

# Camra Calling

Summer 2013-Autumn 2013

[northdevoncamra@gmail.com](mailto:northdevoncamra@gmail.com)

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

## Devon County Show 2013

This year we decided we could manage three days! (Actually Martin did four as he volunteered for the 'set-up' day on Wednesday too.)



*Mixed weather but the beer was flowing*

As we queued on the M5 on Thursday morning the weather looked promising. At The Contented Cow we found twelve brewers had provided 27 ales, including three specials – Diamond Dexter and Gentle Giant in honour of the South Devon & Dexter cattle societies and Skittlin' brewed specially in support of the skittles world record attempt which was taking place in the Ales From Devon Marquee. There were also twelve cider makers who provided a wide variety of ciders to suit all tastes.

On Friday morning we drove into the showground without stopping; but the weather was threatening and later that day there was a thunderstorm. This filled

The Contented Cow with soggy people, umbrellas, wet dogs and bored children. It was a struggle for anyone to get to the bar.

On Saturday the sun shone as we queued for what seemed like ages along the M5 before crawling into the car park. The glorious weather brought in plenty of customers needing to quench a thirst. It was also very windy so the dust was flying.

We were entertained on all three days by local folk singers Bill Murray and Jim Causley. The local old farmers, who stayed to listen and occasionally to join in, particularly enjoyed their renditions of Devon drinking songs.

By the end of the third day there was hardly a drop of ale left in any barrel and the cider had all gone too!

Over the three days Trish and I took lots of photos, which we posted on Facebook and they are also on the Branch website. I struggled to get a photo of Martin actually serving ale, but he assures me he did! Terry and Trish indulged in the occasional sit-down with me at the CamRA membership stand. And as for our Chairman, well, apart from eating oysters for lunch for three days he tells me that he worked as hard as anyone else. On the other hand I had quite an easy three days. Jane (membership secretary Exeter & East Devon Branch) and I sold lots of t-shirts, talked to lots of people about CamRA and I managed to sign up one old chap.

So really not very good as far as new membership goes. But we had a good time and really enjoyed ourselves.

Jane brought her new dog, Saffy, with her to her first beer event. Saffy was the best behaved of us all! Here's to next year. Oh, and if any of you want to join

us next year you would be very welcome.

*Fiona*

## Witterings of a Wizard

Since my last Wittering there have been a few memorable moments worth commenting on!

I attended the CamRA Member's Weekend & Annual General Meeting, along with Fiona, Terry & Trish (who kindly organized it all for us). This year it was in Norwich. Of course we didn't spend all our time there remarking on how we had done it better in Torquay last year!



*The Wiz in full-swing at Devon County*

We did have a fantastic time. I have never seen so many pubs and so many churches in one small city as there are in Norwich! It was great to meet up with friends from around the country; to visit breweries and pubs; sample different beers and be involved in the 'business' of CamRA. I cannot recommend this event highly enough to you all.

The latest branch pub-crawl was a great success. It included a visit to Holsworthy Ales Brewery on their first Beer & Banger night of 2013. I can confirm that we have at least one branch member (Ron

Lester) who can organize a piss up in a brewery! My thanks go to Ron for a great evening out. As you may know I usually have to miss the branch pub-crawls as I am unable to walk far, but this was an evening short on walking and long on drinking.

I had the great pleasure of making the presentation to our Pub of The Year and Cider Pub of The Year at the Ship & Pilot in Ilfracombe at the beginning of May. It was wonderful to see so many members supporting the event. Check out the photos on the branch website. Nic, the landlord, has done a fantastic job and I urge you all to visit the pub.

Currently I am undertaking Pub Of The Year Regional judging. This is always an interesting task, which involves visiting pubs in other branches and scoring them in the same way we do our own Pub Of The Year. However, it does involve quite a lot of travelling and I am grateful that Trish and Terry have not yet moved and so are continuing their work for the branch in this.

Finally I must congratulate our Regional Director, Ian Packham, on his successful election to the National Executive. If any of you submitted your votes on line I am very grateful.

Ian has done a great job as our Regional Director. His replacement will be decided at the next Regional Meeting. There has only been one nomination – Gareth MacDonald. As a Branch we can look forward to moving forward with the Region in Gareth's safe hands.

*Cheers, The Wiz*

## POGOFFS – We Need Your Help!

North Devon has just 27 entries available for the Good Beer Guide and we often struggle to whittle down our nominated list of pubs to the final 27 as it is. Now CAMRA headquarters are about to conduct a review of allocations based

on data from the 2011 population Census, together with information provided by branches about the availability of real ale in their areas.



*Can you name this North Devon CAMRA Branch watering hole?*

For this purpose they will be using the details contained on the WhatPub database, which is now linked to our own. It is essential therefore, in order to ensure that the number of allocations we are allowed is maintained at optimum level, that as many pubs, clubs, hotels and similar premises in our area are logged within the next 2-3 weeks. Pubs Officers are now concentrating on this task, although we really need the help of all members when it comes to identifying some of the less obvious outlets.

So, if you know of any clubs, hotels, or perhaps recently re-opened pubs in your area, that are currently serving real ale but are not yet on our radar, then please forward any information you may have either to your local POG, or directly to me as shown below.

For the purposes of the GBG review we do not need full details about the premises concerned. The pub address and an indication as to whether or not it serves real ale is all that is required at this stage, although of course any further relevant information would also be much appreciated.

*Bob Goddard,*

Pubs Officer Group Coordinator

r.goddard911@btinternet.com

## **Holsworthy Pub Crawl – Fun and Games for All!**

The Holsworthy Pub Crawl was held on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April. After meeting at the Old Market Inn to sample many of Lee Sycamore's 10 real ales and catch up on all of the gossip, 16 members of the branch then planned their campaign of action.

This very successful outing took in the Rydon Inn, The Fleece and Holsworthy Ales Brewery in Clawton.

The Rydon Inn has expanded its range of beers since the arrival of Richard and Sophie Prouse. Normally offering three real ales, during the Branch Pub Crawl, Timothy Taylor Landlord, Doom Bar and Otter Amber were on the pumps.

The reason for adding the Golden Fleece was to mark that pub decision to add a real ale to its offering. Dartmoor Brewery's Dartmoor IPA is now being served and Bruce the landlord, is considering adding a second in the near future.

The Holsworthy Ales part of the crawl enabled weary members to refresh themselves with some excellent ale and food from the BBQ. Brewer Dave Slocombe has achieved some great results of recent months and now brews eight beers ranging from bitters to stouts and porters. His regular open evenings are proving increasingly popular and so if you missed the chance to attend the Branch Pub Crawl, have a look on the Holsworthy Ales website for the dates for future open evenings.

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.