

Beer Tiz



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Issue 3

Summer 2014

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CAMRA North Devon Branch



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in Exbourne
Branch Pub of the Year 2014

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Witterings of The Wizard



Welcome to the 3rd Beer 'Tiz.

I am particularly proud of our Beer 'Tiz as it got a special mention at the recent National AGM and Conference in Scarborough! I was stunned when NE member Jackie, who has a responsibility for all branch newsletters mentioned that she had noted how our branch newsletter has grown from the excellent 'CamRA Calling' single sheet newsletter to our new magazine Beer 'Tiz. I was even more proud when she also mentioned the Witterings of The Wizard as entertaining and informative. I am, understandably, extremely grateful to my lovely PA for making something readable from my rambling notes!

We are beginning to spread this magazine wider and wider, but if you know of a pub that hasn't got it then please contact any member of the Committee and we will see what we can do to rectify the situation in the future.

I feel I must explain to non-members who may read Beer 'Tiz about the geography of CamRA North Devon Branch. Back in the dim and foggy past when branches were being established the areas were set using Parish boundaries. Then postcodes came along and branches slotted into postcode areas. This has led to areas in the south of our branch, such as Okehampton, Exbourne, Follygate, Bridestowe etc. which we think of as West Devon, being put into North Devon Branch as they have a postcode of EX20. Following on I hope that this, in some way, explains why our North Devon pub of the Year 2014 is The Red Lion in Exbourne.

I was so pleased to be able to present Nick (the landlord) with his certificate on 12th April during the excellent beer festival he was hosting to raise money for the community center. The photo on the front page of the Okehampton Times was a

wonderful promotion for CamRA and Nick has done so much to raise funds for many local causes, we are proud to have his pub as our Pub Of The Year. He will now be judged by members from neighbouring branches alongside their Pubs Of The Year. Good luck Nick.

I am wittering having just returned from Scarborough, the venue for this year's National AGM and Conference. We had an excellent time and drank many great northern beers, visited many great local pubs and breweries. It was nice to travel with and spend time with Terry and Trish (former Branch Secretary and Treasurer). One interesting part of the weekend for me was calling in at the rather controversial Wetherspoons at Beaconsfield Motorway Services. Understandably there was a rather limited beer choice, but the coffee was considerably cheaper than the other national outlet just next door. It was great to see that the local Branch had put membership forms and branch newsletters on display too! You can read more about the weekend in Fiona's diary article.

The next few weeks are going to be busy with several beer related events – Devon County Show, RHS Rosemoor Beer Festival, Barum's North Devon Beer Festival and many others which you can find on the 'What's On' page and on our branch website. I hope to see you at these events.

Best wishes,

Morris
Chairman

From the Editor's Arm Chair

Get Active and Snap!

Welcome to our third edition of Beer Tiz. As Morris has said before in his Witterings Column as well as at Branch Meetings, this is your magazine and it is up to you what form it takes and what you want on its pages.

As we've said before, we've got a massive area to cover in North Devon and you, dear member, are the committee's eyes and ears on the ground. It's important for you to keep us all informed of any developments in your respective neck of the woods. Contact details can be found on page four so if you know of any changes to pub ownership or taste some particularly inspiring beer, let us know. Better still put pen to paper (aah! it's an age thing; that better read 'finger to keyboard') and write something for Beer Tiz.

Just think, your name in print and published in 2,000 copies of Beer Tiz! Even Agatha Christie had to start somewhere.

The other challenge that we face with Beer Tiz is getting it out to the pubs in our region. With the best will in the world, Bob Goddard's army of POGS cannot visit every real ale outlet in North Devon so again Mr or Mrs Member, we need your support. If you don't see Beer Tiz in your local, let us know and if you can distribute some copies around your local quaffing venues, all the better.

As Morris has said in his Witterings on page 3, Beer Tiz was mentioned at the National AGM in Scarborough so we can honestly say that we are on the radar at HQ. This is a significant achievement after just two issues but to make yet more impact, we need your help.

I have one other favour to ask of you. As we enter the period that many call 'the great British summer', the days lengthen and the light improves. If you're like me, you'll be visiting more pubs and sampling some excellent beers around our region. When you

do, can you please take your camera and take some snaps of the pubs? The Beer Tiz photographic library is sadly lacking at the moment and we need to build it up. Pictures of pubs, pub signs and jolly beer quaffers would be much appreciated.

In the meantime, best wishes to all.

Trevor

Committee Contact Information

Chairman

Morris Elsworth
fiona.ndcamra@icloud.com

Secretary

Dave Slocombe
dave@holsworthyaes.co.uk

Treasurer

Matt Collins
mattcollins250@gmail.com

Membership

Fiona Elsworth
fiona.ndcamra@icloud.com

Pubs Officer Group Coord

Bob Goddard
r.goddard911@btinternet.com

LocAle Officer

Paul Wells
Vena1100@hotmail.co.uk

Website Manager

Lee Sycamore
lee@oldmarketinn.co.uk

PRO/Beer Tiz Editor

Trevor Nash
trevor@twpltd.com

Branch Calendar

May

17th

Coach Trip to **Clearwater Brewery**,
plus visit to Ship and Pilot, Ilfracombe

22nd - 24th

Devon Country Show, Westpoint, Exeter

23rd - 26th

Music and Beer Festival, **Ship and Pilot**, Ilfracombe

25th - 26th

North Devon Beer Festival,

Pannier Market, Barnstaple

31st

Brewery Liaison Officer Seminar, Okehampton

June

6th - 8th

RHS Rosemoor Beer and Cider Festival

7th - 8th

Tom Copley Tavern Beer Festival, Spreyton

28th

Pub of the Year Finalist Presentation and Branch

Social, **Old Market Inn**, Holsworthy

28th

Holsworthy Ales Brewery Open Night

July

4th - 6th

Weir Beer Festival, Weir, Porlock

5th

Pub of the Year Finalist Presentation,

The Railway Inn, North Tawton

11th - 12th

Plymouth Beer Festival, Plymouth Pavilions

11th - 12th

Beer & Cider Festival, **Old Smithy**, Welcombe

19th - 20th

Annual Real Ale and Cider Festival,

The Grove, Kings Nympton

26th

Holsworthy Ales Brewery Open Night

August

2nd

Pub of the Year Finalist Presentation,

The Bell, Chittlehampton

12th - 16th

Great British Beer Festival, Olympia, London

22nd - 25th

Sunwest Beer & Music Festival

The Landmark Theatre, Ilfracombe

30th

Holsworthy Ales Brewery Open Night

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The Red Lion at Exbourne North Devon CAMRA Pub of the Year



On Saturday 12th April 2014, around 20 members of the North Devon CAMRA Branch travelled to Exbourne to witness the presentation of the Winner's certificate to landlord, Nick Hamlyn by Branch Chairman, Morris Elsworth.

"Ever since Morris told me last week, I haven't been able to take the grin off my face," said Nick. "It is a real honour to be recognised by CAMRA and a fantastic reward for all of us here at The Red Lion."



It was also a delight for North Devon CAMRA members and the locals as the presentation coincided with the first of The Red Lion's three annual beer festivals. Keeping it Local, Nick had 10 real ales on stillage over the weekend of 12th April, all from breweries in Devon and Cornwall. Ales included Dartmoor IPA and Legend as well as Holsworthy Ales Tamar Black.

Nick has owned the Red Lion, a proper 16th century Devon pub, for just over five years and in addition to keeping excellent ale, the pub also serves a sumptuous choice of home cooked food.

"As well as serving our thriving local customer base, we also get a lot of business from visitors to Dartmoor," said Nick. "The award of North Devon CAMRA Pub of the Year will certainly help to increase the tourist business and put us on the map."



Serving local beer is important to Nick. "All of our ales come from Devon, Cornwall or Somerset," he told Beer Tiz. "We believe that when someone comes to Devon they want to drink beer brewed in the South West and our job is to make sure that they get it!"

Well done The Red Lion and keep up the good work.



Pub Beer Festivals Round Up

The beer and cider festival season is now well underway and there have been several good ones held within our branch already.

The first of **The Red Lion** at Exbourne's three annual festivals coincided with their North Devon CAMRA Pub of the Year Presentation on Saturday 12th April. Ten real ales, all from Devon and Cornwall breweries, were featured over the weekend and a further visit on the Sunday was also enjoyed. Locally brewed Tamar Black from Holsworthy was particularly "moreish".

The following weekend it was Easter, when two more were attended. **The Clinton Arms** at Frithlestock have held regular festivals over the Easter and Late Summer bank holidays for several years now. As usual the Easter selection consisted of beers from outside of the County. This time there was a very good line up, including ales from Wickwar, Butcombe, Bath Ales, Timothy Taylor, Youngs, Greene King, Thwaites, and St Austell, together with Fuller's ESB - a rare treat!

On Easter Monday we went to **The Kings Arms** at South Zeal. Here some excellent local beers, from Dartmoor, Hanlons, Teignworthy and Hunters, were joined by Skinner's Ginger Tosser and St Austell's Proper Job. Four ciders were also featured.

The Plymouth Inn at Okehampton held their usual May festival to coincide with the Dartmoor Ten Tors Challenge. Nineteen different real ales were available here and uptake was swift! The majority of beers were from West Country breweries, including some interesting and well made choices.



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Holsworthy Ales

Brewery Focus



Holsworthy Ales, the brewery based in Clawton, has grown gradually since its formation in June 2011, now regularly serving a dozen pubs in West Devon and East Cornwall as well as guesting at pubs and clubs all over the South West.

The philosophy of Holsworthy Ales is to produce



beers which are original, interesting and above all tasty – at the same time unique to our region. Simplicity is also a watchword – only water, barley, hops and yeast are used to make the ales. The exception is the winter brew, Bee Merry, which is a honey stout and contains loads of honey!

Holsworthy is also well blessed with its water being beautifully soft and tasting good which gives a brewer a blank canvas. This avoids the need to add chemicals to the water in order to create certain beer styles that some other brewers adopt.

That approach of avoiding the use of chemicals is carried on through the brewing process at Holsworthy Ales – none of the chemicals and additives commonly used in commercial breweries are used. In particular, it is common practice for brewers to add fish guts as finings to make the beer look clear – no finings are ever used at Holsworthy Ales. If a beer is made properly there should be no need for them and, in the view of brewer, Dave Slocombe, an occasional hazy pint is better than a clear one with fish guts in it.

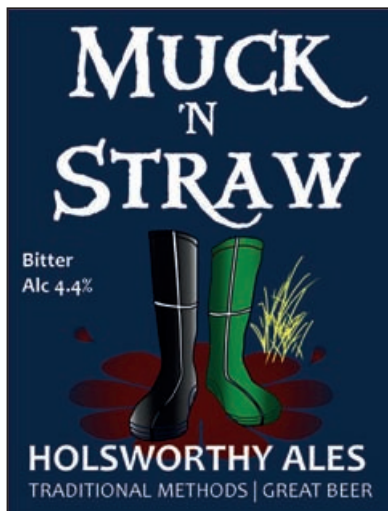
Holsworthy Ales has a brewery shop, open 2-6pm on Saturdays from Easter to October, and during December, selling the ales in bottle conditioned form with tasting sessions common. Otherwise, Dave can be called anytime for beer orders and will provide free delivery on any order over £20 within 20 miles of the brewery.

Muck 'n' Straw, Holsworthy Ales' best selling bitter is always available, together with Tamar Black (a stout), Mine's a Mild (a mild) and Sunshine (an easy drinking summer ale). Seasonal specials are also available throughout the year.



Open nights will be held at the brewery on the last Saturday of each month from April to October in 2014 - up to 100 people attended the evenings in 2013. The events, which are held from 6.30pm, are

open to anyone to try all of Holsworthy Ales on draught at £2.00/pint.



Brewer Dave, will be there to serve the beer and answer any questions about the brewery or brewing process.

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Pub News

from around the Branch



The relatively early spring and good weather over the Easter weekend attracted a healthy number of visitors to North Devon in April. Our pubs will undoubtedly have benefited from this kick-start to the season. After a difficult

winter for many, let us hope they make up some ground over the next few months. Early reports are encouraging.

Changes still continue apace, with some pubs unexpectedly re-opening while other, sometimes well run establishments, close or change hands. The promise of an upturn in the property market has led to many more pubs being openly advertised for sale in recent weeks. Sadly though, these are just the tip of the iceberg, with many more properties and leases being marketed less publicly.

One good piece of news is the re-opening of the **The Bridge Inn at Hatherleigh**. We reported in the last issue of Beer Tiz that this Enterprise Inn was closed and looking for someone to take on the lease. With a new licensee, the pub is now gaining customers with positive reviews being heard about its food and beer.

I believe it is important to recognise the reality of this situation. There are some jolly good pubs among those currently on the market, where their high standards continue to be maintained, and most probably will be until such time as they sell - if they do! Let us enjoy and support them while we can.

There were a number of changes which took place shortly after our Spring Newsletter went to print.

Among these were at **The Globe at Beaford** which closed its doors in February. This was sad as it had initially promised well under the licensee who had run it for the last year or so. It remains closed at present with no immediate prospect of re-opening.

New licensees took over at **The Golden Lion, High Bickington** at the beginning of March. This followed a short period of closure after the previous tenants suddenly relinquished their lease. Barry and Jenny Alford, the new landlord and landlady are well known locally. Early impressions are favourable and a CAMRA discount scheme is in operation. In the same area, **The Rising Sun at Umberleigh** also has new licensees (again). The rapid turnover of tenants here has been hard to keep up with in recent years, so we wish Emma and Rob every success in reviving the fortunes of and providing some stability for this attractive pub and hotel.



The Wellington Arms in Ilfracombe, an Enterprise pub, somewhat unexpectedly re-opened at the end of March after what had been thought to be a permanent closure. Three real ales are currently being offered, all at £2.40 per pint. This might have something to do with the forthcoming opening of the new **Admiral Collingwood Wetherspoons** pub just down the road. Two other long closed pubs in Ilfracombe, **The Lamb** and **The Bunch of Grapes** are reported to have recently been purchased by a local

business man with the intention of eventually re-opening them. Meanwhile the refurbishments to **The Pier Inn** are nearing completion and this should be re-opening during early May. All good news from Ilfracombe, where "Verity" seems to have had a very positive effect on the town.

The freehold of the **Ring o'Bells** in **Prixford**, which closed two years ago, has been marketed by Webbers Commercial since early February. It is now understood that if it remains unsold at the end May, then it will be put to auction in June. The Community Group, on the basis of an independent valuation, submitted an offer of £275,000 for the property late last year. This was rejected at the time, with a figure of £350,000 being sought by the current owners. It will be interesting to see what happens now.

In Westward Ho! **The Westward Arms** has new owners, who have changed its name to **Blue and Green**. Although the emphasis is now on food, four real ales are being kept, including three from local Clearwater Brewery. In the same area, we have heard good reports on **The Instow Arms**, at **Instow**.

The Grampus Inn at **Lee** began producing its own beer in April. A brand new 5 barrel plant in an adjacent purpose-built building has been set up. Grampus Ale at 4.1% is now available in the pub.

Bob Goddard

Pubs Officer Group Coordinator

Roll up, Roll up, to Britain's Biggest Pub **The Great British Beer Festival** Olympia, London 12th - 16th August 2014

CAMRA's Great British Beer Festival (GBBF) will be bringing a carnival atmosphere to London's Olympia exhibition centre this summer with an extravagant circus theme complete with live-action circus performers.

But fantastic beer will of course remain the star of the show, with over 350 different breweries offering 900 different real ales, ciders, perries and international beers to over 50,000 thirsty beer lovers throughout the week-long event.

The festival will feature 29 bars including 11 brewery bars run by the Nation's biggest and best brewers of real ale, plus food and merchandise stalls as well as a full schedule of entertainment on the GBBF music stage.

The event is set to be one the biggest and best Great British Beer Festival's ever, so don't miss out

on your place at the festival and buy a ticket now via www.gbbf.org.uk/tickets.



Dear Diary

Members' Weekend, AGM and Conference Diary by Fiona agedold enough to know better, too old to care!

Dear Diary,

Arrived in Scarborough after an interesting journey. Started well then found our first traffic jam on the M25. Later there was news of the M1 being shut so intrepid map- reader, Trish, devised an alternate route via The Hope And Champion, the new Wetherspoons, on the M40! Good to see CamRA membership forms on display here.

Arrived in Scarborough. Spotted the Chairman of Scarborough branch in The Lord Rosebury, twitching and anxious. Several old friends also seen in various pubs.

Didn't find the grave of Anne Bronte but I did find the blue plaque telling me where she lived.

Note to self - learn how to read map.

Dear Diary,

Thursday a steam train ride for fish and chips at Whitby. The steam train made Morris a happy chairman. We stopped off at Goathland and found ourselves transported in memory to Adensfield. (Heartbeat location). The interior of the pub is identical! Carrying on to Whitby the sea mist had come in and we couldn't see a thing. We found The Quayside fish and chip restaurant where Terry, Trish and I had the best fish and chips ever, served with bread and butter and a pot of tea, while Morris had a crab salad. Ice creams were indulged in, then a ride on an open-topped bus. The draculaic scenery was stunning in the mist, especially the old abbey that loomed up before us. A cheeky pint in The Angel then back on the steam train to return to Scarborough. This evening we visited the North Riding Brewpub, then met up with lots of friends at The Cask.

Note to self - well done on buying a pair of Whitby jet earrings.

Dear Diary,

Today it rained. A drive to Filey, said to have a beautiful beach, was disappointing, as we couldn't see the sea. So back to Scarborough.

Note to self - thank chef James Martin for making the Restaurant at Scarborough Hospital worth visiting just for lunch.

Disappointed that the rain prevented us from joining Abi on the beach to sculpt the CamRA logo in the sand. Strolled down to The Spa for registration and members

bar then off on a coach to York to visit Treboom brewery and the Dawney Arms. Lovely evening with interesting c o m p a n y chatting with members from

London, Kent and the midlands.

Note to self - must taste the bog myrtle beer called Myricale, brewed by Treboom.

Dear Diary,

AGM day! Special resolution passed. Then on to motions. Very interesting discussions. These will be reported in What's Brewing so I don't have to remember them.

Interesting bits of conference - presentation to organizers of Kent beer festival, which

has been running for 40 years! Presentation for website of the year to Cardiff.

Note to self - have a look at their website.

Goodbye to Mike Benner. All very sad, but he is going to SIBA.

Campaigner of the year award to the developers of WhatPub? Well deserved in my opinion.

Colin's address to members included points about beer and wine being healthy. Also made the point that walking to the pub, having a couple of pints with friends to talk to is good for your physical and emotional health. Well said Chairman!

New members website presentation at lunchtime. Very interesting. A group of us will be developing it for launch to branches in a few months and then to all members by September! Fingers crossed.

Seminar re: motivation and activation of members. Didn't come away with any new ideas but smugly, I had the feeling that I am doing ok. Also made useful contacts.

Note to self - contact Jay at HQ for support.

Lovely Chinese meal then back to the members' bar -



so many beers, so little time. Had a half of Myricale - very interesting, different and tasty. What a pity the tasting notes for the beers was such a shambles I might have been tempted to try more.

Dear Diary,

Sunday already. Late start. Lots of bleary eyes this morning. Business was soon underway. Presentations for membership campaigners. Also presentation for newsletter of the year - can't remember who this went to as I was too excited about Beer 'Tiz getting special recognition as a great development from our small but lovely beginnings as CamRA Calling and the special mention for the Witterings of the Wizard! Wow what an achievement! I thought Morris was going to burst with pride for his branch.

The morning business completed so back to the members bar. By mid afternoon the bar had been

drunk dry - 70 odd barrels emptied plus, shortly afterwards, all five ciders gone, so there was nothing left to do but go for a ride on the open-topped bus along the sea front, take a trip up the cliff tramway and settle down in the bar for a snug evening in while it poured with rain outside. Terry and Morris ventured up to the Scholars' for a lengthy nightcap while Trish and I settled for an early night. Apparently there was a 'second conference' up at The Scholars' with so many members and NE members enjoying a final pint (or two!).

Dear diary, on our way home south with many happy memories and looking forward to Nottingham next April 17th - 19th. It's only a 4-hour drive too.

Note to self - book hotel!

Branch Pub Crawl Bideford Ahoy!

As only my second foray in to the world of CAMRA, the first being the branch social at the Reform in February, I was pleasantly surprised to be asked to write up the pub crawl in Bideford that was organized by Matt Collins.

I feel I should start off by thanking Matt for an excellent day out and a good choice of Real Ale pubs. So good, in fact, that my memory of the day is still a little hazy! The wife and I, running late, unfortunately missed the tour of Clearwater Brewery, and joined the group at the **Thatched Inn, Abbotsham**, for lunch and a glass of the aptly named Abbotsham Ale (Otter Amber and Yelland Manor Standard were also available).

Following a taxi ride in to town, we paid a visit to the **White Hart**, a good old-fashioned pub with a tile floor, coat hooks on the bar and Holsworthy Ales' Bizzy Buzzy on the pumps. After this it was on to the **King's Arms** on the Quay. Sadly, in the gastro-pub era, the drinking areas of pubs are frequently reduced to make room for more profitable diners.

a lengthy bar holds six cask ales, including two from local brewery Country Life. After filling up on Hobgoblin, we ambled up the hill (apparently the budget wouldn't stretch to a taxi for this leg!) to the **Portobello Arms**, just in time to join in the Grand National sweepstake. After a swift couple (Otter Bitter and Buttcombe Bitter) in the **Portobello** we moved on to the **Appledore Inn**, where we refuelled on prawn crackers and sweet chili sauce (an interesting take on Tasty Bar Snacks!), and continued our lively debate about Life, the Universe and Everything whilst enjoying Exmoor Gold, Jollyboat-Grenvilles Renown and Sharp's Own.

It was around this time that, for myself and Mrs A, the money began to run out, stomachs began to rumble and a full day of drinking began to take its toll. So it was off to spend Mrs A's Grand National winnings on a chippy tea followed by a short ride on the 21A back to Barnstaple. Thank you Matt for your stewardship, and thanks to everyone who came for your lively and entertaining company. The only question that remains is... where to next???

This is not the case at the King's Arms, where

Zack Adlington



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www.theredlionexbourne.co.uk



Westleigh Inn

Westleigh, Nr Bideford. EX39 4NL



Tel: 01271 860867

Email: info@thewestleighinn.co.uk

www.thewestleighinn.co.uk



The Bell Inn

Chittlehampton

North Devon Pub of the Year 2013

4 Real Ales on Handpull, plus 6 - 8 on Stillage

Top Quality Food at great prices with individually prepared meals using only local butchers and fresh farm produce.



Shove Ha'Penny, Skittle Alley, Pool and Darts!
Smoking Area Available + Free Internet Access

Opening Hours

Monday - Thursday - 11am - 3pm & 6pm - closing

Fri, Sat, Sun & Bank Holidays - Open All Day

Food Served - 12pm - 2pm & 6pm - 9pm

(6pm - 8.30pm Sundays)

Tel: 01769 540368

Chittlehampton, Umberleigh, North Devon. EX37 9QL



The Ship & Pilot Inn

North Devon
Pub of the Year
Cider & Perry
Winner 2014

6 Real Ales &
16 Real Ciders



01271 863562

10 Broad Street, Ilfracombe. EX34 9EE



Home of the Wizard Brewing Co.



Alfresco dining



Farm (or boat) to plate
from our all day grill menu



Views of Verity and the harbour
from our outside seating area



Open daily from 9.30 for tea,
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Independently owned and family run



The Tier

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