

A&W CAMRA Calling December 2024

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Branch Events in Late November/December

Saturday, 30 November 2-pub Social

Auchans, 29-31 Main St, Dundonald, KA2 9HH; 13:30 then Auld Brig, Units 13-15

Rivergate Shopping Centre, Irvine, KA12 8EH; 15:30

Dundonald is easy to reach by public transport using the Stagecoach 10 bus service from Kilmarnock or Troon or travel from Irvine on the Shuttle Buses 21 bus service. Afterwards, we can use the 14:48 Shuttle Buses 21 service from Dundonald to Irvine

Sunday, 1 December South Ayrshire Festive Lunch

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

This is just a reminder for those who have booked, as the event is fully subscribed. A further reminder is of the prompt 14:00 start.

Saturday, 7 December Joint Social with Edinburgh & South East Scotland Branch

Loch Lomond Brewery Taproom, Unit 12 Block 2, Vale of Leven Industrial Estate, Dumbarton, G82 3PD; 14:00

The venue is a 10-minute walk from Renton Rail Station. Those intending to attend should have contacted Social Secretary Matt Miller by 22 November.

Wednesday, 18 December North Ayrshire Festive Lunch

Twa Dugs, 71 Main St, West Kilbride, KA23 9AW; 14:00

Again, this is just a reminder for those who have booked, as the event is fully subscribed. The pub will be open from 13:00

Saturday, 28 December Festive Crawl

Start Sharps, 34-36 Nelson St, Largs, KA30 8LW; 13:00

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- 13:45 Paddle Steamer, 30 Gallowgate St, Largs, KA30 8LX
- 14:30 Three Reasons, 14 Gallowgate St, Largs, KA30 8LX
- 15:20 Stagecoach 585 bus to Fairlie
- 15:30 Village Inn, 46 Bay St, Fairlie, KA29 0AL
- 16:29 Stagecoach 585 bus to West Kilbride
- 16:45 Twa Dugs, 71 Main St, West Kilbride, KA23 9AW

See *Full Pints* page 5 for full details. *Full Pints* can be found on the branch website at <https://awcamra.org.uk/publications/full-pints/>

East Ayrshire Festive Lunch

This will be on **Saturday, 4 January 2025**, in the Weston Tavern, Kilmaurs, at 14:00aMainly targeted at those residing in East Ayrshire, but members, spouses, friends, etc., from other areas of the branch will be equally welcome. Bookings, with course choices, to Alex Burt east-ayrshire@awcamra.org.uk by **Saturday, 21 December**.

FESTIVE MENU

STARTERS

Soup of the day (v) (gf) served with bread and butter
Garlic & Chilli King Prawns served on garlic bread with a side salad
Breaded Brie Wedges (v) served with cranberry dip and a crisp salad
Haggis Bon Bons served with peppercorn cream and creamed mash

MAINS

Roast Breast of Turkey served with all the trimmings, mash and roast potatoes, vegetables and jus
Weston Steak Pie individual pie served with winter vegetables and choice of mash, roast potatoes or chips
Oven Roasted Salmon (gf) served on crushed potatoes, with winter vegetables and garlic and herb cream
Wild Mushroom & Truffle Risotto (v) (gf) served with parsnip crisps (add on chicken breast for £3.50)

DESSERT

Christmas Pudding (v) with brandy custard and winter berries
Baileys & White Chocolate Cheesecake (v) served with white chocolate ice cream and winter berries
Trio of Ice Cream (v, gf) your choice from tablet, vanilla, strawberry, chocolate ripple and white chocolate
2 courses £18.95
3 courses £21.95

Essex Visit

The main purpose of this is to present the Mighty Oak Brewery in Maldon (<http://www.mightyoakbrewing.co.uk/>) with the Ayrshire Real Ale Festival Beer of the Festival for their Captain Bob. This award has now been renamed the “Josef Hoffman and Ursula Keiler Beer of the Festival Award”. The presentation will take place, in the brewery, on **Wednesday, 29 January**, at 13:30, after which we will adjourn to the Brewery Tap.

The date has been chosen to coincide with the Colchester Winter Beer Festival to be held from 29 January - February in Colchester Arts Centre www.colchestercamra.org.uk We intend to visit this on **Thursday, 30 January**.

Why not stay in the area for a few nights and explore Essex or include a London visit? For good local public transport options, you could consider staying in Chelmsford, Colchester, or Maldon itself. The Premier Inn, Chelmsford, would be an excellent base for the area. The hotel is close to rail & bus stations with easy links to Maldon, Colchester, London or Stansted Airport.

Those intending to join in on this should advise our Social Secretary, Matt Miller, social@awcamra.org.uk, of their arrangements.

Pub of the Year (PotY)

Each social area selects a PotY for 2024. 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 2024**.

North Ayrshire Ian Middleditch north-ayrshire@awcamra.org.uk

South Ayrshire Donald Clark south-ayrshire@awcamra.org.uk

East Ayrshire Alex Burt east-ayrshire@awcamra.org.uk

Wigtownshire Malcolm McNeill wigtownshire@awcamra.org.uk

You may also volunteer to be, or suggest, a judge for the next round of the competition, where judges assess the 4 winning pubs by 9 March 2025 for the overall Branch PotY 2025. This pub will then progress to be considered for the Scottish PotY 2025.

Champion Beer of Britain Nominations

Thank you to the 81 of you who participated in this. Your efforts made us easily the best-performing branch in the UK.

50 Years of CAMRA in Scotland

We are approaching the end of celebrating this. There is still time to complete the 50 Pub Trail, the closing date being **31 December**. Details can be found on the Scottish Branches' website at <https://scotb.camra.org.uk/50th-anniversary/>

Full Pints

The latest edition of our multi-award winning magazine is now available to view and/or download at <https://awcamra.org.uk/publications/full-pints/> Hard copies are also starting to appear in the real ale outlets in our branch area. Why not pop into your local for a pint (or 2), pick up a copy and score the beer(s) whilst you are there?

Full Pints Advertising

The viability of our multi-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, 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.