

# Camra Calling

Autumn 2008 – Winter 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** took place and was very well attended. The weather was very kind to us and it was not raining so Jamie kindly cooked a barbeque for everyone who was there. A photograph of the presentation is on the home page of the web site, please take a look if you can.

## Witterings of the Wizard

I think I have to own up to making a mistake in my last Witterings when I was looking forward to a less hectic 3 months. You've guessed it. It hasn't been.

We enjoyed a wonderful Branch trip to the Otter Brewery – many thanks to Chris for organising it; then it was Morris Dancing and drinking Skinner's Ales at the Royal Cornwall Show. The following weekend was the Regional meeting in the New Inn in Gloucester. The Agenda was the same old stuff but some of it was interesting and I will be passing it on to you all at Branch meetings. On our way home we stopped off at the National Pub of the Year – The Old Spot. We were less than impressed, particularly with the service we received; our day was completed by a visit to The Tom Copley – need I say more? After this was Teignmouth Folk Festival with more pubs to check out!

On June 28<sup>th</sup> we all had a great day at The Duke of York, Iddesleigh presenting the certificate to our Branch Pub of the Year. The following weekend Terry and I worked hard at Zayle Fayre. They were very grateful for our expertise. Then came the Plymouth Beer Festival. This was my first visit and well worth it. Then Sidmouth Folk Festival (great real ales at The Swan), Dartmoor Folk Festival, great real ales courtesy of Bert's team from The Railway (North Tawton) and Bideford Folk Festival where I ended the week pulling pints at the real ale bar. My apologies for constantly mentioning folk festivals but somehow in my life they seem to conspire along with real ale to keep me busy. In the midst of all this we

also went to the Great British Beer Festival at Earl's Court in London. It has been an ambition of mine to attend this spectacular event and I will definitely be going again. We all enjoyed ourselves and it was good to see a few North Devon Branch shirts too! I really would recommend this festival.



Cheers,  
Grumbledore (tired but still smiling – it must quieten down soon!!!)

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## Christmas Social

Sorry for mentioning the 'C' word so early, but once again we are having our Christmas Social with Exeter and East Devon Branch at the Tom Copley in Spreyton on the 13<sup>th</sup> December at 12.30pm. Included with the newsletter is the menu. It is going to cost £12 a head. After the meal we are going to have a beer tasting quiz, hopefully it will be a good laugh. As we are limited to twenty places I will need to know who is coming by the 30<sup>th</sup> November. I will also need a deposit of £5 per person.

## 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.

## Good Beer Guides (2)

Are you a collector of CAMRA Good Beer Guides? Is there an edition you have lost and want to replace? Are you missing an entry of that nostalgic pub you used to go to that is no more? Then listen up!

The Branch is in possession of a number of previous editions of the GBG from 1975 to date that vary in condition. They are available for sale and any money received will go to Branch Funds. Please contact Terry if you are interested in buying any past editions.

As a matter of interest an original 1974 copy of the GBG was sold last year on 'e-bay' for over £200! So if you're not a collector, then why not consider starting?

## Champion Beers of Britain

These are the beers that were judged to be the best in Britain 2008 at the Great British Beer Festival this August.

Champion: Triple fff, Alton's Pride  
Second: Beckstones, Black Dog Freddy  
Third: Wickwar, Station Porter

### Mild Category:

Gold: Beckstones, Black Dog Freddy  
Silver: Rudgate, Ruby Mild  
Bronze: Rhymney, Dark

### Bitter Category:

Gold: Triple fff, Alton's Pride  
Silver: Lees, Bitter  
Joint Bronze: Jarrow, Rivet Catcher & Surrey Hills, Ranmore Ale

### Best Bitter Category:

Gold: Skinner's, Betty Stogs  
Silver: Highland, Scapa Special  
Joint Bronze: Cairngorm, Nessies Monster Mash & Timothy Taylor, Landlord

### Strong Bitter Category:

Gold: Thornbridge, Jaipur IPA  
Silver: Fullers, ESB  
Bronze: Highland, Orkney Blast

### Golden Ale Category:

Gold: Otley, O1  
Silver: Loddon, Ferryman's Gold  
Bronze: Skinner's Cornish Knocker Ale

### Speciality Beer Category:

Gold: Otley, O Garden  
Silver: Wentworth, Bumble Beer  
Bronze: Nethergate, Umble Magna

### CAMRA Bottled-Conditioned Beers:

Gold: Wye Valley, Dorothy Goodbody's Wholesome Stout  
Silver: Fuller's 1845  
Bronze: Wells & Young's, Special London Ale

### Winter Beer of Britain:

Winner: Wickwar, Station Porter (announced in January 2008)

## 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.

## Website

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

## Beer Festivals

**13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup> September – Heddon Valley Beerfest - Hunters Inn, Heddon Valley (nr. Parracombe) EX31 4PY.**  
**9<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> October - Seven Stars, Winkleigh, EX19 8HX.**

## Meetings & Socials

**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> October - Branch Social and Brewery Tour – 7.30pm** – Country Life Brewery, Abbotsham, EX39 5AP  
**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> October – Branch BBQ 12.30pm (TBC)** – Little Shelfin Farm, Mullacott Cross, Ilfracombe, EX34 8NZ  
**Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> November – Branch Meeting – 12.30pm** – Clinton Arms, Frithelstock, EX38 8JH  
**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December – Branch Christmas Social – 12.30pm** - Tom Copley, Spreyton, EX17 5AL

## Any Future Events

If you know of any event or Beer Festivals taking place between December and February 2009 please inform Trish by phone or e-mail before 21<sup>st</sup> November 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.