

A&W CAMRA Calling July 2024

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Branch Events in July

Thursday 4 to Sunday 7 July Selkirk Arms Beer Festival

Selkirk Arms, High Streett, Kirkcudbright, DG6 4JG; 11:00 to 22:00 each day

An independent, i.e. non-CAMRA, festival in the beer garden to the rear of this historic pub. 8 real ales from Five Kingdoms, Sulwath, Lowland and Hawkshead.

Monday 8 July Committee Meeting

Wheatsheaf Inn, 70 Portland Street, Kilmarnock, KA1 1JG; 20:00

Obviously targeted at committee members but any interested members are welcome to attend.

Friday 12 July North Ayrshire Social

Ardrossan Rugby Club Real Ale and Music Festival Preview, Memorial Field Pavilion, 49 Sorbie Road, Ardrossan, KA22 8AP; 19:30

Primarily targeted at members residing in North Ayrshire, but members from other areas of the branch will be made equally welcome to this preview of the following day's independent festival.

Saturday 13 July 2-Pub Social

Black Bull, 24 West Main Street, Darvel, KA17 0AQ; 13:30

This will be followed by a minibus trip to Weavers, Strathaven, which is now fully subscribed. All members are welcome to come along to the Black Bull, and our Social Secretary, Matt Miller, will start a waiting list for seats on the bus. There is always the possibility of "no-shows" on the day. Contact Matt at social@awcamra.org.uk

Tuesday 16 July South Ayrshire Social/Branch Meeting

Prestwick Pioneer, 87 Main Street, Prestwick, KA9 1JS; 14:00

Again, primarily targeted at members residing in South Ayrshire, but members from other areas of the Branch will be made equally welcome, especially as it will include a very short branch meeting.

Thursday 18 July North Ayrshire Social

Frasers Bar, 9 Cardiff Street, Millport, Isle of Cumbrae, KA28 0AS; 18:00

Again, primarily targeted at members residing in North Ayrshire, but members from other areas of the Branch will be made equally welcome. Please note the earlier than usual start time to fit in with ferry times.

Monday 22 July Ayrshire Real Ale Festival Planning Meeting

Ayrshire & Galloway Hotel, 1 Killoch Place, Ayr, KA7 2EA; 20:00

Planning is now well underway for our flagship event scheduled for 3 - 5 October. All interested members are encouraged to attend.

Friday 26 to Sunday 28 July 7th Alloway Real Ale Festival

Cambusdoon Sports Club, 2 Burns' Wicket, Alloway, Ayr, KA7 4NH

Independent, i.e. non-CAMRA, festival with 8+ real ales and ciders from all over the UK with hot food, live music, cricket and fundraising events.

Saturday 27 July Branch Social

Alloway Real Ale Festival, Cambusdoon Sports Club, 2 Burns' Wicket, Alloway, Ayr, KA7 4NH; from 13:00

Join in with like-minded members at this festival and maybe watch some cricket.

Wednesday 31 July East Ayrshire Social

Mill House, 4 Dean Street, Stewarton, KA3 5EQ; 14:30

Again, primarily targeted at members residing in East Ayrshire, but members from other areas of the Branch will be made equally welcome.

Campaigning Targets

The following targets have been confirmed for 2024-25:

- Investigate ways to encourage publicans to support CAMRA and continue selling real ale.
- Encourage younger members to become more active.
- Raise the branch profile within the local media.

Suggestions for initiatives towards achieving these are more than welcome.

Pub Updates, Openings and Closures

- A new outlet is the Ayrshire & Galloway Hotel, Ayr which has three handpumps serving mostly Five Kingdoms beers.
- The Grapes, Stranraer has been sold, but the new owners intend to keep real ale on.
- The Waterside, Largs closed at the end of April. It is believed it will be turned into a Thai restaurant.
- The Village Inn, Fairlie now has two handpumps.
- Number Forty-Seven, Troon has installed another handpump, taking their total to six.
- The Crown Hotel, Newton Stewart, has been reported as regularly selling two real ales.
- We have no information on the status of the following former real ale outlets that have changed hands in the last year: Abbotsford Hotel, Ayr; Kirkmichael Arms, Kirkmichael, and House o' Hill, Bargrennan.
- Canny Man, Lugton has closed again, and this time it may be permanent.
- Windy Ha', Saltcoats has reopened under new ownership.
- Kings Arms, West Kilbride, is for sale, £175,000 asking price.
- The Central Bar, Ayr, remains closed but is for sale.
- Workmen have been seen working on the Waterfront Bar, Ayr.

Any updates the these, or to other pubs in the branch area, should be sent to Mick Lee at

pubs@awcamra.org.uk

Branch 40th Anniversary

To celebrate this, and 50 years of CAMRA in Scotland (see below), we intend to present an award to the pubs that have appeared over 20 times in the GBG since 1975. The qualifying 9 pubs are:

- Ormidale Hotel, Brodick
- Chestnuts Hotel, Ayr
- Steam Packet Inn, Isle of Whithorn
- Creebridge House Hotel, Newton Stewart
- Wellingtons Bar, Ayr
- McKays, Troon
- Wheatsheaf Inn, Kilmarnock
- Weston Tavern, Kilmaurs
- Harbour Bar, Troon

The Ormidale Hotel received their certificate on 22 June. Arrangements for the other presentations will be made at the 8 July committee meeting.

50 Years of CAMRA in Scotland

50th Anniversary Pub Trail Challenge

The challenge is to visit 50 real ale pubs during 2024. This will take the form of a 4-tier award, i.e. bronze, silver, gold and platinum.

- Bronze - Visit any 50 real ale pubs.
- Silver - Visit 50 Good Beer Guide (GBG) 2024 pubs from any of the Scottish GBG Counties*.
- Gold - Visit 50 GBG 2024 pubs from 10 of the Scottish GBG Counties*
- Platinum – Visit 5 pubs from each of 10 Scottish GBG Counties in the 2024 GBG.

* A GBG county is a section of the GBG. So, for example, Ayrshire & Arran is a GBG county.

To participate in the challenge, you must download the appropriate form from the branch website at <https://awcamra.org.uk/50th-anniversary/> You are also encouraged to score your beers on the National Beer Scoring System (NBSS).

Outstanding Service Awards

For CAMRA UK's 50th celebrations in 2021, we presented certificates to members deemed to have provided outstanding service. From our branch those were Lindsay Grant, Mick Lee, Stuart McMahon, Ray Turpie and Bob Wallace. A further tranche of similar awards is planned to celebrate 50 years of CAMRA in Scotland, with the presentations to be held during the Ayrshire Real Ale Festival on the afternoon of Saturday, 5 October. Nominations should be sent to the Branch Chair, Lindsay Grant, at branchchair@awcamra.otrg.uk by the date of our next committee meeting on 8 July

Three Branch Social

At this stage, it's just a date for your diary: Saturday, 14 September. Full details will follow soon.

Social to mark the setting up of the first branch

Again, just a date for your diary, i.e. Saturday, 12 October.

Full Pints Advertising

The viability of our multi-award-winning magazine, Full Pints, is dependant 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 at 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 well-being. If you have an existing medical condition that requires support, you must bring your own backup/carer with you.