



Cwrw²⁰²⁵ Ceredigion



Pub & brewery news ♦ Pub guide ♦ Beer festivals

Free!



**Brewing is back
in Aberystwyth**

The free magazine of Bae Ceredigion CAMRA



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Bae Ceredigion CAMRA

The Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA) is a consumer organisation that represents beer drinkers and pub goers across the UK. The Bae Ceredigion CAMRA branch covers mid and north Ceredigion and a small part of Powys and Gwynedd. The main towns and villages in the branch area are New Quay, Aberaeron, Tregaron, Aberystwyth, Talybont and Machynlleth.

<https://baeceredigion.camra.org.uk>
<https://facebook.com/CeredigionCamra>

Chair: John Gale
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Cwrw Ceredigion

Cwrw Ceredigion is a not-for-profit publication produced by Bae Ceredigion CAMRA. Our aim is to promote local breweries, cider makers and the best places to drink real ale and cider in the area. Content is written, edited and designed by volunteer local CAMRA members.

We try to ensure that information is correct when we go to press. If we get something wrong, please let us know. Please note that opinions are not necessarily those of CAMRA either locally or nationally, and publication of an advertisement is not an endorsement of quality by CAMRA.

Editor: Mary Galliers
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Advertising in Cwrw Ceredigion

We rely on income from advertising to fund production costs. Space is limited and is sold on a first come, first served basis. We can design your advertisement free of charge.

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Trading Standards

If you feel you have been treated unfairly in a pub, contact Trading Standards or see <https://tradingstandardswales.org.uk>



Am nad oes llawer o le gennym, cyhoeddiad cyfrwng Saesneg fydd hwn, ond mae croeso i chi gyfathrebu gyda ni yn y Gymraeg.

Cwrw Ceredigion: issue 16, April 2025

© Published by the Bae Ceredigion branch of the Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA)



Things are particularly tough for the hospitality sector at the moment due to several well-documented factors, and you may well have seen the price of your pint go up again recently. In these challenging times our local pubs need your custom more than ever, and I urge you to continue to support them as much as you can.

You are most welcome to come along to one of our “pint in the pub” evenings which take place in a different pub every month. These informal events are a great way to support a local pub whilst socialising with fellow beer fans. See our website or Facebook for forthcoming dates.

Cwrw Ceredigion is not immune from rising costs, and we asked our printer to use a thinner paper for this issue to help us hold our advertising rates. I'd like to thank all of our advertisers for their support without which we would not be able to produce the only CAMRA magazine in Wales for the last few years.

I'll end on a cheerful note by introducing Bae Ceredigion CAMRA's new chair, John Gale. John moved to Ceredigion in 2021 and served as our secretary for a while before standing for the vacant position of chair. One of his first duties was to present special awards to several of our longest serving publicans – see the photos of the presentations on page 11.

lechyd da!

Mary Galliers, Editor

P.S. Follow us on Facebook to keep up-to-date with the local real ale scene.

BRINGING BREWING BACK TO ABER

Aberystwyth has been without a brewery for many years but that changed last summer when six beer fans teamed up to launch Bragdy Dwy Afon/Two Rivers Brewery.

Beer-loving friends join forces

The brewery's story started in 2019 when two childhood friends, Emlyn Jones and Meurig Jones-Evans, took their homebrewing hobby a step further by brewing a pale ale called Caban at Cader Ales in Dolgellau. Caban was sold commercially under the name of Bragdy Pwll, and an original Caban pump clip can still be spotted in the Bottle & Barrel.



A few years later the opportunity arose to take over the Cader Ales brand and, together with Emlyn's partner Kerry Ferguson, they jumped at the chance.

Shortly afterwards, the seed was sown to create a brewery in Aberystwyth thanks to a chance encounter that CAMRA members Emlyn and Kerry had over a beer with local craft beer bar owner Zac Marsden.

Zac had opened the Bottle & Barrel as Aberystwyth's first craft beer bar, followed by the Bank Vault bar and live music venue, and he was in the early stages of planning a brewery with one of his bar team, Chris Grattan.

The five of them soon decided to team up, and they were joined by another friend, Dion Hughes from the Pencei in Porthmadog.

They received grant funding and support from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and Ceredigion County Council, and they set the wheels in motion for what would become Bragdy Dwy Afon.

What's in a name?

"One of our hardest early tasks was coming up with a name," said Kerry. "The brewery is firmly rooted in Aberystwyth but we didn't want to lock our name to a specific area when we knew we wanted to sell beer further afield.

"Eventually we settled on Two Rivers. The Welsh name of Dwy Afon is not hard to pronounce, and Aberystwyth has two rivers that meet in the harbour so the name felt like a big nod to our location without being too locked to a certain area.

"It also meant we could incorporate rivers and tidelines into the designs for our pump clips and bottle labels.

"The Welsh language is incredibly important to us and we'll be weaving Welsh culture and heritage into our brand at every opportunity."

Setting up the brewery

The brewery began to take shape in April 2024 when Bragdy Dwy Afon moved into a unit on the Glan yr Afon Industrial Estate on the outskirts of Aberystwyth.

"Getting the keys was just the beginning as there was a fair bit of work to do before we got to the point of brewing," said Zac. "We needed to install drainage in the unit, remove old showers to create space for our office and partition the brewing area."

The next big step was acquiring their brewing kit. Many new breweries get their first kit from another brewery that no longer needs it, and Kings Clipstone brewery in Nottinghamshire were selling just what Bragdy Dwy Afon needed.

BRINGING BREWING BACK TO ABER



Chris Grattan at work in the brewery

Meet the brewer

You may recognise Dwy Afon's brewer Chris Grattan from his days as a barman at the Bottle & Barrel.

As well as sharing his knowledge of different beer styles and flavours with drinkers at this craft beer bar, Chris had been home-brewing for years. He dived straight into the deep end at the new brewery and has produced many of the beers that are now part of Dwy Afon's core range.

From first beer to core range

Dwy Afon's first beer was a 4.1% Session IPA and the first pints were poured in July 2024. This was quickly followed by a revival of Caban, the single hop citra pale ale originally brewed by Emlyn and Meurig in collaboration with Cader Ales. Next came a Golden Ale #001 and a Hoppy Pale Ale #001. Local pubs were keen to support the new brewery and their beers were soon on offer in Aberystwyth and further afield.

"Naming our beers was another tricky decision," said Kerry. "We knew we wanted to tweak the recipes until we were 100% happy with them. So the pump clips for beers brewed in the first few months all featured #001, as in mark 1 or version 1, until we were ready to decide which ones would feature in our core range and have a name."

All six owners get involved in the brewing process from tweaking recipes to tasting the end result. At the start of 2025, they weighed up feedback from drinkers and publicans and

decided that their initial core range would be made up of five beers called Caban, Aur, Stowt, Chwerw and Coch.

Coming soon from Dwy Afon

Look out for some #002 and possibly #003 brews when the team try out new recipes within the same style of beer, as well as a few one-off special beers and the launch of their first keg beers.

There are plans to open a shop and tap room at the brewery's premises later this year where you'll be able to enjoy a pint of cask or keg beer, as well as buy bottled beer and merchandise.

"We would like to say a heartfelt "diolch" to everyone who has supported, ordered and drunk our beers," said Kerry.

"We are especially grateful to all the pubs and CAMRA members who put their trust in us and sent us valuable feedback to help improve our recipes."

Get your hands on the beer

Look out for Bradgy Dwy Afon's distinctive pump clips in local pubs and bottles of their beer in restaurants, shops and other outlets.

Buy bottled beer via the brewery's website, from the Bottle & Barrel, and from the brewery itself on the Glan yr Afon Industrial Estate (check opening hours before a special journey).



Go to <https://tworiversbrewery.com> or follow the brewery on Facebook and Instagram.


CAMRA members can score the beers on <https://camra.org.uk>

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Rhos yr Hafod

Cross Inn (Llanon)



Beer & Cider Festival 15 and 16 August

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from Welsh breweries and real ciders
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Open Tue-Sat 5-11. Closed Sun & Mon
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Garden with sea views and children's play area
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The Rhos yr Hafod in Cross Inn (Llanon) has done the double, winning the Bae Ceredigion CAMRA pub of the year and the branch's cider pub of the year awards.



John Gale presents the awards to Angharad Hywel and Paul Jacobs in the Rhos yr Hafod

Bae Ceredigion CAMRA chair John Gale said, "The Rhos yr Hafod is no stranger to CAMRA awards, having won our pub of the year title four times before, but winning the awards for both pub of the year and cider pub of the year is an outstanding achievement for a small pub in a very rural location."

CAMRA members select the winners for these awards, and all local members are given the opportunity to vote in the short-listing stage and then to help evaluate the short-listed pubs against CAMRA's national pub of the year criteria.

The quality and condition of real ale and cider are an essential part of any CAMRA award, but the criteria also include the promotion and knowledge of real ale and cider; cleanliness and staff hygiene; the role a pub plays in its local community; the service and welcome; the style, décor and atmosphere; sympathy with CAMRA's aims; and overall impression and value.

The range of real ale at the Rhos yr Hafod is constantly changing but the hand pumps usually offer beer from Welsh breweries.

A display of pump clips hangs above the bar to promote the barrels waiting in the cellar and a newly installed shelving area has a selection of beer-related magazines to peruse whilst enjoying a pint.

Two bag-in-box real ciders are served along with a range of bottled real cider. A real cider menu is available with a list of what's on offer and a definition of real cider, and ciders are also promoted on a blackboard in the bar.

There are several drinking areas including a lively front bar, a quieter back bar with armchairs, a function room, a large rear garden and a sunny front terrace which has recently been extended to offer more seating.

The pub has a strong community focus and hosts a range of events and other activities including board games nights, quizzes, folk music, a book club for Welsh learners, a monthly community café run by local residents, and a summer beer and cider festival which will take place on Friday 15 and Saturday 16 August this year.

"I would like to congratulate all the short-listed pubs in this year's competition," said John.

"They all performed excellently during the evaluation process, both in the quality of their beer and cider but also in the high standards of hospitality provided to their patrons.

"The results revealed that there are some very fine margins separating them, and we are lucky to have so many excellent pubs in our branch area even if it does make the job of selecting the winner a tough one!"



Rhos yr Hafod



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SUL | SUNDAY: 4 - 9



"MA' BYWYD YN VALE | GYD"

GWYBODAETH AM DDIGWYDDIADAU | INFO & EVENTS: @TAFARNYVALE

Dark Heart strikes gold

In late 2024, Mantle's Dark Heart was voted as a gold winner by CAMRA members in the Wales area stage of CAMRA's Champion Beer of Britain.

The gold award for this 5.2% porter in the Strong Stouts and Porters category meant that it was eligible to progress to the national stage of the Champion Beer of Britain competition. The judging for this beer style took place at the Great British Beer Festival Winter in February 2025.

"Whilst Dark Heart didn't win the national competition it was a great achievement to reach the final stage," said Mantle's Head Brewer Ian Kimber. "Dark Heart remains our most decorated beer having won us our first ever award back in 2014."

As well as enjoying Mantle beer in a local pub, you can visit the brewery shop in Cardigan which is open Monday to Friday and Saturday morning. The shop sells Mantle beer in bottles or as cask carry-outs and merchandise. Brewery tours are available by prior arrangement.

Come join the MASHED community

Aberystwyth became home to a community brewery in March 2024 when MASHED opened its premises in the town centre. MASHED caters for every type of beer fan from those who want to try their hand at brewing to others who simply want to try beer brewed locally.

"We offer a variety of courses and workshops about brewing for all levels," said Gareth Davies, founder and director of Dark Farm Homebrewing which is behind MASHED. "You can also brew your own beer under the guidance of our experienced staff using our all-in-one brewing system and then either take it home or add it to our taps to be enjoyed by all."

The taproom is open to everyone to try a range of craft beers, enjoy a game of darts or take part in a tasting event. It is the meeting place for Aberystwyth Homebrew Club and it is available for private bookings.

SIBA awards for Cardigan Brewery

Four of Cardigan Brewery's beers were recognised by the Society of Independent Brewers and Associates (SIBA) at the SIBA Wales and West Beer Awards last year.

The brewery received silver awards for Dai Cockles in the Cask British Best Bitter (4.5% - 6.4%) category, Dai Bach in the Keg Session Lager (up to 4.4%) category, and Hazy Dai in the Keg Session Pale Ale (up to 4.4%) category. Dai Mawr received a bronze award in the Bottle and Can (4.5% to 6.4%) category.

Cardigan Brewery is based in Y Bryn a'r Bragdy in Brynhoffnant on the A487. This former village pub has been extended and refurbished, and now offers a variety of drinking and dining areas and a large outside seating area with coastal views.

Food is served as well as the brewery's range of cask, keg and bottled beer, and brewery tours are available during the summer.

"Whether you're a seasoned brewer or just starting out, MASHED is the perfect place to connect with other beer lovers and enjoy the craft of brewing," added Gareth.

"Please pop in to say hello and enjoy the latest beers from our local brewers in the taproom, and perhaps one of the next beers could be brewed by you!"



Local homebrewer Tristan Robinson in the taproom at MASHED

Tafarn y Cadwgan

Aberaeron

Under new management



Traditional atmosphere
Three changing real ales
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The White Lion

Machynlleth



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Up to 4 real ales - guest beers change regularly
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Traditional Family Pub



Local real ales

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Dog Friendly

Open daily 11am till late

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Uplands Square, New Quay, SA45 9QH

SPECIAL AWARDS

Special awards have been presented to three local publicans who each celebrated a significant anniversary during 2024.

Last year John Gale, chair of Bae Ceredigion CAMRA, presented a special award to three local publicans who had chalked up 65 years between them of serving great beer.

“At a time when there is great uncertainty in the pub trade, with around 80 UK pubs closing each month, I was delighted to be able to recognise the longevity of three of Ceredigion’s stalwart publicans,” said John.

“These pubs have been listed in CAMRA’s annual Good Beer Guide for many years and, as they are freehouses, they are able to offer a choice of real ale from different breweries.

“The presentations gained excellent coverage in the Cambrian News and a good response on Facebook, and I hope that this publicity was good for business for these three pubs.”

Three Horseshoe Inn, Llangeitho



The Three Horseshoe Inn has been owned by the Williams family for 25 years.

Jon Williams has run the pub for many years, while his wife Luned and other family members help out behind the bar and in the busy kitchen.

There are always two cask ales on offer, often from Wye Valley or Evan Evans, and the pub is popular with local people and visitors for its evening meals and Sunday lunches.

Ship and Castle, Aberystwyth



Ian Blair celebrated 20 years at the Ship and Castle in August 2024.

The Ship and Castle has a long-standing reputation for its ever-changing choice of quality real ales from across the UK. There are normally five cask ales on offer and a tasting platter of five one third pints is a great way to try them all.

You can read more about the pub in the “I love my local” feature on page 22.

Cadwgan, Aberaeron



In October 2024 Martin Holland celebrated 20 years at the Cadwgan, which he has run together with his wife Jacqueline more recently.

Martin has increased the number of handpumps from one to three over the years, and the pub sells real ale from Welsh breweries and further afield.

The Cadwgan is the ninth pub that Martin has run during almost forty years in the pub trade, and he will be retiring in April 2025. We wish him a long and happy retirement, and hope the pub continues to flourish under its new management.

REAL ALE & CIDER PUB GUIDE

This pub guide lists local pubs that usually offer at least one cask ale or real cider based on feedback from CAMRA members.

How to use this guide

- Look for the red tint which shows the pubs that feature in the 2025 edition of CAMRA's Good Beer Guide.
- Please check opening times and any other details important to you before your visit, and be aware that some pubs operate seasonal opening hours.
- Get more information about these pubs and others in our area on CAMRA's online pub directory at <https://camra.org.uk>
- Information is correct to the best of our knowledge when published. If you spot a mistake or omission, please email us or use the "suggest an edit" option on the pub's entry on <https://camra.org.uk>



Aberystwyth area

Aberystwyth – Bottle & Barrel

Contemporary bar with various seating areas and small courtyard. Bring your own food or order from the café opposite. Tap takeovers and meet the brewer events. A dozen keg lines, three cask ales and real cider, all with a focus on Welsh producers. Huge range of bottled and canned beer and cider to drink in or take away.

Aberystwyth – Bank Vault

Craft beer bar in same ownership as the Bottle & Barrel. Mezzanine floor with additional seating. Varied programme of live music and other events, many with free admission. One cask ale, eleven keg beers, two bag in box real ciders and range of cans and bottles.

Aberystwyth – Castle

Impressive brick and terracotta building with single bar and accommodation. Events include quizzes and regular live music. Up to two cask ales, often from Welsh breweries.

Aberystwyth – Glengower

Large seafront pub and hotel with coastal views. Front terrace and various drinking and dining areas. Good quality food served all day, and Sunday lunches. Up to four real ales, usually including Mantle.

Aberystwyth – Hen Orsaf

Wetherspoons pub in former railway station building with rear outdoor seating area on old station concourse. Up to six cask ales including usual Wetherspoons range.

Aberystwyth – Rimmers Wine Bar

Historic riverside building temporarily closed due to storm damage. Real ale due to be back on sale on reopening.

Aberystwyth – Ship and Castle

Long-established real ale pub with comfortable main bar and lower level seating area. Popular spot to watch Wales's rugby matches. Five ever-changing cask beers from huge range of breweries, usually including a dark ale. Range of keg beer and craft cans.

Aberystwyth – Starling Cloud

Marston's pub, restaurant and hotel, popular with families. Outside seating and children's play area. One Marston's cask ale.

Aberystwyth – Tŷ Seidr

Cider bar and bottle shop with a range of ever-changing ciders served from bag in box, keg and bottle. Selection of canned craft beer. Extensive collection of board games.

Aberystwyth – White Horse

Large town centre pub, popular with students, serving good value food all day. Up to four cask ales, often including Welsh breweries.

REAL ALE & CIDER PUB GUIDE

Bow Street – Rhydpennau Inn

Family-friendly pub, a few miles from Aberystwyth. Bar, dining areas, heated outside seating area and children's play area. Up to two cask ales, usually from Timothy Taylor.

Goginan – Druid Inn

Traditional pub seven miles from Aberystwyth on A44. Live music, quizzes and charity events. Bar meals and Sunday lunches. Three cask ales including Wye Valley.

Llanbadarn Fawr – Black Lion

Modernised pub one mile from Aberystwyth town centre, popular with locals and students. Main bar, function room, outside decking area and garden. Quiz nights and Sunday carvery. One cask ale, usually Wye Valley.

Llanbadarn Fawr – Gogerddan Arms

Historic pub one mile from Aberystwyth railway station, formerly one of the town's main inns. Bar, lounge and function room. One cask ale, usually Wye Valley.

Llanfihangel-y-Creuddyn – Y Ffarmers

Country dining pub in historic village seven miles from Aberystwyth. Cosy bar, dining area and large covered seating area outside. Menu features local seasonal produce. Two constantly changing cask ales from Welsh breweries and two bag in box ciders.

Pisgah – Halfway Inn

Halfway between Aberystwyth and Devil's Bridge on A4120. Bar with flagstone floor and dining room. Garden with views and large covered seating area. Good value food. Two cask ales usually from Monty's, locally-made bottled real cider seasonally.

Tal-y-bont – White Lion

Friendly local on village green, seven miles north of Aberystwyth on A487. Food includes popular Sunday lunches. Central bar, several drinking areas, sunny front terrace and beer garden. Up to three Marston's cask ales.

Tre'r Ddol – Wildfowler Inn

Food-led pub nine miles from Aberystwyth on A487. Bar with open fire and beer garden with covered seating. Live music. Up to two changing cask ales from national breweries.

Along the coast

Aberaeron – Black Lion

Recently refurbished pub with a stylish décor. Two bars, one with open fire. Pool room. First floor restaurant and rear courtyard. One cask ale.

Aberaeron – Cadwgan

One-room, traditional freehouse under new ownership from April 2025. Sun-trap seating area at front. Up to three cask ales.

Aberaeron – Castle Hotel

Grade II listed building with bar, restaurant and accommodation. Pavement seating area. Up to two cask ales, usually including Wye Valley.

Aberaeron – Feathers Hotel

Refurbished coaching inn with rooms. Cosy bar, restaurant and covered outside seating area. One cask ale, usually from Cardigan Brewery.

Aberaeron – Harbourmaster

Boutique hotel, restaurant and bar with reputation for quality locally sourced food. Outside seating area overlooking harbour. Two cask ales and range of craft keg beer, with a focus on Welsh breweries.

Aberaeron – Hive

Converted wharf building on harbour edge with relaxed dining and drinking areas. Two changing cask ales, often from Welsh breweries.

Aberaeron – Y Seler

Large contemporary bar and boutique hotel. Various drinking areas, restaurant and outside seating. Good quality menu. Two changing cask ales, often from Welsh breweries.

Aberporth – Ship Inn

Traditional bar with nautical décor and dining room with sea views. Breakfast, lunch and evening meals. Up to three cask ales, often from Welsh breweries.

Borth – Railway Inn

Friendly pub popular with holidaymakers. Bar, restaurant and beer garden. Live music and other entertainment. Up to three cask ales, usually including Wye Valley.

REAL ALE & CIDER PUB GUIDE

Borth – Victoria Inn

Beachside pub with two bars and dining room. Beach decking and terrace with views of Cardigan Bay. Food lunchtime and evenings. Up to four cask ales, some from Welsh breweries.

Brynhoffnant – Y Bryn a'r Bragdy

Extensively refurbished pub, now the home and brewery tap for Cardigan Brewery. Various drinking and dining areas. Large outside seating area with coastal views. Varied menu and Cardigan Brewery cask, keg and bottled beer.

Cross Inn (New Quay) – Penrhiwgaled Arms

Village pub under new ownership from early 2024. Recently refurbished bar and dining room. Beer garden with play area. Meals and quiz nights. Up to two cask ales from Welsh breweries.

Ffosyffin – Red Lion

Reopened in summer 2023 after extensive renovation by new owners. Cosy bar, dining area and sun-trap rear garden. Home-cooked food. Events include open mic nights. Up to three cask ales, often from Welsh breweries.

Llangrannog – Pentre Arms

Beachside freehouse with accommodation. Dramatic sea views from the cosy bar. Good value menu from sandwiches to full meals. Up to three cask ales from Welsh breweries including Bluestone and Mantle.

New Quay – Black Lion Hotel

Pub and hotel with Dylan Thomas connections. Main bar and dining room. Large garden with coastal views, covered seating area and play area. Homecooked seasonal menu. Up to three cask ales, usually including Purple Moose.

New Quay – Penwig Hotel

Large seafront pub with front terrace overlooking Cardigan Bay. Menu features pub classics. Up to three cask ales, usually from Brains.

New Quay – Sea Horse Inn

Friendly one-room pub with sun-trap pavement patio. Popular quiz and live music nights. Two cask ales from Evan Evans.

Tresaith – Ship Inn

Food-led pub with open-plan bar and restaurant. Beer garden with stunning sea views. Up to two cask ales from Brains or Marston's.

Machynlleth area

Ceinws – Tafarn Dwynant

Friendly freehouse in a quiet village five miles from Machynlleth, run by same family for 17 years. Cosy bar and front patio. Monthly pub quiz. Two ever-changing cask ales from Wales and the Borders.

Cemmaes Road – Dovey Valley Hotel

Grade II listed pub on CAMRA's national inventory of historic pub interiors. Front bar with open fire and several beautifully furnished rooms. Beer garden with country views. Two regularly changing Welsh cask ales.

Corris – Slater's Arms

Grade II listed traditional freehouse with accommodation. Evening meals, Sunday lunch and takeaways. Three ever-changing cask ales (third pint platters available) and real ciders.

Derwenlas – Black Lion Inn

Food-led freehouse just outside Machynlleth on A487. Cosy bar with beams and woodburner. Garden and outdoor seating. One cask ale.

Machynlleth – Red Lion

Town centre pub with various seating areas and beer garden. One cask ale, usually from a national brewery.

Machynlleth – Skinners Arms

Traditional pub under new management from spring 2024. Lounge, cosy public bar and garden. Darts competitions, live music and discos. Up to two Marston's cask ales.

Machynlleth – White Horse

Freehouse with log fire and beer garden. Limited opening hours – check before you visit. One cask ale, usually Mantle.

Machynlleth – White Lion

Large coaching inn with bar areas, accommodation and rear garden with rural views. Extensive menu of pub classics. Up to four ever-changing cask ales.

Machynlleth – Wynnstay

Large town centre inn with accommodation, under new ownership from March 2024. Cosy bar, restaurant and rear terrace. Menu features local ingredients. Up to four cask ales from Welsh breweries.

REAL ALE & CIDER PUB GUIDE

Tregaron area

Cross Inn (Llanon) – Rhos yr Hafod

Friendly village pub with several drinking areas around central bar. Rear beer garden and front patio. Varied events and beer festival (15 and 16 August 2025). Two ever-changing cask ales from Welsh breweries and two bag in box ciders plus range of bottled cider. Local Pub of the Year and Cider Pub of the Year.

Devil's Bridge – Hafod Hotel

Stylish bar, brasserie and hotel opposite famous waterfalls. Locally sourced food, seasonally changing menu. Up to three cask ales, usually including Mantle.

Ffair Rhos – Teifi Inn

Rural pub, popular for well-priced food including Sunday lunches. Up to two cask ales, often from Glamorgan, and Celtic Marches cider.

Llanddewi Brefi – New Inn

Historic village pub run by same landlady for 35 years. Flagstoned floor, real fire and snug. Traditional pub food and bed and breakfast accommodation. Mantle beers served from polypins in cellar – ask for what's on.

Llangeitho – Three Horseshoe Inn

Friendly village freehouse run by same family for over 25 years. Recently refurbished bar area with quirky décor. Dining room and large undercover outside seating area. Good value evening meals and Sunday lunches. Open mic night, quizzes and other events. Two changing cask ales, often from Evan Evans.

Tregaron – Talbot

Historic pub and hotel. Two front bars with beams and open fires, rear bar and restaurant. Landscaped garden and patio. Award-winning food with focus on local produce. Up to three changing cask ales from Wales and the Borders.

Ystrad Aeron – Vale of Aeron

Community pub reopened in 2022 after a fundraising campaign. Refurbishment underway – the pub remains open but the offer may vary. Various events including monthly Welsh learners group. One cask ale from a Welsh brewery.

Get more information about these pubs and others in our area on CAMRA's online pub directory at <https://camra.org.uk>

Your beer scores count



**Your pub
needs your
beer scores!**



**Not enough beer scores
Not enough months scored
Not enough scorers**



**Enough beer scores
Enough months scored
Enough scorers**

Your beer scores help decide which pubs go into the Good Beer Guide.

Submit beer scores and find out more about CAMRA's national beer scoring scheme on <https://camra.org.uk/beer-scoring>

FESTIVAL FOCUS

A round-up of nearby festivals where you can enjoy a range of good beer and real cider during 2025.

June

The Welshpool & Llanfair Light Railway Beer and Cider Festival is on Friday 13 and Saturday 14 June at Welshpool Raven Square Station, a short walk from the mainline railway station with direct trains from Aberystwyth.

The Llanfair Clydogau Beer Festival takes place on Friday 20 and Saturday 21 June in Llanfair Clydogau village hall near Lampeter, offering a small range of real ales and ciders along with basic refreshments.

July

This year's first Talylyn Railway Beer Festival runs from Friday 4 to Sunday 6 July at Wharf Station in Tywyn.

The Lampeter Food Festival takes place in the town's university grounds on Saturday 26 July. Several breweries and cider makers usually have a stall at this event.

August

The CAMRA Great British Beer Festival runs from Tuesday 5 August to Saturday 9 August at the NEC in Birmingham which can be reached by train from Aberystwyth.

This year's second Talylyn Railway Beer Festival runs from Friday 8 to Sunday 10 August at Wharf Station in Tywyn.

The Aberaeron Beer and Cider Festival is on Saturday 9 August from midday at the Aberaeron Yacht Club next to the south harbour. Up to 15 real ale and craft beers and 15 ciders from Wales and the Borders, and live music.

Bae Ceredigion CAMRA pub of the year winner the Rhos yr Hafod in Cross Inn is holding its summer beer and cider festival on Friday 15 and Saturday 16 August.

After its successful launch in 2024, Aber Beer Fest returns from Thursday 28 to Saturday 30 August. The details of this interpub beer festival in Aberystwyth town centre were being finalised when we went to press but plans include more venues and a bigger range of beer and cider this year.



September

The Shrewsbury CAMRA beer festival runs from Wednesday 24 to Saturday 27 September in St Mary's Church, an easy walk from Shrewsbury railway station with a direct service from Aberystwyth. Around 100 real ales, many from Shropshire and the surrounding areas, and a good selection of ciders and perries.

October

The Carmarthen CAMRA beer festival runs from Thursday 2 to Saturday 4 October in St Peter's Civic Hall, a short walk from Carmarthen bus station. An extensive choice of real ale and cider from Wales and the UK.

We share details of local beer festivals on Facebook – follow our page for the latest news. Please check the festival date and other details in this feature before you visit.

Cwrrw Ceredigion met Kev McTomney who owns the Tafarn Dwynant in Ceinws.



Kev McTomney

How long have you owned Tafarn Dwynant?

Since December 2007, so over 17 years.

What did you do before taking on this pub?

My wife Abby and I lived in Bradford-on-Avon in Wiltshire. I worked for the Ministry of Defence and Abby was an archaeologist, and we both worked in Bath. We also used to like to travel. We never meant to own a pub, and it sort of happened by accident when we were traveling to visit Abby's parents.

What do you enjoy most about being a publican?

Providing the space, means and atmosphere for my customers to enjoy themselves rarely feels like work. It's like the pub is the canvas and my customers are the paint, and together we create a special place.

Who comes to the pub and who are your locals?

Tafarn Dwynant serves the village of Ceinws but our locals come from about a 10 mile radius. We are close to the Centre for Alternative Technology, and people from all over the world come to the pub from there. We also have regular customers from Corris Caravan Park, many of whom have been visiting the area for years so they are locals too.

Why do you think people enjoy a visit to Tafarn Dwynant?

The pub and the people in it are very friendly, and so I think people feel welcome here. We used to serve food which brought in new faces, and we may serve food again in future.

Do you hold any regular events?

We host an anarchic pub quiz once a month.

Has there been a growth in demand for real ale?

Yes, and I'm pleased to have been part of the growth of real ale in the Dyfi Valley. Well-kept real ale is now an established part of the pub experience in the area and I'm sure that this has helped to keep customers coming to pubs.

Which beers are the most popular?

I generally select beer that is brewed in Wales or in the border counties of England. Mantle brewery in Cardigan make some smashing ales and their MOHO is very popular here. Wye Valley's Butty Bach is a perennial favourite. I do sometimes bring in a barrel from far away and I was pleased to be able to showcase some fine Scottish ales recently.

What's your favourite tittle?

That's a tough one as there are so many fine ales. It's hard to pick one but I'll go for Purple Moose's Cwrrw Madog which is nutty and bitter.

Which famous person would you like to have as a regular and why?

Another toughie! I'll probably change my mind by the end of this sentence but I'll go for the late, great Richard Feynman. He was a percussionist, raconteur, Nobel Prize winner and theoretical physicist. He was something of a polymath and knew how to have a good time. I think he would have fitted in very well here, and we would all be better for knowing him.

Tafarn Dwynant is five miles north of Machynlleth, a third of a mile from the nearest T2 bus stop on the A487.

The Glengower

Pub, dining & rooms



HOME MADE MENU SERVED ALL DAY | OPEN LOG FIRE | DOGS FRIENDLY BAR 🐾
16 EN-SUITE GUEST ROOMS | FREE WIFI

Cracking traditional pub serving great local cask ales along with a few kegs from further afield. Seafront spot with bedrooms offering fantastic views over Ceredigion Bay. Serving a delicious menu of homemade hearty dishes including the 'Daily Specials Board' ...not to be missed including fresh seafood caught locally.



OLD PUBS OF ABERYSTWYTH

Alan Cookson tells us about the history of some of the pubs around the Market Hall.

In 1895 there were 65 public houses in Aberystwyth. Fewer than 8000 people lived in the town then, and locals liked to claim that Aber had the largest number of pubs per head of population than any other town in Britain.

The modern-day Academy Bar in Great Darkgate Street (pictured below) occupies the former St Paul's Welsh Methodist Chapel which dates from 1876. The chapel was erected on the site of a butchers shop which had been home to the Three Jolly Sailors until it relocated to Alexandra Road in 1855.

Alongside the chapel and visible in the old photo below was a House of Correction until 1903. The Butchers Arms stood on the other side of the Market Hall until 1901 when it became the Radical Club and later the Liberal Club.

One of Aberystwyth's oldest inns, the Angel, is opposite the Academy. The Angel dates from at least 1769 and today it is a popular spot for students. The Farmers Arms occupied one of the buildings a few doors down from the Angel and was open until at least the 1970s.

Chapel and House of Correction, prior to 1903



The Academy today

Princess Street (pictured below) has been home to numerous public houses over the years but none remain today. Next door to the current location of Ystwyth Books once sat the Australia(n) Vaults. It gained the reputation of being a disorderly house after domino players were found playing for ale and the landlady was subsequently fined five shillings.



Princess Street in the early 1900s



Princess Street today

Further along Princess Street there are flats on the site of the former Royal Oak which stood until 1908, and the King's Arms was once at number 8. The Montgomery(shire), Corbett's or New Spirit Vaults was next door at number 9 until it closed in 1869.

The White Lion was on the corner of Princess Street and Bridge Street until 1871 and was one of the chief hostelries in town. Reports allege that the landlord murdered two Scottish packmen, who were regular visitors, and disposed of their bodies on Pen Dinas where two skeletons were found at the beginning of the 19th century.

Bridge Street itself probably had more public houses than any other street in the borough, but that's a story for another day.

To find out more about the history of Ceredigion's pubs and the references used in this article go to <https://pint-of-history.wales>. Old photos courtesy of Ceredigion Archives, Aberystwyth.

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Talybont



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IN BRITAIN'S BEST REAL HERITAGE PUBS GUIDE

Read on for a brief round-up of news from the Bae Ceredigion branch of CAMRA.



Our tasting session at Mantle Brewery

Our recent social activities

We organise a programme of social events for members to get together and visit different pubs either locally or further afield by public transport.

Last year's spring social was a trip by train to Barmouth where we braved bad weather and visited five pubs including the excellent Myrddins Tap micropub. Unfortunately our bad luck with weather continued into the autumn and we had to cancel our pub crawl of Newtown as the trains were affected by flooding.

We had better luck in November when we enjoyed a bespoke tasting session at Mantle Brewery's premises in Cardigan. Head Brewer Ian Kimber gave us an overview of how the brewery was set up before he talked us through the various malts and hops he uses. We then had a guided tasting of eight Mantle beers ending with X, the 10% ABV beer brewed in 2023 for the brewery's 10th anniversary.

Our annual pub quiz took place at Tŷ Seidr in Aberystwyth in November. It was well attended and the proceeds were shared between our branch and the Chemotherapy Day Unit in Bronglais Hospital.

The final social event of the year was our traditional Christmas get-together in Aberystwyth. A group of festively-attired members enjoyed lunch in the Hen Orsaf followed by a few pints in the town's pubs.

Dates for your diary

Our AGM is on Saturday 14 June at 1pm in the Bank Vault, Aberystwyth with a guest speaker from Bragdy Dwy Afon, the new local brewery.

Our regular pint in a pub social takes place from 6pm to 8pm in a different pub on the last Thursday evening of every month. These informal events offer a chance to get together and enjoy a drink with fellow local CAMRA members, and you can stay for as little or as long as suits you. Why not pencil the dates in your diary and check our website or Facebook page to see where we will be meeting next.

Details of social events and branch meetings are posted on our website, our Facebook page and regularly emailed to local members.

If you are a member of Bae Ceredigion CAMRA but haven't heard from us recently, check your spam or junk folders for emails from us. If you have never had an email from us please contact membership@baeceredigion.camra.org.uk.

CAMRA's new look

You may have noticed CAMRA's new logo on the front cover of this magazine. It has been launched as part of a rebranding exercise, following 18 months of research and development that revealed an untapped group of people who want to explore different beer styles.

CAMRA campaigns for cask beer, cider and perry and is one of Europe's biggest consumer organisations. It is a membership organisation and wants to welcome new people who can help to protect pubs, while enjoying quality beer and a rich social experience with like-minded people.

CAMRA members receive a number of benefits including updates about local events and beer festivals, discounted entry to CAMRA beer festivals, invitations to local CAMRA social activities, BEER magazine four times a year, access to exclusive content on CAMRA's website, discounts on books published by CAMRA, and beer discount vouchers that can be used in hundreds of pubs across the UK.

To join CAMRA go to <https://camra.org.uk/join> or complete and post the form on page 23.

I LOVE MY LOCAL

Bae Ceredigion member Derek Stephen originally from Aberdeen but now of Waunfawr, Aberystwyth tells us why he loves the Ship and Castle in Aberystwyth.



Derek Stephen (left) with fellow members of the Friday Club in the Ship and Castle

What's the pub's history?

The pub dates back to at least 1830. It has always been called the Ship and Castle apart from a brief spell in the 1990s when it was known as Flannery's and also housed a small brewery. The large mural of a ship on the back wall in the lower seating area shows a scene from the 1850s when Aberystwyth was a busy port. My own history with the pub starts in the early 1990's when I came from Scotland to work in Aber. My pub crawl would be the Coops, Crystal Palace, Vale, Nags and the Ship. How different things are today!

Tell us about the landlord.

Landlord Ian Blair has owned the pub since August 2004 and he is behind the bar more often than not when I visit in the afternoon. He is as passionate about running a great pub and serving the perfect pint as he is about his beloved Aberystwyth and the need for a buoyant hospitality sector. Ian has an inherent ability to get newcomers and regulars chatting which is something I have enjoyed so often.

Where's your favourite place in the pub to enjoy a drink?

On a stool at the bar where conversations abound with Ian and other customers. When the

"Friday Club" (pictured left) get together it becomes a cross between Cheers and Last of the Summer Wine!

What real ales have been on the bar recently?

The Ship caters for a wide range of tastes with a good selection of beers including craft, along with ciders, wines and spirits.

The pub is a long-standing entry in CAMRA's Good Beer Guide and it excels in having two permanent real ales and three pumps that constantly change with a wide variety of real ale. When some old favourites like Oakham's Citra and Three Tuns Stout turn up, they are sipped up pretty quickly. In all the years I have been going to the Ship, whether that be on a quiet Friday or an ultra-busy Six Nations match day, I have always enjoyed the best served ales I have had anywhere.

Does the pub serve food?

The Ship is all about quality beer which I believe is best accompanied by crisps or nuts, and the Ship does both extremely well.

Tell us about the pub's customers.

As well as this old Aberdonian, you are likely to encounter a university professor, a fresher, a Lycra-clad cyclist and a group of ale enthusiasts who have travelled by train from the Midlands. In the summer they are joined by people from all over the world who have read where real ale in a real pub can be enjoyed.

Does the pub hold any regular events or activities?

The Ship is a well-known honeypot on Six Nations days, and it is a hub for some serious and some not so serious cyclists that have contributed so much to charity over the years. It has regular live music and, having run its own beer festival for many years, it now plays its part in August's Aber Beer Fest that was launched in 2024.

Sum up in one sentence why our readers should visit your local.

The exemplary condition of the wide variety of ales in a pub that is open seven days a week and is easily found in the town centre.

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