

# Camra Calling

Autumn 2012-Winter 2012

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

## Beer Duty e-Petition

You did it!!! 100,000 signatures on the e-petition means that the matter will now be discussed in Parliament. Thanks to each and every one of you who took the time to sign the e-petition. Well done to everybody!

## Good Beer Guide 2013

The new Good Beer Guide was launched on the 13<sup>th</sup> September 2013. There are 5 new entries with 2 re-entries this year. **The 2013 guides will be on sale to members at the October and November branch meetings for just **£10** (RRP **£15.99p**) so if you haven't got yours yet please come along and purchase a copy.**

Now that the 2013 guide is on sale, work starts on the next guide. We are taking nominations for the 2014 edition from now until the Branch meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> November. Also we will be taking your votes for our Pub of the Year 2013 at the October and November meetings. This can only be done in person, so as soon as you get your GBG 2013 please give your choice some thought and pop along to make your vote.

## Witterings of the Wizard

Summer is nearly over – did we actually have one? But since the last Newsletter we have had some memorable events starting with a journey to Kentish Town in London for the AGM/Members Weekend handover meeting. This was very interesting and enlightening! We look forward to next year's AGM/Members Weekend – Norwich, 19<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> April. Put it in your diary and book up early, it is a great fun weekend and also very informative and motivational.

Again I have endured a summer of festivals, both beer and folk. Working at Plymouth Beer Festival in The Pavilions and attending South Devon Beer festival at Newton Abbot Race Course were both excellent venues and events – I recommend them to you all for next year.



*Morris & Terry (after a few beers) counting tokens at the South Devon Beer Festival.*

Folk festivals always incorporate beer for me. At Sidmouth I tasted a few at The Swan, a good old Young's pub; the beer tent at Dartmoor Folk Festival, South Zeal, is run by Burt's team from The Railway Inn, North Tawton and in the village the newly re-opened Oxenham Arms had a good selection of beers as did the always reliable Kings Arms. The dancing season finished at Swanage Folk Festival, an excellent festival with great sunny weather, great concerts and over 50 Morris Dancing Teams! As my team has 6 CAMRA members we made the effort to sample as much beer as possible and there are several good pubs and beers to be had there. Dorset Piddle, an excellent beer despite its name, Palmer's Best and Ringwood 49 were all excellent. Fiona and I also managed our regular lunch break on the journey at The New Inn in Kilmington. This excellent pub is one of the Magnificent Seven which have been in the Good Beer Guide every year since its first publication 40 years ago.

It was a pleasure to support Dave Slocombe at Holsworthy Ales brewery open evening. I really would recommend these regular events to you all (check dates on the Information Update calendar).

Finally I would urge you all to make your Good Beer Guide nominations as soon as possible. I know that there are a great many really good pubs in our Branch but unless they are nominated they cannot be surveyed for inclusion. You may feel that

you don't get around to many pubs and therefore feel that you are not 'qualified' to nominate. Nothing could be further from the truth. You are all members of CAMRA and your opinion is most valuable. Our Branch relies on your input. It's easy – email, phone or attend a meeting. We are waiting to hear from you.

Now after all that wittering I think it must be time for a beer!

The Wiz.

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### **POGOFF**

It is with sadness that we have to confirm the closure of Royal Exchange and the departure of Neil and Bridget. We will particularly miss their wonderful annual beer festival over the first weekend of June - this year something like 28 real ales and 10 ciders.

Recently Bob, Brenda, Charlotte, Janet, Dave, Terry and Trish attended a quiz night in aid of the Ring O' Bells, Prieford. It was extremely good fun. There is another on the 13<sup>th</sup> October in the Marwood Village Hall.

There were a large number of beer festivals this summer, particularly over Jubilee and August Bank Holiday weekends. As CAMRA members we do our best to try to attend and support pubs putting them on, but unfortunately we cannot always get to all of them. Congratulations and thanks to all those pubs that have held them and for further promoting real ale and real cider.

Bob Goddard.

Pubs Officer Group Coordinator

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### **Pub Crawl in August**

In August we had a "pub crawl" around Great Torrington. There was a very good turn out and everyone enjoyed the evening. We met in the Black Horse where there were 5 real ales on including Exmoor Gold and Stag, St Austell Trelawney and Tribute and a guest ale. From there we went to the Conservative Club where there was one real ale available, Ring o' Bell Dreckly (brewed by Forge Brewery at Hartland), but it was very good none the less.

Our next stop was the Torrington Arms where Holsworthy Sun Shine was on good form. Then it was onto the Globe Hotel where Tribute was on followed by the Cavalier Inn which had Otter Ale. Then it

was back to the Black Horse to sample the ales we hadn't tried earlier.

Our next "pub crawl" is going to be in Braunton on Thursday 22nd November 2012. Details will be on the website as soon as they are available. We hope to see you there.

### **CAMRA's Annual Raffle**

CAMRA's 2012 raffle is raising money for Pub is The Hub, a not-for-profit organisation that supports local pub services that are under threat and community ownership. The worrying figures are:

- 12 pubs close every week, four of which are rural pubs
- 4,500 pubs have closed since 2008 with the loss of around 78,000 jobs

Please help to support Britain's local pubs by entering or encouraging friends and family to enter CAMRA's annual raffle at:

[www.camraraffle.org.uk](http://www.camraraffle.org.uk)

1st Prize £3,000

2nd Prize £1,000

3rd Prize £500

**Please note that no persons under the age of 16 are allowed to enter.**

The raffle will close on Friday 19th October 2012 and the draw date will be Friday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2012.

There are only a limited number of physical tickets still available therefore we are encouraging the purchase of tickets online.

### **Members Weekend & AGM 2013**

This will be held in Norwich from Friday 19<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2013 in St Andrews and Blackfriars Halls. As we were heavily involved with this year's AGM in Torquay and saw what a great weekend it was, Morris Fiona, Trish and Terry have already booked for this event. It would be great if some of you were able to join us. Further information will be circulated when available.

### **Beer Festivals, Meetings & Socials**

These can now be found on the attachment with this newsletter.

### **Any Future Events**

If you know of any events or Beer Festivals taking place between October 2012 and February 2013, please inform Fiona.

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