

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.

NODYN I'N HAELODAU SY'N SIARAD CYMRAEG

Oherwydd ei fod yn brysur iawn yn ysgrifennu a pharatoi ein cylchgrawn Cangen newydd, *Peintiau Pâl (Puffin Pints)*, ar gyfer y dyddiadau cau cyhoeddi sy'n prysur agosáu, yn syml iawn nid yw ein Hysgrifennydd wedi cael amser i baratoi ein fersiwn Gymraeg arferol o'r Cylchlythyr hwn, rhywbeth y mae'n mwynhau ei wneud yn fawr.

Mae'n wir ddrwg ganddo am hyn ac mae'n gobeithio ac yn bwriadu mynd yn ôl i gyhoeddi Cylchlythyrau yn y ddwy iaith fis nesaf.

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WHAT WE'VE BEEN DOING:

MARCH BRANCH MEETING BEST ATTENDED FOR YEARS

Our meeting at *Y Cross* Hayscastle Cross had the largest attendance at a Pembrokeshire CAMRA Branch meeting for many years. CAMRA supported the community buyout whereby the locals of this village saved their pub, and CAMRA members are always welcome there.

Newly-appointed Bar Manager Shawn Smith laid on two fine real ales in top condition, provided a well-appointed private meeting room for us and cooked us a superb beef stew and chips for after the meeting. He also addressed members about the Real Ale Tasting Society he is setting up based in the pub, to which CAMRA members will be most welcome. We will keep you posted on this and may well hold joint events with Shawn's RATS.

Special thanks are due to our Branch Chair, Alwen, who arranged Fflecsi Bwses to ferry members to and from the venue,

A most enjoyable afternoon – see you at the next meeting!

BRANCH REPRESENTED AT SIBA BEERX IN LIVERPOOL

The previous week a delegation of Branch members led by our Branch Chair Alwen and Branch Secretary Steve attended the Society of Independent Brewers and Associates' trade fair, BeerX, in Liverpool, courtesy of our local Gwaun Valley Brewery. That Brewery's CAMRA Brewery Liaison Officer, Jon, also attended.

There was an excellent beer festival laid on, plus interesting tastings. Lots of brewing apparatus was on display. The meeting was addressed by CAMRA's dynamic new Chairman, Ash Corbett-Collins, whom our attendees met and chatted with afterwards.

Our group also toured some of the superb pubs for which Liverpool is justly famous.

A report on this will appear, space permitting, in the forthcoming first issue of our Branch Magazine, *Puffin Pints*.

WHAT WE'RE DOING NEXT:

APRIL BRANCH MEETING, Saturday 26th April, 3 pm (note time) *The Corner Piece*, Rudbaxton, on A40, SA62 5PG

Getting there:

T5 bus from Fishguard 13.50, calls Letterston 13.59, arr 14.07. From Haverfordwest 14.40 arrive 14.50.

Going back buses leave the Corner Piece at 16.20 in both directions, to Haverfordwest arr 16.30 and to Letterston arr 16.30, and Fishguard arr. 16.48. There are later buses back.

The Corner Piece is noted for its warm welcome and fine ale.

VACANCIES FOR BRANCH TREASURER, DEPUTY-CHAIRMAN AND SOCIAL SECRETARY

Our long-serving Branch Treasurer, Deputy-Chairman and Social Secretary, Nick Myles, has sadly stepped down with regret as other commitments mean he can no longer attend Branch meetings as often as he feels he ought. The Branch thanks Nick for his years of capable service.

At our next meeting, elections will be held for these positions. The Treasurer is the post which needs to be filled most urgently, although in our Branch the duties are very light.

Expressions of interest and nominations to the Secretary before, or at, the Branch Meeting on April 26th: contact secretary@pembrokeshire.camra.org.uk.

Pub of the Year and Cider PotY Certificate Presentations

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.

Now we have the relevant certificates from CAMRA HQ, presentations are being arranged. Interested? Let the Secretary know on secretary@pembrokeshire.camra.org.uk.

West Wales Area Pub, Cider Pub and Club of the Year Surveys

Now they have announced their Pub, Clubs and Cider Pubs of the Year, the three Branches is

West Wales Area, ourselves, Bae Ceredigion and Carmarthenshire, have to survey each other's entries and submit the results to the West Wales Area Organiser (who happens to be our Branch Secretary!) The winner then goes forward to the higher rounds that lead ultimately to CAMRA's National Pub, Club and Cider Pub of the Year.

Last year our Pub of the Year, the *Cresselly Arms*, Cresswell Quay, won Wales Pub of the Year and was beaten in its super-Regional round by the eventual national winner, the *Bailey Head* in Oswestry. Because the same pub cannot win our Branch Pub of the Year two years running, to give other fine pubs a fair chance, the *Cresselly Arms* is not in the running for Pub of the Year this year, although it is for Cider Pub of the Year.

We cannot judge our own entries, but we can and will judge the other two Branches' ones. They are

Bae Ceredigion: Pub and Cider Pub of the Year: the *Rhos yr Hafod*, Llanon, Ceredigion, SY23 5NB, no Club of the year.

Carmarthenshire: Pub of the Year: *Cresselly Arms*, Pontargothi, Llannon Road, SA32 7NG

Club of the Year: *Pontyberem Workingmen's Club*, Furnace Terrace, Pontyberem, SA15 5AE, no Cider Pub of the Year.

If you are interested in helping us do this, write to the Secretary on secretary@pembrokeshire.camra.org.uk. Steve will send you the judging form and the guidelines for how to use it. He will also keep you posted on car sharing arrangements for our survey teams.

Deadlines for returning completed forms to the Secretary, in his role as West Wales Area Organiser, are 30th May, except for Cider Pub of the Year where it is 30th April.

OUR NEW BRANCH MAGAZINE, *Puffin Pints*, NOW UNDER WAY

A number of Branch members, notably Steve the Branch Secretary and the magazine's Editor, are now hard at work producing articles for our new Branch Magazine, *Puffin Pints*, and all is going well, but more contributions are welcome, by April 20th at the very latest please, to secretary@pembrokeshire.camra.org.uk

Neil Richards of Paper Red Media has sold and is still selling the advertisements which 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 still a little 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 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

Our Branch Chair, Alwen, is now engaged on getting these made and 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.

WEST WALES BEER TASTING TRAINING SESSION: POSSIBLE NEW DATES

In our last Newsletter, we had to announce the sad news that the Trainer for this event, Kevin Travers, had suffered a sad family bereavement which forced cancellation of the training planned for 26th March.

Kevin has now got back to the Secretary with suggested new dates, listed below. As last time, we shall hold the session on a weekday afternoon at the *Coracle Inn* in Carmarthen. All members who booked places last time should by now have had their booking fees refunded by CAMRA HQ. If this is not the case, please let the Secretary know.

Proposed dates:

30th April/1st May 22nd May 28th/29th May 2nd/3rd July 6th/7th August 27th August 24th/25th September

If none of these suit dates in late November might be possible.

If you are interested, please let the Secretary know which dates you can do on secretary@pembrokeshire.camra.org.uk

BRANCH PLANS VISIT TO GREAT BRITISH BEER FESTIVAL

This year's CAMRA Great British Beer Festival, the biggest in the country, will be held **from August 5th to 9th, at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham**. The Branch plans to go. This could possibly be a joint activity with *Y Cross*'s Real Ale Tasting Society and/or Carmarthenshire CAMRA.

Ideally if numbers allow we would run a coach trip, but if not we will try and sort out accommodation if people travel by rail or National Express. More information to follow.

If you are, or might be, interested in attending, let the Secretary know on secretary@pembrokeshire.camra.org.uk

PUBS AND BREWERIES NEWS

A MIXED BAG THIS MONTH

The *Bella Roma* in Haverfordwest is now an Italian restaurant. It is not possible just to go there for a drink, so it is no longer a pub under the CAMRA definition. Unfortunately, in Wales this change of use does not require planning permission so there is nothing CAMRA can do about it.

The *Cambrian Arms* in Fishguard is temporarily closed and its future is uncertain. The *Ocean View* in Penally is in the hands of a new couple from Cwmbrân. The *Farmers' Arms* Fishguard is still being refurbished but will hopefully open before too long. The *Farmers' Arms* in Mathry is in new hands and worth a visit to see what ales and ciders they have to offer and in what condition. The *Ship Aground* in Dinas is under new management and likewise worth a try. The *Trewern Arms*, Nevern is now shut and its future as a pub is very uncertain. Work continues apace on refurbishing the *Royal George*, Solva. As announced above Mr Shawn Smith has been appointed Bar Manager of *Y Cross* in Hayscastle Cross.

Malcolm Herbert of *Core of the Poodle* BrewPub in Haverfordwest tells us that work continues apace on the fit out of what will be the tap room for the brewery, with continued challenges around access, services and getting materials on to site. His aim is to get the bar

up and running this year. Malcolm has contributed a report on this project for *Puffin Pints*, which will go in if space allows.

Haverfordwest, though well served by the County's only Wetherspoons, badly needs more good real ale pubs, so we wish Malcolm every success.

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 again 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