

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. PLEASE NOTE THAT YOU CANNOT REPLY TO THIS E-MAIL ADDRESS – please reply to the Branch Secretary on secretary@pembrokeshire.camra.org.uk

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:

GOOD BEER GUIDE ENTRIES AND AWARDS AGREED AT FEBRUARY BRANCH MEETING

Members gathered in the upstairs meeting room of the newly opened *Market Tavern*, next to the Core of the Poodle, in February to decide which Pembrokeshire pubs go in the 2027 Good Beer Guide, which will be published in September.

We also decided to seek to implement the CAMRA National GBG Selection Policy for next year. This bases inclusion or otherwise in the GBG on scores entered for the quality of beer in our pubs throughout the year. It is clearly a much fairer and more objective system, but to make it work **we all have to start scoring beers**. See below for how to do this.

The Branch made the following awards for pubs in our county:

2026 Branch Pub of the Year – Y Cross, Hayscastle Cross.

Runner up – Nag's Head, Abercych.

Note that last year's winner, the *Fynnone Arms*, was not eligible as no pub may win this award two years running.

2026 Branch Cider Pub of the Year – Y Cross, Hayscastle Cross.

Runner-up, *The William Owen*, Haverfordwest.

As far as those at the meeting were aware, these are the only two pubs in the County which usually have real cider, according to CAMRA guidelines, available. If anyone knows of any other

pubs in the County which do this, we would be delighted to hear about them! Please drop a line to the Secretary, e-mail address below.

No award for Club of the Year was made this year. However, the Branch resolved to try to survey more clubs across the county in the coming year with a view to making such an award next year.

We shall be presenting their certificates to the Winners and Runners-Up in due course. Watch this space for details.

Our thanks are due to the landlord of the *Market Tavern*, Malcolm Herbert, for hosting us and brewing the excellent ales we enjoyed during the meeting. This new pub is certainly a most welcome addition to the ale scene in our County Town, which since the *Pembroke Yeoman* closed has, with the honourable exception of the *William Owen*, been something of a beer desert. Long may it thrive!

WHAT WE'RE DOING NEXT:

WETHERSPOON'S BEER FESTIVAL SOCIAL, 1 p.m. onward Tuesday 10th March *William Owen*, 6 Quay Street, Haverfordwest, SA61 1BG

Wetherspoon's Beer Festival always offers an excellent choice of ales from all over the British Isles at reasonable prices. There is also very competitively-priced food. Branch member and 'Spoons manager Nicola has promised us a good selection of beers. Come along and enjoy them in convivial company!

Getting there:

T5 bus leaves Fishguard at 12.07, Letterston at 12.27 arriving Haverfordwest at 12.46

T5's back leave Haverfordwest bus station at 9 minutes past the hour until 19.09, arriving Letterston at 28 minutes past and Fishguard at 55 minutes past.

MARCH BRANCH MEETING, Saturday 21st March, 1pm *Ship Inn*, Fford Y Felin, Trefin, SA62 5AX

The Ship, Trefin, is a delightful coastal pub which featured on the front cover of the first edition of our Branch magazine, Puffin Pints. We look forward to discussing Branch business, socializing, and enjoying some fine ales in delightful surroundings. Come and join us.

Getting there:

T11 bus leaves Fishguard at 12.00, arrives Trefin at 12.24. Connecting T5 leaves Haverfordwest Bus station at 11.09, Letterston at 11.27 arriving Fishguard at 11.48 at 12.46

T11 leaves Trefin at 15.43, arriving Fishguard at 16.08. Connecting with T5 leaving Fishguard at 17.07, arriving at Letterston 17.28 Haverfordwest 17.46. Or T11 leaves Fishguard at 15.24

arriving Haverfordwest at 16.38. T5's back leave Haverfordwest bus station at 17.09, arriving Letterston at 17.28 and Fishguard at 17.55.

Note that as this bulletin went out the venue had not been confirmed. If it changes, you will get another short Bulletin advising the new venue. The date will not change, so keep it in your diary.

BRAINS BREWERY TRIP IN THE PIPELINE

We have been invited to tour Brains Brewery near Cardiff, and shall be doing so when the weather improves, probably in April. We may possibly go by train and stay overnight, so we can enjoy a pub crawl of our capital city, hopefully guided by our colleagues from Cardiff CAMRA. Watch this space for further details.

WEEKLY BRANCH SOCIAL – Y CROSS, HAYSCASTLE CROSS – WEDNESDAYS 3 – 6 p.m.

Local Branch members gather in Y Cross, Haycastle Cross, 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?

There is also a free beer tasting session in this pub on Thursday 12th March - see below!

NEW RECRUITING LEAFLETS AND BEER MATS NOW AVAILABLE

We now have new CAMRA recruiting leaflets in English (we still have many in Welsh) and CAMRA beer mats. These will be available at Branch meetings.

BRANCH SWEAT, POLO AND T- SHIRTS NOW AVAILABLE DIRECT FROM THE SUPPLIER

You can now order your branded Branch attire direct from the supplier

Prices:

Sweatshirts £20.50

Polo shirts £17

T-shirts £14.50

Hoodies £29

All in Pembrokeshire royal blue.

Order direct from, and pay, the supplier, Castle Printwear, 9, Brunel Quay, Neyland, Milford Haven SA73 1PY. Tel: 01646 450880 E-Mail: hello@castleprintwear.co.uk, making clear you want the special Pembrokeshire CAMRA items. They can now produce these to order.

PUFFIN PINTS 2 NEEDS YOUR ARTICLES!

The first edition of our Branch Magazine, Puffin Pints, was most successful. So we are now planning Issue Two, due out, like Issue One, in mid-May, in time for the tourist season.

Articles welcome, as are enquiries about placing the advertisements which fund the magazine, to the Editor and Branch Secretary, Steve Brady, at secretary@pembrokeshire.camra.org.uk.
Deadline for articles is 31st March.

PUBS AND BREWERIES NEWS

COMMUNITY PUB/CAMRA REAL ALE TASTING SOCIETY – Y CROSS, HAYCASTLE CROSS, Thursday March 12th 7pm onwards

The first meeting of this joint activity between the Branch and our new Pub of the Year on February 12th was a great success. A number of Branch members, pub regulars and visitors enjoyed at tasting of several beers from the Coles Family Brewery in Llanddarrog, hosted by our Branch Secretary.

In March, we shall be tasting the ales brewed by local brewpub the Victoria Inn Roch, which celebrates its tenth anniversary as a brewpub this year. Brewer Andrew Miller plans to join us to showcase his ales. We hope to arrange more such “Meet the Brewer” sessions in future

These meetings are now held regularly on the SECOND THURSDAY of the month starting at 7pm. Come along and try some interesting – and FREE – beers.

LOCAL PUB AND BREWERY NEWS

Tafarn Sinc, Rosebush

This unique and character-filled pub in the Preseli Hills celebrates its 150th anniversary this year. It opened as the Precelly Hotel on the old Mathry Road to Clynderwen branch line (now sadly long closed) in 1876 and was saved by a community buyout in 2017. They will be organising a celebration event we shall be happy to support. Watch this space!

New Brewery to Open in Pembroke Dock

Premises have reportedly been acquired for a new brewery near Pembroke Dock. It appears it will be called the Cleddau Brewery. We would be glad to have more information and contact details for this most welcome project. If you know anything more about this, please let the Secretary know (e-mail address at the end of this Newsletter)

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 Members' Weekend 2026 - Check out St Albans: City of Ale

By Emily Ryans, Chair, Local Organising Committee

With CAMRA's Members' Weekend coming up from 17–19 April, I'm thrilled to share the launch of a project that our South Herts organising team has been building especially for you: the St Albans: City of Ale website — now live at <https://stalbanscityofale.org.uk/>.

City of Ale is our name for a St Albans-wide programme of beer, cider and pub-focused activity taking place around Members' Weekend and beyond (16–20 April 2026). Rather than everyone huddling in one hall, we want you to get out and explore St Albans' vibrant and welcoming pubs, clubs and venues — many of which have something special lined up just for this occasion.

The new website brings all of this together in one place. You'll find:

- Confirmed events — from tastings and tap takeovers to live music and special presentations.
- Pub trails — great routes for sampling the city's best real ales, ciders and perries while taking in historic sights.
- Travel and accommodation info — handy advice on getting here and where to stay.

Already featured are lively festivals, tastings and entertainment across a range of great venues — and more events are being added all the time. There's something for everyone, whether you're a passionate cask ale fan, a modern craft beer enthusiast, a cider devotee or just looking forward to a fun spring weekend in a beautiful, historic city.

If you haven't taken a look yet, please do — and keep coming back as the programme grows. We can't wait to welcome you to St Albans: City of Ale in April!

St Albans: City of Ale events are open to members and non-members alike.

Register to attend Members' Weekend at <https://camra.org.uk/members-weekend>

CAMRA BACKS NEW FILM ABOUT A PUB'S FIGHT TO SURVIVE – AND YOU CAN SEE IT IN FISHGUARD!

A heartwarming film is set to hit cinema screens across the UK, focusing on pubs, pints and people.

Mother's Pride – released on 6 March – is rooted in our historic pub culture, with a stellar cast including Martin Clunes, Jonno Davies, James Buckley, Josie Lawrence, and Mark Addy. Watch the trailer!

Centring on a family with just 14 days to save their ailing pub, they start their journey into brewing their own cask beer as a last-ditch attempt to keep their doors open.

What starts as a practical way to keep the pub running, they soon enter the 'Great British Beer Awards', not only changing their lives but mending a grieving family and bringing a fractured village together.

Featuring CAMRA's Champion Beer of Britain competition, you may recognise where the filming took place and some of the people featured!

Take a look at the trailer for a taster – and we look forward to 'Disco Morris' featuring at CAMRA festivals across the UK!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NyDJXrMhwSI>

The film shows what can be achieved by working together to protect our pubs – and the power of the people campaigning for their survival. It is a reminder that sometimes the smallest ideas can spark the biggest change.

Reinvigorating pride in pubs, 'Mother's Pride' places the pub at the heart of the village – reminding locals it is still the life and soul of the community.

Watch the trailer!

With UK pubs battling against a backdrop of rising costs, the film's release couldn't come at a better time to shine a spotlight on the day-to-day struggles pubs face. Which we – with your help – are campaigning to reverse.

Sky high energy bills and hikes in Employer National Insurance contributions, alongside the short-term and short-sighted government decisions on business rates, means an increasing number of pubs are facing the harsh reality of having to close their doors for good.

We need to see a meaningful support package for pubs – and we need to see it now. Without support to protect our pubs and our pints, we will lose an essential lifeline, wiping out the heart of our communities.

This beautiful film will appeal to CAMRA members while reminding the public of the power of the pub.

Check your local cinema listings for dates! (We have – see next paragraph!)

Cheers

CAMRA Campaigns and Communications Team

You can watch this film at Theatr Gwaun in Fishguard. It's being shown on 27th 28th and 29th March and 2nd April at 7.30pm and on 30th March at 11 a.m.

A fine selection of bottle beers is available at the TG bar, including four Mantle Moho, Cwrw Teifi, Hoodwinked and Dark Heart. After the film, why not go for a pint at one of Fishguard's excellent pubs nearby?

Book your seats on the TG website <https://theatrgwaun.com/>

OTHER ITEMS

HOW YOU CAN HELP DISABLED DRINKERS

Disabled drinkers often face extra challenges in visiting pubs. CAMRA has long flagged up whether pubs have Disabled Access or not on WhatPub and now on the new main CAMRA website that replaces it (see next item!)

However, as we come up to surveying pubs for possible inclusion in the 2027 (!) GBG, CAMRA wants to go further, and provide more detailed information for those of us who are less mobile.

Accordingly, we are asking those visiting local pubs to give us updates on how accessible our pubs are for disabled visitors.

Whether, for example, someone in a wheelchair could get in and out of the pub, up to the bar to order a pint, and use the toilets. If you are not disabled, we're asking you to give thought to how you would fare in the pubs you visit if you were.

Please report your observations to our Pub Database Co-ordinator, Paul Padget, on PubDatabaseCo-ordinator@pembrokeshire.camra.org.uk

An example of what we're looking for might be this report on the Royal Oak in Fishguard: "Dedicated side door for wheelchairs. Accessible toilet but no grab rails. Front bar accessible via front entrance, but from there toilet access is via steps."

Remember, however fit and active we may be now, any of us may one day be disabled ourselves, when we would no doubt appreciate this sort of information before choosing to go to a pub. So let's help our disabled drinkers today – they could include us tomorrow!

WE NEED TO START SCORING BEERS FOR FUTURE GOOD BEER GUIDES

CAMRA's National Conference has instructed Branches to move as soon as possible to basing inclusion of pubs in the Good Beer Guide on scores submitted through the CAMRA website throughout the year.

Our neighbours in Bae Ceredigion already do this, and we in Pembrokeshire now plan to do the same. It will involve a bit more effort on the part of members but it will make sure that we have a

fair, open and objective basis for putting pubs in the GBG or not, rather than simply going on the opinions of members present at the February Branch Meeting each year.

To score a beer, go to <https://camra.org.uk/pubs>. Type in the pub name or location. Or, if you put nothing in and press enter you will get an option to display pubs and clubs near your current location, or just GBG pubs near you.

Click on the pub whose beer you want to score. You will get the pub entry on the CAMRA database, e.g. for our new PotY <https://camra.org.uk/pubs/y-cross-haycastle-cross-160040>

On the same line as the pub name, at the top, you will see "Beer Score". Click it. A box opens in which you can find your beer, score it (the score drop down tells you what the scores mean), add any comments you want, then submit your score.

More information about Beer Scoring and how it is used by many Branches, and will be used by ours, to choose our GBG pubs, here <https://camra.org.uk/beer-scoring>

We also heartily recommend the Taste Match feature, accessible, if you have signed in as a member, free at <https://camra.org.uk/profile/taste-match>

This enables you to create a tool which tells you which pubs serve the sort of beer you personally are likely to enjoy.

We really need to do this. Last year a mere, and frankly pathetic, 13 scores for just 4 pubs in Pembrokeshire were entered (none of them by the author of this Newsletter - who needs to get scoring as much as the rest of us!). Note that at some point Beer Scoring will undoubtedly no longer be optional – if we don't do it we won't be able to choose which pubs go in the GBG for our own County. **SO GET SCORING!!**

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. 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