

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:

BRANCH HELPS OUT AT SUCCESSFUL LOCAL BEER FESTIVAL

Several Branch members set up and manned the bar at the Llwyngwair Manor Beer Festival on Saturday 15th June. Decent weather brought the crowds out to enjoy a range of local ales and ciders, most of which were almost or completely sold out by the end of the day.

ANOTHER GOOD BRANCH MEETING IN NARBERTH

Members gathered at the *Angel*, Narberth for another successful Branch Meeting. We welcomed two new members who had relocated from Telford CAMRA. Dawn and Matt shared their valuable experiences gained there with the Branch. Our hosts at the *Angel*, which offer members a CAMRA discount made us most welcome and plied us with free chips.

Thanks to Branch members heeding exhortations in recent Branch Newsletters to score the beers they drink in our pubs using the CAMRA NBSS - National Beer Scoring System - (details of how to do this below), GBG Co-ordinator Steve was able to run the first set of reports from the system.

These highlighted potential Good Beer Guide pubs that have not had enough scores and will be the subject of Scoring Tours over the next couple of months (again, see below). Steve thanked the Branch members who the reports highlighted as really pitching in to submit scores. By continuing to do this we shall make our 2028 GBG list the fairest and most accurate yet.

PUFFIN PINTS TWO GOING DOWN WELL!

The second edition of our Branch magazine, *Puffin Pints*, now the only CAMRA Branch magazine in the whole of Wales, has been well received across the County and indeed Wales

.

The *Tafarn Sinc* has twice requested its magazines replenished, and other local pubs have run out also. Those members responsible for keeping their allocated pubs restocked who have themselves now run out, and other members who want to distribute copies, should contact editor@pembrokeshire.camra.org.uk

Meanwhile members of other West Wales Branches, and CAMRA officials attending the recent Wales Regional Meeting in Ruabon, liked our magazine, and both the two other West Wales Branches, Bae Ceredigion and Carmarthenshire, are now actively exploring bringing out their own Branch magazines in the same way as we do. Our Puffin seems to have laid some eggs!

WHAT WE'RE DOING NEXT:

JULY BRANCH MEETING - SATURDAY 25th July, 2 pm *Tafarn Sinc*, Rosebush, SA66 7QU

The *Tafarn Sinc* is an unusually designed community-owned pub in a lovely mountain setting which, as reported in the latest *Puffin Pints*, celebrates its 150th Anniversary this year. It offers three real ales. So we will hold a Branch Meeting there.

Getting there:

A Fflecsibws has been booked to take us from Fishguard to the Tafarn Sinc and back, departing Fishguard bus station soon after 1 pm and leaving the pub shortly after 5.

The 12.09 T5 from Haverfordwest Bus Station calls at Letterston at 12.28 and arrives at Fishguard Bus Station at 12.48. The T5 back leaves Fishguard at 18.03, arriving Letterston at 18.27 and Haverfordwest at 18.46. The last T5 to Haverfordwest leaves Fishguard at 19.10.

BEER SCORING TRIPS TO START IN JULY

As reported above, the first run of reports on NBSS beer scores for our pubs highlighted those, often in the current Good Beer Guide, which have hardly been scored, often because they are remote from where our active members live and in some cases from anywhere.

So we are going to go forth in carloads to visit and score these pubs, as many as we can in the summer when they are open more.

The first trip has already been arranged to the *Butcher's Arms* Tegryn and the *Fynnone Arms*, Newchapel.

Interested in coming on future trips? Contact Steve on GBGCo-ordinator@pembrokeshire.camra.org.uk.

Once we know who's coming, we can sort out dates.

BRANCH OFFICERS WANTED

We currently have vacancies for a Branch Publicity Officer, a Website Co-ordinator, and a Social Secretary.

The Publicity Officer will be responsible for keeping the local media and other interested parties informed of what the Branch is doing, issuing Press Statements etc. The Website Co-ordinator will run and maintain the Branch website and keep it updated. The Social Secretary will propose and organise Branch Social Activities, e.g. socials, pub crawls, brewery visits etc (see <https://members.camra.org.uk/volunteers-area/branch-resources/branch-social-secretaries-hub/> for more information).

Interested? Contact the Branch Secretary at secretary@pembrokeshire.camra.org.uk

BRAINS BREWERY TRIP – POSTPONED AGAIN, UNFORTUNATELY

Our Brain's Brewery tour trip, scheduled for 14th July, has unfortunately had to be postponed due to some of those who wanted to go being unavailable due to medical and holiday commitments. We will rebook for the autumn. Watch this space.

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.

BRANCH BEER TRIP TO IRELAND – Saturday and Sunday 17th/18th OCTOBER

Our Vice-Chair, Stephen Ley, Lord of Treffos, is organising a trip across the Celtic sea to Rosslare in Wexford to sample the beer and *craic* in local pubs nearer to our Branch area than Cardiff.

Travelling out as foot passengers on the 2pm sailing from Fishguard, arriving 5.30 pm at Rosslare, we walk 7 minutes to the rail station to catch the 18.05 boat train, stopping at Wexford O'Hanrahan Station at 18.28.

We will be staying in a town centre hotel, and after dropping off our luggage we hit the town. Stephen has researched a list of promising pubs, including a traditional Irish pub with music to round off the evening in.

Sunday Afternoon: Coastal Transfer & Ferry Check-In • 13:01 – Irish Rail Train
Departure: Walk to Wexford Station and board the southbound train. (Alternative backup train departs at 16:28). • 13:20 – Rosslare Strand Arrival: Disembark for our afternoon coastal pub crawl.

Spend the afternoon exploring Rosslare pubs, again researched by our diligent Vice-Chair

17:45 – Ferry Terminal Transfer: Walk out to Strand Road and hail a local taxi, or board the Local Link Bus 387 heading to the Europort. • 18:00 – Ferry Check-In: Arrive at Rosslare Europort terminal for mandatory foot passenger check-in. • 19:00 – Ferry Departure: Stena Line crossing departs back to Fishguard, arriving 11pm.

Costs: Ferry fare £62.44 a head plus one night in a hotel.

This should be a cracking – or *craicing* – trip. Interested? Contact the Secretary on secretary@pembrokeshire.camra.org.uk for more information and to reserve your place.

NEW RECRUITING LEAFLETS AND BEER MATS NOW AVAILABLE

We now have new CAMRA recruiting leaflets in English and CAMRA beer mats. These will be available at Branch meetings. A new Welsh-language leaflet is in preparation.

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

HISTORIC PEMBROKESHIRE PUB REOPENS

The *Old Point House*, Angle, the subject of an article in the latest *Puffin Pints*, has reopened. It is being run by Michelle and Leum Evans, who ran the award-winning Paternoster Restaurant. Michelle is from Angle village.

The pub opened during the late May bank holiday, with advertised opening hours being from 12.30pm to 8pm on Thursday, 12.30 to 10.30pm on Friday and Saturday and 12.30pm to 5pm on Sunday. The pub's restaurant is also now open on Fridays and Saturdays from 6pm to 11pm.

We wish them every success and hope their ale will be as splendid as their food

ST DOGMAEL'S PUB WINS NATIONAL BEER GARDEN AWARD

Travel and lifestyle experts Enjoy Travel have included the *Ferry Inn*, St Dogmael's in their "pub-lover's guide to the 30 best beer gardens in the UK". The *Ferry Inn* offers real ale and clearly its Beer Garden is worth a look too!. Why not also try the local community pub, the *White Hart*, in St Dogmaels while you are there?

NEVERN COMMUNITY LAUNCHES WEBSITE TO SAVE THE TREWERN ARMS

Last month we reported on the launch of the campaign to save the *Trewern Arms*. Now the local community has launched a website to rally support and provide news on their progress. See <https://www.trewerncommunity.org>

Pembrokeshire CAMRA fully supports this worthy initiative to save a lovely village pub, once a regular in the GBG.

THE HEAN CASTLE SAUNDERSFOOT – ANOTHER LOCAL PUB DRIVEN OUT OF BUSINESS

The historic *Hean Castle Inn*, Saundersfoot, which offered real ale, closed down on June 28th.

Imparting the news on social media, pub landlady Susannah Palmer said:

"We tried. We fought. We gave this everything we had. But despite every effort, we just can't keep going. After nearly four years of opening the doors at The Hean, we've made the heartbreaking decision to close.

"This isn't how we imagined our story would end. Like so many independent pubs across the country, we've faced challenge after challenge.

"The financial pressure has simply become too great. We never imagined we'd become another hospitality statistic, but the reality is that the business is no longer financially viable."

Susannah said that a number of factors forced the pub to close, from energy costs soaring to supplier prices rising, the minimum wage increasing significantly, and National Insurance contributions going up.

All of these are the results of the deliberate decisions of Governments in Cardiff Bay and Westminster. Decisions that are driving pub after pub into ruin. Decisions CAMRA has campaigned and will campaign against relentlessly.

The more of us there are, the more effective our campaigning is and the more chance there is we can get the politicians to take notice. So get everyone you know to join up. And write to your MS and your MP protesting against the Governments' war on pubs.

It is not just having the living hearts of our communities torn out. As landlady Susannah said,

"Behind every business closure is a family who invested not just their money, but their time, their energy, their hopes and their hearts."

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

Members joined *Y Cross* regulars on Thursday 11th June for the latest meeting of this joint activity between the Branch and our Pub of the Year. Eleven local ciders were on offer for a free tasting and were much enjoyed.

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 and ciders.

VICTORIA BREWPUB ROCH 10th ANNIVERSARY BEER FESTIVAL, FRIDAY &

SATURDAY 17th & 18th JULY

Starts 3.30 pm on Friday then all day Saturday. 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 are being held to mark the 150th Anniversary of the *Tafarn Sinc* Rosebush, SA66 7QU.

Saturday 11th July – Morris Dancers from 2pm

Sunday 12th July – Folk Music

Monday 13th July – Heritage Talk

Tuesday 14th July – Folk Session with Choir

Wednesday 15th July – Car Treasure Hunt

Thursday 16th July – Quiz

Friday 17th July – Group Honey Fungus

Saturday 18th July – Pembrokeshire Welsh Learners' Party

And of course

Saturday 25th July Pembrokeshire CAMRA Branch Meeting 1 p.m.

31st July to 8th August – sundry functions for National Eisteddfod Week.

See their Facebook for times and 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.

OTHER ITEMS

SCORING BEERS – KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!

Our Branch now bases Good Beer Guide inclusion on National Beer Scoring System

scores. Which means we all need to score our pints, as many members are already doing. As was revealed at the June Branch Meeting.

If you haven't yet started scoring, 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>

Many Branch members are already doing this. If you aren't yet, why not give it a go?

BEER SCORING SYSTEM NOW SIMPLIFIED

From 1st June, the beer scoring system was changed to make it simpler and easier to use, with words replacing numbers. Half points are abolished and "no cask ale available" is indicated separately from beer scores.

The new system is explained here <https://www1-camra.s3.eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/14090621/New-ratings-for-cask-beer-scoring-summary.pdf>

(you will need to log on to your CAMRA member account to see it).

But basically numbers are replaced by descriptions so that:

5 = *"Excellent"*

4 = *"Very Good"*

3 = *"Good"*

2 = *"Acceptable"*

1 = *"Poor"*

0 = *"Undrinkable"*

To be worthy of the Good Beer Guide, a pub would be expected consistently normally to score the old 3, new "Good", or better.

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 the old WhatPub and now on the 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 WebsiteCoordinator@pembrokeshire.camra.org.uk

We do need someone to run this site going forward! Contact the Secretary at the address below if interested.

Cheers!

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

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

Branch: Pembrokeshire