

Camra Calling

Winter 2009 – Spring 2010

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



*Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year
To All Our Members*



Christmas Social

We apologise to everyone who can no longer attend the Christmas Social due to the recent change of date. Unfortunately, there was a misunderstanding between Exeter & East Devon Branch and Roger, the licensee of the Tom Copley, when booking the event.

The new date is now on **Saturday 5th December at 12.30pm in the Tom Copley at Spreyton**. There will be a carvery choice of Pork and Turkey plus trimmings or Fish (Salmon) or Vegetarian (to be ordered from the bar) all held at last year's price of £12 per person.

Afterwards there will be a beer tasting quiz (based on Call my Bluff) that proved very popular last year, at £2 per entrant to make up the prize money.

Unfortunately, by the time we were made aware of the new date, transport to the Tom Copley could not be re-arranged.

Please let us know if you can make it as soon as possible as we have to give numbers to the Tom Copley.

Witterings of the Wizard

I am pleased to report that I have made up for lost time without a chauffeur – I have managed to sample several new beers. As some of you may know I am a fan of dark beers. This was helped along very nicely with 2 great festivals this autumn. Falmouth, Cornwall CAMRA's beer festival, is well worth a visit but it does get very busy, apparently 4000 attended this year. We went on Friday afternoon and it was

manageable, but I know that others went back in the evening and it was a bit of a crush. They did have a lot of dark beers with porters, stout and even the GBBF champion beer Rudgates Ruby Mild.



The second festival was Swindon Festival held in the GWR Railway Museum – again well attended but plenty of room. I got talking to one of the organisers about dark beer and he said that last year there had been only one, he did the list this year and there were twenty! I know a lot of people are shy of dark beer, I'm not sure why. I know some people say it is too heavy but a good mild is not heavy and often around 3.7%, and they do have bags of flavour. Some of the porters are a little heavier but to me they are all very drinkable.

Next May will again be Mild Month so start talking to your landlords and try a mild – or two!

We are underway with the selection of pubs for the 2011 guide; we seem to have a lot more nominations than before. It's going to be tough sorting them out. Also the POTY has to be judged. It's a rotten job but somebody's got to do it!

I hope you all have an enjoyable festive season, I hope to see some of you at the Tom Copley Christmas Social.

Merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

The Wiz.

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Good Beer Guide 2011

We are now doing the surveys for the Good Beer Guide 2011. They will be completed in time for the 13th February meeting at the

Town Arms, South Molton, where the entries will be decided. To help with this process we will be scoring those pubs nominated with a new judging form and using the National Beer Scoring System (NBSS) to make sure that the best pubs, selling the best beer get selected.

Pub of the Year (POTY) 2010

The four finalists for the POTY have now been decided following our meeting at the Rydon Inn, Holsworthy. They are (in no particular order): Bell Inn, Chittlehampton; Castle Inn, Combe Martin; Old Market Inn, Holsworthy and Taw River, Sticklepath, nr Okehampton. The judging panel, who will visit all four pubs, is being assembled and the result will be announced at the **AGM which is being held at Lacey's Ale and Cider House, Bideford on 13th March 2010.**

Social to Topsham

On the 23rd of January we are going to have a branch social on the Tarka Line Railway, stopping at Exeter and Topsham. If you would like to join us please contact Chris Franks on 01271 88969 (home), 07743 080197 (mobile) or on line at cmenterprises@talktalk.net or check our web site for more details.

Branch Polo and T-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 small, medium, large, XL and XXL. We also have some blue T-shirts with the branch logo, which we are selling for £7.50. We can also get branch sweatshirts in either light blue (see picture of Morris and Terry overleaf) or pink for £15.00. If you would like one (or more) of these please contact me and if you are not attending a meeting I can post them out to you.

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.

Pub Database

The North Devon CAMRA pub database can be accessed via the front page of our website.

We are still experiencing some problems over the security of the database, but Nigel Davis is working to eradicate them.

If you go on line, please take the time to try out the database. You can locate pubs in our Branch Area by using the search facility or alternatively, viewing the map provided.

It is hoped that the database will be fully live once an in-built update facility is made available to North Devon members.

If you have any information or feedback about the database please contact Nigel at NorthDevonCAMRA@aol.com

Also, please inform us of any **pubs closing** as we have to inform CAMRA HQ at the end of the year.

Beer Festivals

8th/9th January 2010 - Exeter & East Devon Branch Winter Ales Festival – Exeter City Football Club, St. James Park, Stadium Way, Exeter EX4 6QB. Open 11am-11pm both days.

Meetings & Socials

Saturday 23rd January 2010 – Branch Social on the train to Exeter and Topsham – contact Chris Franks on 01271 88969 (home), 07743 080197 (mobile) or on line at cmenterprises@talktalk.net or check our web site for more details.

Saturday 13th February 2010 – Branch Meeting – 12.30pm – Town Arms, South Molton, EX36 3BU. To decide entries for GBG 2011.

OFFICIAL NOTIFICATION: Saturday 13th March 2009 – AGM -12.30pm – Lacey's Ale and Cider House, Bideford, EX39 2BU. CARD CARRYING MEMBERS ONLY.

The April meeting will be held (if possible) in our Pub of the Year 2010.

Any Future Events

If you know of any event or Beer Festivals taking place between March and May 2010 please inform Trish by phone or e-mail before 21st February and it will be included in the next branch newsletter.