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FULL PINTS

Campaign for Real Ale

BEST CAMRA MAGAZINE IN BRITAIN – 2019

Ayrshire & Wigtownshire Campaign for Real Ale

Spring 2020

Five Kingdoms is a fast growing micro-brewery set in a stunning location on the tip of the Machars peninsula in Dumfries & Galloway.

We're passionate about real ale and brew an ever increasing range of beers from pales, through to blondes, bitters and a now infamous stout.

Our own beers, cask and bottled, along with many guest beers are available at our pub and hotel **The Steam Packet Inn** just down the road from the brewery.

#brewedbytheinnocent

01988 500334

www.fivekingdomsbrewery.com www.thesteampacketinn.com

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EDITORIAL

by Stuart McMahon

CAMRA (Campaign for Real Ale) is an independent, voluntary, consumer organisation which campaigns for real ale, real pubs and consumer rights. Membership (*join.camra.org.uk*) is open to all individuals; CAMRA currently has almost 193,000 members. It is governed by a voluntary unpaid national executive, elected by the membership. It has a branch structure which means that all members can join a local CAMRA branch and campaign and socialise locally.

The Ayrshire & Wigtownshire Branch currently has around 680 members. Within the branch, we have four social group areas - namely North Ayrshire, South Ayrshire, East Ayrshire and Wigtownshire, each of whom organise regular events and meetings (usually monthly).

Details of all our events are on page 5 and are also posted on our *Facebook* and *Twitter* pages. Members are always encouraged to bring a friend along if they wish - all are welcome to attend.

This edition once again features the varied travels of our members - from Arran to Armenia! We have held our Area Pub of the Year presentations - congratulations to all four winners. There's news on CAMRA's updated beer styles; the proposed Tied Pubs (Scotland) Bill under debate in Holyrood; a new CAMRA podcast coming soon; and a list of the dates of forthcoming beer festivals. Why not pop along to one of our social nights and say hello to some like-minded friends, which might also help to combat some loneliness?

The next edition of Full Pints will be published in June 2020. *Articles, photos and other contributions should be sent to the editor at* ***fullpints@awcamra.org.uk*** *no later than Friday 15th May 2020.*

Volume 22, Issue 1

Ayrshire and Wigtownshire CAMRA Branch

Campaign for Real Ale

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Websites:
www.awcamra.org.uk
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Ayrshire Real Ale Festival
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@troonbeerfest

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Hand Crafted
High Quality Ales
Brewed in the Heart of
BURNS COUNTRY.
CAMRA
CAMPAIGN FOR REAL ALE
Consistent Quality
CHAMPION PORTER OF SCOTLAND 2017
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PORTER
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COMPANY
RABBIES
PORTER
Bottle conditioned
ABV 4.3%

SPRING DIARY DATES

Please check *www.awcamra.org.uk* for up-to-date details of all our Branch events. A monthly email is sent at the start of each month to our members listing forthcoming events - if you don't receive this, please check your email Junk/Spam mailbox and confirm your email address at *www.camra.org.uk*. Details are also published on our *Facebook* and *Twitter* pages.

MARCH 2020	
Mon 2	Committee Meeting, Wheatsheaf, Kilmarnock, 8pm
Sat 7	CAMRA ale stall at Ayr Races. See p13 for details
Thu 19	North Ayrshire Social, Paddle Steamer, Largs, 8pm
Wed 25	East Ayrshire Social, Merito, Dunlop, 7.30pm
Thu 26	South Ayrshire Social, Mackays, Troon, 8pm
Sat 28	Branch AGM, JG Sharps, Largs, 2pm

APRIL 2020	
Fri 3 - Sun 5	CAMRA AGM, Conference and Members' Weekend, York
Fri 3 - Sat 4	Larbert Beer Festival, Dobbies Hall, Larbert
Sat 4	Wigtownshire Grand National Trip - places limited, see p30 for details
Thu 16	North Ayrshire Social, Village Inn, Fairlie, 8pm
Sat 18	CAMRA ale stall at West Fest, Troon. See p13 for details
Mon 20	Beer Festival Planning Meeting, First Edition, Kilmarnock, 8pm
Fri 24 - Sat 25	Paisley Beer Festival, Branch Social at 2pm on Sat 25
Wed 29	East Ayrshire Social, Brass & Granite, Kilmarnock, 7.30pm

MAY 2020	
Fri 8 - Sun 10	Forth Valley CAMRA - Mild Ale Trail by Rail
Wed 13 - Sat 16	East Ayrshire Social Trip to Newcastle. Contact Matt Millar for details. Very limited space.
Fri 15	Copy deadline for Full Pints summer edition
Thu 21	North Ayrshire Social, venue tbc, 8pm
Wed 27	East Ayrshire Social, The Cotton Mill, Kilmarnock, 7.30pm

@awcamra
@troonbeerfest

Ayrshire & Wigtownshire CAMRA
Ayrshire Real Ale Festival

Watch out for details in our monthly members' email of a possible coach trip down to The Steam Packet Inn, Isle of Whithorn as we've still to arrange a date to present Alastair Scoular with his Beer of the (Ayrshire) Festival Award that he won with **Five Kingdoms'** Captain Morrison's IPA back in October. Always a great day out.

And advance notice that this year's Ayrshire CAMRA Real Ale Festival will be celebrating it's 21st birthday from 1st - 3rd October in Troon Concert Hall, and will have a 'coast and waters' theme.

Branch Pubs of the Year

Thank you to everyone who took the time to nominate their Pub of the Year in our four Branch areas. Votes were counted up on Hogmanay and the winners announced shortly afterwards.

The four winners were:

North Ayrshire:
The Twa Dugs, West Kilbride

East Ayrshire:
Weston Tavern, Kilmaurs

South Ayrshire:
Wellingtons, Ayr

Wigtownshire:
The Steam Packet Inn, Isle of Whithorn

Congratulations to all four pubs and their staff. Presentations were organised for all four venues in January and are pictured overleaf. A judge from each of our areas will now visit the pubs to assess them for our overall Branch Pub of the Year award - the winner should be announced shortly after March 8th, and that pub will then go forward to the Scottish round of the competition.

SOUTH AYRSHIRE: WELLINGTONS BAR, AYR

WIGTOWNSHIRE: THE STEAM PACKET INN, ISLE OF WHITHORN

EAST AYRSHIRE: WESTON TAVERN, KILMAURS

NORTH AYRSHIRE: THE TWA DUGS, WEST KILBRIDE

Branch AGM

Our branch AGM will be held on Saturday 28 March in JG Sharps, Largs, 34-36 Nelson Street, Largs at 2pm. All our members are encouraged to attend this meeting and hear about the work of the Branch.

We're always needing some fresh blood within the committee, and if you've got a talent that you think would be useful to CAMRA, please consider putting yourself forward. In particular we're still looking for a Young Members' Coordinator, a coordinator for South Ayrshire social meetings, as well as a Branch Social Secretary to organise outings. After the AGM is finished there will be the opportunity to visit some other pubs in Largs.

OTHER VACANCIES

There's a couple of volunteer vacancies at the Scotland and Northern Ireland regional level of CAMRA.

They are also looking for a Regional Young Members' Coordinator - Role description at *https://s3-eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/www1-camra/app/uploads/2019/06/19090459/Regional-Young-Members-Coordinator-role.pdf* and a Regional Public Transport Officer - Role description at *https://s3-eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/www1-camra/app/uploads/2018/08/01151717/Regional-Public-Transport-Co-ordinator.pdf*

New CAMRA Podcast

CAMRA will be launching a new podcast called Pubs, Pints & People on 13 April 2020. Each episode will revolve around a different topic and will include a few different segments such as:

- A 'Learn & Discover' interview with brewers, sommeliers, beer writers and the like
- A 'Desert Island Beer' interview with another prominent person in the industry
- A 'Dive into the Archives' segment where we pull out relevant news or stories from past issues of What's Brewing, BEER, branch magazines, leaflets etc
- A 'Last Orders' chat over a closing beer

The format is designed to maximise opportunities to share CAMRA news and information, remind people of CAMRA's rich history and help listeners learn and discover more about the industry. It should be available via your usual podcast provider (eg iTunes / Google Play Music).

New CAMRA Beer Styles Launched

CAMRA's Champion Beer of Britain is chosen from the winners of various CAMRA-defined beer style categories, such as golden ales, or speciality beers. However, in recent years the beer market has moved on rapidly since the last beer style review some years ago. To address this an extensive consulatation took place with Brewery Liaison Officers, Tasting Panel Members, CBOB Coordinators, beer writers and brewers, amonst others.

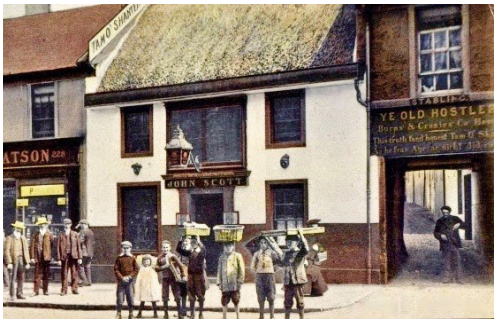
The outcome of that consultation process was announced at the recent Manchester Beer Festival, and the changes are shown in the table opposite. When we ask our members to vote for their favourite beers this coming autumn, the new styles will be adopted, and any CBOB competitions being held over the course of 2021 will use the new styles going forward. There will still be inconsistencies in styles, for example, where a brewer calls a 3.8% beer an IPA, when by CAMRA's definitions it should either be a Session Bitter or Session Pale, Blond or Golden ale - that categorisation can be discussed in the pub over a pint of said beer!

CURRENT STYLE	PROPOSED NEW STYLE AND ABV RANGE	COMMENTS
Mild <4%	**Mild** <4%	No major change, includes light and dark milds, and 60/-
Bitters <4%	**Session Bitters** <4.3%	To safeguard traditional bitters. Will include some former golden ales. IPAs (English and New World) will also include Black IPAs.
Best Bitters 4.1-4.6%	**Premium Bitters** 4.4-6.4%	
Strong Bitters 4.6%+	**IPAs** 5.5%+	
Golden Ales	**Session Pale, Blond and Golden Ales** <4.3%	Designed to tackle beers that are too malty to be a golden ale (as previously defined) but less malty and more fruity than a traditional bitter or are golden in colour but are not very fruity.
	Premium Pale, Blond and Golden Ales 4.4-6.4%	
Strong Milds and Old Ales 4.1%+	**Red Ales, Brown Ales, Old Ales and Strong Milds** 4.1-6.4%	This change is to reflect the growing number of Brown and Red Ales. The latter encompasses both American and Irish Reds. The category includes Strong Milds and unaged Old Ales.
Porters	**Session Stouts and Porters** <4.9%	This splitting by alcohol content allows much more fluidity between the styles and allows the inclusion of Imperial Stouts and Baltic Porters, which appear to be growing in popularity. Both ABV categories can include Dry, Oyster, Oatmeal and Milk Stouts.
Stouts	**Strong Stouts and Porters** 5%+	
Barley Wines and Strong Old Ales	**Barley Wines and Strong Old Ales** 6.5%+	No major changes
Speciality	**Speciality Beers - Differently Produced**	Speciality beers in the differently produced category are those where a base beer has been made with non-conventional ingredients or techniques. Beers in this category are Wheat, Wild/Sours, Saison, Wood-aged, Smoked, Lager, and other beer types. Flavoured beer can be Fruit-flavoured, Spice / Herb / Flower-flavoured, Vegetable-flavoured, Honey-flavoured, Chocolate-flavoured, Coffee-flavoured, Fortified wine- / Spirit-flavoured and other beer types.
	Speciality Beers - Flavoured	

Tam O' Shanter Inn & Restaurant

Established 1749
'Ayr's Oldest Inn'

The only thing warmer than our roaring fire is our welcome.



The Tam O' Shanter Inn is officially Ayr's oldest public house. Established in 1749 it has served the people of Ayr through countless generations, and still offers the best Whiskies and locally-brewed Real Ales on the premises.

We are proud to serve Ales from our local 'Ayr Brewing Company' who provide us with such delights as Leezie Lundie and Jolly Beggars.

Local fayre has been served on the premises for over 25 years – on offer within the bar or restaurant situated next door, are Cullen Skink to Haggis Nachos, traditional Haggis, Neeps and Tatties to Guinness Steak Pie – we serve it all.

The Tam O'Shanter Inn
230 High Street, Ayr KA7 1RQ. Tel: 01292 611684

Catch us on our Instagram or Facebook pages for the latest news and offers.

Brewery News

A relatively quiet time for our breweries over the winter months.

Arran Brewery has started pilot production of their sour beers at their Arran View Brewery site in Dreghorn. Cider has also been fermenting away over the winter at their Loch Earn site. They also donated £900 from the sales of Red Squirrel to Ulster Wildlife, to support the reintroduction of Red Squirrels in Northern Ireland.

Sulwath Brewery Black Galloway was a finalist in the Champion Winter Beer of Britain competition held in Birmingham recently, but didn't come home with any silverware this year. The Castle Douglas Beer Festival will be held in Castle Douglas Town Hall on Sat 21st March from 11am - 5.30pm. Tickets £10 in advance.

Kelburn Brewery has brewed another batch of Pacific Porter (5.5%). It will be available for a limited time in regular outlets. Also watch out for a new cask lager coming from them soon.

Ayr Brewing Company If you're a guitarist, then pop along to the brewery shop at the Glen Park Hotel in Ayr and you'll get a free plectrum with cans of Betty and the Gardens (whilst stocks last!).

Portpatrick Brewery – no news on when the relocated brewery will start up yet.

Five Kingdoms Brewery – As mentioned in the last edition, the brewery now has some much needed big, shiny new fermentation tanks to give extra capacity - they should be in use within the next month or so.

Local Pub News

Movers and Shakers

No sooner had the Winter edition of Full Pints hit the streets that we discovered that the *Padaro Bar and Restaurant* in **Lugton** was continuing to sell real ales, contrary to what we reported in that edition. Also, The *Smoking Goat* in **Ayr** has reopened under new management after a brief closure. It still continues to sell two cask ales usually from either Ayr or Fyne Ales. *The Cookhouse and Pub*, **Kilmarnock** has reverted to its former name of *The Cotton Mill*.

Sadly, another real ale loss is *Fanny by Gaslight* in **Kilmarnock** due to poor sales. It's also been confirmed that *Largs Yacht Club* no longer sells real ale.

Please remember to submit beer scores at *WhatPub.com* and let us know if any outlet doesn't have real ale available. We're aware of a couple of other outlets recently that haven't had real ale available, and need to confirm the status of them.

ARRAN

ROCK 'N' BLUES FEST

26-27 SEPT 2020

Real Ales

and

Live music

on the Green by the sea

in Lamlash, Isle of Arran

www.arranrockandbluesfest.co.uk

Tickets £35 from Tickets:Scotland

P.H.T. ARRAN · Ventures trust · co op · Caledonian MacBrayne · LAMLASH EVENTS

LARBERT REAL ALE AND CIDER FESTIVAL 2020

12th Larbert Real Ale and Cider Festival 2020

New for this Year

Wine, Gin and Prosecco Bar

Dates: Friday 3rd and Saturday 4th April

Venue: Dobbie Hall, Main Street Larbert. FK5 4BL

(only 5 mins walk from Larbert Railway Station)

Friday: 1pm for CAMRA members and 3pm (Public)

Saturday: 12 noon (All) - Open until 11pm each day

- Live Music on Saturday night
- Hot Food and Soft Drinks are available

Entry: £5 at door (£2 to CAMRA members on proof of valid CAMRA membership card)

Entry includes a free commemorative glass and programme.

FREE Readmission To all subsequent sessions on presentation of your 2020 admission glass!

UNDER 25?

Find us on facebook @forthvalleycamra

forthvalley.camra.org.uk

The Waterside

Bath Street, Largs

Tel: 01475 672224

Two Real Ales from Kelburn available

KELBURN BREWING CO.

Mondays - Poker

Wednesdays - Poker

Fridays - Karaoke

Saturdays - Live Music

Sundays - Open Mic Night

Food available every day except Monday, noon - 5pm

Check out our entertainment programme on Facebook

Find us on

Festive Pub Crawl

The festive pub crawl held on 27th December across pubs in North Ayrshire was another great success with around 50 folk attending at some stage throughout the day.

The day started in *The Twa Dugs*, **West Kilbride** where **Kelburn** Goldihops and **Five Kingdoms** Dark Storm were available. A packed 585 bus then headed to the *Village Inn*, **Fairlie** where **Inveralmond** Lia Fail was on tap. Up to **Largs** and the *Paddle Steamer* had a range of beers including **Long Man** Old Man; the *Waterside* had **Kelburn** Jaguar and Dark Moor; the *Three Reasons* had two beers from **Redcastle** available througout the day - after the first one ran out, Festive Stout was soon swapped over on to their single handpump. Finally, *JG Sharps* had **Sharp's** Sea Fury available. Thanks to all the pubs for coping with the influx of drinkers!

Branch Ale Special Events

Our Branch is going to be hosting a real ale bar at Ayr Racecourse on Saturday 7th March as part of a Food and Drink event taking place in the main pavilion whilst the Tennent's Raceday takes place outside.

The event is ticketed with gates opening at 11.40am, and the first race taking place at 1.40pm. After the last race at 4.35pm, the fun continues with live music by Fusion playing a mix of classic and contemporary covers in the Club Stand ensuring a real party atmosphere and a packed dance floor! Ticket information can be found at:
www.ayr-racecourse.co.uk/races-tickets/racing-fixtures/tennents-march-raceday-2020/

Additionally, our Branch is going to be hosting a real ale bar at Troon's West Fest on Saturday 18th April in Troon Concert Hall. Again, this is a ticketed event, with two four-hour sessions running from 12-4pm, and 6-10pm. Tickets and info at: *jjeventbars.com/west-coast-fest-2018/*

Forthcoming Beer Festivals

Dates of CAMRA and local beer festivals that we're aware of at the moment are as follows:
Larbert, Dobbie Hall, Larbert: 3rd/4th April,
Paisley: 24/25 April, part of Paisley Food & Drink Festival. Branch Social, 2pm on Sat 25th
Kingdom of Fife CAMRA, Glenrothes Rothes Hall: 30 April - 2nd May
Belfast, Botanic Gardens, Belfast: 6-9th May
Glasgow, The Briggait, 18-20 June (TBC)
Ayrshire, Troon Concert Hall: 1-3 October
Ardrossan Accies Ruby Club: 21-23 May
Village Inn, Fairlie - summer, date tbc

Branch Vice-Chair elected to EBCU

Some readers may be aware that our Branch Vice-Chair Ray Turpie has been elected to the executive of the European Beer Consumers Union (EBCU).

This is a bit like our own National Executive in CAMRA but only has five members instead of twelve. There are currently thirteen member countries including our own. The organisation was set up 30 years ago to represent the voice of European beer consumers and promotes the responsible consumption of beer with respect for the traditional beer culture in Europe.

In this capacity, the EBCU strives to pursue several issues including diversity of beer styles, information to consumers about ingredients and provenance of beer and, of course, maintaining reasonable prices for the customer. Being generally lower in strength relative to wine and spirits, beer is the drink of choice for moderate consumers. The organisation also supports a favourable and equitable taxation of beer across Europe by lobbying politicians on both sides of the channel.

Ray's own role in all this includes the overall management of the organisation with respect to finance, budgets and future direction keeping in mind the wishes of delegates from all member countries. In EBCU's 30th Anniversary year, it is a good time to plan for "The Way Forward - 2020 and Beyond" and Ray anticipates a busy time over his two-year tenure. In this time of change for Europe we all need to be adaptable and tolerant over the coming years.

Ray Turpie, EBCU Executive February 2020.

Burns and Beer

by Dr Doom

On Tues, 21st January, a dreich Ayrshire day, the Stagecoach 585 deposited me directly opposite The Twa Dugs pub in West Kilbride just before 2pm to attend a "Burns and Beer" themed afternoon. I went in to meet a rapidly expanding group eventually totalling 22 like minded souls.

Debbie, the bar manager, made us all very welcome and told us that, in keeping with the theme, the real ales on were "Avondale" from Strathaven Ales and "Rabbies Porter" from Ayr Brewing Company. Everyone thought both were in good condition.

After a pint and chat the group sat down to listen to a robust "Address to a Haggis" delivered by Billy Strang and the wee beastie was duly despatched by his very own Sgian Dubh.

The group resumed its drink and chatter over a meal of soup, then haggis, neeps and tatties which was very good. (Incidentally the pub has recently opened a separate restaurant called Ziggy's, linked to the pub by a short corridor).

By now a couple of pints had been consumed, time for the prize draw, drawn by Debbie-nae luck for me but the Middleditches kept it in the family. On to the quiz, 10 questions Burns themed and 10 general knowledge and our table won with the princely score of 9.

All too soon return bus time arrived and I had to leave the warmth and conviviality of the pub and cross to the bus stop where I stood in the drizzle and gloaming. As I looked at the pub sign this crossed my mind:

Ae dug sat upon a wa', sat upon a wa',
sat upon a wa',

Ae dug sat upon a wa' on a cauld, dreich
Ayrshire day

Anaether dug sat upon the wa', sat upon the wa',
sat upon the wa',

Anaether dug sat upon the wa', on a cauld dreich
Ayrshire day

The Twa dugs shuld ha been in here,
shuld ha been in here, shuld ha been in here

The Twa dugs shuld ha been in here

Wi' us, eatin neeps an haggis an drinkin fine beer.

Nine get stranded on Arran!

By Sharon-Leah Perry

Every year, our Branch tries to visit Arran in early February to survey some of the pubs that may be contenders for the next edition of the Good Beer Guide, to make sure the details are up-to-date.

This year, nine hardy souls and two dogs – Reg Smith, Sandy Morris, Mick Lee, Tom Parish, Ian & Kenny Middleditch, Jamie McGee, Graeme & Sharon-Leah Perry, along with Mr Glen and Penny (the dogs) headed over on the ferry on Friday 7 Febuary. We started off with a very good Uisgh Dhu at the **Kinloch Hotel** in **Blackwaterfoot**.

We then headed on the bus over to **Lamlash** and drained the *Pier Head Tavern* dry of **Kelburn** Dark Moor and **Fyne Ale's** Jarl, and then made a good dent in their Misty Law and Maverick over lunch.

The *Drift Inn* was a disappointment as firstly no dogs are allowed, and then discovering they had no real ale either. Heading back over to Brodick, the *Brodick Bar* didn't have any real ale either, so the last pit stop was the *Ormidale Hotel* where we finished off with **Arran** Scottish Scrum,

Kelburn Pivo Estivo, and once Pivo was finished it was **Greene King's** Scrum Down. And as evidenced in the picture below, I had a break with a healthy dose of decent tea! The dogs enjoyed themselves too.

However by this point, word had reached us that the ferry had broken down and the 1640 and 1920 sailings were cancelled, meaning an impromptu overnight stay on the island!

The Ormidale was fantastic at accommodating us and getting rooms ready for us all, and we had jolly decent meals too. We spent a lovely evening keeping warm around the lovely log fire, which Tom kept well stoked and topped up.

Fun was had with a pack of pub quiz cards with Graeme Perry firstly asking the questions and then Kenny Middleditch; the rest of us showing off (or showing our ages) with how well we answered the music questions ranging from the 1960s through to the 1990s.

Thankfully the 0820 ferry sailed on the Saturday morning to Ardrossan which is just as well – on the train home the conductor told us all the other ferries for that day had been cancelled, and as it turned out a combination of Storm Ciara and the ferry's technical problems with one of its engines meant that the next ferry off the island wasn't until Wednesday!

TRADING STANDARDS

If you have any complaint about your beer, such as poor quality or short measure, or if there is no price list displayed, you should remain polite and speak to the management of the pub concerned in the first instance.

If you need to pursue the complaint further, contact your local Trading Standards office or Citizen's Advice Bureau and they will guide you to the next appropriate step. Full contact information can be found on your local authority website or by calling:

www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk	*Tel: 01294 310100*
www.east-ayrshire.gov.uk	*Tel: 01563 576602*
www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk	*Tel: 01292 616060*
www.dumgal.gov.uk	*Tel: 030 33 33 3000*

Members' area on national website

Every CAMRA member has access to a dedicated members area on the national website: *www.camra.org.uk > Sign-in*. You just need your membership number and there's a link available if you don't know your password. Once logged in you can check that your email address is correct and that other membership details are correct at *members.camra.org.uk > Member Dashboard > My Membership > Edit Membership > Preferences*

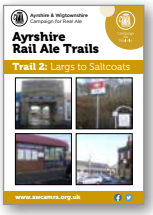
And whilst logged in, why not visit CAMRA's *Discourse discussion forum* and take part in conversations on a multitude of topics at *discourse.camra.org.uk*.

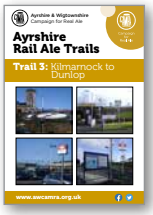
Ale Trails

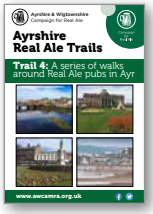
One of our Branch campaigns was to update the series of Ale Trails that were produced a few years ago, and which were badly out of date. We're happy to announce that these have now been updated and are available to view / download from the branch website at *www.awcamra.org.uk.*

There are eight trails available in total:

- Rail Trail 1: Ayr to Irvine
- Rail Trail 2: Largs to Saltcoats
- Rail Trail 3: Kilmarnock to Dunlop
- Walking Trail 4: Ayr Real Ale Trails
- Bus Trail 5: North & East Ayrshire
- Bus Trail 6: South Ayrshire
- Bus Trail 7: Wigtownshire
- Island Trail 8: Arran (being reprinted)







THE AUCHANS

RESTAURANT-BAR

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Free Beer Pass?

by Sarah Crawford, CAMRA Scotland & Northern Ireland Regional Director
*Email: **rd.scotlandni@camra.org.uk***
Tel: 07846 856 930

I've been hearing stories recently about a pilot project in Glasgow, based on a Canadian scheme, which is set to provide alcoholics measured amounts of alcohol. The aim is to stabilise people's addiction, stop them from drinking paint thinner and hand sanitiser, stop them passing out on the streets, and to give them some dignity. The scheme has its critics but up to now no-one has come up with an alternative other than letting people drain public resources and then die on the streets.

Well, that is all fine and good. Let's give alcoholics free booze in a clinic to stop them from causing trouble on the streets. But what about really vulnerable people in our communities. What about Hamish, the old man who has worked all his life and now is alone since his wife passed away. He has no visitors from week to week. His only social interaction for him is with the checkout attendant, who doesn't have the time to speak to him. Loneliness can be as damaging as smoking 15 cigarettes a day, according to the Campaign to End Loneliness, and is considered to be a growing epidemic.

If we could give Hamish a free measure of alcohol, or other drink, subsidised by the government then that might encourage him to go and speak to people in his local. Publicans and their staff provide stability and regular human contact for many who experience loneliness and social isolation. The CAMRA Friends on Tap report found out that that people feel generally somewhat more comfortable about strangers with low levels of alcohol consumption.

The government have a Free Bus Pass for the Over 60's..... how about a Free Beer Pass too?

More information about the Campaign to End Loneliness can be found here: *www.campaigntoendloneliness.org*

and at *camra.org.uk/loneliness/*

Beers from far-flung places!

By Sandy McWhirter

To many people, the prospect of spending extended periods of time travelling to foreign parts, seems a very exciting and romantic way to make a living.

So it was with me when, many years ago, I started to travel to the Far East, Australia, United States and all over Europe. However, as with most people whose work takes them to foreign parts, I quickly found it to be lonely and frustrating. Lonely because I was almost always travelling alone and frustrating because although I might be spending time in Hanoi, Sydney or Kuala Lumpur, the opportunities to do anything other than arrive at an airport, transfer to a hotel, go to work, and get back to the airport for a return flight, left me with the feeling that I had been somewhere potentially very interesting but had had little time to see it and to enjoy the culture.

However, now that I am semi-retired, I can take the opportunity when I travel to spend an extra couple of days in selected locations in order to see the place and where possible, to enjoy myself.

As a member of CAMRA, of course, that often means trying to find local beer, in decent pubs and to enjoy, if possible, the local brews.

Following a couple of recent trips, I hit on the idea of writing a few lines about some of my experiences in my travels and sharing them with fellow CAMRA members in case they ever find themselves in the same locations as me – hence this wee article for "Full Pints."

My first example is somewhere that did not immediately appeal to me when I was sent there. This was **Armenia**. In fact, I had to look at the map to see where it was and when I had done so, I was even less looking forward to the trip!

What a mistake! I found Armenia in general, and **Yerevan** its capital in particular, amongst the most beautiful and most friendly places I have been, and I have been to a few!

From Scotland, I arrived in Yerevan via Heathrow and an over-night flight from Moscow, arriving bleary-eyed in Yerevan mid-morning.

Yerevan

I had left a very cold and wet Scotland in late October and was amazed by the temperature of 25 degrees and bright sunshine of Yerevan.

A brief taxi trip took me from the airport to Yervan city along not very busy roads to a beautiful city centre where it seemed that every opportunity had been taken to build fountains, some just passively spouting water, others dancing and lit with coloured lights during the hours of darkness.

A soon as I had rested, I went to explore the local hostelries and soon found some local beers. As expected, these were mainly of the 'lager' style and were all around the 4-5% abv. mark and while some way from my taste, they were pleasant enough for a pint on a warm afternoon.

While at a meeting the following day, I asked my client if there were any local craft ale breweries in Armenia and was delighted when he gave me a list. He broke them down into "Big breweries and small breweries." I had already sampled some of the beers from the big breweries, such as **Kilikia** and **Dilijan**. Those I sampled were OK but unremarkable and generally of the typical continental lager type.

Beer Academy

However, I only tried a small number and of the lowest abv. I could find as I have always to remember that I am there for work!

My first microbrewery experience was in "*The Beer Academy.*" It produces five ales and two seasonal varieties – a Wheat beer from May – October and a 7% Dark wheat beer from October – May. On my first visit, I had a trial sample of four beers, of which their Academia bitter (4% abv.) was excellent.

Unfortunately, I could not wait long on that occasion but decided that if I had the time, I would return.

Dargett

Next brewery I visited was **Dargett** where the pub sits at street level and the brewing is done in the basement. Again, I was not able to spend much time there but did sample their "Belle de Jour Blonde Ale" (5% abv) which was very good. The list of beers on the board was even more comprehensive than those of the "*Euston Tap*" in London so I would have been spoilt for choice if I had had the time. If I go back to Yerevan, I will certainly return there.

However, on my last evening in Yerevan, I had the opportunity to spend a little more time and having decided to return to the **Beer Academy**, I headed there as it was closest to my hotel.

I ordered a 500ml Bitter again. The barman, whose English was as good as mine, expressed surprise that I appeared to know the beer. I said that I had been in two nights before and he asked me if I had seen the whole place. In fact, it turned out that I had only visited the small bar where I was sitting. He asked if I would like to see the whole establishment, an offer that I accepted.

I was amazed! Behind the bar area is a very large, semi-open air bar / restaurant area. Here, they sell traditional Armenian fare, cooked with local ingredients to traditional recipes using traditional utensils.

Smoking is permitted in most places in Yerevan but here, there is a smoking area for those who do but the majority of the space is non-smoking.

They do have traditional music playing in the background. Not too loudly but in any case, there is even an area which is music free. I had already eaten that day so I did not have a meal. The barman, who turned out to be the manager or perhaps the owner, gave me a free sample of some Armenian crispbreads with a tomato dip. Really good!

I was leaving for Moscow the following day but recommended it to two of my colleagues who ate there the following evening. They said that I had recommended it and the barman remembered me. My three colleagues thought it was excellent.

The list of beers available in both **Dargett** and the **Beer Academy** can be found on their respective web sites, accessible via Google.

Although Armenia / Yerevan may not be the first place that springs to mind when planning a holiday, it is certainly worth considering. It is a long time since I experienced such a beautiful place, such friendly people and such a surprising variety of excellent beers. Well worth a visit.

continued overleaf...

Yerevan

Vienna

My main client at present is located in **Vienna** and I go there several times per year. While the same issue of lack of time available applies there too, I do tend to have a bit more free time in the evenings than I do when working elsewhere.

There are a couple of pubs I would like to describe to anyone thinking of a visit to Vienna, perhaps more likely (and certainly more expensive) than Yerevan.

The first is the **1516 Brewing Company**. The beer is brewed on the premises and they have five such beers available. I usually have the Victory Hop Devil which is an amber bitter and suits my taste. They do a mixed Black and Tan which I have tried but is not my favourite and also a white Wheat Beer.

Smoking is now (more or less) banned in Vienna but upstairs in this place is in any case non smoking. Downstairs and outside on the pavement, you need to take your chances! The food is OK, typical pub grub and not too expensive by Viennese standards.

There is a nice pavement area and across, the road, should it suit you better, there is *Flanagan's*, an Irish Pub (isn't there always!) which screens sports and has Kilkenny on draught as well as Guinness. Otherwise, it is a typical pub of the Irish genre.

My second suggestion is one of a pair of pubs that I think are from the same group as their list of beers is both identical and extensive. I tend to favour "*Mels Craft Beer & Diner*" in the summer as it has a nice outdoor area or "*Paddy's*" also known as the "*Beer Street*" when the weather is colder. Both offer samplers of the large selection of beers available. Paddy's has a bar at street level and an amazing basement which has 50 beers available – all on draught! The mix of beers is international and well worth trying with abv. varying from 3.8 to over 7%. Last time I was in, of the 50 taps on the bar, over 40 were available.

It also serves reasonable food and if you are in Vienna, is worth a visit.

Details of all of these pubs can be found on Google.

Paddy's Bar, Vienna

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Rugby and Real Ale Trip to Manchester January 2020

By Allan Merry

When Glasgow Warriors were drawn in the same European Champions group as Sale Sharks, the prospect of a trip to Lancashire was one which appealed to myself and Duncan, my friend of 60 years.

We had discussed going down to a Sale game in the past year, as one of our Perth Academy school friends, Lawrence, had moved to Lancashire and followed the Sale Sharks. It would also provide an opportunity to visit some of the real ale pubs in the Lancashire area. With this in mind Lawrence invited us to stay with him from the Thursday to the Monday, with the game being on the Saturday (18th January). All three of us are interested in real ale, myself through CAMRA, Duncan via his previous job as Head Brewer for **Maclays**, before it became defunct (not because of him I might add) and Lawrence an enthusiastic real ale drinker (but not in CAMRA!).

Duncan and I arranged to meet in Glasgow, before heading for the train. We had an excellent meal in *Ramen Ramen*, a restaurant in Bath Street, before repairing to the *Drum and Monkey* for a couple of pints. I had two excellent pints in **Harviestoun** Bitter and Twisted and **Little Critters** Blonde Bear (4.2%).

We then headed for our train but on arriving at Central Station, found that there our scheduled train at 2pm had been cancelled due to a problem on the line between Carlisle and Lancaster. We were told that the 2.40pm train would be going to Carlisle and that a bus thereafter would take us all the way to Preston, our destination. With a bit of time to kill we went for a pint in the *Horseshoe Bar* nearby. I had a pint of Deuchars IPA, which was the better of the two ales which were available.

We then headed back to the Central in time for our train. After the train and bus journey we arrived in Preston, some two hours after we had been due to arrive. Lawrence was there to pick us up, having kept in touch by text and phone. We were taken to his house in Hoghton, where we met his partner, Pat, and had an excellent stir fry.

Lawrence had planned several hostelries to take us to, to show off the good pubs in the local area, near **Preston** and **Chorley**. On the first night he took us to the excellent *Malt 'n Hops*, a previous Lancashire Pub of the Year (2107), where there are nine fonts. I had White Rat from the **Rat Brewery**, **Wily Fox** Crafty Fox, **Bank Top's** Dark Mild and ended the evening with **Moorhouse's** White Witch. Other beers available were **Goose Eye's** Springwells and Wobbly Bob by **Phoenix** – a 6% beer, which according to Duncan did not taste like a 6% beer.

Whilst there Duncan could not help but revert to type and explained the use of sparklers which was widespread in England and not used at all up north. He thinks this is why beer usually tastes better in pubs down south. I promised to discuss this with our Bar Manager at the *Ardrossan Accies Rugby Club* to see if would help improve our beer there. Once a brewer, always a brewer it seems! Anyway we all then were taken home for a restful night. I should add at this point, that our host took us around by car and as a result only had a pint or two (different rules in England compared to us in Scotland).

The plan next day was to visit **Hawkshead Brewery** in **Staveley** (not Hawkshead

Hawkshead Brewery

which was nearby) so after a light breakfast, we were driven an hour north to the brewery, where we had a pint of the ITI (3.5%), with our lunch before the brewery tour. There was only the three of us and given our relative knowledge of real ale, it turned out to be a very informative afternoon, both for ourselves and our guide, who picked a few scraps of information from our ex-brewer. Following the tour, which took about an hour, we returned to the bar and I personally tried the Bitter (3.7%), NZPA (6.0%) (only a half pint!) and the Windermere Pale, all of which were very good, as you'd expect from a brewery bar.

Hawkshead Brewery

On return to Hoghton we rested before hearing of the plans for the evening. We were to go to the *Red Lion*, **Wheelton**, for their renowned fish and chips (according to Lawrence) and a few beers. The fish was indeed excellent and we were able to select from eight fonts. My personal favourite was **Oakham's** Waimea (perhaps also for the entire stay) and I also partook of **Frome Brewery's** Taihere and **Timothy Taylor's** Boltmaker. Other beers available were **Saltaire** Olympus, **Black Hole** Porter and **Oakham** Citra.

On Saturday, the day of the game, we went for a walk locally before going to the *Beer Box*, **Bamber Bridge** whilst our host went for the sausages etc. for the proposed fry-up on Sunday.

We had a selection from four fonts and I had a pint of Arizona from **Phoenix**, Duncan trying Blackbone from **West Coast Brewery**. Lawrence soon came by after a short time, cutting short any plans of further ales. Back at our host's house, we watched some of the other games that were to affect the Warrior's chances of progressing further in the tournament and were disappointed to watch Lyon give up a winning position against Northampton, one of the results which did us no good.

Lawrence had told me that there was normally real ale served at the *A. J. Bell Stadium*, Sale's ground, but on arriving there about one hour before kick-off, we were disappointed to find only keg beer on sale (sic). I had to drink a couple of pints of Guinness to get my Sale-themed glasses. The game went very well for Glasgow, against an admittedly weakened Sale line-up, especially in the backs and we ended up winning 45-7. On returning home we enjoyed a Coq-au-vin rustled up by Pat and then out again, this time to

The Beer Box

the *Mason's Arms* in **Chorley**, a normally excellent inn with good beers. Whilst on this occasion I had a very good pint of **Abbeydale** Deception. Other beers from the six fonts, included **Vocation** Bread and Butter, **Pictish Brewing Company's** Waimea and **Blackedge** Hop. The latter was probably off according to both my companions and whilst I am no expert, it tasted decidedly iffy. As the *Malt 'n Hops* was relatively nearby, we returned there to find to our pleasant surprise that despite us being at this pub only two days ago, there were several different beers. This time I had, **Goose Eye** Chinook followed by **Wily Fox's** Karma Citra.

Other beers included Marshmallow Unicorn Milk Stout by **Irwell Works Brewery** along with the ubiquitous Wobbly Bob by **Phoenix**.

Another restful night only to wake up to our promised fry-up breakfast. We then needed a walk to rid ourselves of the calories and we

all, Pat included, headed to **Chapeltown** with an interesting walk including some fine railway bridges to walk over. As we had parked in the car park of the *Chetham Arms* we felt that we should enjoy one of their four beers. I had **Moorhouse's** Pride of Pendle (4.1%) and there was also Old Peculier and Landlord available.

On returning home we watched Gloucester and Saracens try to foil Glasgow in their qualification struggle. Gloucester failed but Saracens prevailed due to a dodgy penalty, courtesy of Nigel, normally a good referee. In the evening we took Pat and Lawrence out for dinner in a local pub, the *Dog and Partridge* in **Charnock**, serving real ale of course. In addition to a tasty meal, I had a couple of pints of Proper Job by **St Austell Brewery**. They also had **Sharp's** Doom Bar and **Moorhouse's** Black Cat. After a reasonably vigorous day we returned to Hoghton and a well earned rest.

Monday was our day of returning to Scotland, Duncan coming from Alva. We were taken to Preston in good time for our train, meaning we could enjoy a last pint in Lancashire. Across from the station was the *Old Vic*, which had seven fonts. I had a pint of **Bowland** Gold and Duncan a pint of Real Blond by **Pennine Brewing Company**. There was also on offer **Eagle** (previously Charles Wells) Bombardier and **Lancaster** Amber.

It was then to the train and home to our respective abodes, having enjoyed the game (if not the eventual outcome of the qualification) and many real ales from many good pubs. Interestingly when we were in the *Malt 'n Hops*, probably the best pub we visited, I picked up a leaflet extolling the virtues of *Chorley's Real Ale Trail*, taking up a potential of 22 pubs, all within easy walking distance of the railway station. Worth coming back to this area if we can wangle an invite!

The Old Vic

The Smoking Goat, 2A Academy Street, Ayr
www.thesmokinggoat.com

Every CAMRA branch adheres to CAMRA's privacy policy. Within our branch we use a centralised communications tool for sending out our monthly emails to our branch members.

However, for certain aspects of our work, for example, the beer festival, we will occasionally need to contact folk directly by way of having a 'legitimate interest'. Any communications from our branch will contain details of how to unsubscribe from the emails if that is your desire. However, our hope is that as a member of CAMRA, you value the information that is sent to you, and that it is useful, particularly at branch level. If it isn't, then please talk to us in the first instance so we can understand your concerns.

You can check your email address is correct at www.camra.org.uk. Sign in using your memebrship details, and select 'Edit your membership information'.

GETTING AROUND

Listed below are some useful contact details for transport providers in our Branch area.

STAGECOACH WEST SCOTLAND *www.stagecoachbus.com*
Tel: 01294 607007 (Ardrossan)
01292 613500 (Ayr)
01776 704484 (Stranraer)
01770 302000 (Arran)
0345 121 0190 (Disability Helpdesk)

SHUTTLE BUSES *www.shuttlebuses.co.uk*
Tel: 0800 072 0373

McGILL'S BUSES *www.mcgillsbuses.co.uk*
Tel: 08000 51 56 51

SCOTRAIL *www.scotrail.co.uk*
Tel: 0344 811 0141

CALEDONIAN MACBRAYNE *www.calmac.co.uk*
Tel: 0800 066 5000

TRAVELINE SCOTLAND *www.travelinescotland.com*

Our Ale Trails using public transport have now been updated and are available to download from our website, www.awcamra.org.uk

BRANCH SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Our Branch has Social Groups which meet regularly covering North, South and East Ayrshire, and Wigtownshire. All CAMRA members are encouraged to attend these informal events, but non-CAMRA members are always welcome to join us for a couple of hours of friendly chat and socialising.

For more information, please contact the area coordinators listed below:

North Ayrshire - meets 3rd Thursday of every month. Contact Ian Middleditch.
Email: *north-ayrshire@awcamra.org.uk*

South Ayrshire - VACANT
Email: *south-ayrshire@awcamra.org.uk*

East Ayrshire - meets last Wednesday of every month. Contact Matt Miller. Email: *east-ayrshire@awcamra.org.uk*

Wigtownshire - contact Malcolm McNeil for details. Email: *wigtownshire@awcamra.org.uk*

Additionally, we hold social outings on an occasional basis to other festivals (e.g. Alloa and Fife) and breweries such as Loch Lomond, Broughton and Strathaven.

See *www.awcamra.org.uk* for details or contact *social@awcamra.org.uk* for more information.

CODE OF CONDUCT

Our wish is for everyone to enjoy themselves and have fun on our trips and events. However please remember that trip organisers have only volunteered to arrange times and /or travel arrangements and to provide information about the venue(s).

CAMRA promotes responsible drinking and so excessive drinking will not be tolerated on CAMRA outings. Members should not behave in any manner that may bring the Campaign into disrepute. Any member doing so may be barred from future events. You are responsible for your own safety and wellbeing. If you have an existing medical condition that requires support you must bring your own backup/carer with you.

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Ayrshire & Wigtownshire CAMRA SOUTH AYRSHIRE Pub of the Year 2019

W: www.welliesbar.weebly.com E: welliesayr@hotmail.co.uk

Tied Pubs (Scotland) Bill

Neil Bibby MSP has formally lodged his Tied Pubs Bill in the Scottish Parliament, a Bill that will introduce a statutory Tied Pubs Code for Scotland and establish an independent Adjudicator to enforce the Code.

Neil Bibby MSP (centre) with Ray Turpie, CAMRA Public Affairs Officer (right)

This Bill will replace voluntary self-regulation of Scotland's tied pubs sector with a statutory Code for the first time. It is designed to ensure that pub tenants locked into tied arrangements with big pub-owning landlords can get a fair deal. The new Code will be based on fair and lawful dealing and the principle that tied pubs should be no worse off than free-of-tie pubs. It will legislate for guest beer rights so that tied pubs can serve a broader range of drinks and it will allow tied tenants to go free of tie if the pubcos are not giving them a fair deal.

The Bill is about three things – fairness, choice and jobs. Fairness for tied pub tenants with an Adjudicator to make sure they are treated fairly. Choice for consumers, with tied pubs able to sell more drinks. Jobs for Scotland's pub and brewing industries, with tied pubs better able to reinvest in their businesses and new opportunities for Scottish brewers.

93% of those who responded to the public consultation backed tied pub reform including the The Scottish Licensed Trade Association and CAMRA - the Campaign for Real Ale who joined Neil in Parliament to introduce the Bill. You can help Neil get the new Bill passed to make the tied pubs sector fairer by contacting your MSP and letting them know that you're backing the Bill to protect our pubs.

WIGTOWNSHIRE NEWS

THE CL'YHOLERS

Wigtownshire CAMRA members have been holding their Christmas Social in *The Grapes*, **Stranraer** for a number of years. Last year and in 2018, we changed the format. The Social became a Sunday afternoon session with **The Cl'yholers** (The Grapes' usual Friday Night musicians) in the Public Bar followed by a hot finger buffet and Festive Raffle. These have been hugely enjoyable, inexpensive occasions with the early evening finish fitting in well with the limited public transport available.

The Cl'yholers have been playing together most Friday evenings in The Grapes for a number of years now. From only one or two members in the beginning, there are often 8-10 regulars now. They are all accomplished musicians in their own right and most perform at various venues in Stranraer and District with other bands. The Cl'yholers have, however decided to "disband" for a wee while as they decide where they go from here. It would be remiss of us not to thank them for their contribution to the last two socials and wish them all well for the future. Billy and Sally of The Grapes assure Friday Night regulars that music sessions are continuing meantime.

As for The Cl'yholers, while the wheel may be aff the wagon at the moment, we hope they are "No awa' tae bide awa' " and that some of them will be back to "rock us gently" on Friday evenings soon.

GRAND NATIONAL COACH TRIP

This ever popular event is back for another year on Saturday 4th April. As in the past, the coach will leave the *Ruddicot Hotel* at 13:30 prompt. Wigtownshire members should gather by 1300 if possible for a pre-match pint with Ayrshire colleagues arriving on the 12:56 train in Stranraer. The route runs for 17 miles beside Luce Bay down to *The Clashwhannon*, **Drummore**, then visits the *Tigh-na-Mara Hotel*, **Sandhead** on the return before crossing the Rhins peninsula to **Portpatrick** where both the *Harbour House Hotel* and *Crown Hotel* offer real ale. You will also have the opportunity to have look "across the sea to Ireland" and marvel at how the proposed "Boris Bridge" will affect both village and view!

The final pub "on the course" is the *Blue Peter Hotel*, **Kirkcolm** to watch the race at 17:15 before returning along the shores of Loch Ryan to arrive at *The Grapes*, **Stranraer** by 18:00 for an excellent buffet and prize giving. The Ayrshire train leaves at 19:03 (or 21:03!). We will spend about 30 minutes at each stop (longer in Portpatrick). There is no toilet on the coach so the route has been planned to minimise the distance between stops and so maximise your "comfort".

The all-inclusive cost (other than your beer!) remains at £10 to include a guaranteed horse in the Sweepstake, generously sponsored by Billy Hodge and Sally Whorlow of The Grapes. Transport is by a 30-seat mini-coach from McCulloch's Coaches, Stoneykirk. The buffet is again by Colin Herron of Colangie Catering. Numbers are strictly limited to 30, non-members are very welcome but priority has to go to CAMRA members. Seats are filing fast so please book early and certainly by Saturday 28th to avoid disappointment or being placed on a waiting list.

WIGTOWNSHIRE DIARY DATES

CAMRA has once again designated the summer months as *'Summer of Pub'* with an aim to get as many people as possible out to local events where they can hopefully enjoy good company, food and drink in the sun. To that end, Wigtownshire CAMRA members have three Socials to look forward to between June and August as follows:

Blue Peter Hotel, Kirkcolm, Summer Solstice Garden Party & BBQ, Saturday 20th June
Forget Stonehenge and come along to celebrate the longest day of the year in the Blue Peter Garden "Let The Sun Shine In!"

Stranraer Scottish Week Beer Festival, Friday 24th-26th July
Once again, *The Grapes* is hosting a mini-Beer Festival to kick the festivities off in style. There will be live music in the Public Bar on the Friday evening with a BBQ on the Saturday afternoon in the sunny courtyard when we are holding our Social. There will be around six beers on offer with the emphasis on Cumbrian and Borders Beers as well as at least one Real Cider.

Sulwath Brewery Bank Holiday Beer Festival Saturday 29th August
A good selection of Sulwath and guest ales will be available with live music in the Courtyard and yet another BBQ (as well as the legendary Castle Douglas pies!) If you can't make this Festival or can't wait, the brewery is also organising the Castle Douglas Beer Festival in the Town Hall on Saturday 21st March. Details on beers and ticket information from the Brewery and on Facebook.

All of these Socials were a great success last year. Families and non-members are always welcome at all three events so come along and enjoy the Scottish summer sun along with some great beers!

There will be more details on all of these in the next edition of Full Pints.

Beer Scoring

All CAMRA members are reminded (and encouraged) to score any real ales you drink at *www.whatpub.com*.

Last year we received around 2,500 scores for our local pubs, but on average those scores came from approx 40 members (out of around 680 members). So, if you haven't scored a beer before, please take a few moments at *whatpub.com* and give it a go.

Your scores help our branch select the best pubs for inclusion in the *Good Beer Guide* - each year we have to select just 27 pubs from the 70 or so in our branch area.

There are three very simple steps to take in order to do this on your smartphone or computer:

1. Sign in to *whatpub.com* with your CAMRA membership number and password
2. Select the pub you wish to score.
3. Score your beer using the criteria below, and select the brewery and then the beer and finally hit the Submit button.

If scoring a pub with a very low score (0 or 0.5) it would be helpful to include some comments why that score has been given.

HOW TO SCORE A BEER	
0:	**Should only be used if no cask ale is available.**
0.5 -1: Poor	Beer is anything from barely drinkable to drinkable with considerable resentment.
2: Average	Competently kept, drinkable pint but doesn't inspire in any way.
3: Good	Good beer in good form. You want to stay for another pint and may have the beer again
4: Very Good	Excellent beer in excellent condition. You stay put!
5: Perfect	Probably the best you are ever likely to find. **A seasoned drinker will award this score very rarely.**

Creebridge House Hotel

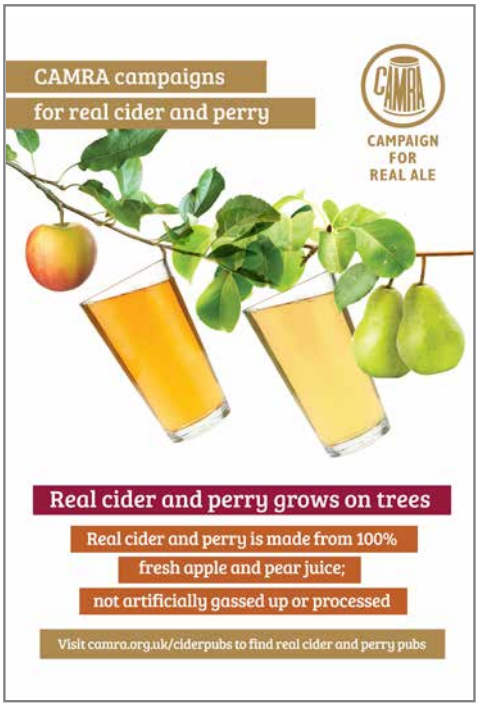
REAL ALES SERVED HERE

Meals Served Daily
12-2pm and 6-9pm
Traditional Roast Served every Sunday
Extensive Bar Menu
Award-winning Table D'Hôte and À La Carte Dining Available

Telephone: 01671 402121 Fax: 01671 403258

www.creebridge.co.uk Email: info@creebridge.co.uk

Creebridge House Hotel, Newton Stewart, Wigtownshire DG8 6NP



Anytime of the year...

Campaign for Real Ale

Gift Membership to CAMRA makes an ideal gift for friends or family who love beer and pubs.

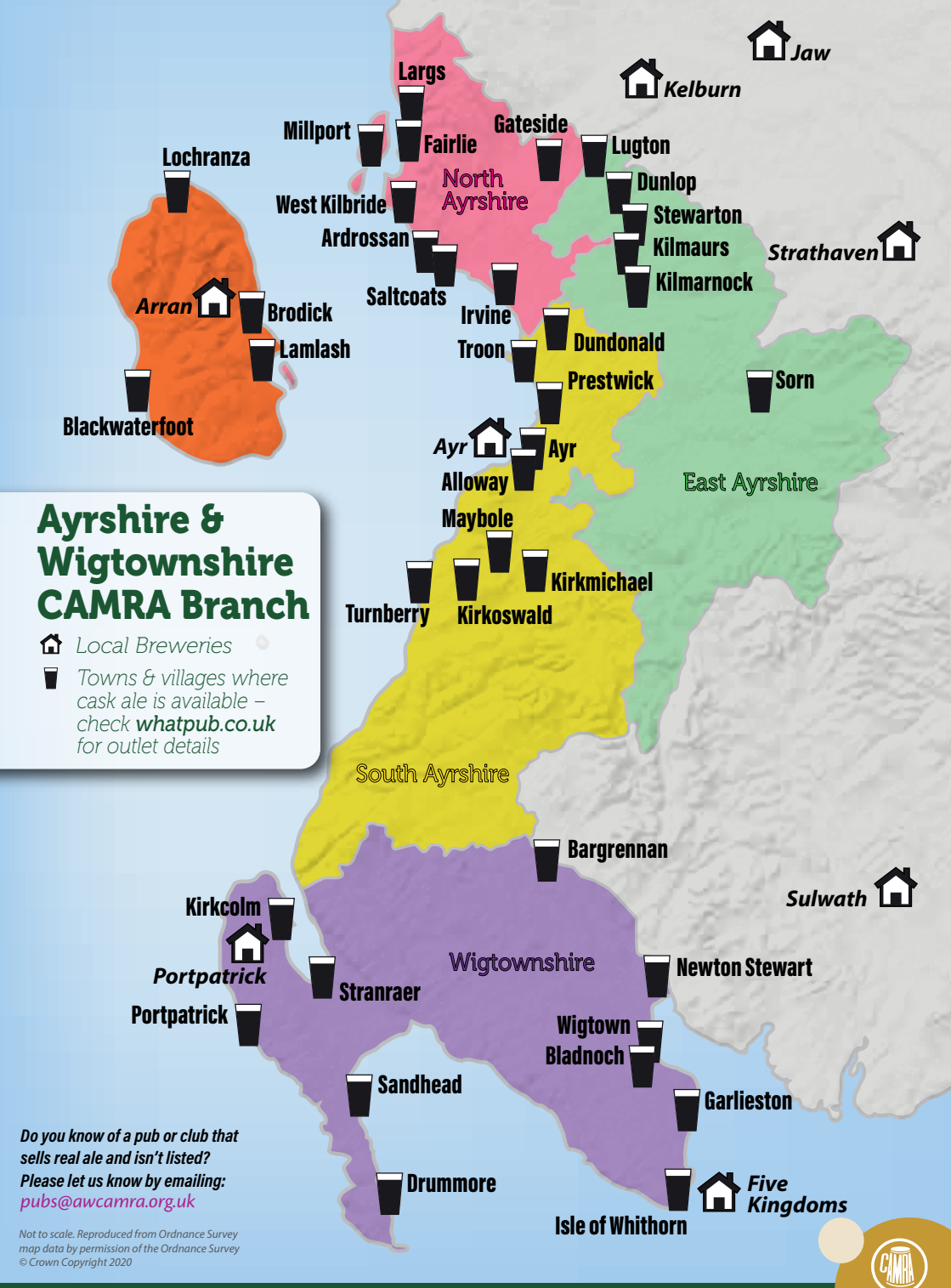
A full year's CAMRA membership includes:

- A welcome pack to help members make the most of CAMRA membership
- Award-winning *BEER* magazine and *What's Brewing* news
- Free or reduced entry to over 180 beer festivals
- £30 worth of CAMRA real ale* vouchers
- Discounts on CAMRA books including our best-selling *Good Beer Guide*
- Discounts on pints at participating *Real Ale Discount Scheme* pubs
- Social activities in the member's local area and exclusive member discounts online
- Learning resources to help members discover more about beer and brewing
- Opportunity to campaign to save pubs under threat from closure

Give the gift of CAMRA Membership today

www.camra.org.uk/gift-membership

*real ale, cider and perry, subject to terms and conditions.



Ayrshire & Wigtownshire CAMRA Branch

Local Breweries

Towns & villages where cask ale is available – check **whatpub.co.uk** for outlet details

Do you know of a pub or club that sells real ale and isn't listed? Please let us know by emailing:
pubs@awcamra.org.uk

Not to scale. Reproduced from Ordnance Survey map data by permission of the Ordnance Survey © Crown Copyright 2020

Full branch info at: *www.awcamra.org.uk*

Campaign for Real Ale

GREAT RATES TO ADVERTISE IN FULL PINTS
Just £15 for 1/8 page or £30 for 1/4 page
Just £50 for 1/2 page or £90 for full page
advertising@awcamra.org.uk

AYRSHIRE & WIGTOWNSHIRE REAL ALE OUTLETS

NORTH AYRSHIRE

ARDROSSAN
Ardrossan Rugby Club

FAIRLIE
Village Inn

GATESIDE
Gateside Inn

IRVINE
The Auld Brig C
R&A Sports Bar
Ship Inn * (summer only)

LARGS
J G Sharps
The Paddle Steamer C
Three Reasons
Waterside

LUGTON
Padaro
(formerly Canny Man)

MILLPORT
Fraser's Bar
The Twa Dugs *

SALTCOATS
Salt Cot C

WEST KILBRIDE
The Twa Dugs

ISLE OF ARRAN

BLACKWATERFOOT
Kinloch Hotel
Blackwaterfoot Lodge

BRODICK
Arran Brewery § C
Brodick Bar *
Ormidale Hotel
Wine Port

LAMLASH
Drift Inn
Pierhead Tavern

LOCHRANZA
Lochranza Hotel

EAST AYRSHIRE

DUNLOP
Merito

KILMAURS
Weston Tavern §

SORN
Sorn Inn

STEWARTON
The Mill House

KILMARNOCK
Brass & Granite
The Cotton Mill
First Edition C
Wheatsheaf Inn C

WIGTOWNSHIRE

BARGRENNAN
House O' Hill Hotel

BLADNOCH
Bladnoch Inn

DRUMMORE
Clashwhannon

GARLIESTON
Harbour Inn

ISLE OF WHITHORN
Steam Packet Inn §

KIRKCOLM
Blue Peter Hotel

WIGTOWN
Craft

NEWTON STEWART
Black Horse Hotel *
(summer only)
Creebridge House Hotel
Crown Hotel
Galloway Arms Hotel

PORTPATRICK
Crown Hotel
Harbour House Hotel

SANDHEAD
Tigh na Mara Hotel

STRANRAER
Grapes §
Ruddicot Hotel

SOUTH AYRSHIRE

ALLOWAY
Cambusdoon Sports Club

AYR
Abbotsford Hotel
Ayrshire & Galloway*
Chestnuts Hotel
Glen Park Hotel
Tam o' Shanter
The Smoking Goat
The Twa Dugs
Waterfront
Wellingtons Bar
West Kirk C

DUNDONALD
The Auchans

KIRKMICHAEL
Kirkmichael Arms

KIRKOSWALD
Souter's Inn

MAYBOLE
Maybole Arms

PRESTWICK
Prestwick Pioneer C

TROON
Bruce's Well
Cheeky Charlie's
Harbour Bar *
McKay's
Marr Rugby Club #
South Beach Hotel *

TURNBERRY
Turnberry Hotel (tbc)*

* *CAMRA members have noted that real ale is not always available at these outlets.*

§ *Special offers for card-carrying CAMRA members*

C *CAMRA vouchers accepted*

\# *Weekends only*

Current Branch Area Pub of the Year

Overall Branch Pub of the Year 2019

CAMRA members are encouraged to score ales they drink in their local pub, as it assists the committee in considering outlets for inclusion in the Good Beer Guide. Please take a few moments to score your beers on ***whatpub.com*** if you visit them.

The Weston Tavern & Restaurant

Have you tried our breakfast yet?

Served 8am until Noon - 7 days a week. Sit-In or Takeaway...

Delicious New menu launched Try it today!

Chip Shop Mondays

Noon – 9pm Takeaway Menu

	Single	Supper
Battered Haddock (GF)	£6.00	£7.50
Breaded Haddock (GF)	£6.25	£7.75
Battered Sausage	£5.00	£6.50
Smoked Sausage	£5.50	£7.00
Battered Haggis	£5.50	£7.00
Battered Black Pudding	£5.50	£7.00
Half Chicken (GF)	£6.00	£7.50
Scampi	£6.00	£7.50

Extra's

Fritters (5)	£2.00
Chips	£2.00
Chips & Cheese	£2.50
Chips & Curry Sauce	£2.50
Chips, Cheese & Curry	£3.00
Chips, Cheese & Gravy	£3.00
Mushy Peas	£1.00
Gravy	£1.00
Curry Sauce	£1.00

Tuesday Grill Night

Upto 40% off from 5pm

Fillet £25.95 40% £15.57

Sirloin £18.95 40% £11.43

Gammon Steak £10.45 20% £8.36

Chicken Breast £12.95 20% £10.36

East Ayrshire Food of the Year 2019

GOOD BEER GUIDE 2020 WE'RE IN IT

HEALTH STAFF DISCOUNTS We Support NHS Staff

Entertainment Hospitality AWARDS BEST INDEPENDENT BAR WINNER

Entertainment Hospitality AWARDS BEST FAMILY RESTAURANT RUNNER UP

tripadvisor RANKED #1

27 Main Street, Kilmaurs, East Ayrshire KA3 2RQ | Tel: 01563 538 805