.

381's back leave Narberth (by the Hwb) every hour at 23 minutes past until 18.23, arriving Haverfordwest Bus Station at 48 minutes past. Thence T5's back leave Haverfordwest Bus Station at 16.15, calling at Letterston at 16.34 and arriving Fishguard 16.48, Haverfordwest Bus Station at 17.04, calling at Letterston at 17.23 and arriving Fishguard 17.43, and finally Haverfordwest Bus Station at 18.49, calling at Letterston at 19.08 and arriving Fishguard 19.18.

JANUARY BRANCH SOCIAL, Tour of Templeton's Beer Distributors (with FREE BEER) Saturday 25th January, 1.45 pm

Lyndon Belt, whom many members know as the landlord of the real ale pub *The Angel* in Narberth, is Business Development Manager at Templeton's, our County's leading distributor of beer, wine and spirits. He has invited us for a short walk & talk around the depot showing Templeton's 'journey' so far and the daily processes of the operation, followed by a sampling session and some light refreshments.

Let the Secretary know if you are coming at the January Branch meeting or by 18th January to secretary@pembrokeshire.camra.org.uk so our host has an idea of our numbers.

Should be an interesting and enjoyable afternoon.

Getting there:

T5 bus from Fishguard at 11.50, calling Letterston at 12.04 arrives Haverfordwest Bus Station at 12.26. 381 bus from Haverfordwest Bus Station at 12.55 arrives Templeton's (Boar's Head Bridge), the stop after Narberth, at 13.37.

The 381 bus leaves Templeton's at 17.15, arriving Haverfordwest Bus Station at 17.48, connecting with the T5 north leaving at 18.49. There is an earlier bus from Templeton's at 16.15, arriving at Haverfordwest at 16.50, connecting with the T5 at 17.04.

SELLING ADVERTISING TO FUND OUR NEW BRANCH MAGAZINE, Puffin Pints, UNDER WAY SOON

Neil Richards of Paper Red Media, who will be producing our Branch magazine, and his colleague Matt will shortly start contacting our local pubs, breweries etc. to see if they are interested in advertising in our Branch magazine. These advertisements will fund the production of the magazine, so it will be free to us and will be then distributed, also free, to pubs, clubs and other suitable establishments across the County at the start of the tourist season, so maximising the effectiveness of such advertisements.

Branch members themselves interested in advertising in Puffin Pints, or who know people who are, are asked to contact the Magazine Editor, Steve, at secretary@pembrokeshire.camra.org.uk so he can put them in touch with PRM. Also everyone should let any publicans and brewers know that they may soon be contacted by PRM to offer them advertising in our magazine.

Advertising rates will be:

¼ page of A5 full colour	£90
½ page ditto	£145
1 full page	£260
Full page, inside front or back cover	£280
Full back page	£300

In the New Year we will be looking for articles, in English or Cymraeg, and items of news about local pubs and breweries. News of what they are doing and planning from local publicans and brewers will be especially welcome for the Pub and Brewery News sections of the magazine. Indeed, contributions from all local members will be much appreciated – this is our, and so your, magazine. **Deadline for your contributions is the end of February.**

The **final copy deadline** for the Editor – who will be contacting local pubs and breweries himself as required to their get up to date news – is **the end of March.**

TEWKESBURY BEER FESTIVAL VISIT 5th to 8th FEBRUARY 2025

Branch members will be attending this noted CAMRA Beer Festival.

SIBA BEERX, LIVERPOOL, 19th and 20th MARCH

Branch members will also be attending this top Beer Festival organised by the Society of Independent Brewers and Associates.

Interested in attending either, or both, of these events? More members welcome – but you will need to book your own accommodation and transport.

Contact the Secretary on secretary@pembrokeshire.camra.org.uk

for more details.

PUBS AND BREWERIES NEWS

LOCAL PUBS REOPEN, AND ONE SHUTS FOR A SHORT WHILE

The *Ranch* in Llanychaer is now open again. So is the *Brewery Inn* at Milton, whose landlord is Steve Adams, landlord of the *Cresselly Arms*, our Branch's, and Wales' Pub of the Year 2024.

The *Corner Piece* in Rudbaxton is closed until 22nd January.

CAMRA JOINS COMMUNITY PUB CELEBRATIONS

The Branch was represented at the Christmas Dinner held at *Y Cross*, Hayscastle Cross, a pub saved by its local community. The pub is open 5-11 pm every day except Wednesdays when it opens at 3. Local Branch members visit 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 (BAD AGAIN THIS MONTH, SADLY!)

MORE THAN ONE PUB SHUTTING EVERY DAY IN ENGLAND AND WALES

More than one pub a day has closed down since this time last year, new figures show. 400 pubs across England and Wales were demolished or converted to another use over the last year, according

to fresh information published at the end of December. Government data analysed by commercial real estate specialist Altus Group revealed the number of pubs across the country fell below 39,000 for the first time.

Altus said 412 pubs called last orders for the final time over the year to December at a rate of more than 34 a month. This was the sharpest fall in pub numbers since 2021, when the sector was hit hard by pandemic restrictions and surging energy prices. UK pub numbers have now plunged by more than 2,000 since the start of 2020.

In Wales we now have only 2905 pubs, a fall of 34 since this time last year. This means almost every week, Wales has lost a pub.

Our pubs are being battered by subdued consumer sentiment, high staffing costs and the looming impact of Autumn Budget tax hikes from April next year.

Alex Probyn, of Altus Group which published these shocking new figures observed: “Many publicans that I speak to are extremely worried that this could be their last Christmas given the combination of hiking the amount employers will have to pay in National Insurance, increases to the minimum wage and the business rates discount being slashed from 75 to 40 per cent in 2025.

“Many pubs simply will no longer be viable making plots even more attractive for alternative investment”, he warned.

Clearly our Campaign is needed more than ever! **Don't let your local die - get active with CAMRA!**

OTHER ITEMS

CAMRA PUBLICITY MATERIAL FOR OUR PUBS STILL AVAILABLE!!

We have lots of the 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 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