

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 INCLUSION AND “of the YEAR” AWARDS PROCESS IMPROVED AT MARCH BRANCH MEETING

The GBG-listed *Ship*, Trefin provided a pleasant seaside location for our March Branch Meeting.

In line with the resolution passed at the CAMRA National Conference last year instructing all Branches to move as soon as possible to selecting pubs for inclusion in the Good Beer Guide based on the CAMRA National Beer Scoring System (NBSS) we have decided to make this move now.

That means that when you enjoy a pint in a Pembrokeshire pub you can enter a score for the pint on your mobile phone, or later on your PC, and it will go into the CAMRA software which works out the pubs rated as selling the best beer, which then go in the next GBG.

To make sure we do get scores for as many of our real ale pubs as possible, we shall be organising “Survey and Score Tours in members’ cars or, if enough of us want to partake, in a minibus, over the summer, visiting interesting and little-visited Pembrokeshire pubs and scoring their beers. Many of these pubs’ details on the CAMRA national database have not been updated for many years so we shall take the opportunity to correct that too.

In the autumn the GBG Co-ordinator will use the national software to see how scoring is going and make sure enough pubs in enough parts of our county get enough scores.

But ultimately making this work depends on all of us making it work by scoring enough of our beers. More details on how to do this, and how easy it actually is, below.

At the March meeting we also agreed a new process for picking our Pub, Cider Pub and Club of the Year. Nominations for these from members must now be submitted by the October Meeting.

That gives us time to survey the candidates using the form provided by CAMRA for the purpose before the awards are made at the February Branch meeting. These will now be based on the pubs/clubs getting the highest average score.

Finally we clarified issues around perceived conflicts of interest in the light of the CAMRA Code of Conduct. Pub landlords and employees cannot speak or vote on matters affecting their pubs, not can anyone holding a shareholding greater than 1% of the total share issue of a pub, pubco, brewery or whatever do likewise on matters affecting the enterprise in which they hold shares.

However, as they do not stand to make any financial gain from the pub, shareholders in and directors of community-owned pubs may speak and vote on matters affecting their pubs.

OUR BRANCH IS GROWING!

At the April Meeting, our Membership Secretary, John Padget, revealed that our Branch membership has now reached 163 members. This is the highest it has been for many years and possibly ever.

A year ago, we had 136 members and a year before that 122. Before CoVID we reached 134 members, so we have more than just recovered! Well done to everyone who has joined and/or recruited others to join. **We are now one of the fastest growing Branches in the whole of CAMRA!**

WHAT WE'RE DOING NEXT:

APRIL BRANCH MEETING, Saturday 11th April, 2 pm Old King's Arms, 13 Main Street, Pembroke, SA71 4JS

We are going South of the River for our April meeting, to this old pub in Pembroke's Main Street. We may well explore other Pembroke pubs after the meeting. Note later start!

Getting there:

T5 bus leaves Fishguard at 11.07, Letterston at 11.27 arriving Haverfordwest at 11.46. 349 bus leaves Haverfordwest Bus Station at 12.26, arriving at Main St. Pembroke at 13.30

349's back leave Pembroke Castle at 19 minutes past the hour arriving at Haverfordwest Bus

station at about 20 minutes past the next hour. 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.

BRAINS BREWERY TRIP - FINAL DETAILS TO BE DECIDED AT APRIL MEETING

We have been invited to tour Brains Brewery near Cardiff. The tour itself takes about half an hour, followed by a free beer tasting. Most members plan to make it a day trip by rail.

There is a train from Haverfordwest at 9.15 a.m. arriving at Cardiff Central at 11.50. The last train back that connects with the last T5 northward (departs 20.24 from Haverfordwest Railway Station) leaves Cardiff Central at 17.44, arriving at 20.13. The one before leaves Cardiff at 16.06, arriving 17.09. We can share a cab to get from Cardiff station to the brewery and back.

Some members may stay overnight in Cardiff, and if so we will try and link up with Cardiff members for an evening drink in the city. Details to be finalised at the April meeting. 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 9th April - 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 NOW UNDER WAY

Thanks to all those who provided articles and photos for Issue 2 of our Branch magazine. The Editor is now hard at work putting it together. We hope it will be out in May, as last year, in time for the tourist season.

Articles still 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.

Advertising rates:

Quarter Page £100
Half Page £150
Full Page £260

PUBS AND BREWERIES NEWS

COMMUNITY PUB/CAMRA REAL ALE TASTING SOCIETY – *Y CROSS*, HAYCASTLE CROSS, Thursday April 9th 7pm onwards

Members joined *Y Cross* regulars on 12th March for the second meeting of this joint activity between the Branch and our new Pub of the Year. Victoria Brewpub Roch brewer Andrew Miller introduced a range of his ales to our discerning palates, and a good time was had by all.

In April, we shall be tasting the ales brewed by another local brewery, Tenby Harbwr.

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.

BRANCH AWARD PRESENTED TO HAVERFORDWEST ‘SPOONS

At the Branch Social held at our local Wetherspoons, the *William Owen* in Haverfordwest. on Tuesday 10th March our Chair, Mrs Alwen Thomas, presented the pub’s manager, and active Branch member, Nicola Morris, with her Runner-up Certificate for Branch Cider Pub of the

Year, after which members enjoyed an excellent range of ales on offer as part of Wetherspoons Beer Festival.

We shall soon be presenting our Pub and Cider Pub of the Year Certificates to the winner, *Y Cross*, Hayscastle Cross and the runner-up Pub of the Year, the *Nag's Head*, Abercych. Watch this space for details.

NEW BREWERY OPENS IN PEMBROKE DOCK

The Cleddau Brewery has now started brewing in Pembroke Dock. Its Cleddau Red is currently available at the Cottage Inn, Llangwm. We hope to taste it soon and wish our latest County Brewery every success for the future.

LOCAL PUB GETS INTO FINAL OF WELSH RESTAURANT AWARDS

The *Begelly Arms*, Kilgetty, has made it to the Finals of the Welsh Restaurant Awards 2026. We wish them every success and hope they win!

OLD FISHGUARD PUB UP FOR SALE

Bennetts Navy Tavern on Fishguard High Street is up for sale for £495,000. This historic Grade II listed town-centre pub dating back to the 1820s was originally established as a home and commercial premises for wine and spirit importers, G Bennett & Co. It is on the market as a pub, with a development plot with planning permission for a three-bedroom house.

Currently the pub offers one cask ale, from Felinfoel. We hope the new owners maintain, or expand, the pub's real ale tradition.

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

SENEDD ELECTIONS SOON – MAKE OUR VOICE HEARD

There are elections to the Senedd on Thursday May 7th. This is our chance to put a word in to the candidates about the desperate plight of our pubs, hit hard as they are by increases in their National Insurance contributions, the National Minimum wage they have to pay their staff (this also hits our young people whom pubs can therefore no longer afford to employ) and business rates, on top of which they now face soaring energy costs. Pubs are closing every day. If this goes on the heart will be knocked out of local communities and villages across Wales.

This is the one time when politicians have to listen to what we tell them, rather than the other way round. So if you get canvassers on your doorstep, or a chance to meet the candidates, please put in a word for our pubs and ask them what they, and their party, will do to help them. Please consider their answer when casting your vote!

OTHER ITEMS

WE ALL NEED TO START SCORING BEERS NOW!

As mentioned above, our Branch has decided to start basing Good Beer Guide inclusion on National Beer Scoring System scores. Which means we all need to start scoring our pints now.

It's really very easy to do so and you can do it on your smartphone whilst in the pub, or on your PC when you get home.

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-hayscastle-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.

You can put Beer scoring on your smartphone home screen as an icon you just click on.

For Android phones (using Chrome browser), you just go onto the CAMRA website <https://camra.org.uk/pubs>, click the 3 dots at the top of the page and select "Add to home screen"

For iPhones you have to do it via your Safari bookmarks - see Apple guide here:-

<https://support.apple.com/en-gb/guide/iphone/iph42ab2f3a7/ios#:~:text=Add%20a%20website%20icon%20to%20your%20Home%20Screen>

The Secretary is going to produce an illustrated guide to how to score beers on NBSS. If you would like one, e-mail him here: secretary@pembrokeshire.camra.org.uk

A number of Branch members have taken the plunge and started scoring, so come and join us. It's quick, it's easy, and **we all really need to do this!**

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.

CAMRA now 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!

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

Happy Easter everyone!

Cheers!

Alwen Thomas, Chair chair@pembrokeshire.camra.org.uk

Steve Brady, Secretary secretary@pembrokeshire.camra.org.uk