

Camra Calling

Summer 2010 – Autumn 2010

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

Mick Gullick R.I.P.

8th June 1954 – 26th May 2010

It is with sadness that we report Mick lost his fight against cancer on Wednesday evening. He was one of the founder members of the North Devon Branch and was often seen riding around on his motorbike checking out the remote pubs in the area. What Mick didn't know about real ale wasn't worth knowing! His contributions and enthusiasm will be sorely missed.

Witterings of the Wizard

I am pleased to report that things seem to be back to normal (whatever that is). I now have two new eyes and a chauffeur.

I am not known for my political opinions but with a change of Government I am interested in the arguments concerning minimum pricing and supermarket deals. I am not sure that the price increase will be the successful strategy to stop youngsters drinking irresponsibly but it will certainly mean us pensioners will not have so much money to spend on the occasional beer. I fear it will also be yet another nail in the coffin of many a good community pub. In my opinion it is the 'drinking culture' that needs to be addressed. I believe that there are several continental countries where alcohol is a lot cheaper than in the UK but the same problems are not evident there. I don't know how changes can be implemented but let's keep the pubs open.

I have attended several beer festivals – some from in front of the bar and some from behind. I found myself in front of the bar at Yeoford, a small village fund-raising festival, but very good; and in front of the bar at The Blue Ball at Countisbury, a good pub festival. I worked behind the bar at The Maltings in Newton Abbot for SIBA, as always an excellent festival with over 200 beers and finally at Ales from Devon at the Devon County Show which was extremely busy. Both of these earned income for the branch.

The re-launch of Clearwater Brewery took place at the end of March in The Old Market Inn (our Branch POTY). A good day was

had by all, enhanced by free beer! The brewers were very pleased with the response and we gained a new member.



We have 'endured' two POTY presentations – the Winner's certificate to Lee at The Old Market Inn, Holsworthy and the Runner's up certificate to Paul and Sue at The Taw River in Sticklepath. Lee has recently changed his distribution system to 2 hand pumps and up to 6 beers on gravity. While at The Taw River presentation we were joined by Mel Stride the MP for the new constituency of Central Devon. Well done to both pubs for maintaining such high standards and promoting CAMRA aims.



I must offer my congratulations to one of our newest breweries – Forge Brewery in Hartland. They won 3 awards at the SIBA festival, notably Supreme Champion for Lighthouse and 2 other awards for Maid in Devon and Dreckly.

We are currently undertaking the arduous task of judging for the Regional POTY and have also just booked up for our summer day trip to the Great British Beer Festival in London. As always we are looking forward to a summer with many good beers in hand!

Finally I must add my condolences to the family and friends of Mick Gullick who sadly passed away recently.

Cheers,
Morris.

[As seen on BBC news coverage of the County Show and the front page of the Okehampton Times!]

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More Pubs News

The new licensee of the Pyne Arms at East Down is CAMRA member Sarah Snowden who has lived in the village for several years. Sarah took over in October last year and is keen for members to try the pub out. Her new chef is gaining plaudits for his food, particularly the beef and ale pie that contains beer from Wizard brewery.

Another one to try is the Bridge Inn, Bridge Street, Hatherleigh (owned by Enterprise Inns) which has recently been awarded the Cask Marque accreditation. Steve and Pauline Ward took over the pub in the Autumn of 2008 and it has been completely refurbished. There are two regularly changing real ales available plus local brewery ales if they can be obtained under the SIBA scheme. It is also the meeting place for Hatherleigh Rotary Club.

Definitely worth a visit is the Ship and Pilot, Broad Street, Ilfracombe. Nick Waters purchased the pub recently which is now a free house. His first job was to remove the cask breathers from the cellar and put on three real ales (some stocked in 4½ gallon 'pins'). Now, with help from Coors (UK), he is adding two more beer engines and installing new, self tilting stillage in his cellar. There will be enough room for ten real ales (five available with five more "coming soon"). Beers from Otter, St Austell, Sharps, Exmoor and Wizard breweries have featured recently. A true Ale House, there is no food, TV or other distractions, just BEER!

Good Beer Guide (GBG) 2012

Do you know of any pubs in our Branch area that you think deserves to be in the GBG? We are now taking nominations for the 2012 Good Beer Guide. All nominations need to be received by the November Branch meeting. Anyone wishing to nominate a pub (must be from the 2011 GBG) for our Pub of the Year 2011 can only do so at a branch meeting between September and November.

Brewery Tour/Socials

Our Social Secretary, Chris, has asked for suggestions for our next social or brewery tour. If you have any ideas please contact him at cmenterprises@talktalk.net or ring him on 01271 883969/07743080197.

Branch Polo & T-Shirts

The branch still has polo shirts that you can buy for £15.00 each. The shirt is maroon with our embroidered logo in gold and in all sizes. There are also light blue T-Shirts available for £7.50. We can also get branch sweatshirts in blue or pink for £17.50. Morris is now modeling a fleece in maroon which is available at a cost of £23.00. The fleece and sweatshirts are available to order. If you would like one (or more) please contact me or see me at a meeting.

Website

Back copies of the newsletter and previous minutes of Branch Meetings are available on the Branch web site. If you are not online and require any back copies of these then please contact me.

Beer Festivals

Friday 25th – Saturday 26th June – Beer Fest 6pm – 11pm (£2.50 a pint) – Waie Inn, Zeal Monachorum, EX17 6DF.

Tuesday 3rd-Saturday 7th August – Great British Beer Festival, Earl's Court, SW5 9TA.

Friday 27th- Monday 30th August – Landmark Theatre, Ilfracombe, EX34 9BZ.

Meetings & Socials

Saturday 26th June 2010 – Branch Meeting – 12.30pm – The Bell Inn, Parkham, EX39 5PL.

Saturday 14th August 2010 – Branch Social/Meeting – 12.30pm – The Grampus, Lee, Ilfracombe, EX34 8LR.

Saturday 18th September 2010 – Branch Meeting – New Inn, Sampford Courtenay, EX20 2TB.

Any Future Events

If you know of any event or Beer Festivals taking place between September and November 2010 please inform Trish by phone or e-mail before 21st August and it will be included in the next branch newsletter and our web site.

The Branch has tried to ensure that the information contained in this newsletter is accurate at the time of creation. All opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of individual Branch members and not necessarily those of the Branch or of CAMRA.