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FOR
REAL ALE

Cwrw Ceredigion



Local pubs ♦ Real ales ♦ Beer festivals

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pubs with a real fire



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The free magazine of Bae Ceredigion CAMRA

Autumn/Winter 2016

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Welcome to *Cwrw Ceredigion*, which is produced by the Bae Ceredigion branch of the Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA). Our aim is to promote local breweries, cider makers and the best places to drink real ale and cider in the area.

This edition is full of ideas to tempt you out to visit a local pub during the long, cold winter months. Check out our feature about pubs with real fires and enjoy a warm welcome in one you don't know or haven't been to for a while. If you fancy a day out, take *Cwrw Ceredigion* with you to follow our real ale ramble around the historic town of Machynlleth or, further south, why not try out some of the new rural pubs on the local real ale scene?

Our late chairman Rhys Jones once said that the Bae Ceredigion branch punches above its weight for one of the smallest CAMRA branches – this proved true earlier this year when *Cwrw Ceredigion* gained the title of Most Improved Magazine at CAMRA's national AGM.

Producing *Cwrw Ceredigion* would not be possible without the support of our advertisers or the small handful of members



Raising funds at Aberaeron Beer Festival

who give up many hours to produce and distribute it. Other members work hard to raise funds to support CAMRA's campaigns by organising activities like the tombola at Aberaeron Beer Festival – many thanks to our sponsors for donating great prizes and to all the festival goers who tried their luck.

Our next issue will be published at the end of April but you can keep up to date by following us on Twitter or Facebook.

Mary Galliers, Editor

P.S. Many congratulations to our local pub of the year, the Glengower Hotel, which went on to win the West Wales pub of the year award against tough competition from Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire.

Bae Ceredigion CAMRA branch area

The Bae Ceredigion CAMRA branch covers the mid and north of Ceredigion and a small part of Powys. The main towns and villages in the branch area are New Quay, Aberaeron, Tregaron, Aberystwyth, Talybont and Machynlleth.

Contact us

Email: publicity@baeceredigion.camra.org.uk
 Website: www.baeceredigion.camra.org.uk
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 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 5

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Front cover: Y Talbot, Tregaron (main picture) and Machynlleth (inset picture © Crown copyright (2016) Visit Wales)



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We rely on income from advertising to fund production costs. Space is limited and is sold on a first come, first served basis.

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We try to ensure that information is correct when we go to press. If we get something wrong, let us know and we'll print a correction. Please note that opinions expressed in Cwrw Ceredigion are not necessarily those of CAMRA either locally or nationally. If you feel you have been treated unfairly in a pub, contact Trading Standards. See www.tradingstandards.wales.org.uk for contact details.

New owners at historic hotel

The Hafod Arms in Devil's Bridge was sold in June to Aberystwyth couple Dewi and Nicol Gwynne who run the *Good Beer Guide* listed Cross Foxes near Dolgellau. The Hafod's main bar has moved to the middle room which has been decorated and kitted out with new furniture. A choice of real ale has been on offer on our visits and the quality has been reasonable.

Brewery round-up

Draught versions of some Penlon Cottage ales have been on the bar at Yr Hen Orsaf in Aberystwyth, the Crown Inn in Llwyndafydd and the New Inn in Pentregat. Beer tastings, along with homemade sausage rolls and a barbeque, at the regular brewery open days in New Quay have proved very popular. Check www.penlonbrewery.co.uk for details of forthcoming events.

Beer from Oast House Brewery, which was set up by two former Aberystwyth University students last year, has been popping up in cask and in bottles on bars and at festivals around the area. Lager than Life, a light and refreshing 3.8% cask conditioned lager, was added to the range in time for summer.

Business is growing steadily at Cardigan-based Mantle Brewery which celebrated the third anniversary of their first brew in August. Their cask-conditioned lager Hoodwinked won a gold award in the SIBA



The Unicorn, Dolgellau

Independent Beer Awards.

Cwrw Cader continues to brew three times a fortnight in Dolgellau, both for bottling and cask sales. In April, the brewery opened the Unicorn pub in the town centre after major refurbishment. It stocks a range of Cwrw Cader beers along with a guest ale and real cider, and the great value menu offers tasty pies and mash.

Swift halves

The **Wynnstay Arms Hotel** has reopened after a brief closure. It offers up to three ales from Cwrw Cader along with another beer, often from Wye Valley Brewery, and a real cider.

An extra handpump has been added in the **Red Lion** in Machynlleth to serve a guest ale from the Marston's range along with regular beers Banks's Bitter and Hobgoblin.

The refurbishment at the recently reopened **Pier Hotel** in Aberystwyth included the installation of a handpump. This got off to a flying start serving Cwtch, the 2015 Champion Beer of Britain, and has since offered other interesting beers in good condition.

If you fancy some entertainment along with a great pint, head for the **Rhos yr Hafod** in Cross Inn (Llanon) where there's a new games room with pool table, or the **Fronfelen Arms** in Temple Bar where the vintage juke box plays 7" singles.

The garden at the **Black Lion** in New Quay is home to a new large covered seating area that lets you enjoy the great sea view with a pint, whatever the weather.

Dates for your diary

15 to 23 October: British hop beer festival, Yr Hen Orsaf, Aberystwyth

28 to 30 October: Autumn beer festival, Ship and Castle, Aberystwyth

Saturday 18 February: Lampeter Beer Festival, University campus

See www.baeceredigion.camra.org.uk for dates of Bae Ceredigion CAMRA branch meetings and social activities.

Glengower is best in the west

The Glengower Hotel in Aberystwyth has won the Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA) West Wales Pub of the Year 2016 award.

Earlier this year, the pub was selected as the Bae Ceredigion CAMRA pub of the year 2016. Then, during the summer, it was judged against the Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire pubs of the year before being declared as the West Wales area winner.

Tristan Robinson, chairman of Bae Ceredigion CAMRA, presented the award to landlord Ian Richards, and said, "Having won our local pub of the year award for the first time this year, it is a fantastic achievement for the Glengower to go on to win the West Wales competition. This latest accolade recognises the effort and enthusiasm demonstrated by Ian and his team."

The quality of the real ale and real cider is the most important single factor in judging a pub for a CAMRA award. Judges noted that the Glengower always offers beers from Welsh breweries and that the separate cider bar serves a choice of five real ciders and perries. The range is extended during the pub's real ale and cider festival held over the late May Bank Holiday weekend.

Other criteria considered for the award are value for money, atmosphere and décor, customer service and the role a pub plays in its local community.

This is the second year running that a Ceredigion pub has been selected as CAMRA West Wales pub of the year – last year, the competition was won by Y Talbot in Tregaron.

"Retaining the West Wales pub of the year award in Ceredigion demonstrates how fortunate we are to have such great pubs in our area," added Tristan.



Tristan Robinson (front, right) presents the West Wales pub of the year award to Ian Richards, watched by Bae Ceredigion CAMRA members

National award for Cwrw Ceredigion

Cwrw Ceredigion has won the national CAMRA title of Most Improved Magazine.

The magazine was judged by a panel of CAMRA officials along with similar publications produced by CAMRA branches across the UK.

Cwrw Ceredigion was launched in autumn 2014 as an A3 single sheet newsletter and the judges congratulated the branch on quickly progressing to a booklet format with more content.

CAMRA's Communications Director, Jackie Parker, said, "The quality of entrants

was extremely high this year but *Cwrw Ceredigion* is a worthy winner. I was asked to comment on the first edition and I'm pleased to see that my feedback was well received and acted upon. I look forward to seeing it go from strength to strength."

Cwrw Ceredigion is produced by a small team of CAMRA volunteers. Editor Mary Galliers said, "We have received some great feedback locally about *Cwrw Ceredigion* and it was the icing on the cake to win this national award. I would like to thank our publishers Cambrian Digital as well as the pubs and breweries whose advertising support enables us to produce a magazine full of news about the local real ale and cider scene."

Real ale campaigner remembered

CAMRA members from across the UK attended the unveiling of a plaque in the Ship and Castle in Aberystwyth dedicated to Rhys Jones, former Bae Ceredigion chairman and well-known real ale campaigner who died last year.

John Clarke, chairman of the Stockport and South Manchester CAMRA branch, unveiled the plaque. Rhys himself had been a long-serving chairman of the same branch before he returned to Wales and established the Bae Ceredigion branch.

“When Rhys died last year, CAMRA lost a great campaigner and many of us lost a great friend,” said John. “The Ship and Castle has been Aberystwyth’s real ale flagship for many years, as well as Rhys’s favourite local pub, and it is a fitting place to raise a pint in his memory.”

There have been other tributes to Rhys during the year. He was a member of CAMRA’s national APPLE committee,

which campaigns for real cider and perry, and he established the cider bar at the Stockport Beer and Cider Festival. At this year’s festival in June, the cider bar was named after him and the awards given to the event’s best ciders and perries were renamed the Rhys Jones Awards.

On the first anniversary of Rhys’s funeral in July, members of the Bae Ceredigion branch gathered at his graveside at Llanilar church before adjourning to Y Talbot in Tregaron for a meal and to raise a toast to his memory.



John Clarke (right) and landlord Ian Blair at the unveiling of the plaque in the Ship and Castle

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RURAL REAL ALE REVIVAL

Despite recent growth in the number of breweries in Wales, real ale was a rare find in the rural area west of Tregaron where only a handful of pubs served good beer. Fortunately, this has now changed for the better according to Bae Ceredigion CAMRA member, Nigel Bird.

“Over the years, trade at my local, the Three Horseshoe in Llangeitho, had declined,” said Nigel. “Not enough drinkers wanted real ale so Jon the landlord had to stop selling it as too much was going to waste. Then, last Christmas, after gentle persuasion from regulars, he started stocking real ale from Mantle Brewery. It sold well and, since then, he has had beers from Evan Evans, Ludlow Brewing, Monty’s and others. He serves it from pins, which are smaller than standard casks, so the choice changes quickly and the beer is always in great condition. It is brilliant to have a true village local stocking a variety of well-kept ales, and to see locals and visitors enjoying them.”



The Fronfelen Arms

A few miles away in Temple Bar, the Fronfelen Arms is another newcomer to the local real ale scene. Recently taken on by new licensees, the pub has had a facelift and is gaining a reputation for quality real ale. It is one of the few rural pubs that sells real cider and there is a good range from Welsh producer Gwynt y Ddraig at competitive prices.

Completing the triangle of good pubs in this part of Ceredigion is the Rhos yr Hafod in Cross Inn. After changing hands two years ago, this freehouse has now reclaimed its place in CAMRA’s *Good Beer Guide*. Landlady Elin Hywel offers two ever-

changing real ales which are promoted via the “coming soon” blackboard and the pub is a regular haunt of several local CAMRA members.



Elin Hywel, landlady of the Rhos yr Hafod

Find out more about these pubs on www.whatpub.com, and see page 12 for an interview with Jon Williams, landlord of the Three Horseshoe.



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GOOD BEER GUIDE

The 2017 edition of the *Good Beer Guide* has just been published. The Guide is fully revised every year and each CAMRA branch is responsible for selecting which pubs to include from its area. Bae Ceredigion CAMRA Chairman Tristan Robinson explains the process.

How are pubs selected for the Guide?

An entry in the *Good Beer Guide* is a stamp of approval from CAMRA and we take this seriously. Beer quality is the over-riding consideration for inclusion and we select those pubs where we know people have regularly had good quality real ale. We only have twelve spaces in the Guide and, with more and more excellent local real ale pubs, competition is getting tougher.

What happens when?

CAMRA members visit pubs and score the quality of the beer all year round. At every branch meeting, our Pubs Officer produces a summary of recent scores for us to identify any pubs with a low number of scores so we can encourage members to visit them and rate the beer. In January, we review the year's scores and agree a long list of pubs for the Guide. These pubs are then surveyed, ideally by someone who isn't a local, and we make our final selection in February. The Guide is then launched in September. The production process is rather long, but it allows for reserve pubs to be included if there is space or if something changes at a pub selected for the Guide.

How do you get information about beer quality?

Any CAMRA member can submit beer scores for real ale they have drunk in any pub in Britain. This means that all

members can help select pubs for the Guide simply by scoring their beer.

How do I score the quality of the beer?

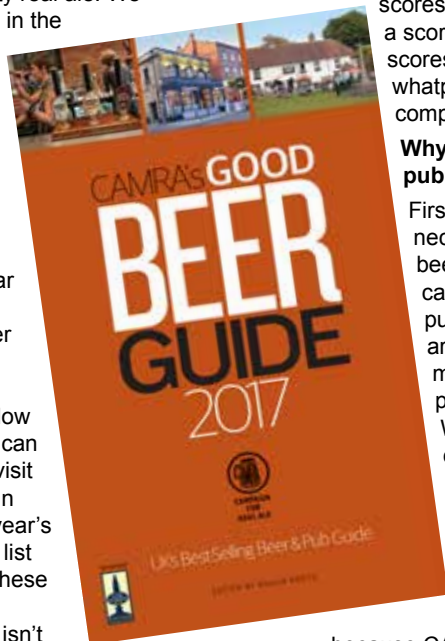
You need to be a CAMRA member to score beer quality via CAMRA's beer scoring scheme. You don't need to be a beer expert but you do need to remember that it's not just about giving the highest score to your personal favourite beer or marking down one that isn't to your normal taste. You need to consider the quality of a beer, how well the pub has kept and served it, and score it according to a simple "marks out of 5" system. For an explanation of what the

scores mean and to record a score, login to the "submit scores" section of www.whatpub.com, either on a computer or smart phone.

Why isn't my favourite pub in the Guide?

Firstly, it doesn't necessarily mean the beer there is bad! We can only include 12 pubs in our branch area and this inevitably means that some pubs don't make it. We were not short of contenders for the 2017 edition and the standard of pubs selected was particularly high. However, omission of a pub could be

because CAMRA members haven't entered enough scores to rate the beer quality. If we don't know about it, we can't consider it for the Guide.



Our 12 best real ale pubs are in the Good Beer Guide but all pubs in our branch area feature on www.whatpub.com. Anyone can supply information or updates for this website so, if you spot an error, please use the "submit update" function to let us know.

Twelve pubs in the Bae Ceredigion branch area appear in the 2017 *Good Beer Guide*. We've profiled four of them below to show the variety of pubs serving great real ale in our area.



Ship and Castle, Aberystwyth

The Ship and Castle is our real ale flagship and landlord Ian Blair received a special CAMRA award last year for his services to the local real ale scene. The handpumps offer five ales, which include rapidly-changing microbrewery guests and two Wye Valley beers, plus a real cider from Gwynt y Ddraig. As an Oakademy of Excellence, the pub can stock some of Oakham's one-off ales and there are also craft keg beers and interesting bottled beer. Customers can taste the range with a "five pump platter" of third-pint measures and enjoy even more choice during the pub's spring and autumn beer festivals.



Cadwgan, Aberaeron

The Cadwgan is a traditional single-bar pub that is popular with locals and the many visitors to the beautiful harbour town of Aberaeron. It offers three well-kept beers including Hancock's HB and two regularly changing guest ales plus bottled and occasionally draught cider. To the rear is a tranquil beer garden swathed with flowers and a popular sunny seating area is on the pavement at the front. Dogs are very welcome and the otherwise unobtrusive televisions bring in friendly crowds when major sporting events are shown. Charity events are held throughout the year and the pub sponsors the Aberaeron Beer Festival in August.



Y Talbot, Tregaron

Y Talbot was sold several years ago and, since then, it has been sensitively restored and won lots of awards for its quality food and hotel accommodation. It's also been our pub of the year, our cider pub of the year and West Wales pub of the year, and it usually offers three ales from Wales and the borders plus two or three ciders. The two front rooms boast immense character with low beams, flagstoned floors and huge fireplaces. There is also a rear bar with TV and large restaurant. Dogs are welcome in the bars and in the beautiful terraced garden with sheltered patio and views over Tregaron.



Dovey Valley Hotel, Cemmaes Road

Featuring in the Real Heritage Pubs of Wales, this Grade II listed pub is a step back in time. The bar is surrounded by a 20th century counter screen, there is an open fire and original slate floor plus a separate cosy snug and dining room. The pub was reopened a few years ago and the new landlord started to sell a real ale from a range of Welsh breweries. A second handpump may be installed in 2017 and a bag in box cider is sometimes available. This is a quiet pub with no music or TV and dogs are welcome. The pub plays its part in the local community and hosts events such as a book club and a dominoes team.

**Buy the *Good Beer Guide* from www.camra.org.uk or high street bookshops.
Download the *Good Beer Guide* app from Google Play or iTunes.**

Tristan Robinson headed to Machynlleth, the most northerly town in Bae Ceredigion CAMRA branch's area and a place rich in Welsh history. As he soon discovered, it is also blessed with plenty of great pubs serving real ale.

At the White Lion Hotel I met up with some local branch members who kindly offered to guide me around Machynlleth's pubs. This historic coaching inn is very popular with locals and visitors to the town and serves up to six different ales and a handpulled cider. We could choose from Enville's Ale or Ginger, Springhead's Robin Hood, but I chose Robinson's Wizard (an amber ale with fruity and floral notes) and Wharfe Bank Magellan (a pale ale with New Zealand hops), which was really refreshing. The pub hosts Mach Beer Fest annually on the last weekend in May and there is a popular beer garden that looks out towards the Dovey estuary.



The White Lion Hotel

We continued our ramble past the clock tower, over the pedestrian crossing, then followed the road around the corner to the Dyfi Forester Inn. Usually offering two well-kept ales, this friendly single-bar local has plenty of entertainment in the form of traditional pub games like darts, pool and dominoes. On the bar were Wye Valley HPA (a pale ale



Skinner's Arms

with citrus and tropical fruit aromas) and Box Steam Tunnel Vision (an amber ale, strong in malt and fruit flavours) and both were excellent. When you leave, take a moment to look at both sides of the pub sign, each depicts an axe and chainsaw – the tools of a forester's trade.

Retracing our steps toward the centre of town, our next stop was the Skinner's Arms. The building has been the town's off-licence and a sweet shop and has a number of architectural features like low ceilings, exposed wooden beams and an inglenook fireplace with stove. Local historic photos festoon the walls and the pub is popular for its good value meals. Banks's Bitter is regularly on the bar and, on this occasion, Marston's EPA was another option. Both were served clear and cool, with the EPA having a refreshing lemon meringue pie taste.

We then returned to the clock tower and turned left onto Heol Maengwyn. Just around the corner is Y Llew Coch (Red Lion), which is the oldest licenced premises in Machynlleth. Recently redecorated, the pub has a modern



look and atmosphere. It has a late night licence and is a regular spot for musical entertainment. This is another Marston's pub and offered Banks's Amber (a.k.a. Bitter) and Wychwood Hobgoblin. These are two nice beers, but the Hobgoblin won on flavour.

From Y Llew Coch we continued up Heol Maengwyn, past Parliament House (the site of Owain Glyndŵr's parliament in the 15th century) and crossed the road to walk through the Co-Op store's car park. Located behind the car park is the town's bowling club, which has a thriving membership, function

rooms, pub games and a bar open to guests (who need to sign in and pay 50p per visit unless a card-carrying CAMRA member). The regular ale is Hancock's HB which was in tip-top condition. I enjoyed a pint looking onto the scenic view of the hills that surround the town.

Leaving the bustling club behind, we headed back towards the clock tower. The next pub on our tour was the White Horse, an impressive black and white fronted building with two bars, pub games, jukebox and log fire. To the rear is a beer garden popular on sunny days. Inside, we had a choice of Cotleigh Sea Hawk (a golden ale with a rich honeyed taste) and Purple Moose Glaslyn (a fruity best bitter from North Wales). There is usually draught real cider in summer. The welcome inside was as good as the beers and we could have stayed longer, but there was still one more pub to visit!

Further down the street is the Wynnstay Arms Hotel, a large building with accommodation as well as many rooms for relaxing with a drink. Four handpumps adorned the bar. Two were from Wye Valley (Butty Bach and Bitter), but I chose halves of Cader Ales' Cwrw Coch (a red



The Wynnstay Arms Hotel

ale with fruit and spice notes) and Aur Cader (a hoppy golden ale). Draught Happy Daze cider was also available. I enjoyed my drinks whilst hearing tales of the hotel's history. Its original site was behind the clock tower, and Lloyd George gave speeches from its balcony to the townsfolk.

Our real ale ramble around Machynlleth was most enjoyable. Every place we visited made us very welcome and offered a good range of great quality beers. I can highly recommend a trip to this historic town which is easy to reach by bus or train from Aberystwyth.

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The Three Horseshoe is a cosy local in the historic village of Llangeitho. Cwrw Ceredigion met Jon Williams who has been the landlord since his parents bought the pub 17 years ago.



Jon Williams

Why do you think people enjoy a visit to the Three Horseshoe?

It is a really friendly pub with a nice atmosphere. Our trade is made up of locals all year round along with tourists in summer – we welcome dogs which is an attraction for many holiday-makers. Also, our food is good value and comes in good portions - our £5 Wednesday night meals are popular.

Has there been a growth in demand for real ale?

We only started selling real ale again at the end of last year. Before then, our trade had gone down and not enough people were drinking it so I had to throw a lot away. Now I stock it in pins – these are smaller than barrels so they turn over quicker and the beer keeps its condition. This means we have something different on every few days, sometimes sooner. It's great to offer a choice of real ale again – the news spread fast, which led to more trade.

What beers are the most popular on the bar? And what's your favourite?

We only stock ales from Wales and the borders. Evan Evans goes down well, especially Warrior, but Boiling Well, an amber ale from Ludlow Brewing, is my current favourite.

Do you hold any regular events at the pub?

Yes, we have built a good reputation for our events. We started with a Cowboy and Indian night last year followed by a 70s night. Then I had the idea of a music festival called Ceitho Fest in May, and we held a real ale and music festival in September. We also run darts events with big prizes and a New Year's Eve party with music and a free buffet.

What do you enjoy most about being a publican?

It is such a sociable job and I love meeting different people.

If you could run a pub anywhere in the world, where would it be and why?

Cardiff. Every time I visit the city centre, I think how dreadful the beer is and how I could be a millionaire if I could pick this pub up and put it there!

Find out more about the Three Horseshoe on Facebook or www.threehorseshoe.net

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When the chill starts to set in, what better place to enjoy a pint than by a roaring fire or cosy woodburner in a traditional pub? Here's our pick of the pubs in Ceredigion and beyond where you can do just that.

Warm up after a walk

Following a crisp winter walk in the hills around Machynlleth, head for the warmth of the White Horse where a fire crackles in the hearth and a choice of ales awaits. If you're walking the Wales Coast Path near the seaside town of Borth, stop for a well-earned pint by the fire in the characterful and cosy Friendship Inn. The historic village of Pontrhydfendigaid is surrounded by miles of footpaths, so it's good to know you can rest your weary feet by the open fire in the traditional Red Lion on a cold evening.



Red Lion, Pontrhydfendigaid

Relax after a meal

The huge fireplace at the Tynllidiart Arms in Capel Bangor is not quite big enough to be an inglenook but there's a comfy Chesterfield in front of the hearth to relax in after a meal. The flagstoned front bar at Y Talbot in Tregaron boasts a blazing open fire which is a cosy spot for a fireside pint or an after dinner drink. There's always a choice of ales plus interesting real ciders on offer at our cider pub of the year.

Woodburners to wow you

Nowadays, many pubs have followed fashion and installed a woodburner. While you can't toast your toes on them, they can add to the cosy atmosphere. A large

woodburner sits in the fireplace in the Druid Inn in Goginan and the wall above is adorned with the pub's many CAMRA awards – it has appeared in every *Good Beer Guide* since 1976.



Druid Inn, Goginan

The Glengower Hotel in Aberystwyth must lay claim to the biggest woodburner around. After being blown along the promenade, its warmth is welcome as you peruse the range of ales and ciders and enjoy the sea views in the 2016 West Wales pub of the year.



Y Talbot, Tregaron

Search for pubs with a real fire on CAMRA's free online pub directory www.whatpub.com. Please advise us of any changes to information via the "submit update" option.

Bae Ceredigion CAMRA member, Becky Vokes from Lledrod, tells us why she loves Yr Hen Orsaf in Aberystwyth.



Becky Vokes in Yr Hen Orsaf

What's the pub's history?

The building was originally part of the railway station which was extended in 1924 by the Great Western Railway. In 2001, it was refurbished and opened as a Wetherspoon pub – its name means “the old station” in Welsh. The small square windows looking into the beer garden from the seating area were once the ticket office windows and the beer garden is where passengers used to queue to buy a ticket.

Tell us about the landlord

Nick has worked for the Wetherspoon chain for five years and he has run Yr Hen Orsaf for a year and a half. Originally from Rhyl, he enjoys managing the pub and is very fond of his staff who he says make working here a very enjoyable experience. And he also loves real ale!

What real ales and ciders have been on the bar recently?

There are three regular ales - Doom Bar, Ruddles and Abbot. The four changing beers are my favourite part of a visit here as I can rely on there being something different. As well as ales from our nearest brewery, Penlon Cottage in New Quay, the choice has included unusual beer from

all over the world. There is always a real cider on hand pump and often an extra bag in box cider in the fridge. There really is a choice for everyone and Nick likes to experiment with different styles of beer whilst also supporting Welsh breweries.

Does the pub sell food? What's your favourite dish?

Yes. There is a lot of choice on the menu and different specials every day. The Thursday curry club is my favourite but, if I visit another day, I opt for the Hog Burger which is served with a drink – naturally, I go for a guest real ale!

Does the pub hold any regular events or activities?

There is a beer festival in spring and autumn, with 50 different ales from the UK and a few international beers. There is also a cider festival with 30 different ciders and a Welsh beer festival. It's worth going for the festival tasting tray of three thirds for the price of one pint so you can try lots of different beer styles.

What are the regulars like?

The pub attracts a range of people - families, tradesmen, couples, train passengers and groups of friends all come to Spoons. You can even spot a driver from the bus station next door popping in for a takeaway coffee.

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

I like sitting in the rear courtyard watching the trains come into the station. You can sometimes see steam trains from the narrow-gauge Vale of Rheidol Railway depart from the platform next to the main one.

Sum up in one sentence why your readers should visit your local?

Yr Hen Orsaf has a very nice, friendly atmosphere with good food at low prices and it serves lovely well-kept beer at all times.



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