

# A&W CAMRA Calling December 2023

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## Branch Events in December

### Friday, 1 December Champion Beer of Scotland (CBoS) Presentation

#### Cairngorm Brewery, Aviemore; 14:00

CBoS was judged at our Ayrshire Real Ale Festival in Troon on Friday, 6 October, the winner being Cairngorm Black Gold. Anyone interested in attending the presentation should contact the Scotland & Northern Ireland Director Stuart McMahon [rd.scotlandni@camra.org.uk](mailto:rd.scotlandni@camra.org.uk)

### Sunday, 3 December South Ayrshire Festive Lunch

#### Wellingtons Bar, 17 Wellington Square, Ayr, KA7 1EZ; 14:00

This is just a reminder for those who have booked.

### Wednesday, 13 December North Ayrshire Festive Lunch

#### Twa Dugs, 71 Main St, West Kilbride, KA23 9AW; 13:30

Again, a reminder for those who have booked + see article below

### Thursday, 21 December East Ayrshire Festive Lunch Booking Deadline

See article below

### Thursday, 28 December Branch Festive Crawl

See article below.

## Festive Lunches

### South Ayrshire

This will be in Wellingtons Bar, Ayr on Sunday, 3 December 2023, at 14:00. Now fully booked.

### North Ayrshire

This will be in the Twa Dugs, West Kilbride, on Wednesday, 13 December, at 13:30. Primarily targeted at members residing in North Ayrshire, but members from other areas of the branch are equally welcome. Bookings to and further details from Ian Middleditch [north-ayrshire@awcamra.org.uk](mailto:north-ayrshire@awcamra.org.uk)

### East Ayrshire

This will be in the Weston Tavern, Kilmaurs, on Saturday, 6 January, at 14:00. Primarily targeted at members residing in East Ayrshire, but members from other areas of the branch are equally welcome.

The menu is £20.95 for three courses or £15.95 for two courses.

## Starters

Soup of the day (v) (gf\*) (served with freshly baked bread, butter and croutons).

Garlic & Chilli King Prawns (chilli and garlic marinated, served with tossed salad and toasted ciabatta).

Duo of Cheese (v) (grilled goat's cheese and breaded brie wedge served with a spiced tomato salsa and side salad).

Festive Toad in the Hole (made in-house Yorkshire pudding filled with mashed potato pig in blanket, turkey and gravy).

### **Mains**

Roast Breast of Turkey (gf) (slow-roasted turkey served on a bed of mash with roast potatoes, vegetables, pigs in blankets, stuffing and gravy).

Weston Steak Pie (served with vegetables and choice of mash, baby boils, roast potatoes or hand-cut chips)

Pan-fried salmon (gf) (Scottish salmon served on a bed of Dauphinoise potatoes, vegetables and coated in a garlic and chive sauce).

Wild Mushroom & Truffle Risotto (v) (gf) (creamy wild mushroom and truffle risotto topped with sauté greens, add chicken for £3.95)

### **Deserts**

Christmas Pudding (v) (with brandy custard and winter berries).

Baileys & White Chocolate Cheesecake (v) (served with coulis and tablet ice cream).

Weston Sticky Toffee Pudding (v, gf) (our made in-house STP coated in butterscotch sauce. Served with berries and vanilla ice cream).

Cheese Board (v) (selection of cheeses served with crackers, chutney and butter).

Places must be booked via Alex Burt, [east-ayrshire@awcamra.org.uk](mailto:east-ayrshire@awcamra.org.uk) by Thursday, 21 December, stating your menu choices and any special requirements, allergies, etc.

### **Festive Crawl**

This year, it is the turn of East Ayrshire to host the popular branch social event between Christmas and New Year. **Thursday, 28 December**, is the day chosen to meet up and celebrate the festive season.

Festivities start at the **Mill House, 4 Dean St, Stewarton, KA3 5EQ**, at **13:00**. There will be one or two real ales available from Kelburn Brewery. Travel options include the Stagecoach No.9 service at 12:30 from Kilmarnock (alight at Old Mill View), Scotrail 12.27 train from Kilmarnock or 12.13 from Glasgow Central. Stewarton Railway Station is a 10-15 minute walk from the Mill House.

Our second venue is the current Branch Pub of the Year the **Weston Tavern, 25-27 Main St, Kilmaurs, KA3 2RQ**. The target time here is **14:15**, and you can expect to find two cask ales in the cosy bar. Stagecoach No.9 bus at 13:55 is almost a door-to-door service! There is also a train option at 14:11.

From Kilmaurs, we move to Kilmarnock using either the 15:07 bus or the 15:15 train. A short walk from either the bus or rail stations will take you to the **First Edition, 50 Bank St, Kilmarnock, KA1 1HA**. Once again, two handpumps dispense ales, usually from Fyne Ales and/or Loch Leven Brewery. Meet here at **15:30** if you are not visiting the first two pubs.

Our final stop of the afternoon will be the **Wheatsheaf Inn, 70 Portland St, Kilmarnock, KA1 1JG** at approximately **16:30**. This large J D Wetherspoon pub should have 7 or 8 ales available. Therefore, you may want to spend a bit more time here.

Everyone is welcome to join for all or part of our festive wander – you don't need to be a CAMRA member. Although all times are approximate, the reliance on public transport does remove some of the flexibility enjoyed in previous years. If you want to join in at a particular time, you can call **Matt Miller** on **07734 500934** to find out exactly where we are.

## Pub of the Year (PotY)

Each social area selects a PotY for 2023. These are selected by members' votes. Members may vote for pubs in any area of the branch, but whether an Area Social Coordinator takes account of votes from members residing outside his area is entirely at his discretion. Votes for pubs in each area should be sent to the following by **31 December 2023**.

North Ayrshire Ian Middleditch [north-ayrshire@awcamra.org.uk](mailto:north-ayrshire@awcamra.org.uk)

South Ayrshire Donald Clark [south-ayrshire@awcamra.org.uk](mailto:south-ayrshire@awcamra.org.uk)

East Ayrshire Alex Burt [east-ayrshire@awcamra.org.uk](mailto:east-ayrshire@awcamra.org.uk)

Wigtownshire Malcolm McNeill [wigtownshire@awcamra.org.uk](mailto:wigtownshire@awcamra.org.uk)

You may also suggest a judge for the next round of the competition, where judges assess the four winning pubs by 12 March 2024 for the overall Branch PotY 2024. This pub will then progress to be considered for the Scotland & Northern Ireland PotY.

## Full Pints

The Winter edition of our award-winning magazine, Full Pints, is now available to view and/or download from our branch website at <https://awcamra.org.uk/publications/full-pints/>. Hard copies should be in our real ale pubs during the first week of December. Why not pop into your local, collect a copy and score the beer(s) whilst you are there?

## Ayrshire Real Ale Festival (ARAF)

Thank you to those of you who assisted as volunteer staff and to those who supported the festival as customers. Despite a significant decrease in attendance compared to 2022, we still managed to make a surplus of around £3000.

Beer of the Festival was Timothy Taylor Landlord (see article below for presentation arrangements), Cider of the Festival was Three Saints Lovely and Perry of the Festival was Ayrshire Riviera Cider's Red Perry.

Our nominated charity Whiteleys Retreat benefited with the sum of £1300, mainly from donations of unspent beer tokens.

A date for your Diary is that next year's festival will be held on 3-5 October 2024.

## Champion Beer of Britain (CBoB) Nominations

Thank you to the 83 of you, an increase of 6 on last year, who participated this year. We were, yet again, the best performing branch in the UK. Closest to us was Exeter and East Devon with 42. For percentage of members participating, with 14.09%, we were easily the best in the UK. Closest was Rutland with 8.67% and third Renfrewshire at 6.85%.

## ARAF Beer of the Festival Presentation

As intimated above, this year's winner was Timothy Taylor Landlord. A certificate presentation, along with a tour of the brewery in Keighley, West Yorkshire, has been arranged for **Wednesday, 28 February 2024**, at 15:00. Due to the limit on numbers that can tour the brewery, a repeat tour has also been arranged for the morning of the following day. Please note that the brewery tour is not suitable for those with mobility issues.

The following day is the start of the CAMRA Bradford Beer & Cider Festival which is being held in nearby Saltaire from 29 February until 2 March. Saltaire village is designated by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site.

<https://www.bradfordcamra.org.uk/bbcf2024> <https://saltairevillage.info>

Why not consider staying in the area for a few nights and enjoy some Yorkshire hospitality? A&W CAMRA will not be organising travel arrangements or accommodation but there is a Travelodge in Keighley which would make an excellent base. The easiest way to reach Keighley by public transport is to use the rail service via Carlisle or Lancaster.

Anyone who wishes to join in should notify Social Secretary Matt Miller, [social@awcamra.org.uk](mailto:social@awcamra.org.uk) or 07734 500934, who is happy to offer advice regarding travel or accommodation. If you are considering travelling alone, he may be able to put you in touch with other fellow travellers. If you can make your own arrangements, please let him know what you have planned. If he has contact details for everyone who is going to be in the area, he can arrange to meet up.

### **Full Pints Advertising**

The viability of our award-winning magazine, *Full Pints*, is dependent on advertising income covering production and distribution costs. To this end, we are always on the lookout for new advertisers. If you are aware of any business, doesn't have to be real ale related, who might like to advertise in our magazine, please supply details to our Advertising Manager Janis Wood, [advertising@awcamra.org.uk](mailto:advertising@awcamra.org.uk)

### **Branch Code of Conduct**

This applies to all events.

Our wish is for everyone to enjoy themselves and have fun on our trips and events. However, please remember that 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.