

A&W CAMRA Calling August 2024

Contents

- Branch Events in August
- Pub updates, openings, and closures
- Ayrshire Real Ale Festival volunteering
- Ayrshire Real Ale Festival Learn & Discovery Zone
- Branch 40th Anniversary
- 50 Years of CAMRA in Scotland
- Advance notice of events
- Full Pints copy deadline
- Full Pints advertising
- Code of Conduct

Branch Events in August

Friday, 2 August Branch Social, Beer of the Year Presentation and Tasting Panel Meeting

Loch Lomond Brewery Taproom, Unit 12 Block 2, Vale of Leven Industrial Estate, Dumbarton G82 3PD; 14:15

A social to present Loch Lomond Brewery with our Beer of the Year certificate for their Silkie Stout at around 15:00. We will also take the opportunity to hold a Western Scotland Tasting Panel meeting with a 14:30 start. The nearest railway station is Renton, which is about a 10-minute walk to/from the venue. If you intend to attend this event, please notify Matt Miller at social@awcamra.org.uk so that he can give the venue a rough idea of how many to expect.

Saturday, 10 August Branch 2-pub Social in Troon

McKays, 69 Portland Street, KA10 6QU; 14:00. Harbour Bar, 169-173 Templehill, KA10 6BH; 15:30

During this Social we will take the opportunity to present both pubs with their long-standing Good Beer Guide entry certificates (see Branch 40th Anniversary below).

Thursday, 15 August North Ayrshire Social

Three Reasons, 14 Gallowgate Street, Largs, KA30 8LX; 19:30

Primarily targeted at members residing in North Ayrshire, but members from other areas of the branch will be made equally welcome.

Saturday, 17 August Scottish Branches Meeting

Castle Tavern, 1 View Place, Inverness IV2 4SA; 13:00

Any interested members are encouraged to attend.

Monday, 19 August Ayrshire Real Ale Festival Planning Meeting

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

We are getting close now to our flagship event on 3rd-5th October, and planning continues. All interested members are encouraged to attend.

Tuesday, 20 August South Ayrshire Social

Chestnuts Hotel, 52 Racecourse Road, Ayr, KA7 2UZ; 14:00

Again, it is primarily targeted at members residing in South Ayrshire, but members from other areas of the Branch will be made equally welcome. We will take the opportunity to present the pub with its long-standing Good Beer Guide entry certificate.

Friday, 23 to Sunday, 25 August 3rd Twa Dugs Real Ale Festival

Twa Dugs, 71 Main Street, West Kilbride, KA23 9AW; Pub opening times 13:00 Friday, noon

Saturday/Sunday

An independent, i.e. non-CAMRA, festival which is recommended to you.

Friday, 23 August Branch Social

Twa Dugs Real Ale Festival; 14:00

Join in with other like-minded members. If you cannot attend at this time, see above for other festival opening times.

Saturday 24 and Sunday 25 August 17th Annan Beer Festival

Blue Bell Inn, 10 High Street, Annan, DG12 6AG; 12 noon – 23:00 each day

Independent, i.e. non-CAMRA, festival with beers served both inside the pub and in the beer garden.

Saturday, 24 August Branch Social

Annan Beer Festival; 13:30

The train departs Glasgow at 11:14, Kilmarnock at 11:56, arriving at Annan at 13:20. Return from Annan at 18:20.

Wednesday, 28 August East Ayrshire Social

First Edition, 50 Bank Street, Kilmarnock KA1 1HA; 19:30

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

Pub Updates, Openings and Closures

- The Kirkmichael Arms no longer sells real ale, and it is unlikely to do so in the future.
- We have had two reports about the House o' Hill, Bargrennan, one saying it looks very closed and the other saying it reopened around a month ago after significant delays and difficulties (much discussed in the local community). It is now officially called The Hoose but does not currently have a licence, and the restaurant/tearoom is apparently operating a BYOB policy. That said, it defines itself as a pizza place. Returning to real ale seems unlikely.
- After seemingly positive news about the Crown, Newton Stewart, the latest information is that it had two different real ales on handpump until the end of the rugby World Cup. Since then, they have had none and it has been confirmed with staff that there will be none for the foreseeable future. Although the pumps currently remain in situ, it is difficult to see real ale returning.
- The Black Horse, Newton Stewart, no longer sells RAIB.
- The Railway Inn, Whithorn, is selling RAIB from Five Kingdoms, according to two separate reports from visiting members, one of whom said they are considering cask as well.
- The Creebridge House Hotel, Newton Stewart, now offers two Five Kingdoms ales on a permanent basis.

Any updates to these, or to other pubs in the branch area, should be sent to Mick Lee pubs@awcamra.org.uk

Ayrshire Real Ale Festival (ARAF) Volunteering

It is that time of year again when we seek volunteers to staff our flagship event, the Ayrshire Real Ale Festival, in Troon. The dates for this year are: Set-up 1-2 October; Festival Open 3-5 October; Take-down 6-7 October, and volunteers are required for all these dates.

Last year's volunteers, and some from previous years, should have received a personal invitation to volunteer. For others, and we are always looking for "new blood", the staffing form can be downloaded from the festival website at <https://www.ayrshirebeerfestival.co.uk/volunteering/> Alternatively, contact the

Festival's Volunteer Manager Lindsay Grant at arafvolunteers@gmail.com You can also volunteer online via the festival website.

ARAF Learn and Discover Zone

Ian Martin, who usually runs this, is unavailable this year. It has been suggested that one or more of our staffing volunteers might like to replace him. Details of what would be expected of you from Ian at clubs@awcamra.org.uk Any volunteers should contact Lindsay Grant, with his Festival Volunteers Manager's hat on, at arafvolunteers@gmail.com by the date of our next Festival Planning Meeting of 19th August.

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 – presented on 22 June.
- Chestnuts Hotel, Ayr – to be presented on 20 August.
- Steam Packet Inn, Isle of Whithorn – posted to them with other certificates for Five Kingdoms Brewery.
- Creebridge House Hotel, Newton Stewart – to be arranged.
- Wellingtons Bar, Ayr – to be presented on 19 November.
- McKays, Troon - to be presented on 10 August.
- Wheatsheaf Inn, Kilmarnock – presented 8 July.
- Weston Tavern, Kilmaurs – to be presented on 25 September.
- Harbour Bar, Troon – to be presented on 10 August.

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. 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.

Three Branch Social

At this stage, just a date for your diary, i.e. Saturday, 14 September. Full details nearer the time.

Social to mark the setting up of the first branch

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

Advance Notice of Events

- Saturday, 14 September; Three Branch Social (see above)
- Saturday, 14 - Sunday, 15 September: Stranraer Oyster Festival - Five Kingdoms, Portpatrick, and Sulwath Breweries will all be present, although possibly only Portpatrick will have beer on handpull. Early Bird tickets are available online until the end of this month: <https://stranraeroysterfestival.com/>
- Saturday 12th October SCOTB Social to mark the setting up of the first branch (see above)
- Saturday 28th December Festive Crawl West Kilbride/Fairlie/Largs

Full Pints Copy Deadline

The deadline for items for inclusion in the next edition of our award-winning magazine is Friday, 16 August, and our Editor, Stuart McMahon, fullpints@awcamra.org.uk is always on the lookout for articles.

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, which 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

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.