



# Camra Calling

Spring 2012-Summer 2012

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Member's Newsletter for the North Devon Branch of the Campaign for Real Ale

## Your Branch Needs YOU!!

Our dedicated team of Pubs Officers visit many establishments and keep our Pubs Database updated, but they can't do it all which is why we need your help.

If your local or any pub you visit in North Devon is a bit remote, can you please take some details for us? i.e. opening and food times, real ales stocked and a short description of the pub. Please send any information to me by e-mail or telephone. Thanks in advance for your help.

## Witterings of the Wizard

Time is flying by too quickly and it seems only a couple of weeks ago that I was wittering for the last newsletter – must be my age!

Quite a lot has happened since the last witter. The Christmas Social at The Old Market Inn was very successful. It was wonderful to enjoy the company of so many members and to celebrate the season with some great ale.

After Christmas the Red Lion (Exbourne) Beer Festival and pantomime was excellent and my congratulations go to Nick and his locals for maintaining a great Community pub.

The Exeter Branch Winter Ale Festival was as successful as usual and I was particularly pleased at seeing so many of our Branch working and/or attending. There was some very interesting ale to try too. The 'thank you' trip to the Dorchester Beer Festival was most enjoyable.

The Branch hosted the Regional Meeting at the beginning of February at the Plymouth Inn in Okehampton. Geoff and Dee did us proud with their hospitality. There were so many positive comments from those attending, some of whom had travelled considerable distances but remarked that it had certainly been worth it. Well done Geoff & Dee and thanks from the Branch.

I do hope that many of you have pre-registered for the National AGM and Members weekend in Torquay and will also be volunteering to help over the weekend. I expect I will see many of you there.

A big thank you to everybody that took part in the Good Beer Guide entry selection process. There was certainly some interesting discussion.

I hope that we shall soon meet up at our Branch AGM. There are several vacancies for various posts and I hope that you will be considering the part that you can play within our Branch in supporting CAMRA. I shall be standing for re-election as Chairman and would welcome your support.

Finally I leave you with the following, seen on a t-shirt at a beer festival –

"God made cannabis. Man made beer. Who would you trust?" Cheers,  
Morris

[mandf.elsworth@btinternet.com](mailto:mandf.elsworth@btinternet.com)

## Member's Weekend & AGM 2012

This is taking place from Friday 30<sup>th</sup> March until Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> April at the Riviera International Centre, Torquay, TQ2 5LZ. Volunteers are needed to make the event happen and a staffing form has already been circulated by e-mail. Do not forget that whether you are volunteering or attending the Members Weekend you must have pre-registered your intention, unless you are helping outside the events opening times. So, if the weather is nice why not take a trip out to "sunny" Torquay and pop in and see us there. In the member's bar there will be 70 different real ales to try from the southwest area plus several ciders and perries.

## POGOFF

As always the Pubs Officer Group has been very busy since the last newsletter. Many more pubs have been surveyed and the information added to the Branch database. We have also been very involved in surveying the pubs nominated for the Good Beer Guide 2013. The information gathered by us was then used as the basis for the discussion which took place at the Branch meeting in February when the selection was made. Currently we are surveying the pubs nominated for Pub Of The Year 2012. This involves visiting the shortlisted pubs on at

least 2 occasions in order to provide a balanced view of the pubs on different days and different times. This year the 6 categories in which each pub is judged on each visit changed slightly to reflect current CAMRA campaigning goals :- 1. quality of beer, 2. atmosphere/style/decor, 3. service and welcome, 4. community focus, 5. sympathy with CAMRA aims, 6. good value. As you will appreciate this provides a very comprehensive view of the pubs being surveyed.

As this is my last POGoff before the AGM I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Pubs Officers for their outstanding contribution to the Branch. They are a pleasure to work with, a real strength and asset of our Branch.

Fiona, Pubs Officer Group Coordinator.

### **Community Pubs Month**

As mentioned at the February branch meeting April sees the latest CAMRA initiative of Community Pubs Month. As the saying goes "Use it or lose it!"

We are too often confronted by media coverage of binge drinking supported by an image of a pub. If you find this offensive then make a complaint. Real ale pubs are not a contributory factor but part of the solution to this problem. Binge drinking does not generally happen in pubs – how many landlords do you know who encourage people to drink too much in their pub? The fact that cheap alcohol is available in supermarkets encourages people to drink at home (or the park, street corner etc). There is reportedly a rise in incidents of domestic abuse linked directly to alcohol abuse in the home.

Community pubs month will directly support our pubs in promoting the strength of the pub – that of being the hub of the community. While increases in taxes and rates have led to publicans having to increase beer prices CAMRA is actively lobbying Parliament. Community Pubs Month provides materials to support publicans make the most of the strength of their community in supporting them.

All GBG pubs will automatically receive a promotional support pack from HQ. This will include beer mats, a variety of A3 and A4 posters, empty belly posters for pubs to advertise their events, leaflets and pump clip crowners. The campaign runs two concepts. Firstly 'A Thousand Years of Social

Networking' which uses images of CAMRA HQ dressed in different costumes from a variety of eras enjoying the original social networking site – the community pub! The second uses simple artwork to show a community outside an award winning pub with the slogan 'Every Community Needs A Heart'. There is also a website [www.communitypubsmonth.org.uk](http://www.communitypubsmonth.org.uk) with a dedicated area for branches to order CPM promotional packs. Here you can enter the pub details and they will send you the packs to distribute to your pub. Or packs can be ordered through the 'Sign Up A Pub' section of the website. This allows members and pubs to order packs and get them sent direct to their address. Every time a branch, member or pub signs up for a pack they are added to the Participating Pubs section. A section has been created for pubs and CAMRA branches to advertise for free the pub events they organise in April. There is also a section that gives a few ideas for some fun events. You will also find a few other areas on the website such as Mini Pub Quiz, Press Releases and Pub Trivia. It would be great if we could sign up and distribute packs to 15 pubs in our Branch. What an achievement! Any events can also be covered in What's Brewing. If you have any queries then contact Tony Jerome at CAMRA HQ – [tony.jerome@camra.org.uk](mailto:tony.jerome@camra.org.uk)

### **Beer Festivals**

**Fri 4<sup>th</sup>–Mon 7<sup>th</sup> May** - Ilfracombe Beer Festival, Landmark Theatre, EX34 9BZ.

**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> March** – 5<sup>th</sup> Yeofest, Yeoford Village Hall, Station Road, EX17 5HZ

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> May** – Charity Beer Festival, New Inn, Sampford Courtenay, EX20 2TB

### **Meetings & Socials**

**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> March – AGM -1.00pm** – Royal Exchange, Torrington, EX38 8BT  
**CARD CARRYING MEMBERS ONLY ARE ABLE TO VOTE**

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> April – Pub of the Year Presentation – 12.30pm** – Venue to be announced

**Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> May – Branch Meeting – 12.30pm** – Red Lion, Exbourne, EX20 3RY

### **Any Future Events**

If you know of any events or Beer Festivals taking place between June 2012 and August 2012, please inform Trish before 21<sup>st</sup> May so it can be included in the next Newsletter.