

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 MEETS IN THE MOUNTAINS IN JULY

It was all aboard the fflecsibws booked by our Branch Chair Alwen from Fishguard to take members to the unique community-owned and Good Beer Guide-listed *Tafarn Sinc* high in the

Preseli Mountains on 25th July. After an interesting business meeting in a private room kindly provided by the pub, members repaired to the traditional sawdust-bestrewn bar to enjoy a few pints of local real ale in a pub which is 150 years old this year.

The bus then deposited members back in Fishguard, whence a few hardy souls went on to tour the hostelrys of the town.

An excellent and worthwhile time was had by all. Why not come along and enjoy our next meeting?

PUFFIN PINTS TWO - STILL A FEW LEFT!

Over 2000 copies of the second edition of our Branch magazine, *Puffin Pints*, for now the only CAMRA Branch magazine in the whole of Wales, have been distributed to pubs across our County and beyond. Only a few hundred copies still remain to be distributed.

WHAT WE'RE DOING NEXT:

BRANCH SOCIAL, *Glen*, Merlin's Hill, Haverfordwest SA61 1XA, SATURDAY 1st AUGUST from 1p.m.

This pub is having a Beer Festival that day so we shall have a Social at it! Enjoy a good selection of Real Ales in the convivial company of fellow CAMRA Members!

AUGUST BRANCH MEETING - SATURDAY 15th August, 2 pm William Owen (Wetherspoon's), 6 Quay Street, Haverfordwest, SA61 1PG

We had planned to meet this month at the *Corner Piece*, Rudbaxton, but early in the morning of 29th July they sadly suffered a fire. No-one was hurt but there is significant fire, smoke and water damage so the pub is closed for the foreseeable future. We wish them a speedy reopening. However Wetherspoon's in Haverfordwest has kindly stepped in to host our Branch meeting.

Getting there:

T5 bus leaves Fishguard at 13.07, Letterston at 13.27 and arrives Haverfordwest Bus Station a few minutes walk from the pub at 13.46.

Buses back leave Haverfordwest Bus station at 9 minutes past the hour.

BEER SCORING TRIPS UNDER WAY

Ongoing reporting on NBSS beer scores submitted for our pubs has shown a real effort is being

made by members to do this. This is much appreciated and will make our 2028 Good Beer Guide selection the fairest and most inclusive yet.

The reports also highlight pubs more members need to visit and score, notably the *Wiseman's Bridge* and *New Inn* in and around Amroth, the *Royal Oak* Saundersfoot, the *Globe* Maenclochog, *Bar Becca* at Efailwen and the *Angel* in Llandissilio. The *Dyffryn Arms/Bessie's*, Pontfaen, the *Pump on the Green*, Spittal, the *Salutation*, Felindre Farchog and the *Cottage Inn*, Llangwm, also need scoring. If you can drop into these pubs and score them it would be much appreciated!

Or join us on one of the beer scoring trips we are running over the summer, in members' cars. Interested in joining us, or taking a carload yourself? Contact Steve on GBGCo-ordinator@pembrokeshire.camra.org.uk.

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

BRANCH OFFICERS STILL WANTED

We still 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

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

A number of Pembrokeshire Branch members are planning 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. We have 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 in advance.

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.

Note that although a Branch member, our Vice-Chairman Stephen Ley, researched this and Branch members are going on it, it is not being organised by the Branch or any member thereof (**i.e. we as a Branch or individually take no legal or insurance responsibility for anyone going**). Although we are happy to provide advice, ferry times, suitable hotels etc members are responsible for booking their own travel and accommodation and their travel insurance if required.

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

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

LOCAL COMMUNITY PUB CELEBRATES ITS 150th ANNIVERSARY WITH A NATIONAL AWARD

Historic community-owned pub the *Tafarn Sinc* Rosebush, in the Preselis, got a splendid present on its 150th anniversary.

At the Countryside Alliance's annual 'Rural Oscars' awards ceremony in London on Wednesday, July 8th the GBG-listed pub was named both the Wales Champion Pub and UK Champion Pub.

These prestigious awards came just ten years after the pub was saved from closing down by a community buyout. This rural community's success in saving their local pub inspired other communities to do the same, such as that of St Dogmael's with the *White Hart* and Hayscastle Cross with *Y Cross*.

Pembrokeshire CAMRA helped the pub celebrate this well-deserved success by making it the venue of our July Branch Meeting and enjoying substantial quantities of their local ales.

In honour of its anniversary this largely Welsh-speaking pub is helping support this year's Eisteddfod nearby in North Pembrokeshire by donating a prize for 'Folk song party under 25' and running various evening events/concerts in the pub during Eisteddfod Week - all of which are free.

These are

Sunday 2nd August – Mari Mathias

Monday 3rd August - Iestyn Gordon

Tuesday 4th August – Darogan

Wednesday 5th August – Rhiannon O'Connor
Thursday 6th August – Dafydd Pantrod and his Band
Friday 7th August Bara Brith Duo
Saturday 8th August – Lowry Evans
Sunday 8th August – folk musicians

See their Facebook for times and details <https://www.facebook.com/tafarnsinc/>

DUKE OF EDINBURGH, NEWGALE, REBUILDING DEADLOCKED

Following a catastrophic fire in January 2024, builders Crown Ltd sought amended planning permissions to rebuild and scale up the upper-floor trading footprint of the coastal venue.

The Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority (PCNPA) officially refused permission for this development. Ecological assessments verified that the expanded glass frontages would cause severe nocturnal light pollution, threatening local populations of endangered Manx shearwater seabirds, which fly into and from their nest burrows at night.

The result is that all rebuilding work is deadlocked until and unless this is resolved. If it is not it is possible that the pub will be commercially abandoned and simply left to fall down.

COUNCIL TO FORCE ILLEGAL FLATS TO BE TURNED BACK INTO A PUB

The *Drover's Arms*, Puncteston, a much-loved local pub, noted for its annual beer and cider festival, ceased trading in 2022.

In early 2024, the owners, without planning permission and hence breaking the law, turned the pub into four flats. They then lodged a retrospective planning application, presumably expecting Pembrokeshire Council to accept their illegal actions as a *fait accompli*.

However, Pembrokeshire Council planners are evidently made of sterner stuff and flatly refused the retrospective change of use. Our Council are now pursuing punitive planning enforcement action to force the owners to put the building back as a pub. This is a major, and to CAMRA most welcome, regulatory precedent for the county.

If the *Drovers' Arms* is converted back into a pub, there is a chance that an enterprising buyer, possibly a community buyout vehicle, could reopen it.

CAMPAIGN TO SAVE THE TREWERN ARMS NEVERN FORGES ONWARD

The Community Campaign reports on the latest progress:

From the start, our approach has been to ask before we assume - talking with as many local producers, residents, and organisations as possible to understand what this community actually wants from the pub, then building our plans around that. We've been receiving guidance from

PAVS, Plunkett UK, and Cwmpas, and drawn on the experience of Cris Tomos, who has supported many other community pub projects.

We've spoken with many other local community owned businesses, worked closely with the current owners throughout, and met with local food and drink producers to understand what a locally-rooted supply chain could look like, and how it might support local families.

We are just moving into our next phase - arranging building surveys and developing a business plan around our leading ideas.

See <https://www.trewerncommunity.org> for the latest on this worthy initiative to save a lovely village pub, once a regular in the GBG.

A local resident is also apparently interested in reopening the pub as a traditional local separately from the residents' campaign. Hopefully they will be able to work together, but regardless CAMRA supports any and all who are trying to reopen this splendid Pembrokeshire village pub.

LETTERSTON'S LAST PUB FOR SALE

Following the closing down of the *Jubilee* in the village, and the *Gwesty Bach* in nearby Castle Morris, Letterston's last pub, the *Harp* on the A40, has been put on the market.

It is to be hoped it finds a buyer willing to keep it running as a pub as well as a restaurant and hotel. Ideally with a bigger focus on real ale than has been the case in recent years – the village is home to several CAMRA members who would love to come and drink there if that were so.

COMMUNITY PUB/CAMRA REAL ALE TASTING SOCIETY – Y CROSS, HAYCASTLE CROSS, Thursday August 13th 7pm onwards

Members joined Y Cross regulars on Thursday 9th July for the latest meeting of this joint activity between the Branch and our Pub of the Year. Bottled ales from half a dozen small Welsh breweries 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.

SUCCESSFUL 10th ANNIVERSARY BEER FESTIVAL IN THE VICTORIA BREWPUB

14 local real ales and four craft keg beers were on offer in this brewpub in Roch over the 17th and 18th of July. Branch members helped ensure the Festival was often packed out, whilst live music played under the canopy.

Congratulations to brewer Andrew and landlady Kate. We wish them many more successful years.

WHERE TO GET LOCAL REAL CIDER IN PEMBROKESHIRE

Our Branch Cider Officer, Jimmy Whitworth, reports local real ciders were available at events at Llwyngwair Manor and at the *Crymych Arms*.

Real cider will be available at the forthcoming Edge Festival in Solva

There is currently draught Pembrokeshire cider available on tap at the *Cresselly Arms*, *Fire and Ice* in Narberth, *Y Cross* (Hayscastle Cross), *Golden Lion* (Newport), and the *Sailors Safety* (Pwllgwaelod).

CAMRA defines real Cider or Perry as being fermented from the whole juice of fresh pressed apples or pears, without the use of concentrated or chaptalised juices

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

BOGUS FOREIGN BEERS BREWED BY GENUINELY FOREIGN CORPORATIONS: CAMRA REPORT EXPOSES THE STATE OF BRITAIN'S BEER MARKET

When CAMRA was formed in 1971, six British-owned breweries brewed 80% of the beer drunk in Britain.

A report just issued by CAMRA reveals that now four foreign-owned global corporations brew 80% of the beer sold in Britain.

This includes many apparently foreign beers in reality brewed by the megakeggeries here and passed off as authentic Spanish, Italian and so on produce. Read CAMRA's hard-hitting report here: <https://camra.org.uk/beer-report>

The need for our Campaign has clearly never been greater!

NEW COMMUNITY RIGHT TO BUY COULD BE “GAME CHANGER” FOR PUBS IN WALES

Pubgoers have welcomed the announcement from the First Minister of Wales that the new Welsh Government's first phase of legislation in the Senedd will include “the development of a community right-to-buy scheme”.

Rhun ap Iorwerth announced in the Senedd on 14th July that the new Community Right to Buy will enable eligible community groups to nominate and register valuable community assets and be given the right of first refusal when the owners decide to sell, in order to make sure these places remain in the hands of communities.

A similar right in law in England has recently been passed by the UK Parliament and will allow community groups to have first refusal on buying a pub registered as an 'Asset of Community Value' if it is put up for sale.

Chris Charters, our Regional Director for Wales, commented:

"Today's announcement of a Community Right to Buy could be a game-changer for people who want to save and take over the running of their local."

"Pubs are more than just businesses – they play a crucial role in building and maintaining cohesive communities. Where they are under threat of closure, conversion or demolition, it is right that people are given first refusal to buy it, so they have a fighting chance to save their local as a community-owned pub."

"At the moment this is really difficult for communities in Wales to save their pub and take it on as a community business because pub protection laws are the weakest anywhere in the UK."

"As well as a right to buy the pub as a community asset, CAMRA wants to see the Welsh Government offer funding for community groups to take over their local. Ministers should also change the law so planning permission is always required to convert a pub in Wales being converted into a restaurant, shop or takeaway, or demolished to make way for housing. This will help to stop greedy developers depriving a community of their pub against the wishes of local people."

CAMRA CALLS ON WELSH GOVERNMENT TO MATCH PRO-PUB MEASURES IN ENGLAND

Responding to the announcement that Prime Minister Andy Burnham is cutting business rates bills in England by 20%, Director of CAMRA Wales Chris Charters said:

"Pubgoers are crying out for the First Minister and Welsh Government to match the new Prime Minister's pro-pub stance and to protect and promote our pubs as vital community hubs."

"The First Minister should commit today to matching the announcement made for pubs in England and give our locals an extra 20% discount on their business rates bills too."

"Our business rates system is grossly unfair to pubs and social clubs, bricks and mortar businesses that are also vital social institutions for their communities. We desperately need proper reform of the system, so pubs aren't forced to pay eye-watering business rates bills. A truly fair business rates system would permanently lower bills for pubs and end the need for these temporary reliefs once and for all."

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.

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 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 WebsiteCo-ordinator@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