

Camra Calling

Summer 2008 – Autumn 2008

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

Branch Pub of the Year 2008

The presentation of the Certificate of our Pub of the Year for 2008 to Jamie and Pippa at the **Duke of York at Iddesleigh** has been arranged for 12.30pm on Saturday 28th June. After the presentation there will be a Branch Social, so please make an effort to come along and join the celebration.

Witterings of the Wizard

I'm exhausted! It has been a very busy 2 months for the Old Wizard! The 1st of May begins our official Morris dancing season, visiting a different pub each week and we have also had something Camra related every weekend!

In April we held the first in our new regime of meetings – a Social at The Laurels in Petrockstowe. It was so well attended and I hope everyone enjoyed it as much as I did. It was great to have the opportunity to chat informally with so many members. I'm sure this set the trend for future meetings.

A couple of weeks after The Laurels' meeting was the SIBA festival held at Tuckers Maltings in Newton Abbot. This is a stunning festival with over 250 beers! Terry, Trish, Fiona and I had a busy day working there and earned money for the branch. If you've never been to a large festival then this is a must. It's quite an experience and anyone can volunteer for any amount of time.

The following weekend Fiona and I travelled the 60+ miles up to Ilfracombe for our semi formal meeting in The Bastille and then it was over the road to the Landmark for their Spring Beer Festival. While Fiona and Trish went off for an ice-cream Terry and I sampled the beers and spoke to Mike Garner, the real wizard of Wizard brewery. Congratulations to Chris on organising such a good event yet again. It was a real pleasure to be joined by several other branch members who also enjoyed themselves at the festival.

The following week found us in Exeter at the invitation of Exeter and East Devon Branch on their coach trip to Moles Brewery in North Wiltshire. It was an excellent trip.

The brewing process was explained very clearly by Roger Catte, the Managing Director. We then paid a quick visit to the Rising Sun at Lacock, a Moles pub (which was excellent), before going on for lunch at the Bell Inn, also in Lacock and North West Wiltshire pub of the year. We were all amused by the covered area for smokers called The Cough Inn!

On Friday 16th May Terry, Trish, Fiona and I volunteered yet again – this time to work the Ales from Devon bar at the County Show; a very enjoyable day, apart from having to wear a pink t-shirt. Fiona loved it, but I'm not sure it suited me!



The Wiz on his Whizz-Mobile (& Pink T Shirt)

To finish a very hectic month, as a part of CAMRA's Mild Month Terry and I had earlier brewed a barrel of mild especially for Winkleigh Morris Ceilidh. I called the beer M&T Mild. We pulled the first pint at 8pm and the barrel was empty by 9.30!

I'm now hoping for a few less hectic weekends but somehow I don't think the pace will slacken until October.

A quote to finish from the brewer of Beachy Head brewery in Sussex, featured on the Country Lives TV programme "a day without beer is like a day without sunshine".

Cheers,

Grumbledore (tired but still smiling)

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Good Beer Guide

We are taking nominations for the 2010 Good Beer Guide, so if you think your local is worthy of mention please tell us about it. We have many pubs in our area and it is not possible for us to know all of them so we need your help. We would like your nominations in before the end of October so we can organise visits by committee members before the surveys are done in January.

Beer Scoring

The National Beer Scoring System (NBSS) is available on line for all members to score beers they have tasted anywhere in the UK. Scores are from 0 to 5 (Undrinkable to Excellent) including ½ point scores. Please use this facility if you are not doing so already, particularly for pubs etc. in our Branch area. It helps all Branches to monitor pubs that are both in the Good Beer Guide and those being considered for future entry. At the moment, there are far more entries from members outside our Branch than from those within it. So, if your local tries a new beer then why not score it so that we can all see whether it's worth trying! Please go to: www.beerscoring.org.uk where you will be asked for your CAMRA membership number and a suitable password to access the system, which is easy to use. Score cards are available for those not on line, which we can send you on request. If you return them to us or let us know your scores by phone, we can enter them on the NBSS for you.

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 large, XL and XXL. If you would like one (or more) please contact me. We are in the process of trying to get T-shirts for the branch members and as soon as we have worked out the details we will let you know about prices and how to get them.

Website

If you are new to the branch it is possible to read back copies of the newsletter on the web site. There are also copies of meeting minutes available. After every meeting we will update the web site with future meetings and socials.

A History of Beer (3)

The first moves towards a modern brewing industry came in the 17th century with the emergence of professional brewers, a businessman who produced beer for general sale, not just on his own premises. Home brewing – often done by women known as brewsters or alewives – was in decline and in towns innkeepers were the main producers of beer.

Big commercial brewers appeared: Courage, Whitbread, Charrington, Truman and Ind in London and Essex. Bass and Worthington in Burton-upon-Trent and Arthur Guinness founded his company in Dublin. (to be cont.)

Beer Festivals

19th/22nd June – North Devon Beer Festival, EX31 2AP. Please see web site www.northdevonbeerfestival.co.uk for opening times. Tim Webster, the organiser, is also looking for volunteers to help at the festival, if you are able to, please contact Tim by e-mail at:

northdevonbeerfestival@googlemail.com

5th/6th July – Zale Fayre, South Zeal, nr Okehampton. 11am – 6pm

9th August – Weare Giffard, Mini Beerfest at Village Fair.

22nd/25th August – Landmark Theatre, Ilfracombe, EX34 9BZ.

13th/14th September – Heddon Valley Beerfest - Hunters Inn, Heddon Valley (nr. Parracombe) EX31 4PY.

Meetings & Socials

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

Saturday 19th July – Branch Meeting 12.30pm – Kings Arms, Bideford, EX39 2HW. (to be confirmed)

Saturday 16th August – Branch Meeting and Social – 12.30pm – Tally Ho!, Hatherleigh, EX20 3JN. (to be confirmed)

Any Future Events

If you know of any event or Beer Festivals taking place between September and November please inform Trish by phone or e-mail before 21st August 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.