

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.

This issue has been slightly delayed due to proof reading of *Puffin Pints*. Our apologies.

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CROSS, Thursday May 14th 7pm onwards

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WHAT WE'VE BEEN DOING:

BRANCH GOES SOUTH OF THE RIVER FOR APRIL MEETING

The Branch went over the Cleddau on the Great Bridge, through the Great Roadworks, to the *Old King's Arms* in Pembroke High Street for our April Meeting. After completing our business our jovial crew proceeded to explore the pubs of this old town.

OUR BRANCH IS STILL GROWING!

At the April Branch Meeting, our Membership Secretary, John Padget, revealed that our Branch membership has now grown again to 164 members. This is the highest it has been for many years and possibly ever.

Well done to everyone who has joined and/or recruited others to join. Keep it up! **Let's see if we can reach 200!** We are now one of the fastest growing Branches in the whole of CAMRA!

WHAT WE'RE DOING NEXT:

JOINT SOCIAL WITH CARMARTHENSHIRE BRANCH, SATURDAY 16th MAY, *Station House, St John Street, Whitland, SA34 0AP (by Whitland Railway Station)*

Our joint Social with Carmarthenshire Branch is always a most convivial and enjoyable occasion in a splendid pub. So splendid that it has been awarded Branch Pub of the Year status by Carmarthenshire Branch. This in turn means we can survey it for Area Pub of the Year (see below) on our visit – forms and guidelines will be brought by the Secretary.

Getting there:

T5 bus leaves Fishguard at 11.07, Letterston at 11.27 arriving Haverfordwest at 11.46 and Haverfordwest Rail station a few minutes later. There is a train from Haverfordwest at 12.23 arriving at 12.45. Alternatively, the 322 bus leaves Haverfordwest Bus station at noon, arriving Whitland at 12.42.

There are trains back from Whitland to Haverfordwest at 16.12, arriving 16.34 and 16.56 arriving 17.18. Or the 322 bus leaves Whitland at 17.09 arriving Haverfordwest Bus Station at 17.52. 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.

**MAY BRANCH MEETING and PUFFIN PINTS 2 DISTRIBUTION, FRIDAY 22nd MAY, 1.30 pm
Ship Aground Dinas Cross SA42 0UY**

If all goes according to plan we will have copies of the second issue of our Branch Magazine for distribution to members, and for members to distribute to pubs, at this meeting, which is **on a FRIDAY** due to no other day being available for key Branch officers.

Please let the Secretary know which pubs you would be prepared to distribute our magazine to either at the meeting or beforehand on secretary@pembrokeshire.camra.org.uk

Getting there:

T5 bus leaves Haverfordwest Bus Station at 12.09, Letterston at 12.28 and Fishguard at 12.56 arriving Dinas 13.05

T5's back leave Dinas at 47 minutes past the hour, arriving Fishguard at 7 minutes past, Letterston at 27 minutes past and Haverfordwest at 46 minutes past.

We have not visited the *Ship Aground* for quite a while. It will be interesting to see how this pub and the *Freemasons* across the road are doing under their new owners.

AREA PUB AND CIDER PUB OF THE YEAR SURVEYING UNDER WAY

Pubs winning our Branch Pub and Cider Pub of the Year then go forward to the West Wales Area Pub/Cider Pub of the Year competition. The winner of that goes into the Wales Regional

competition (which the *Cresselly Arms* in our patch won in 2024) and then ultimately into the CAMRA National Pub/Cider Pub of the Year competition.

The next stage in this is for the three West Wales Branches to survey each other's Pub and Cider Pub of the Year. The one with the highest average score wins the Area round.

In our area, that means we have to judge Bar Ceredigion's Pub of the Year, the *Bottle and Barrel*, Aberystwyth, and their Cider Pub of the Year, *Tŷ Seidr*, also in Aberystwyth, plus Carmarthenshire's Pub of the Year, the *Station House*, Whitland. Which just happens to be where we are holding a joint Branch Social on May 16th.

Carmarthenshire did not make a cider pub award this year.

Forms and judging guidelines available from secretary@pembrokeshire.camra.org.uk. Completed judging forms to be scanned in, or scores put in an e-mail, to the same address.

For Cider pubs the deadline is next Friday May 8th. For Pubs it is Friday May 22nd.

BRAINS BREWERY TRIP - FINAL DETAILS TO BE DECIDED AT MAY 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 now to be finalised at the May meeting (we did not have enough information to do so at our April one!). Watch this space for further details.

CARMARTHEN BEER FESTIVAL, 1st, 2nd and 3rd October, St Peter's Civic Hall, Nott Square, Carmarthen SA31 1BA – VOLUNTEERS WELCOME

This year's Festival will be on Thursday 1st October 5pm – 11pm, Friday 2nd October 12pm – 11pm and Saturday 3rd October 2025 12pm – 11pm in the usual venue, St. Peter's Hall in the town centre.

Carmarthenshire Branch need volunteers to help with set up (on Wednesday 30th September), manning the Festival, and take down on Sunday 5th October in the morning. Interested? – contact Dave Hume, daveflyball@icloud.com

No doubt we shall hold our usual Branch Social there, probably on the afternoon of Friday 2nd October.

See

<https://carmarthenshire.camra.org.uk/index.php/carmarthenshire-beer-festival/> nearer the time for more details.

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

Local Branch members often gather in our Branch Pub of the Year, 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 14th May at 7pm - 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.

PUBS, BREWERIES AND OTHER LOCAL NEWS

COMMUNITY PUB/CAMRA REAL ALE TASTING SOCIETY – Y CROSS, HAYCASTLE CROSS, Thursday May 14th 7pm onwards

Members joined Y Cross regulars on 9th April for the third meeting of this joint activity between the Branch and our new Pub of the Year. Six beers brewed by Tenby Harbwr Brewery were laid before our discerning palates, and a good time was had by all.

In May, we shall be tasting some more ales brewed by Tenby Harbwr. In June we plan to have a Clder Tasting.

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.

MILFORD HAVEN BEER FESTIVAL SATURDAY 23rd MAY, NOON TO 10.30 p.m.

On the Waterfront, organised by Milford Haven Round Table. Tickets £25 a head. For more details see <https://www.milfordwaterfront.co.uk/whats-on/milford-haven-beer-fest>

LLWYNGWAIR BEER FESTIVAL, SATURDAY 13th JUNE, NOON ONWARDS

Llwyngwair Manor, Newport, SA42 0LX. Featuring eight Welsh real ales, including ones from all the Pembrokeshire breweries. A great day out for all the family, complete with entertainments such as live music and a bouncy castle for the young and young at heart, with a full bar menu and a barbecue. See www.pembrokeshireholidaypark.co.uk

VICTORIA BREWPUB ROCH 10th ANNIVERSARY BEER FESTIVAL, SATURDAY & SUNDAY 17th & 18th JULY

Live music under the canopy in the beer garden overlooking St Brides Bay, on the A487 between Haverfordwest and Solva, just up the hill from Newgale Beach.

www.thevictoriainnroch.com

150th ANNIVERSARY OF TAFARN SINC – EVENTS IN JULY AND AUGUST

Several events to mark the 150th Anniversary of the Tafarn Sinc Rosemarket, SA66 7QU. See their Facebook for details <https://www.facebook.com/tafarnsinc/>

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 THIS WEEK – MAKE OUR VOICE HEARD!

There are elections to the Senedd this 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!

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

Cheers!

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

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