



Camra Calling

Spring 2008 – Summer 2008

01837 83353

trishburrows@talktalk.net

Members Newsletter for the North Devon Branch of the Campaign for Real Ale

Branch Pub of the Year 2008

Our Pub of the Year for 2008 is the **Duke of York at Iddesleigh**. A provisional date for the presentation of the Certificate has been set for Saturday 28th June.

Witterings of the Wizard

It is a year since my first wittering – where has that time gone?

Another year of wittering ahead!

My sincere thanks to the people who attended the AGM, almost double the number from last year. I hope that this reflects in some way the new North Devon Branch. The voting for POTY was successful and I am grateful to the 20% plus who made the effort to vote, especially those who visited all the pubs, but also those who just voted for the ones they knew. I hope your local was included, and if not, then perhaps next year you will nominate it. Along with the Secretary and our other halves we have started judging the POTYs of other branches – a rotten job but somebody has to do it.

During this year – the year of the Volunteer - I would really like to meet more of you, fellow North Devon Branch members. I look forward to seeing you at one of our social meetings and I'll try not to Witter too much. I'm actually wittering in Kent at the moment (Editors and their deadlines!) Whilst here I felt it my duty to attend Bexley Branch's Third Sidcup beer festival. An excellent small festival in the local sports club, with some 65 beers from all over the country, except the West Country! It was also very well attended, although the festival organiser confided that not many were local Branch members!

It's worrying to see in What's Brewing that a survey shows that 2 pubs close every day. Hopefully in the West Country this isn't happening. To conclude I quote from a poem I found in the Bexley beer festival programme –

It's never too late in 2008
The year to volunteer
Pubs will vanish I know that's true
The only person to blame is you.

So use it or lose, your local tonight,
Don't give in without a fight.
Go visit there now, for a pint or two,
The only person to blame is you.

A community centre, pubs so devout,
This government wants to wipe them out.
So don't malingering, a visit is due,
The only person to blame is you.

Cheers,

Grumbledore (aka Morris), Chairman.

mandf.elsworth@btinternet.com

2008 The Year to Volunteer

Although the number of members has risen significantly since CAMRA started, the percentage of active members has largely remained the same. CAMRA has therefore decided that 2008 is the year to get more of our members actively involved.

Following a Branch Committee action plan a motion at the next Branch meeting was unanimously agreed to change our meetings' structure to a flexible 3 monthly rota consisting of (1) a formal meeting, (2) a short meeting where only important issues are discussed and (3) a social. It was also agreed to send out reminders of meetings by e-mail highlighting issues on the agenda and to send the minutes of formal meetings to a wider Branch membership, not just those who attended.

In January we held a meeting at the Red Barn in Woolacombe where GBG 2009 selections and surveys were decided. From the 45 nominations received it was decided to survey 37. These surveys were allocated to 22 different members, which was a huge increase on last year.

The February meeting in the Golden Lion, High Bickington was attended by 17 Branch members (another welcome increase) where the surveys were returned and our allocation for the 2009 GBG was decided. Also at this meeting we chose our shortlist of 5 pubs for the North Devon Pub of the Year (POTY) 2008. Every Branch member was given a vote with a 22% response. The result was

announced at our AGM in March, where attendance was up over 100% on last year. **The Branch Committee would like to thank all those who came to the meetings and involved themselves in nominating, surveying and selecting entries for the 2009 GBG and for voting for the POTY 2008.**

Good Beer Guide

As stated our entries for the GBG 2009 have been decided and sent to the Regional Director. The new Guide will be published in September. We are now taking nominations for the 2010 Good Beer Guide.

Branch Polo Shirts

The branch has a supply of polo shirts that you can buy for £15.00 each. The shirt is maroon with our embroidered logo in gold and in sizes of medium, large, XL and XXL. If you would like one (or more) please contact me.

Website

Terry and I have had our first lesson with Nigel Davis on editing the Branch web site. Please visit the site (address above) and if there is anything you think should be included then please let us know.

Updating Personal Details

You can now update your personal details on line at the main CAMRA website. If you have not visited the site before you will need to enter your Membership number and a suitable password to register for the Members section. Then click on 'My Details and Preferences' to update any of your personal details.

Data Protection & e-mails

To save on cost we are sending the newsletter by e-mail to those we have addresses for. Everyone else will receive theirs by post as usual. If you do not wish to receive any further e-mails from us then please send a blank message with the subject line "email opt-out" to terryburrows@talktalk.net and to emailoptout@camra.org.uk.

Alternatively, if you have e-mail, are not on our address list and wouldn't mind receiving the newsletter and other Branch messages electronically, then please send a message to Terry at the above address.

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.

New Publication Dates

We are also changing the months we send out the newsletter to Dec/Mar/Jun/Sep, so the next edition will be in 2 months time at the beginning of June.

Beer Festivals

27th March-14th April – Beer Festival at all Wetherspoons Outlets.

24th-26th April - SIBA Beer Festival - Tucker Maltings, Newton Abbot.

2nd-5th May - Ilfracombe Beer Festival – Landmark Theatre, Ilfracombe.

7th-11 May - Ten Tors Beer Festival – Plymouth Inn, Okehampton.

15th-17th May - Ales from Devon – Devon County Show.

Meetings & Socials

Saturday 12th April - Branch Social 12.30pm – The Laurels, Petrockstowe, EX20 3HJ.

Saturday 26th April – Branch Social to the SIBA Beer Festival, Tuckers Maltings, Newton Abbot TQ12 4AA. Transport available if enough numbers. Contact Chris Franks on 01271 883969 or e-mail: cmenterprises@talktalk.net

Saturday 3rd May – Branch Meeting 12.30pm – La Bastille, Ilfracombe, EX34 8BS and **Social** at the Landmark Beer Festival afterwards (just along the road).

Brewery Tour

Saturday 31st May – Branch Social to Otter Brewery near Honiton. Transport being arranged with pick up points on the way. More numbers, less cost. Contact Chris Franks as above.

Saturday 28th June – Branch Meeting and POTY Presentation 12.30pm – Duke of York, Iddesleigh, EX19 8BG.

Any Future Events

If you know of any event or Beer Festivals taking place between June and August please inform Trish by phone or e-mail before 21st May and it will be included in the next branch newsletter.

If you know of any **pubs closing** in your area, please tell Terry as he has to inform CAMRA HQ at the end of each year.