

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.

HEADLINES:

WHAT WE'VE BEEN DOING:

-

BRANCH GOES TO THE SEASIDE IN SEPTEMBER

FIRST CAMRamble IN SEPTEMBER

PUFFIN PINTS TWO – LAST COPIES NOW GONE!

WHAT WE'RE DOING NEXT:

BRANCH SOCIAL, CARMARTHEN BEER FESTIVAL, St Peter's Civic Hall, Nott Square, Carmarthen SA31 1BA Friday 2nd October afternoon.

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

OCTOBER BRANCH MEETING, SATURDAY 24th OCTOBER, 1 pm OLD COACH HOUSE, 10 High St., Fishguard SA65 9AR

NO BRANCH MEETING IN NOVEMBER

BRANCH AGM AND CHRISTMAS MEAL, SATURDAY 12th DECEMBER AFTERNOON - further details in next newsletter

BEER SCORING TRIPS UNDER WAY

BRANCH OFFICERS STILL WANTED

NEW RECRUITING LEAFLETS AND BEER MATS NOW AVAILABLE

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

PUBS, BREWERIES AND OTHER LOCAL NEWS

CORNER PIECE, RUDBAXTON HOPING TO REOPEN SOON

LOCAL BREWERY APPLIES FOR A LICENCE ON MILFORD WATERFRONT

24 PEMBROKESHIRE PUBS IN NEW 2027 CAMRA GOOD BEER GUIDE

OUR BRANCH PUBS PRESERVATION OFFICER ALAN KILBEY REPORTS

NATIONAL NEWS

"REFRESHING" TO SEE PRO_PUB APPROACH FROM WELSH GOVERNMENT

OTHER ITEMS

SCORING BEERS – KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!

HOW YOU CAN HELP DISABLED DRINKERS

MEET CAMRA MEMBERS NEAR YOU FOR A SOCIAL PINT

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE PEMBROKESHIRE PUB?

WHAT WE'VE BEEN DOING:

-

BRANCH GOES TO THE SEASIDE IN SEPTEMBER

The Branch visited the *Ship* in the lovely seaside village of Solva for our meeting on 26th September. The usual good turnout of members discussed future Branch activities and how the move to NBSS Beer Scores as input to which pubs will go in the next GBG is working and can be improved.

One important conclusion to emerge was that the national move to remove half point scoring appears to have had unintended consequences for the NBSS results. **We therefore suggest that if you are entirely happy with a pint you score it a 4 rather than a 3.**

Whilst, and after, dealing with the Branch business members enjoyed the fine ales offered by this pub, which again got into the latest Good Beer Guide.

FIRST CAMRamble IN SEPTEMBER

Branch members braved unpromising weather to enjoy a pub crawl on foot around Pembroke Dock, enjoying good beer in fine pubs whilst getting some exercise. CAMRamble organiser Dawn will be organising more of these in future. Watch this space!

PUFFIN PINTS TWO – LAST COPIES NOW GONE!

The last available copies of the 2600 printed for Issue 2 of our Branch Magazine were given to members to top up their local pubs at the September meeting. Most of the 200 copies now left are earmarked to be distributed at Carmarthen CAMRA Beer festival. What remain will be kept as file copies, with some going on our Ireland trip to be left in pubs in Wexford and Rosslare and a few to be sent on demand to enquirers. Thank you to everyone who helped distribute Wales' only CAMRA Branch magazine.

.

WHAT WE'RE DOING NEXT:

BRANCH SOCIAL, CARMARTHEN BEER FESTIVAL, St Peter's Civic Hall, Nott Square, Carmarthen SA31 1BA Friday 2nd October afternoon.

This year's Festival, the 30th, 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. There will be over 40 real ales, ciders and perries available See <https://carmarthenshire.camra.org.uk/index.php/carmarthenshire-beer-festival/> for more details.

We will be holding our usual Branch Social there on the afternoon of Friday 2nd October. This is always a most enjoyable event.

Getting there:

322 bus leaves Haverfordwest at 12 noon, arriving 13.11. Bus back leaves 16.39, arriving 17.52.

There are trains from Pembroke Dock to and from Carmarthen, but no direct buses. There are also trains from and to Haverfordwest.

.

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 £60-70 a head plus one night in a hotel. **Note that due to a rule change you will need a valid passport to travel between Wales and Ireland.**

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. It's not too late to join us!

OCTOBER BRANCH MEETING, SATURDAY 24th OCTOBER, 1 pm OLD COACH HOUSE, 10 High St., Fishguard SA65 9AR

Note that the venue has been moved from Tenby to Fishguard because the meeting coincides with the annual Fishguard Cawl Crawl – see <https://www.visitpembrokeshire.com/whats-on-listing/the-cawl-crawl>

Many members enjoy this annual community event so we decided to move the Branch meeting so we can take part in both our Branch meeting and the Crawl. For the same reason the meeting is at 1pm.

Getting there:

T5 leaves Haverfordwest at 12.09, calling at Letterston 12.28, arriving Fishguard bus station round the corner from the pub at 12.56. There is a bus exactly one hour earlier if members wish to fortify themselves with some cawl before the meeting!

T5 buses back leave Fishguard bus station at 16.07, 17.07, 18.03 and 19.13, arriving Letterston 20, and Haverfordwest Bus Station 40, minutes later.

NO BRANCH MEETING IN NOVEMBER

Due to key Branch officers being away – very far away in some cases – there will be no Branch meeting in November. There will be a November and a December Branch Newsletter as usual.

BRANCH AGM AND CHRISTMAS MEAL, SATURDAY 12th DECEMBER AFTERNOON - further details in next newsletter

Our Annual General Meeting and our usual Christmas Meal will be held on this date. The venue is being finalized but will be on the T5 bus route. Candidates for Branch Offices will need to be paid up Branch members (bring your Membership Cards) proposed and seconded by other such members (which can happen at the meeting)

More details in next month's Newsletter, but keep the date free in your diaries!

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 coming weeks, 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

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 AVAILABLE DIRECT FROM THE SUPPLIER

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

Prices:

<i>Sweatshirts</i>	£20.50
<i>Polo shirts</i>	£17
<i>T-shirts</i>	£14.50
<i>Hoodies</i>	£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

CORNER PIECE, RUDBAXTON HOPING TO REOPEN SOON

This old favourite of our Branch was closed following a fire on 29th July. Repairs are now under way and landlord Darren and landlady Amanda hope to reopen by the end of November.

LOCAL BREWERY APPLIES FOR A LICENCE ON MILFORD WATERFRONT

New local cask ale brewer Cleddau Brewery have applied for an alcohol licence for a premises on Milford Haven's waterfront. We wish them every success and will keep members posted on progress.

24 PEMBROKESHIRE PUBS IN NEW 2027 CAMRA GOOD BEER GUIDE

Twenty-four Pembrokeshire pubs have made it into the 2027 CAMRA Good Beer Guide, published on September 24th.

New entries include the *Farmers Arms*, Mathry. For some years this establishment would easily have got into a Bad Beer Guide, but new landlord, and Branch member, Paul has completely turned the pub round and it now offers a fine, and changing, range of ales in very good condition, as well as delicious local food.

The *White Hart*, St Dogmael's, a pub saved by its local community, also makes it in this year, as does the *Gwaun Valley Brewery Tap*, run by local brewer, and another Branch member, Nigel.

OUR BRANCH PUBS PRESERVATION OFFICER ALAN KILBEY REPORTS

As Pubs Preservation Officer, I want to present our current local risk assessment. While we have celebrated some incredible successes recently—most notably *Y Cross Cas-Lai* in Hayscastle Cross securing 3rd place in the All-Wales Pub of the Year competition—we are facing an increasingly aggressive landscape of planning applications, retrospective modifications, and vulnerability within the commercial property market.

Here is the breakdown of what is happening on the ground in Pembrokeshire that we must monitor and where necessary act upon:

1. Crucial Planning Victories and Ongoing Risks

The Taberna Inn

I am delighted to formally report a major win. The appeal by the applicant to convert this closed community asset into a private home was officially dismissed by Planning and Environment Decisions Wales (PEDW). The inspector agreed with our stance that the applicant failed to prove the business was unviable, protecting the site from permanent loss.

The Carpenters Arms

On a more concerning note, we have seen a highly controversial planning outcome. Despite conservation officers recommending refusal because the removal of historic chimney stacks harmed the local Conservation Area, Pembrokeshire County Council's planning committee voted 7 to 6 to approve the retrospective modifications. Because the owner is a close relative of a serving county councillor, this case faced intense public scrutiny. It sets a worrying precedent for the piecemeal erosion of historic pub character.

The Old Inn

We are tracking an active application for a Certificate of Lawful Development to permanently formalise the first floor as a self-contained private dwelling. This was initially refused. We must watch these cases closely; 'residential creep' within the walls of a pub inevitably reduces its commercial footprint and long-term viability.

Basement Bar, Saundersfoot

A recent refurbishment led to the discovery that their rear beer garden had operated without formal consent since 2007. A lawfulness certificate has been filed. Meanwhile, nearby on Cambrian Terrace, The Bunker is facing fierce local resident pushback on its licence application over noise concerns—reminding us that external spaces remain a primary battleground for pub survival.

2. The Vulnerability of Pub Sales & Ownership Churn

The commercial market across Pembrokeshire shows a high volume of assets at risk, with multiple premises sitting empty or vulnerable to predatory buyers looking for change-of-use opportunities:

- **Market Overtures & Closures:** We currently have at least a dozen pubs and hospitality venues across the county actively listed on the open freehold market. This includes a historic, traditional real ale pub in a busy market town (Haverfordwest area) sitting closed and the *Trewern Arms* in Newport listed at £595,000. When pubs sit closed or change hands during periods of economic strain, they are at their most vulnerable to developers.
- **Corporate Liquidation Pressures:** We must closely monitor the situation at the *Lord Nelson Hotel* in Milford Haven. While the venue remains open and trading normally, its operating company entered liquidation. The liquidators are currently assessing the sale of the company's assets and goodwill. Churn like this places immense pressure on historic premises, and we must ensure any incoming ownership intends to keep the venue operating as a pub.

3. Macro Legislative Threats & Campaigns

- **NPPF Loophole Closed in England – The Fight Continues for Wales:** Nationally, CAMRA just secured a massive campaign victory. The UK Government backed down on a catastrophic proposal to change the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), which would have only protected a pub if it were the literal last one in a local area.
- **The Welsh Asset Gap:** While England updates its rules, Wales still operates under a separate framework. We must continue to lobby the Welsh Government alongside CAMRA Wales to fast-track a statutory 'Community Right to Buy' scheme, giving local Pembrokeshire villages the legal right of first refusal when a community local goes up for sale.

Summary:

We must remain vigilant. I propose that we actively monitor the liquidator asset sales in Milford Haven, keep pressure on the Pembrokeshire County Council planning portal regarding residential conversions, and formally write to our local MSs to demand parity with the shifting planning protections being seen across the border.

Thank you, and I welcome any updates from members on pubs in their areas.

TREWERN ARMS, NEVERN, LATEST

As reported by our Pubs Preservation Officer above, this excellent pub in a lovely location is up for sale as £595,000. A local resident is reportedly interested and there is, or was, an active local

community buyout campaign. However their website at <https://www.trewerncommunity.org/> now seems to have disappeared.

NATIONAL NEWS

"REFRESHING" TO SEE PRO-PUB APPROACH FROM WELSH GOVERNMENT

Commenting on the Welsh Government's announcement that pubs will receive a 30% discount on business rates bills in the next financial year from April 2027, Chris Charters, Director of CAMRA Wales said on September 15th:

"It is refreshing to see a First Minister and Welsh Government recognising the importance of pubs and social clubs to local communities and giving them extra support so that more can survive and thrive. This builds on their existing plans to introduce a 'Community Right to Buy' to help local people save their pub.

"Ministers should now cement their pro-pub stance by introducing much needed planning protections to stop pubs being converted into restaurants, shops and takeaways against the wishes of local people.

"The UK Government also need to act in their upcoming Budget to cut VAT and alcohol duty charged on pints served in pubs to encourage pubgoing and make sure our locals can compete with cheap supermarket alcohol."

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.

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-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.

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?

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.

AND OUR FACEBOOK PAGE

<https://www.facebook.com/pembrokeshire.camra/>

which is run by our Social Media Co-ordinator, Mrs Mona Skipper, e-mail address SocialMediaCoordinator@pembrokeshire.camra.org.uk

Cheers!

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

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