



## Festive Crawl 2023



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

Unfortunately, the real ale options in East Ayrshire have reduced somewhat since the event was last held in Kilmarnock; therefore, some travelling between venues will be required!

If you can, please start the day at the **Mill House, Stewarton**, at 13:00. There will be one or two real ales available in the bar from the Kelburn Brewery, Barrhead.

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 A & W CAMRA Pub of the Year, the **Weston Tavern, Kilmaurs**. Target time here is around 14:15, and you can expect to find two cask ales in the cosy bar. The Stagecoach no.9 bus at 13:55 from Stewarton is almost a door-to-door service! There is also a train option at 14:11 from Stewarton.

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** on Bank Street. Once again, two handpumps dispense ale, usually from Fyne Ales 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** in Portland Street 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. All of the pubs on our route have food available for lunch or dinner.

There are return trains to Glasgow from Kilmarnock at 17:29 and 17:59 and then every 30 minutes. Bus options include Ayr: Service 4 every 30 minutes until 18:55 then hourly; Troon: Service 10/110 at 17:30, 18:30, 19:30; Irvine: Service 11 approximately every 15 minutes; Beith: McGill's service 337 at 17:59. Please check all train or bus times in case there are special festive timetables in operation.

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 at previous events. 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.

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