



Camra Calling

Summer 2011-Autumn 2011

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

Witterings of the Wizard

Important news! I am off the wagon!!

Following successful surgery I am now allowed back on the beer. I've limited myself to 3 pints a session max at present but it's so much better than J²O. Many thanks for all the good wishes I received. I feel better and healthier than I have done for quite a while.

I would like to give a plug for one of my other interests – *Bodmin & Wenford Steam Railway*. A good day's visit if you're looking for something different, particularly for children or grandchildren or grandparents! We need visitors to keep it running. If you would like information please ask me or look on their website.

The last branch meeting was a tremendous success. We had a record number of 28 members present. I was surprised as The Duke of York is out of the way and not easily accessible yet so many of you made the journey. I hope you all enjoyed it as much as I did. It was so good to meet old and new members; to enjoy good beer, a good lunch, lovely weather and great company.

As I scribble this for Fiona to process I am recovering from 2 very hard days at the County Show working in the 'Ales from Devon' marquee. It really was very enjoyable and earns money for the Branch. Thanks also to those of you who helped too. I hope you have been able to find some Mild for Mild Month. I have enjoyed a very nice 'Pressed Rat and Warthog' from Triple fff brewery at the Duke of York, 'Black Knight' from Tintagel Brewery at the Old Market Inn and 'Otter Mild' from Otter Brewery and 'Darkest Devon' from Exe Valley Brewery both at the County Show.

I have made an effort to put in my beer scores. It's not such an arduous task and makes such a difference when it comes to selecting pubs for GBG entry. I hope you will do this too. Also remember to keep an eye open for any good clubs that we could survey. For details see minutes of the last meeting. I would also like to wish our new Pubs Officers Group good luck as they take

on this vital task for the Branch. If you have any information about pubs in your area you can let your Area Officer know or go direct to Fiona who is Liaison Officer for the Group. I hope you have a good summer and that the weather is kind to us for a change.

Cheers

The Wiz.

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Branch Meeting on Lundy

At our last meeting a suggestion that we have a Branch meeting in the Marisco Tavern on Lundy Island was enthusiastically received. A date of Saturday 24th September has been set. There is a ferry leaving Ilfracombe at 10am and arriving back from Lundy at 6pm. We will have about 4 hours on the island, plenty of time for a meeting, beer 'sampling' or exploring. We have to be at the ferry port an hour before departure and the crossing will take about two hours.

The fare to Lundy is £33.50p return with a discount of 15% for groups of 10 or more. If you want to come please can you let Jackie Smyth, our new Social Secretary, know by August 1st so that she can work out numbers and cost. I know this date is a bit early but it will give Jackie plenty of time to obtain the exact cost and to get everyone's money to her in good time to buy tickets. Jackie can be contacted on: jss29@hotmail.co.uk

POGOFF

Yes that's right, POGOFF!

Pubs Officer Group Offering or News from your area Pubs Officer.

I have already received some interesting updates about pubs and several photos. These will be put on the website in due course.

Meanwhile, 'Mac' Mac Donald reports that he visited the Seahorse in Ilfracombe, which used to be the Stage Door. They do not do real ales so no more visits there for Mac.

And Dave Lewis said that The Barnstaple Inn in Barnstaple is closed again: this is a shame as it had been selling a decent pint of Teignworthy Gun Dog. It could be worth encouraging a couple of members toward

The Coach and Horses at Horns Cross. He went for the first time this week. There were four pumps on (2xSharps, 1xSt Austell, 1xOtter), and the landlord drew the beer that had been sat in the line from last night into a separate glass and chucked it down the sink before pulling Dave's pint. All very encouraging...He's now off to the Chelsea Flower Show for a couple of days, lucky thing. It would be interesting to know if he finds any real ale there. Dave has also provided photos of The Anchor Inn, Hartland; Coach and Horses, Horns Cross; The Hart Inn, Hartland; The Kings Arms, Hartland; The Thatched Inn, Abbotsham. If you have any news about pubs in your area, or if you have taken a photo of a pub you have visited then pass it on to your area Pubs Officer. We will endeavour to keep our Branch informed via the Newsletter as well as updating the website.

Fiona

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CAMRA Campaigning Goals

At our AGM in March the following Campaigning Goals were agreed.

i) **To double the NBSS score from Branch Members for North Devon pubs.** Unless a pub nominated for the Good Beer Guide has sufficient scores on the NBSS it will not be considered. So if you visit any pubs in our area please remember to score the beers.

All members can access the beer scoring system by going to www.beerscoring.org.uk, through our website, or CAMRA's website. To register or log in the 'Username' is your CAMRA Membership number and a 'Password' (the same as what you use for the CAMRA web site, if you have one) will also be required.

For those of you not on line, please telephone our number, tell us your scores and Terry will put them on for you.)

ii) **To find a club worthy of nomination to the Good Beer Guide.** Do you know of a club that sells real ale and is willing to let CAMRA members in on production of a current membership card or GBG? If you do please let us know.

iii) **To establish the Pubs Officer and Team role in maintaining the Branch Pubs Database.** (See above 'Witterings' from Morris, 'POGOFF' article by Fiona and minutes of the last Branch Meeting on 14th May).

Beer Festivals

Friday 3rd-Sunday 5th June – Music & Beer Festival – Royal Exchange, Torrington, EX38 8BT.

Saturday 4th June – Bell Inn, Parkham, EX39 5PL.

Friday 17th - Sunday 19th June – Blue Ball Inn, Countisbury, EX35 6NE.

Friday 17th – Sunday 19th June – Sawmill Inn, Watermouth, Ilfracombe, EX34 9SX.

Saturday 18th June – 2pm till late – Woolsery Beer Festival, Woolsery.

Saturday 2nd & Sunday 3rd July – Stowford Country Fair and Beer Festival, Stowford Farm Meadows, EX34 0PW.

Saturday 2nd – Saturday 9th July – St Peter's Fair Beer Festival, Old Market Inn, Holsworthy, EX22 6AY.

Friday 15th - Sunday 17th July – Pilton Festival - Reform Inn, Barnstaple, EX31 1PD.

Friday 15th & Saturday 16th July – Plymouth Beer Festival, Plymouth Pavilions, PL1 3LF.

Tuesday 2nd – Saturday 6th August – Great British Beer Festival – Earls Court, SW5 9TA.

Friday 26th – Monday 29th August – Clinton Arms, Frithelstock, EX38 8JH.

Friday 26th – Monday 29th August – Landmark Beer Festival, Landmark Theatre, Ilfracombe, EX34 9BZ.

Meetings & Socials

Saturday 4th June – Branch Social – 12.30pm – Royal Exchange Music & Beer Festival, Torrington, EX38 8BT.

Saturday 25th June – Branch Meeting **1.00pm** – Plymouth Inn, Okehampton, EX20 1HH.

Saturday 23rd July – Branch Social and POTY Runner-up Presentation – **12.30pm** – Grove Inn, Kings Nympton, EX37 9ST.

Saturday 10th September – Branch Social – **12.30pm** – Hunters Inn Music & Beer Festival, Heddon Valley, EX31 4PY.

Saturday 24th September – Branch Meeting & Social – **12.30pm** – Marisco Tavern, Lundy Island, EX39 2LY.

Any Future Events

If you know of any event or Beer Festivals taking place between September and November 2011, please inform Trish before 21st August and it will be included in the next branch newsletter.

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.