

PUB OF THE YEAR 2015

Our Pub of the Year this year is Y Talbot, Tregaron. A presentation has been arranged for **Saturday 11th April**, with the presentation itself taking place at around 3.30. Very well-deserved recognition for this tremendous heritage pub which always has a good range of real ale and real cider. Y Talbot has also been named our Cider Pub of the Year, and we'll be making that presentation in May, which is one of the months in which CAMRA focusses particularly on cider – it'll be on **Saturday 9th May**, again at around 3.30pm.

BRANCH MEETING

The next branch meeting is due to take place at the Royal Oak, Llanfarian, on **Saturday 25th April** at 2pm. However as I write this the Royal Oak has been opening irregularly, so alternative arrangements are in place should they be needed – look out for further announcements.

SOCIALS

On **Saturday March 28th** we're having a pub crawl round Shrewsbury – catch the 9.30 train from Aberystwyth, 10.07 from Machynlleth. Choice of trains back during the afternoon and evening.

On **Saturday June 13th** we're having a Big Day Out by minibus – starting at the relocated Penlon Cottage Brewery in its stunning location overlooking New Quay Bay, then into the pubs of New Quay at lunchtime, an afternoon visit to Da Mhile distillery at Ffostrasol, followed by a visit to Newcastle Emlyn, where the long-standing licensee of the Ivy Bush, the town's only Good Beer Guide pub, is retiring this autumn. For those who wish there's also the chance of a meal in Newcastle Emlyn's award-winning Indian restaurant before visiting the two pubs in Drefach Felindre and then making our satisfied way home.

And the autumn sees the latest in our series of short breaks in great beer-drinking cities, this year featuring Canterbury for the Kent Green Hop Festival, showcasing beers made using the new season's hops to impart a unique freshness of flavour. The dates are **Friday to Sunday September 25th to 27th** (though I daresay some, myself included, may wish to extend the weekend to the Monday). Details to follow. As in previous years, we'll each be organising our own transport and accommodation but coming together for the bits that matter.

BEER FESTIVALS

Loads of them, so an abbreviated listing this time. Victoria, Borth, 27th – 29th March, 12 beers. Ship and Castle, Aberystwyth, Wed / Thur 22nd-23rd April (dates subject to confirmation). CAMRA Montgomeryshire Beer and Cider Festival, 2nd May, Parkers Lane (road at back of Sportsman), Newtown. Glengower Hotel, Aberystwyth, 22nd-25th May, 16 beers plus cider. Llanfair Clydogau village hall Fri 5th June. Lampeter Food Festival 25th July, various brewers and cidemakers will have stalls. Aberaeron Yacht Club 8th August.

PUB AND BREWERY NEWS

The Varsity in Aberystwyth has reverted to its old name the White Horse. Usually three beers on from established brewers such as Adnams, Brains, Timothy Taylors. Quality so far has been acceptable but not exceptional.

The Ship and Castle in Aberystwyth has persuaded its staff and customers to take part in a charity bike ride over a 100-mile course from Tal-y-Cafn in the Conwy Valley back to Aberystwyth. The event, on Saturday 20th June, is in aid of Wales Air ambulance, and you can support this very worthy cause via the JustGiving website on www.justgiving.com/ShipAndCastle100.

and finally... I still have one copy of Good Beer Guide 2015 available - £10 to CAMRA members.

Well, that's about it for this time. But if you have any news, ideas, or suggestions, please don't hesitate to ring me on 01974-241255, write to me at Gwynedd, Llanilar, SY23 4NR or email rhys.gwynedd@btopenworld.com.

Iechyd da!

Rhys Jones, Chair, Ceredigion CAMRA.

(The next CAMRA in Ceredigion will appear later in the year).