

Camra Calling

Winter 2012 – Spring 2013

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



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year To All Our Members



Philip Roberts RIP

On 27th September we received the very sad news that Phil had lost his fight against cancer. Phil was chairman of the Exeter & East Devon Branch as well as the Southwest co-ordinator of Champion Beer of Britain and many other things. What Phil didn't know about beer wasn't worth knowing. He will be sadly missed.



This is Phil, in the yellow shirt, presenting an award in 2008.

Witterings of the Wizard

It only feels like a few days ago that I was wittering for the last Newsletter. How time flies!

The last Regional Meeting was a very pleasant duty in The Chain Locker in Falmouth, just across the harbour from The Front (runner up Regional Pub of the Year). We just had to pay it a visit while we were so close – it would have been rude not to.

I seem to have spent quite a few hours in breweries since my last witter. Holsworthy Ales (of which I am the Brewery Liaison Officer) held its last of the season Open Evening. It was a very cold night in October

but very warm in the brewery due to the large amount of people enjoying the beer and the bangers supplied by the appropriately named local smallholder Beer Hill Farm. I would recommend these events to you all if Dave holds them again next year.

The following week I was forced to return to welcome Exeter and East Devon Branch on their brewery visit!

Recently I visited Longhill Brewery open evening which, although it is in Cornwall Branch, is only just over the border.

Not all my time has been spent in breweries; I have spent some time in pubs. We helped The Tom Copley celebrate their success as Regional Pub of the Year when the Regional Director, Ian Packham, and Exeter & East Devon Branch presented Roger and staff with their certificate. As always Roger was extremely generous and a good time was had by all!

I am very sorry to have missed the Braunton Pub crawl. I have other commitments on a Thursday and old age is against me 'crawling'.

I am sure you will have heard the news that Trish and Terry are moving back to the South East. I know you would all like to join with me in wishing them well for the future and offering a great big THANK YOU for all that they have done for the Branch. The positions of Branch Secretary, Branch Treasurer, Newsletter Editor and Pubs Officer will be vacant – could you help? Have a look at details of what each post requires on line or chat with any of the Committee. We would really welcome willing volunteers. Elections for all posts will take place at the AGM in March. Meanwhile Bob, Fiona and I will do our best to keep the Branch running smoothly.

We shall be meeting up with Terry and Trish at the National AGM in Norwich. I hope some of you will also be there – pre-register on line now.

Fiona and I are really looking forward to the Branch Christmas Lunch on 15th December at The Old Market Inn. I do hope we will see a great many of you there.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all.....may your cup of festive cheer be forever full. (If not, ask for it to be topped up - no short measures for CAMRA members!)

The Wiz.

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Braunton Pub Crawl

On Thursday 22nd November nine members braved some of the worst weather this year to take part in the pub crawl arranged by Malc and Anita Hale. On our way there we discovered two new 'swimming pools' in Bishops Tawton which we had to navigate through very carefully. We met in the Ebrington Arms, Knowle at 7 o'clock for our first beer of the evening. A choice of Otter Ale, Doombar and Tribute was available.

We then moved onto the Black Horse which had just reopened after refurbishment (you could still smell the fresh paint). In there was the choice of Doombar and Wells Bombardier, both in very good condition and served straight from the cask. We were joined in there by Mike Beaman in his wheelchair who had waited for the rain to stop before coming out.



Finally we went the Aggi where there was Doombar, London Pride and Golden Pig available. As the weather wasn't good we decided to stay there. We all had a great time and thoroughly enjoyed ourselves.

POGOFF

In recent weeks we have welcomed two additional members to our Pubs Officer Group. Malc Hale is now covering the Braunton and surrounding area, while Chris Smyth is monitoring pubs around Ilfracombe and Combe Martin. We are finding that having locally based Pubs Officers is certainly helping us to further promote the aims of CAMRA in North Devon and is one of

the most effective ways of supporting and encouraging real ale pubs in our area. Both Malc and Chris are experienced, long standing CAMRA members and we are very pleased to have them on the team.

During the next two months we will be busy undertaking surveys for the 2014 Good Beer Guide. At present North Devon have just 27 entries available each year, so it is a real accolade for a pub to be selected and, as always, there will inevitably be many good pubs that don't quite make it. By far the most important issue is the quality and consistency of the beer served. This is the main reason why POG members now make at least two surveying visits to those pubs that have been nominated.

It is useful though, to have additional feedback and news from local CAMRA members about the pubs they frequent, whether they are GBG Nominations or not. Any such information is, as always, much appreciated.

Bob

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Good Beer Guide (GBG) 2014

Nominations are now closed for the 2014 Good Beer Guide. Surveying will be taking place over the next couple of months with the final entries being decided next February.

Christmas Social 2012

Once again the Branch Christmas Social is being held in our Pub of the Year, the Old Market Inn, Holsworthy, EX22 6AY, on Saturday 15th December at 12.30pm. Lee is providing a carvery of turkey and/or beef with all the trimmings, followed by a choice of sweet from the cabinet, including Christmas pudding with tea/coffee and a mince pie, all for a very reasonable £16.

Annual General Meeting 2013

OFFICIAL NOTIFICATION: Saturday 9th March 2013 - AGM -12.30pm - Plymouth Inn, Okehampton, EX20 1HH
CARD CARRYING MEMBERS ONLY

Any Future Events

If you know of any event or Beer Festivals taking place between March and May 2013 please inform Fiona by phone or e-mail before 21st February 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.