

Witterings March 2011

Here we are again – my first wittering of 2011.

Unfortunately this finds me a very sober wizard! As some of you may know I have spent a week in hospital, in excruciating pain. Having been diagnosed with pancreatitis and gall stones I am now 'on the wagon' until after an operation to remove my gall bladder, in a couple of weeks time; then I will have to be careful with both diet and alcohol intake. Fiona did manage to find me some Brewers Bread at the recent food & drink fare in Moretonhampstead where she was dancing. It contained fuggels and cascade hops and tasted like beer! The baker is in this month's What's Brewing. I would recommend it.

I thoroughly enjoyed our first Christmas Social. It was a great success with all who came and I hope that we can do it again next year. Fiona had prepared a Quiz but we didn't get round to it because we were all enjoying the company too much to need entertainment. I do hope that more of you will feel like joining us next Christmas when I hope we will do the same again.

I was unable to attend the Exeter Winter Ale Festival this year as I had my own 'beer festival' in the form of a big birthday bash at the Old Market Inn. I even had my own barrel of Kentish ale!

Many thanks to all who undertook the surveying of pub entries for the GBG using the information acquired at the training session. There have been a few surprising results, and some not so surprising! Generally the standard of surveys was well maintained. The training will be repeated later this year for those who missed it and would like to help in our surveying procedure. This training has enabled us to encourage a more consistent standard across our Branch.

The attendance at meetings has been very heartening. The last few meetings have been very good, with numbers being above national average. While I appreciate that many of you join Camra just to support the campaign I would also like to encourage even more of you to attend our monthly Branch meetings, to meet other members, to visit pubs you may not otherwise go to, to talk about Branch, regional and national issues and to keep informed – apart from having a good time that is. The 2012 AGM and members weekend will be held in Torquay in March 2012. Terry, Trish, Fiona and I went to the first planning meeting a few weeks ago and we expect to be involved in the event, on your behalf. We will, of course, be providing you with as much information as we receive and hope that you will feel able to contribute and attend as it is a 'local' venue.

I am always saddened by the closure of pubs although fortunately there do not seem to have been too many in our Branch area. I would encourage you all to "use it or lose it" if you know of a pub selling good real ale.

Finally I take great pleasure in offering my congratulations to Lee and his team at the Old Market Inn for winning Pub of the Year for a second year running. Lee continues to provide a large range of excellent ales and wholeheartedly supports Camra aims. He needs your support.

Morris

[mandf.elsworth@btinternet.com](mailto:mandf.elsworth@btinternet.com)