

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:

FEBRUARY BRANCH MEETING PICKS OUR BEST PUBS

A very well-attended Branch meeting at *The William Owen*, Haverfordwest's Wetherspoon's, on February 15th chose our entries for the 2026 CAMRA Good Beer Guide and our Pub and Cider Pub of the Year. The meeting was notable for the large number of new members attending – and playing an active part – in their first Branch Meeting, evidence of how our Branch is thriving and growing.

William Owen manager, and active Branch member, Nicola Morris ensured we had a private area in her busy pub for our sensitive discussions. The Branch took the opportunity to congratulate Nicola on the latest, and recent, addition to her growing family.

Our list of entries for the GBG is confidential, but we can say that the Branch's choices have now been entered on the national CAMRA system, thanks to some much-appreciated hard work under time pressure by a number of Branch activists to ensure these entries were up to date and correct.

The Branch resolved that no pub could win the same annual Branch award two years in a row. This sadly means that our current Branch, and Wales Regional, Pub of the Year, the *Cresselly Arms*, Cresswell Quay, is not eligible this year. But it was felt that we ought to give our other pubs a chance.

Our Branch Pub of the Year 2025 is the *Fynnone Arms*, Newchapel, with the *Farmers' Arms*, St Davids, being runner up. The *Cresselly Arms* won Branch Cider Pub of the Year, with the *Fishguard Arms*, Fishguard, being runner up. No award was made for Branch Club of the Year this year. Once we have the relevant certificates from CAMRA HQ, presentations will be arranged – watch this space!

After the business was concluded members enjoyed the wide selection of excellent value ales and ciders, and indeed food, available at our local 'Spoons. Everyone said they had found the meeting both enjoyable and worthwhile – as will any member who comes along to our Branch Meetings – give it a try!

BRANCH REPRESENTED AT WALES REGIONAL MEETING

Pembrokeshire CAMRA's Branch Chair, Alwen Thomas, and Secretary, Steve Brady, represented the Branch at last Saturday's Wales Regional Meeting, which was held in Shrewsbury because, although the town has not been in Wales for a long time, it is easier than anywhere in Wales for representatives of all the Welsh Branches to get to.

Our Branch representatives joined in the discussions of matters of interest to Wales CAMRA as a whole and heard much about the Region's future plans, which include two possible Beer Festivals next year, one in Bangor and one in Cardiff. We will share more details about these as they become available.

Our Branch representatives arrived on the Friday afternoon, which gave them a chance to take the short bus trip to Oswestry to visit CAMRA's National Pub of the Year for 2025, the *Bailey Head*. A splendid hostelry worthy of its title, which is enabled by its busy market town location to offer a wide variety of real ales and ciders, with six of each on draught at all times. After the Regional Meeting, our reps joined Branch officers from across Wales in exploring the fine pubs of Shrewsbury.

As with most CAMRA activities, campaigning business was combined with imbibing pleasure.

WHAT WE'RE DOING NEXT:

MARCH BRANCH MEETING, Saturday 29th March, 2pm, Y CROSS, Haycastle Cross

Y Cross is one of the pubs in our Branch area where locals saved their local through a community buyout. Pembrokeshire CAMRA was actively involved in supporting the local community in doing this from the outset. Although under CAMRA rules not yet eligible to be in the Good Beer Guide as it has not been under its current management long enough, the pub has already earned a solid reputation for offering an interesting variety of ales in tip-top condition in a friendly local community atmosphere. Come along and enjoy!

Getting there:

T5 buses run from Fishguard or Haverfordwest to Letterston and back afterward. Transport to the pub will be arranged from and to Letterston. The T5 currently has a temporary timetable due to roadworks at Newport, which may or may not still be in force, so watch this space..

Further details will be provided once this transport has been arranged and we know the times of the buses on the day – a special Branch Newsletter will be sent about a week before the date. So keep the date free and Watch This Space.

OUR NEW BRANCH MAGAZINE, Puffin Pints, NOW UNDER WAY

A number of Branch members are now hard at work producing articles for our new Branch Magazine, *Puffin Pints*, but more contributions are welcome, by end March please, to secretary@pembrokeshire.camra.org.uk.

Neil Richards of Paper Red Media, who will be producing our Branch magazine, and his colleague Matt have sold some advertisements in the magazine. These will fund the production of the magazine, so it will be free to us and will then be 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.

There is more advertising space available at the moment, so if you are interested, or know a pub or other local business that is, Neil and his team can now be contacted direct on 01536 358670 or by e-mail on n.richards@btinternet.com or paperredmedia@outlook.com. Please don't forget to mention Pembrokeshire CAMRA and *Puffin Pints*.

Advertising rates are:

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

BRANCH SWEAT, POLO AND T- SHIRTS AVAILABLE SOON, HOPEFULLY

We hope shortly to have available a range of attire bearing our Branch logo. More details, notably prices, soon, and we shall then take orders.

SIBA BEEREX, LIVERPOOL, 19th and 20th MARCH

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

Interested in attending? 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.

WEST WALES BEER TASTING TRAINING SESSION POSTPONED

West Wales Area of CAMRA had arranged a CAMRA Beer Tasting Training Session for 26th March in Carmarthen. However, the trainer we had booked cannot now come because of a family bereavement and all efforts to find a replacement have been unsuccessful. Therefore, we will have to postpone this to a future date to be announced.

In the meantime, if you have paid to book a place, CAMRA HQ will be refunding your money.

We are very sorry about this, but I am sure you will join me in sending our sympathies to our trainer, Kevin, on his sad loss.

PUBS AND BREWERIES NEWS

LOVELY VILLAGE'S LOCAL CLOSED, UP FOR SALE

The *Trewern Arms*, a regular Good Beer Guide entry noted for its annual Beer Festival, a regular in our Branch calendar, in the lovely and historic village of Nevern, is now up for sale. The Bar and Restaurant are closed although limited room bookings are still being taken. If this fine County pub is lost it will be a tragedy – we can only hope a buyer – perhaps even the local community? – is found who will keep the pub open.

WEEKLY CAMRA SOCIAL AT VILLAGE COMMUNITY PUB

Local Branch members visit *Y Cross*, Hayscastle Cross, a pub saved by its local community, between 3 and 6 pm every Wednesday. The pub is open 5-11 pm every day except Wednesdays when it opens at 3. 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.

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