



Cwrw ²⁰²³ Ceredigion



Pub & brewery news ♦ Pub guide ♦ CAMRA events



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Mantle beers**

The free magazine of Bae Ceredigion CAMRA



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Bae Ceredigion CAMRA Cider Pub of the Year 2022

Bae Ceredigion CAMRA

The Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA) is a consumer organisation. 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.

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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.

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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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. If you feel you have been treated unfairly in a pub, contact Trading Standards or see www.tradingstandards.wales.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 14, April 2023

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

Front cover: Domi and Ian Kimber, Mantle Brewery



Local members in the Ship & Castle

Welcome to the 2023 edition of Cwrw Ceredigion which is produced by the Bae Ceredigion branch of the Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA).

Many CAMRA branches used to publish a similar magazine to Cwrw Ceredigion. However, the number of CAMRA magazines has fallen considerably over recent years and we are the only Welsh branch that still produces one. Local members work hard to put this magazine together to help promote our local pubs and breweries and to raise the profile of CAMRA.

Our pub of the year award is another way we showcase the best of our local pubs. I'd like to congratulate this year's winner the Rhos yr Hafod and thank the local CAMRA members who helped shortlist and judge the finalists. These pubs really do offer something for everyone – go to page 4 to find out more about them and about the winner of our cider pub of the year award.

If you are a visitor reading this magazine, I hope the pub guide on pages 11 to 15 and the advertisements inspire you to enjoy local ale in some of the pubs in this beautiful part of West Wales.

If you'd like to get involved in Bae Ceredigion CAMRA or suggest an idea for a future feature in this magazine please do get in touch, and don't forget to follow us on Facebook to keep up-to-date with the local real ale scene.

lechydd da!

Mary Galliers, Editor

PUB OF THE YEAR

The Rhos yr Hafod in Cross Inn (Llanon) is the Bae Ceredigion CAMRA pub of the year.



Publicans Angharad Hywel and Paul Jacobs were presented with the award by Bae Ceredigion Chair Mary Galliers in front of an enthusiastic crowd of locals.

"This is the third time that the Rhos yr Hafod has won our pub of the year award," said Mary. "This is an outstanding achievement for a small pub in a very rural location and demonstrates Angharad and Paul's commitment to running a truly excellent real ale pub."

Every year local CAMRA members have the opportunity to nominate a pub for the pub of the year award. The pubs that receive the most nominations are then visited anonymously by committee members on different occasions over a few weeks. The committee judges evaluate the shortlisted pubs against CAMRA's pub of the year criteria which include the quality of real ale; how well beer is promoted; the role a pub plays in its local community; the atmosphere and décor; and the welcome.

The range of real ale at the Rhos yr Hafod is constantly changing but the two hand pumps usually offer beer from Welsh breweries. Angharad is knowledgeable and enthusiastic about the real ale on offer and a jaunty display of pump clips adorns the bar to promote the barrels waiting in the cellar.

There are several drinking areas including a lively front bar, a quieter back bar to relax in, a function room, a large rear garden and a sunny front terrace.

The pub hosts regular board games nights, quizzes, open mic nights, folk music sessions and a summer beer and music festival. It is also the base for a monthly community café which is run by local residents.

"Judges particularly praised the support that the Rhos yr Hafod gives to, and receives from, its local community," added Mary. "The pub is a true asset to the community and it offers a warm welcome to all."

Ship and Castle is runner-up

Last year's winner, the Ship and Castle in Aberystwyth, was just pipped to the post this year and is the runner-up.

The Ship and Castle offers a wide range of cask ales from many different British breweries, some of which are never available elsewhere locally, along with an interesting choice of quality keg beer and draught Welsh cider.

The "five pump platter" allows drinkers to sample a third pint measure of each of the five cask ales, one of which is normally a dark style.

This comfortable pub has a choice of seating areas and regulars mingle happily with visitors. The pub hosts live music and a weekly folk music session, and is a popular and friendly spot to watch Wales's rugby matches.



PUB OF THE YEAR



Bottle & Barrel

Bottle & Barrel makes final three

The Bottle & Barrel in Aberystwyth was the other finalist in the competition.

This modern beer bar offers an ever-changing choice of quality keg beers and a couple of cask ales, many of which are produced in Wales. The range features different and unusual beer styles and these are clearly promoted on a screen behind the bar.

The friendly and knowledgeable bar staff will chat through the different styles and offer tasters, and a beer flight lets you order four smaller measures of the keg and cask beers. The onsite bottle and can shop sells a huge range of beer and cider to drink on the premises or take away, and you can buy take-outs of draught beer.

The décor is contemporary with a choice of seating from armchairs to high stools, and a rear courtyard. Regular events include “meet the brewer”, “tap takeovers” and themed food nights when local businesses supply the food.

West Wales pub of the year

The Rhos yr Hafod will now go up against the winning pubs from Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire in the competition for CAMRA West Wales pub of the year. The winner of that award will then be a finalist in the Wales pub of the year competition.

“I would like to thank all the local CAMRA members who got involved in our pub of the year competition – voting in the survey and travelling to pubs to judge them,” said Mary. “I encourage you to visit our three finalists for yourself and see if you agree with the judges’ verdict.”

Bottle & Barrel claims cider crown

Bae Ceredigion CAMRA Cider Officer Ruth Waters has presented our cider pub of the year award to landlord Zac Marsden at the Bottle & Barrel in Aberystwyth.

This town-centre bar offers two regularly changing ciders from a bag in box, usually from Welsh cidermakers.

It also sells a huge range of bottled real cider to drink on the premises or to take away.

“The Bottle & Barrel has built up an excellent reputation for specialising in Welsh products since opening in 2019,” said Ruth.



Bottle & Barrel

“This award recognises the effort that Zac puts into sourcing interesting real cider to complement the wide range of beer on offer here.”

The runner-up was the Slater’s Arms in Corris.



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Cross Inn (Llanon)



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Aberaeron pub reopens its doors



Having been closed for over three years due to the death of the former landlord, the Black Lion in Aberaeron was purchased by Jeremy Davis in March 2022. Jeremy renovated this traditional pub's bar and lounge areas and reopened in July 2022.

The Black Lion is dog-friendly and has an open fire and beer garden. It serves one cask ale and basket meals in the bar. It is a popular spot to watch sport with three large TVs with surround sound.

Since opening, Jeremy has completely refurbished the first floor restaurant and this opened in the spring. The restaurant has views over the town square which is home to sports matches and community events, and it offers locally sourced home-cooked food and Sunday lunches. The restaurant can also be hired as a function room.

Beer in brief

The Vale of Aeron, Ystrad Aeron has had a very busy first year of operation since reopening in May 2022 after a successful community fundraising campaign. Since then, the pub has always had a real ale from a Welsh brewery on offer and the volunteer team have organised a packed events programme. Regular events include pool tournaments, chess nights, Cwrw a Clonc for Welsh learners, darts and quizzes. Their one-off events have featured a very popular summer beer festival, the first escape room in Welsh and a Welsh language drama festival.

The Red Lion, Ffosyffin which had been closed and uninhabited for two years has been bought by Annette and Mark Edwards. The couple spent five months renovating the living quarters above this 200 year old pub before turning their attention to the downstairs to create new toilets and an outdoor seating area, and refit the cellar. They plan to offer a guest ale and home-cooked food when they open their doors in the summer.

Y Llew Coch, Machynlleth has reopened under a new manager and normally serves one real ale.

Cardigan Brewery's brewery tap will be fully open this year after extensive renovation of the former Brynhoffnant Arms pub on the A487 between Aberaeron and Cardigan. Now known as the Bryn a'r Bragdy, the pub sells beers from Cardigan Brewery's two brands. Their more innovative ales are brewed under the Crafty Dai brand and are available in cask, keg and bottle. The Penlon range is only available in bottle and consists of more traditional ales. Food is also on offer and there are great views from the garden and covered outside seating area.

Bluestone Brewery, just over the border near Newport in Pembrokeshire, has won the Society of Independent Brewers Award for Sustainable Business. The award recognises breweries which are taking the ethics of environmental awareness and sustainable business operation beyond the norm.



Bluestone Brewery

The Bae Ceredigion branch of CAMRA does not organise a beer festival but there are festivals in local pubs and further afield where you can enjoy good beer and real cider.



Lampeter Beer Festival

February saw a welcome return for the Lampeter Beer Festival which took place on the town's university campus for the first time since the pandemic. The range and quality of beer was excellent and we're already looking forward to the 2024 event!

Llanfair Clydogau Beer Festival

This friendly event takes place on Friday 26 May (6pm to 11.30pm) and Saturday 27 May (2pm to 11.30pm) in Llanfair Clydogau near Lampeter. It will offer a small range of real ales, basic refreshments and a BBQ at 5.30pm on Saturday.

Aberaeron Beer and Cider Festival

The Aberaeron Beer and Cider Festival will take place on Saturday 12 August from midday at the Yacht Club on the seafront. Up to 15 beers and 12 real ciders from Wales and the Borders will be on offer. Sample the range with a tray of three one third pints or buy a carry-out to enjoy at home. There will also be live music and food from the club's onsite restaurant.

Beer festivals in local pubs

Beer festivals take place in the White Lion, Machynlleth (May), the Rhos yr Hafod, Cross Inn (August) and Yr Hen Orsaf, Aberystwyth (various Wetherspoons beer festivals throughout the year).

Keep an eye out for beer festivals in the Vale of Aeron, Ystrad Aeron and the Pentre Arms, Llangrannog.

Beer festivals further afield

The **Carmarthen CAMRA beer festival** runs from 5 to 7 October in St Peter's Civic Hall, Carmarthen.

The **Swansea Bay CAMRA Beer and Cider Festival** takes place from 31 August to 2 September in Brangwyn Hall, Swansea.

The **Welshpool and Llanfair Light Railway Beer and Cider Festival** takes place on 22 and 23 July at Welshpool Raven Square Station, a short walk from the town's mainline station and bus station. It will offer 10 beers and two ciders, and there will be live music on Saturday.

Great British Beer Festival

Dating back to 1977, CAMRA's Great British Beer Festival is one of the biggest, most exciting and well-known annual events in the beer and cider world. This year it takes place from 1 to 5 August at Olympia in London.



Staffed by thousands of beer loving volunteers, the festival brings together hundreds of UK beers, international beers, real ciders and perries under one roof. There is also a varied selection of street food, live music, traditional pub games and beer merchandise.

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.

TEN YEARS OF MANTLE BEERS

Established in 2013, family-run Mantle Brewery celebrates ten years of brewing this year.

Situated on an industrial estate in Cardigan, Mantle Brewery is a perfect blend of modern facilities, traditional brewing techniques and natural ingredients.

The brewery is the brainchild of former engineer and local man Ian Kimber and his wife Domi whose mission was to brew a range of quality ales that remind you what beer should taste like. Brewing started on the ten barrel plant in August 2013 and the first barrel (Cwrw Teifi, a 4.5% best bitter) went straight to the nearest pub, the Eagle Inn, on September 1st.

Since then, Mantle has expanded both its team and its equipment but the same amount of care and attention is given to every step of the brewing process by head brewer Ian and Adam, Aled, Owen and Will.

Brewery name

Ian came up with the brewery's name whilst stirring his home brew and imagining that the pot was the earth's crust and the liquid boiling inside was the mantle from the earth's molten belly. Somewhat appropriately, the brewery's best seller MOHO (4.3% pale ale) is named after the boundary between the earth's mantle and its crust.

Malt, hops and yeast

Ian pays careful attention to the malt and hops he buys; he inspects the hops at the wholesaler every season to select the best and then adjusts the amount he uses according to each crop's characteristics.



Photo by: Tinman Photography

The brewery has its own Mantle yeast strain and yeast cells are also stored offsite at a specialist yeast bank. As yeast characteristics can drift over time and not deliver the same results, Ian obtains a new culture of Mantle yeast every couple of years from the bank.

Award winning ales

Mantle's main target market is West Wales and most of their output is sold directly to pubs in casks and kegs. It is also available in bottles in many local shops and restaurants.

After less than a year of brewing, Mantle won a SIBA (Society of Independent Brewers) award for Dark Heart (5.2% porter). Since then, they have regularly received SIBA and CAMRA awards, and Dis-Mantle (5.8% deep amber ale) was included in the CAMRA book World's Greatest Beers published in 2022.

Get your hands on the beer

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

Mantle's core beer range

Rock Steady: 3.8% traditional golden bitter

MOHO: 4.3% pale ale with American hops

Cwrw Teifi: 4.5% malt-driven best bitter with British and European hops

Hoodwinked: 5% top fermented premium lager style beer with classic German lager hops

Dark Heart: 5.2% porter with two British hop varieties and a subtle spiced edge

Dis-Mantle: 5.8% deep amber ale with a combination of British and East European hops

Continental Drifter: 6.5% Continental style amber beer

Congratulations to Ian, Domi and the team on their tenth anniversary – the local real ale scene would be a much poorer place without their range of consistently excellent beer.

The Black Lion

Llanbadarn Fawr



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The White Lion

Machynlleth

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This pub guide showcases the variety of pubs in the Bae Ceredigion CAMRA branch area.

Our branch area goes from Aberporth near Cardigan to Corris in Gwynedd and limited space means we cannot include every pub in this feature. We have therefore reviewed recent feedback from CAMRA members to compile a list of pubs where they have enjoyed a good pint recently.

Information was correct to the best of our knowledge at the time of going to press but do check any details important to you before you set off.

More information about these pubs and all the others in our area can be found on CAMRA's online pub directory www.whatpub.com. If you spot anything wrong or missing in a pub entry on this website, please tell us via the "update details" function.

If you are a CAMRA member, please score your beer – we consider all scores when we select pubs for the annual Good Beer Guide.

Pubs that appear in the 2023 edition of CAMRA's Good Beer Guide are highlighted in orange.

Aberystwyth area

Aberystwyth – Bottle & Barrel:

Contemporary beer bar and bottle shop with various seating areas and small rear garden. Bring in your own food or order it from the fish bar opposite. A dozen keg lines, two cask ales, real cider and mead, with a focus on Welsh producers. Huge range of bottled and canned beers and ciders. Bae Ceredigion CAMRA Pub of the Year 2023 finalist.

Aberystwyth – Bank Vault: Craft beer bar and live music venue opened in 2022 by owner of the Bottle & Barrel. Frequent and varied programme of live music and other events. Nine keg beers, bag in box still cider and range of canned and bottled beer and cider.



Bank Vault

Aberystwyth – Glengower: Large seafront pub and hotel with coastal views. Front terrace and various drinking and dining areas. Pub classics, light meals and seasonal specials, often featuring locally-caught seafood. Up to five real ales, usually including Mantle, and cider from Gwynt y Ddraig and Lilleys.

Aberystwyth – Yr Hen Orsaf: Wetherspoons pub in former railway station building with rear outdoor seating area on old station concourse. Trains, buses and taxis all adjacent. Up to six real ales, often featuring Welsh breweries.

Aberystwyth – Rummors Bar: Characterful harbourside building with bar and restaurant. Live music most weekends. Changing selection of Welsh real ale.

Aberystwyth – Ship and Castle:

Long-established real ale pub with main bar and lower level seating area. Popular spot to watch Wales's rugby matches, occasional live music and other events. Five ever-changing cask beers from huge range of breweries usually include a dark ale, range of keg beer and Gwynt y Ddraig cider. Bae Ceredigion CAMRA Pub of the Year 2023 runner-up.

Aberystwyth – Starling Cloud: Marston's pub and hotel, popular with families. Outside seating and children's play area. Up to three Marston's cask ales.

Aberystwyth – Tŷ Seidr: Friendly town centre bar (formally known as Kane's) specialising in cider, with a range of ever-changing still ciders from producers not stocked elsewhere locally. Keg cider and selection of canned craft beer.



White Horse

Aberystwyth – White Horse: Busy pub, popular with students and locals, serving good value food all day. Seating on two levels. Up to five Welsh real ales and three Lilley's ciders.

Bow Street – Rhydpennau Inn: Recently refurbished pub restaurant, a few miles from Aberystwyth. Bar, dining areas, heated outside seating area, and children's play area. Up to two cask ales.

Capel Bangor – Tafarn y Maes: Country pub five miles from Aberystwyth on the A44. Modern bar, cosy restaurant with open fire and outside seating. Varied menu and one real ale.

Goginan – Druid Inn: Cosy, traditional pub seven miles east of Aberystwyth on the A44. Live music, quizzes and charity events. Bar meals and Sunday lunches. Three real ales often from Welsh breweries.

Llanbadarn Fawr – Black Lion: Recently refurbished pub on outskirts of Aberystwyth. Main bar, large function room, outside decking area and secluded garden overlooking ancient church. Quiz nights and other entertainment. Up to three changing real ales.

Llanfihangel-y-Creuddyn – Y Ffarmers: Country dining pub in historic village seven miles from Aberystwyth. Cosy bar, dining area and large, covered outside seating. Imaginative menu featuring local seasonal produce. Range of changing cask ale and cider.

Pisgah – Halfway Inn: Easy to find on A4120, halfway between Aberystwyth and Devil's Bridge. Cosy bar with flagstone floor and dining room. Large and beautifully fitted-out outside seating area with far-reaching views. Good value food. Two real ales usually from Monty's.

Ponterwyd – George Borrow Hotel:

Family-run, friendly 17th century hotel with spectacular views of Cambrian Mountains from beer garden. Cosy bar with open fire. Food including popular Sunday carvery. Usually one real ale.

Tal-y-bont – White Lion: Community 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 real ales.



White Lion

Tre'r Ddol – Wildfowler Inn: Roadside food-led pub offering up to two changing real ales from national breweries. Bar with open fire, live music and other events.

Along the coast

Aberaeron – Black Lion: Renovated and reopened in summer 2022 by new owner. Bar with open fire, lounge and beer garden. Home-cooked food and Sunday lunches in first floor restaurant with views over the town square. One real ale.

Aberaeron – Cadwgan: One-room, traditional freehouse adorned with rugby memorabilia offering friendly welcome for locals and visitors. Sun-trap seating area at front. Occasional live music and events. Three ever-changing real ales from a wide range of breweries.

Aberaeron – Harbourmaster: Boutique hotel, restaurant and bar, often busy inside with diners. Menu showcases local fish, meat and cheese. Outside seating area overlooking harbour. Two cask ales and range of craft keg beer, with focus on Welsh breweries.

Aberaeron – Y Seler: Former Brains pub, transformed into a stylish bar as an extension of the adjacent Cellar Restaurant. Two bars, restaurant, accommodation and imaginative menu using seasonal and locally sourced produce. Two cask ales, usually from Welsh breweries.



Y Seler

Aberporth – Ship Inn: Traditional bar with nautical décor and additional dining rooms with sea views in popular village. Lunch and evening meals. Up to three real ales, often from Welsh breweries.

Borth – Railway Inn: Friendly pub with bar, restaurant and beer garden. Good value food. Live music and other entertainment. Up to three real ales.



Victoria Inn

Borth – Victoria Inn: Beachside pub with two bars and dining room. Beach decking and upstairs terrace with views of Cardigan Bay. Food lunchtime and evenings. Up to four real ales, some from Welsh breweries.

Brynhoffnant - Y Bryn a'r Bragdy: Former Brynhoffnant Inn, now the home and brewery tap for the Cardigan Brewery. Large outside seating area with views of Cardigan Bay. Food includes wood-fired pizzas. Range of Cardigan Brewery cask, keg and bottled beer.

Cross Inn (New Quay) – Penrhiwgaled Arms: Large friendly village pub popular with holiday-makers from local campsites. Bar, dining room and beer garden with play area. Meals served. One real ale.

Llangrannog – Pentre Arms: Freehouse right next to the beach with dramatic sea views from large window in the cosy bar. Accommodation and good value menu offering full meals and snacks. Up to three real ales, usually from Welsh breweries, often Bluestone and Mantle.

Llangrannog – Ship Inn: Stylish bar and restaurant with large front patio. Live music. Food includes Sunday roast. Up to four real ales, usually including Mantle.



Ship Inn

Llanon – White Swan: Refurbished multi-roomed pub. Good value food in generous portions. Regular live music. Real ale during busier months.

New Quay – Black Lion Hotel: Pub and hotel with Dylan Thomas connections. Main bar and dining room. Garden with far-reaching coastal views and play area. Hearty portions of quality pub food. Up to three real ales, usually from Welsh breweries.

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New Quay – Penwig Hotel: Large seafront pub with front terrace overlooking Cardigan Bay. Menu features grills, pub classics and meal deals. Up to three cask ales from Brains or Marston's.

New Quay – Sea Horse Inn: Friendly, cosy one room pub with suntrap patio. Popular quiz and live music nights. Two real ales from Evan Evans.



Sea Horse Inn

Tresaith – Ship Inn: Food-led pub with special offer menus served in open-plan bar and restaurant. Beer garden with stunning sea views. Up to three cask ales from Brains or Marston's.

Machynlleth area

Ceinws – Tafarn Dwynant: Friendly freehouse in a quiet village just off A487 with cosy bar and front patio. Two changing ales, often from a Welsh brewery.

Cemmaes Road – Dovey Valley Hotel: Grade II listed pub on CAMRA's national inventory of historic pub interiors. Cosy front bar and several other beautifully furnished rooms. Beer garden with country views. Two regularly changing Welsh real ales.

Corris – Slater's Arms: Grade II listed freehouse near Corris Light Railway. Bar with slate flooring and inglenook fireplace. Accommodation. Good value evening meals and Sunday lunch. Occasional live music. Three ever-changing real ales (try them all on a third pint platter). Two Welsh real ciders.



Dovey Valley Hotel

Derwenlas – Black Lion Inn: Food-led 16th century freehouse on A487 just outside Machynlleth. Cosy bar with open fire. Garden and outdoor seating. One changing real ale.

Machynlleth – Skinners Arms: Traditional pub with lounge, cosy public bar and sun-trap garden. Food served until early evening. Sunday lunches. Two Marston's cask ales.

Machynlleth – White Horse: Freehouse with log fire and beer garden. Up to two real ales, often Mantle.



White Lion

Machynlleth – White Lion: Large coaching inn with bar areas, accommodation and rear garden with rural views. Extensive menu of pub classics. Spring Bank Holiday beer festival. Up to five ever-changing cask ales.

Machynlleth – Wynnstay: Large town centre inn with cosy bar, restaurant, lounge and rear terrace. Accommodation and quality food with focus on local ingredients. Extensive Italian wine list. Up to three Welsh real ales, often including Cader Ales.

Tregaron area

Cross Inn (Llanon) – Rhos yr Hafod:

Friendly village pub with cosy drinking areas around central bar and rear garden. Occasional live music, varied events and summer beer festival. Two constantly changing real ales from Welsh breweries. Bae Ceredigion CAMRA Pub of the Year 2023.

Devil's Bridge – Hafod Hotel: Stylish bar, brasserie and hotel opposite famous waterfalls. Locally sourced food, seasonally changing menu. Up to two real ales.

Llanddewi Brefi – New Inn: Traditional pub with flagstoned floor, real fire and snug in an historic village. Food available. Mantle beers served from polypins - see pump clips on the wall for what's on.

Llangeitho – Three Horseshoe Inn:

Family-run village freehouse with main bar, dining room and large undercover outside drinking area. Excellent value evening meals and Sunday lunch. Monthly open mic night, quizzes and other events. Two real ales often from Wye Valley and Evan Evans.



Tregaron – Talbot: Heritage pub and hotel with restaurant, bars and open fire. Large, landscaped garden. Quality food with focus on local produce. Up to three changing real ales from Wales and the Borders and real cider.

Ystrad Aeron – Vale of Aeron: Reopened in 2022 after a community fundraising campaign and run by local volunteers. Varied events programme. One real ale from a Welsh brewery and range of Welsh bottled ale and cider.

For more information about these pubs and all the others in our area go to CAMRA's online pub directory www.whatpub.com.

Please help CAMRA by scoring your beer

If you are a CAMRA member, scoring the beer you drink in a pub is a quick and easy way for you to promote good beer and the pubs that sell it.

To score your beer, use the simple "marks out of 5" system on CAMRA's www.whatpub.com website or the Good Beer Guide app.

Every score gives the local CAMRA branch information about the quality of beer served in the pubs in its branch area.

The Bae Ceredigion CAMRA committee reviews beer scores regularly and we consider all scores when we select pubs to include in the Good Beer Guide.



Tafarn y Cadwgan

Aberaeron



Traditional atmosphere
Three changing real ales
Dog friendly
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Cwrw Ceredigion met Ann Raeburn who owns and runs The Halfway Inn at Pysgah with her husband Stuart.

How long have you owned The Halfway Inn?

Since late 2017. The pub was closed when we bought it and we reopened in summer 2018 after a refurbishment.

What did you do before taking on this pub?

I am local to the village and, as a youngster, I worked in the pub for a number of years. Stuart used to work in a family-run business but he became full time in the Halfway in early 2022.

What do you enjoy most about being a publican?

Meeting different people, seeing them leave the pub happy and then seeing them return some days later. I recall working here years ago when the pub was served by a double decker bus that brought students up from Aberystwyth and then took them back later. Nowadays I serve some of those same people who bring their families and children to visit Aberystwyth.

Who comes to the pub and who are your locals?

The Halfway has two local faces. People from the village and the surrounding area use it as a pub – a place for drinking, playing darts, catching up with neighbours or holding family parties, weddings or wakes. Our other regulars come from five miles down the road and use the pub as a destination – a place for a meal or to relax with a drink and watch the sunset. In the summer we also have regular visitors from the campsites nearby.

Why do you think people enjoy a visit to the Halfway Inn?

The beer is good, the food is good and there is no rush from the staff. People come in for a drink or a meal and end up staying for hours, meeting friends old and new.



Ann and Stuart Raeburn

Do you hold any regular events?

We did have events here before Covid and we might revive some of them later this year. We have a large car park and all sorts of events have taken place here like treasure hunts, agricultural auctions and Young Farmers events.

Have you changed anything in the pub recently?

During lockdown we created an outdoor seating area for about 40 people and then we recently added a beautiful gazebo which seats 60 or so. We have a few more ideas but we need to see how the year progresses.

Has there been a growth in demand for real ale?

Yes. When we first opened a number of people switched from keg lager to real ale and they still drink the ale!

Which beers are the most popular?

We are supplied by Monty's which is our closest brewery. We serve their golden ale Sunshine and their Best Bitter which used to be known as Jail House. In the summer we add a third real ale, usually from Monty's but sometimes Mantle Brewery's MOHO or a beer from Purple Moose.

What's your favourite tippie?

I enjoy Monty's Sunshine.



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CAMRA MEMBERSHIP IS FOR YOU

Find out what becoming a member of CAMRA can offer you.



Over fifty years ago a group of real ale heroes got together and decided to fight for better beer in pubs. They created the organisation that went on to become the Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA) to represent beer drinkers and pub-goers across the UK.

Nowadays CAMRA campaigns to promote and protect beer by actively supporting Britain's pubs and breweries to get a better deal for beer drinkers.

Pubs, pints and people

CAMRA believes that the great British pub is a part of our life and culture, and we campaign to ensure the survival of pubs as well as to highlight their importance in our society.

We also have a passion for real ale and we work to ensure pub-goers can access a broad selection of beer and ciders and enjoy a quality pint.

As a volunteer-led organisation, people are at the heart of CAMRA. Our members are vital to the success of our campaigns and every member has a say in our future direction.

Campaigning at our core

CAMRA has become one of the most successful consumer organisations in Europe and campaigning is what we do best. We have achieved much in our 50 years, not least a

long-term future for quality real ale and cider which is now readily available across the UK.

However, there's still so much more we can achieve with your help. As a CAMRA member, you're helping to save your local pub and everything that goes with it and helping to promote and protect beer by actively supporting Britain's pubs and breweries to get a better deal for beer drinkers.

So, if you love beer and love pubs then CAMRA membership really is for you!

Five reasons to join CAMRA

Get involved and make new friends: As a CAMRA member you automatically join the branch in your local area. Make new friends, enjoy a variety of social events and get involved as a beer scorer (for Good Beer Guide selection), committee member or festival volunteer.

Find the best pubs across Britain: Use the Good Beer Guide book or app to find the best pubs and clubs around the country serving real ale and cider, each selected by local CAMRA members. You will also be the first to hear about our national pub and club of the year winners. And, whatever your interest, check out the CAMRA shop for a book to complement it or use our online pubs database www.whatpub.com to discover pubs in your area.

Become a beer or cider expert: With a wealth of information available to members, you can learn and discover everything you want to know about beer or cider.

Enjoy CAMRA beer festivals in front of or behind the bar: Gain free or discounted entry to CAMRA beer festivals around the country. Volunteer to work at a festival and gain some hands-on experience, or simply discover new beer and enjoy the music, food and atmosphere.

Get great value for money: CAMRA offers a range of membership options. Together with a welcome pack, you will receive real ale discount vouchers and other great discounts and member benefits along with a copy of Beer magazine quarterly.

To join CAMRA go to www.camra.org.uk/join or fill in the form on page 23.

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IN BRITAIN'S BEST REAL HERITAGE PUBS GUIDE

Join us for a pint in the pub

Our monthly “pint in a pub” socials encourage members to meet up for a beer and a chat and to visit different pubs all over our branch area.

These informal events take place on the last Thursday of every month between 6pm and 8pm.

See our website or Facebook page for details of forthcoming events and, if you would like to suggest a pub to meet in, please email social@camra.baeceredigion.co.uk.



The Glengower Hotel

Our recent social activities

Being a CAMRA member is not all about committee meetings or campaigning! Many people joined CAMRA because they enjoy going to the pub, and so we organise a programme of social events for members to get together and visit different pubs.

Our autumn social was a trip by public bus to Dolgellau. We had lunch in the Stag Inn and then visited several pubs in the town including the Unicorn and the Torrent Walk Inn where the beer was excellent.

In December twelve festively-attired members embarked on a pub crawl of Aberystwyth and lunch in the White Horse for our Christmas social.

Our spring social was a pub crawl with a difference. Teams of two tackled a pub quiz around Aberystwyth which featured lots of information about the many pubs that once existed in the town.

We've also held two pub quizzes, one in the Vale of Aeron and one in Kanes Bar, to raise funds for CAMRA and local charities.

Dates for your diary

At the time of going to press, our social secretary was planning a trip by train to Welshpool on Saturday 24 June as our summer social.

Our next branch meeting is on Thursday 29 June in Aberystwyth and our AGM will take place in October.

Full details of all social events and branch meetings are regularly emailed to local members – if you haven't heard from us recently, check your spam, junk or other email folders for emails from Bae Ceredigion CAMRA.

If you are local member who has never had an email from Bae Ceredigion CAMRA, please contact us to update your mailing preferences on membership@baeceredigion.camra.org.uk.

We need a new Chair!

Mary Galliers is standing down as branch Chair at our AGM in October after two years in the role. She intends to continue with her other roles as Publicity Officer and Editor of Cwrw Ceredigion.

We have candidates for all the other committee roles and so a new Chair will be supported by an experienced and enthusiastic group of fellow members.

If you would like to find out more about what the role of Chair involves or attend a committee meeting (these are usually held by Zoom), please get in touch with Mary on chairman@baeceredigion.camra.org.uk.



Bae Ceredigion Christmas social

I LOVE MY LOCAL

Bae Ceredigion CAMRA member and organiser of the Aberaeron Beer and Cider Festival Nathan Goss from Aberarth tells us why he loves the Cadwgan Inn in Aberaeron.

What's the pub's history?

The present-day town of Aberaeron and its harbour were developed in the 1800s. The harbour operated as a port and supported a shipbuilding industry. There used to be lots of small, one-room pubs like the Cadwgan which were used by the sailors and tradesmen. The Cadwgan was named after the last ship to be built in Aberaeron and it is the last one of these small traditional pubs still open.

Tell us about the landlord.

Martin Holland has run the Cadwgan since 2004, together with his wife Jacqueline more recently. Martin has been in the pub trade for nearly forty years and the Cadwgan is the ninth pub he has run. They are a really sociable couple who love chatting to people, and you'll often find them sitting with their regulars and enjoying a drink with them. Martin is a big rugby fan and the walls are adorned with rugby memorabilia including club and international shirts from as far afield as New Zealand. He also organises bus trips for his locals to rugby internationals.

What real ales have been on the bar recently?

The Cadwgan is a freehouse and the number of handpumps has grown from one to three since Martin took on the pub. The middle handpump always offers a beer from Wye Valley, often a bitter, and the other two pumps serve a constantly changing range from Welsh breweries and from breweries much further afield. Martin himself is a fan of blond ales and these have become increasingly popular on the bar here.

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

I like sitting in the area with a couple of settles



opposite each other which is known as the Cwtch. This tucked-away spot reminds me of the pubs I used to go to with my father when I was a youngster. It's a great place for a group of friends to meet and chat and you also get a good view of the TV when the rugby is on.

Tell us about the pub's customers.

The Cadwgan has a year-round trade from local people, many of whom were born and bred in Aberaeron, and it is the pub of choice for the town's cricket team. People who once lived in the town always come back to the Cadwgan for a drink when they visit. Aberaeron is very popular with holidaymakers in the summer and they love the pavement drinking area which overlooks the inner harbour and is a real suntrap. The Cadwgan is dog-friendly, and Martin and Jacqueline chat to all their customers so that everyone feels special and part of the pub's community.

Does the pub hold any regular events or activities?

There are monthly quizzes to raise funds for charity, regular live music and fancy dress party nights. Recently a Welsh distillery ran a gin tasting event and there was a wine and cheese tasting night – both were a sell-out. The Cadwgan sponsors the local rugby team and the Aberaeron Beer and Cider Festival which I organise in August, and Martin helps me with the festival's beer order.

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

The Cadwgan is a traditional, friendly pub that sells the best real ale in Aberaeron, and it is the type of place where you come for one drink and happily end up staying for a few more.

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