



CAMPAIGN
FOR
REAL ALE

First Edition

Spring 2008

Price: Free

Ale in the Vale

Vale of Clwyd Branch Camra Newsletter

Welcome to the first edition of the newsletter from the Vale of Clwyd Branch of CAMRA.

We hope that this edition will be the first of many regular publications with news about the local CAMRA Branch. The news will be available to not only CAMRA members who read our website but also to those members who do not have internet access. Additional copies will be distributed in pubs in our branch area where those interested in our activities (and who might be interested to join CAMRA) can read about it and hopefully get involved.

Our branch area extends from Connah's Quay at Deeside, along the coast to Rhyl, south to the Dee Valley between Bala and Glyndyfrdwy covering major towns in Flintshire and Denbighshire including Mold, Holywell, Ruthin and Denbigh.

Our branch meetings are held every third Tuesday of the month at 8.15 pm and the list of venues and other events for the rest of the year can be found later in this newsletter. Even if you cannot attend meetings we would welcome your support, for example in selecting Good Beer Guide entries. The up-to date information on branch activities and events is always available on our website.

Twenty Years On

Vale of Clwyd CAMRA celebrates its 20th anniversary in 2008 and so it is appropriate to look back and see how the local real ale scene has changed since the formation of the branch in its current guise in 1988.

The 1988 Good Beer Guide featured 21 pubs in our area and whilst the number of pubs in the 2008 guide remains the same the profile of the entries are remarkably different. In 1988 over two-thirds of the total entries were owned by three vertically-integrated breweries running a tied estate: Greenall Whitley, Burtonwood and Marstons. Beers were available from a grand total of eight breweries, none of which were located in North Wales.

Whilst none of the original pubs in the 1988 guide is represented in the 2008 edition many, although not all, still sell real ale and at least two (Cross Foxes, Flint and Volunteer, Holywell) are closed and no longer in business. Greenalls and Burtonwood no longer survive but the choice of real ales available is vastly improved with many pubs now offering guest beers often from a North Wales brewery.

So the last 20 years has brought more real ale and a better choice although the challenges to the pub industry are probably greater now than ever before.

Vale of Clwyd Beer Festival

July 19th marks the first inter-pub Real Ale and Cider Festival in the Vale of Clwyd.

Seven Pubs on bus route 76 are organising what is hoped to be the first of many annual beer festivals. The festival starts from midday on Saturday 19th. Many different ales and ciders from micro and regional breweries including local ales will be on sale with some pubs offering quizzes, Bar-B-Q's, bar food & musical entertainment. The local public bus service 76 connecting the pub route to Denbigh and Ruthin has been increased for the day and a rover ticket is available for the price of a pint to enable visitors to move freely from one pub to the next. Just hop on the bus at either of the towns or at any of the pubs.

Programmes may be obtained either before or on the day at any of the participating pubs:

- Kinmel Arms, Llandyrnog
- Golden Lion, Llandyrnog
- White Horse, Llandyrnog
- White Horse, Henderwydd
- Golden Lion, LLangynhafal
- Griffin, Llanbedr
- Three Pigeons, Graigfechan

For more information contact Colin on 01824 790451

LocAle

If you care about your carbon footprint then consider 'beer miles' and look for local beers in your pub or off-licence. If a beer is brewed locally and sold locally then as well as helping the local economy, choosing these hand-crafted ales will result in fewer 'food miles' by travelling directly from the brewery to the pub and not from depot to depot around the country losing quality along the way. Local craft breweries operating in North Wales include:

<u>Brewery</u>	<u>Location</u>
Bragdy'r Nant	<i>Llanrwst</i>
Conwy	<i>Conwy</i>
Facer's	<i>Flint</i>
Great Orme	<i>Glan Conwy</i>
Jolly Brewer	<i>Wrexham</i>
McGiverns	<i>Wrexham</i>
North Wales	<i>Abergele</i>
Plassey	<i>Eyton</i>
Purple Moose	<i>Porthmadog</i>

www.white-horse-inn.co.uk

www.thegoldenlioninn.com

www.threepigeonsinn.co.uk

Dates for your diary:

Our branch meetings are held every third Tuesday of the month. The following venues and dates for the forthcoming few months are:

July 15 th	Sun Inn, Glyndyfydwy
Aug 19 th	Halcyon Quest, Prest'yn
Sept 16 th	Gold Cape, Mold
Oct 21 st	Queens Arms, Rhyl
Nov 18 th	Britannia Inn, Halkyn

Future Events

The Vale of Clwyd Branch has an active social calendar featuring brewery visits, trips to beer festivals etc. Check our website for up-to-date information.

Award for Outstanding Contribution to Real Ale

To coincide with the twentieth anniversary of the branch and in recognition of twenty years as licensees of the Colomendy Arms, Cadole, this unique award goes to **John and Elsie Butler**. Their delightful traditional village local on the edge of Loggerheads Country Park has remained unchanged over the years with five hand-pumps providing an ever-changing range of ales, many from local breweries.

Branch Awards 2008

Branch Pub of the Year

The branch Pub of the Year award goes to the Blue Bell, Halkyn, runner-up in 2007. Situated on Halkyn Mountain, the pub is a focal point for many community activities. Beers include a house beer from a local micro-brewery accompanied by two guest beers usually from small independent brewers.

Branch Cider Pub of the Year

This award also goes to the Blue Bell, Halkyn, which regularly serves two real ciders and a perry, including their own Rosie's Blue Bell Cider when in season.

Ist
Route 76
Vale of Clwyd
Festival of Real
Ales and Ciders
Saturday July 19th
From 12 noon

BRAGDY SIR Y FFLINT
FACER'S
FLINTSHIRE BREWERY

**FLINTSHIRE'S
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BREWERY!**

CLWYD GOLD (3.5%)

FLINTSHIRE BITTER (3.7%)

NORTHERN COUNTY (3.8%)

SUNNY BITTER (4.2%)

THIS SPLENDID ALE (4.3%)

DHB (4.3%)

LANDSLIDE (4.9%)

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CWRW CAMPUS!

May we e-mail your future branch correspondence? It would be quicker (and less costly) if we sent Branch newsletters to members by e-mail. Please e-mail the Branch Contact with your e-address and we will try to keep you posted of any events and branch activities through regular communications.

Branch Officers 2008-2009 and contact details

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The views expressed in these pages are the views of the local branch or the individual member(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views and policies of the Campaign for Real Ale.

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