

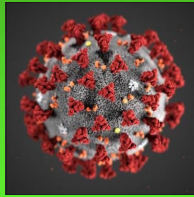
# ONE & ALE

Campaign for Real Ale Cornwall Branch Newsletter

Spring 2021

Covid-19

Online Edition



## Spring is Here

### Pubs Will Re-open in Stages

**Cornwall CAMRA  
with you all the way**

## COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR



Welcome to the spring issue of One and Ale. I trust you're all staying safe and well.

I'd like to start by welcoming to the committee Simon Trehane (Branch Secretary), Ann Burnett (Mid Cornwall Social Secretary) and Jan Curtis (West Cornwall Social Secretary). Many thanks for agreeing to help out and your support, I've gone into more detail about the committee and the roles within it elsewhere in the magazine.

With the news that pubs are expected to re-open outside on 12th April with social distancing, and 17th May indoors, both with rule of six in place, I thought I'd reflect on the extreme challenges they have had to face.

The past year has seen three lockdowns and blanket restrictions. Stop start trade has meant that millions of pints have had to be poured down drains across the country as pubs have been told to shut down with very little warning. Spare a thought for all pub-licans throughout Cornwall and countrywide who have had to deal with all the hardship, stress and uncertainty this has brought whilst still having to pay the bills. Sadly, some pubs have called time and are never likely to open their doors again.

On a more positive note, we have also seen pubs become hubs of the community, opening village shops where previously there had been no local amenities. Offering free meals and accommodation to front line workers. Being on the end of the phone offering support to those who have needed it most.

Now restrictions look set to ease so we all need to do what we can to show our support for the embattled pubs. Visit your local once you can, enjoy some top quality beer, cider and food and let's show that we care and appreciate them!

Take care and hope to see you in a pub soon,

Vince Curtis



## EDITOR'S COMMENT

In this age when most drivers run around using SatNav for their directions Prime Minister Boris Johnson has produced a road map for lockdown easing. I am of an age where I learnt to read a map to find my way around the



country and although I used a SatNav in more recent years I was not averse to arguing with that annoying woman (the one on the SatNav not any female passenger sat beside me!) about 'when possible do a U-turn'. I sincerely hope there will be no more U-turns needed as we slowly make our way along Boris' metaphorical Cornish lanes. Those who remember maps will recognise the distinct lack of blue motorways on any map of Cornwall. We're not going anywhere very fast.

No hospitality is going to be allowed to open until 12th April at the earliest and when applied to pubs this will only be in beer gardens for food and drink, together with social distancing and the Rule of Six that we are now quite used to. Whether that will also include Track and Trace has not yet been made clear.

If we all behave ourselves and the vaccination programme continues at its current rate we will be allowed indoors of the pubs, again with Rule of Six, no earlier than 17th May. Then if everything has gone according to plan all restrictions can be lifted on 21st June—the Longest Day.

The last mentioned date may seem a long way off right now but the last thing anybody wants on either side of the argument is another lockdown.

I sincerely hope our Cornish pubs and breweries can survive until such time that they will be able to trade profitably once more. It will be interesting to see what help Chancellor Rishi Sunak can offer in his Budget. Financial assistance by providing business loans, council business rates holidays, VAT reductions and staff furlough schemes will not last forever. Cornish businesses bounced back pretty well after the first lockdown and had a good, although somewhat shortened, summer season. The 'word on the street' is that the majority of them are ready and waiting to welcome us all back.

The committee of Cornwall CAMRA has kept things ticking over by holding online meetings using Teams and not had any that have gone viral like Hands-worth Parish Council. Well not yet anyway!

Looking forward to seeing you down the pub and catching up over a pint of real ale (or cider).

Steve Willmott  
Editor and Membership Secretary

## BEER FESTIVALS WILL RETURN

With the lockdown easing roadmap only recently having been announced it is a bit too early to for many beer festival organisers to give details of any taking place once they are able to do so.



H o w e v e r ,  
Newquay Towan  
Blystra Lions have  
given notice that  
**Newquay Beer  
Festival** will be  
held at Hendra  
Holiday Park over  
the weekend Sep-

tember 24th to 26th (Friday to Sunday). Look out for details nearer the time.

The **Star Inn Vogue** have postponed their Ale & Music festival until Saturday 4th September, originally planned for June.

Cornwall CAMRA has no beer festival organiser to arrange **Falmouth Beer Festival** this year. There will be insufficient time to organise such a big event but see Page 4 for alternative arrangements that are being planned for October.

## BRANCH RELIES ON WHATPUB SCORES

In these difficult times the Cornwall Branch of the Campaign for Real Ale relies on reports submitted to WhatPub for drawing up a list of pubs that might be suitable for inclusion in the Good Beer Guide published annually by CAMRA.

So as soon as you can start visiting pubs again please score the beers you drink 0-5 in each pub you visit using this online pub guide. Log in to WhatPub on your phone or computer as a CAMRA member with your membership number and chosen password. Search for the pub using pub name and location and when you are happy that you have got the right pub, enter your score from 1 to 5 (0 if there is no real ale), with 1 indicating very poor quality that is undrinkable up to 5 that is perfect and cannot be improved in any way. Enter the date that you drank the beer, the name of the brewery and the beer and tap "Submit Beer Score". It's as simple as that.

An analysis of scores submitted this year (2021) will then form the basis for selection by the committee of the Good Beer Guide 2022. With far less beer scores submitted this year time is running out. Please help by scoring and being an active member of the branch.

## Branch Clothing



We have a selection of Cornwall Branch T-shirts, polo shirts, body warmers, fleeces, rugby shirts and ladies V-necks. Also baseball caps and beanie hats.

All garments are embroidered (not printed) with our bilingual logo. Check out the clothing catalogue on the Branch Website for the full range with colours and sizes [www.cornwall.camra.org.uk](http://www.cornwall.camra.org.uk)



## GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE FOR HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY



**Scott Mann MP North Cornwall Constituency writes:**

North Cornwall is home to small distilleries and larger breweries including Sharps, so the industry is at the very centre of our community, employing many people. The economic effects of fighting coronavirus last longer for businesses than the duration of any given restrictions, and we need to go further with our support. While I appreciate that lockdowns are unwelcome news for publicans, it is reassuring that the Chancellor has unveiled further economic support for businesses, including pubs. New one-off top-up grants have been announced, worth up to £9,000 per property, to help businesses through to the spring. For those businesses not eligible for the grants, a £594 million discretionary fund is being made available by the Government as a matter of urgency. The new one-off grants come in addition to billions of pounds of existing business support, including grants worth up to £3,000 for closed businesses, and up to £2,100 per month for impacted businesses once they reopen.

Some pubs have unfortunately been forced to close their doors permanently due to financial strain. As hard as this is for owners and communities, it may not be the end for the pubs themselves. Since 2017, planning regulations removed permitted development rights from all pubs, requiring that planning permission must now be obtained prior to change of use or demolition. If listed as Assets of Community Value, this allows communities to have up to six months to bid to buy them if they have been put for sale. Ultimately, local councils must decide whether a building or land should be listed as an Asset of Community Value. I know the Government is nonetheless committed to making it easier for community groups to protect and take over local assets like pubs and will continue to explore options to strengthen the rights of our communities to do so.

*Scott Mann*

*Editor's Note: This article was written before the Budget*

## FALMOUTH FESTIVAL IN DIFFERENT FORMAT

Last year was the first that Cornwall CAMRA has not run a beer festival. Having started in Truro's City Hall in August each year we were forced to move when that venue closed for conversion into the Hall for Cornwall. Moving to Falmouth's Princess Pavilion for several years it became increasingly popular, outgrowing the facilities and then operated for two successful years in Events Square. However, after the 2019 Falmouth Beer Festival the organiser Sonia Bunce gave notice that she would not be able to continue in this role. We have no beer festival organiser on the committee and will not be able to hold an AGM until the end of June at the earliest that leaves insufficient time to organise a conventional beer festival. However, in October it is intended to bring the pubs of Falmouth together.

### **Real Ale Trails in Falmouth**

Janet Curtis, newly appointed social secretary west Cornwall writes:-

Past visits to Norwich during its 'City of Ale' festivals have been the inspiration for forthcoming 'Real Ale & Cider Trails' in Falmouth. Although on a much smaller scale than the Norwich festival, CAMRA Kernow are hoping to plan and organise some short trails which cover the pubs and bars in the town. We plan to produce a double-sided leaflet which will be freely available in the participating pubs and it will also be available to download from our website in advance of the two-week promotion during October 2021. The aim of this exercise is to promote and support pubs and bars in the town which sell real ale and cider in the post lockdown period. After a year of enforced closures, the implementation of social distancing measures resulting in reduced footfall and economic concerns for the hospitality industry in general, I am sure you will agree that this is a worthy objective and something to look forward to!

Preliminary plans of the routes mostly radiate out from 'The Moor' in Falmouth and encompass both the central, well known pubs, those in the main street and those in the quieter back streets which may be less familiar to visitors to the town. CAMRA Kernow committee members will be canvassing all possible venues in the town as soon as the current lockdown is lifted. If you are a publican or bar manager in the town and would like to get involved, please email:

socialsec-west@cornwall.camra.org.uk to register your interest. If this initiative is well supported, we have plans to make this an annual event.

## DRIFTWOOD SPARS VIRTUAL BEER FESTIVAL

Each year over the weekend nearest to 15th March the Driftwood Spars in St Agnes has held a beer festival to celebrate popular award-winning brewer Pete Martin's birthday. Following his untimely death in January last year the Driftwood's landlady and proprietor Louise Treseder decided to continue the tradition and many CAMRA members were able to raise a glass in memory of Pete in the pub only a week before the first lockdown.

Not to be outdone this year, a virtual beer festival will be held in order to carry on the tradition.

Louise Treseder states, "Join us for a Virtual Beer Festival and the launch of 'Pete's Mild'. Our annual beer festival - The Dark, The Light & The Saison - goes online for the first time in its history. It will be dedicated to the memory of Founding Brewer Pete Martin, who sadly passed away at the start of 2020. We'd love you to join us for interactive tastings and the official launch of Pete's Mild - a brand new beer which we've designed with the help of Pete's friends and family to commemorate his life and the work he loved. We've put together Tasting Cases for those who really want to get into the spirit. We've curated a selection of twelve beers from around the country and beyond, including of course the newly-released Pete's Mild. The festival will be held on Zoom between 2pm and 6pm on Saturday 13th March, and will feature tastings led by us and other guest brewers, plus virtual rooms where you can catch up with friends. You can join in the fun without the tasting pack, but we'd recommend it to get the most out of the experience which is sure to be a highlight of lockdown!"

***Pete's Mild (or Pete Smiled!)***



On Friday 22nd January Louise Treseder & Mike Mason from the Driftwood Spars Brewery, St Agnes, organized a virtual beer tasting of mild beers via Zoom. This was to enable Mike, the new brewer at the Driftwood Spars Brewery to use the feedback to create a new beer – Pete's Mild – in memory of Peter Martin. This would have been Pete's 58th birthday Beer Festival. Three beers with tasting note sheets were delivered to Pete's family, friends and local brewers who were participating in the tasting. The three beers were:

- Harveys Dark Mild 2.8%
- Greene King XX Mild 3%
- Moongazer Norfolk Brewery Bouchart Norfolk Mild 4.9%

The beer tastings were led online by Mike, Tim and Louise. All comments made on the night and on the recording sheets are being taken into account in creating the new beer. Family and friends are now looking forward to the launch of Pete's Mild. Cases of beer for the virtual festival, including Pete's Mild, can be ordered online ready for virtual beer festival, on 13th March.

The Driftwood Spars

The Dark  
The Light  
& The Saison

Virtual  
Beer Festival

12 beers sent out to each participant

13th March 2021

2-6pm

Guest Brewers Live

T: 01872 552428    www.driftwoodspars.co.uk    St Agnes

## PUBS UPDATE

Oh dear!

Well, what else can one say? (don't answer that!) It's that time of year when it's traditional to take stock of Cornwall's pubs, summarising closures, reopenings and even new start-ups, and comparing with the situation as of a year ago. Not easy when all the county's pubs are closed during the Coronavirus restrictions. Still, eyes down, here goes.

Historically the county has done comparatively well in recent years when compared with pub closure rates elsewhere in the country, with various sources claiming a loss rate of 20-30 pubs a week. In Cornwall, the total pub stock (excluding town centre wine bars and the like) has stayed remarkably constant at around 570 - 600. Admittedly we have lost a few pubs, such as the *Buccaneer* in Gunnislake, the *Cardinal's Hat* near Saltash, or *Mr. Small's* in St Austell, but there have been some surprise comebacks even after a couple of years closure, where the buildings seemed all but withdrawn from the licensed trade. And, remarkably in the current circumstances, we have also seen new pubs starting up, usually in the form of 'micropubs' and tending to cancel out the losses in terms of numbers. Maybe (at least for real ale) micropubs are the future?

That was then, what about now? Well, obviously we have entered a new 'wormhole' and there is no way of knowing what we'll find at the end of it in..... June? So I won't waste space speculating at this stage, except to say that the more lockdowns we suffer, the more some pubs – especially privately-owned ones – will be tempted to cut their losses and simply shut up shop. I hope I'm wrong, we'll have to wait and see.

So, what do we actually know about 2020? I should emphasise that what we know is bound to be incomplete, with so few reports coming in and 600 pubs to worry about. Still, here goes:

### **Pubs reported as closed:**

Falmouth 'front

Sold, planned to reopen as a pub in Jan 2021 (!)

Tresillian Wheel Inn- Lease up for sale

Hatt Cardinal's Hat- Pub closed

Gunnislake *Buccaneer* Inn- Pub closed, not reopening

St Austell *Mr Small's* Cornish Taphouse

Pub closed, not reopening

Lizard *Top House*- Pub closed, into Creditors' Voluntary liquidation

Stithians *Seven Stars* Inn

Pub closed, St Austell Brewery seeking new tenants

### **Updates since Jan 2021**

Recent reports confirm that the '*front*' lease has been bought by a local group who have stated their intention to keep it running much as before, albeit with some internal refurbishment, but the plan to open early in the new year was of course thwarted by the latest lockdown. So fingers crossed for that one. Meanwhile, the *Top House* at the Lizard has been taken over during January, and the new tenants are busying themselves refurbishing and cleaning up its interior ready for reopening when the law allows. Landlords Margaret & Andy Sutherland have stated their intention to run the pub as being at the heart of the community, and have already pledged to support local charities including the RNLI.

Although it was thought that the *Wheel Inn* at Tresillian was probably finished for ever as a pub (and its deteriorating external appearance began to suggest that might be so), freeholders Tregothnan Estate have, according to Cornwall Live, brought the pub back into a decent state and sold the lease; the place looks to reopen again after lockdown as a free house. Furthermore, St Austell Brewery report that they have two serious expressions of interest in the tenancy of the *Seven Stars* in Stithians, so locals are hopeful that will reopen as well by the summer. Meanwhile, during lockdown the pub gained Asset of Community Value (ACV) listing with Cornwall Council, promoted by the local parish council with CAMRA advisory input, so partly safeguarding its future as a pub and asset to the community. So, of the 7 known closures listed above, 4 are likely to reopen once restrictions are eased. And of course, we have the new micros which opened last year in spite of the plague's looming presence: the *Cockleshell* in Saltash, and the *Cornish Ancestor* in Callington. Net zero pub loss so far then, on those listings!

Of course, all this comes with the usual health warnings. As a branch, we can't hope to know everything that may be going on out there with around 600 pubs and bars to monitor, unless our branch members – yes, you happy lot! – feed back information through the WhatPub? website. And to restate the bleedin' obvious, we'll know much, much more once the current restrictions lift and everyone licensee that can do is able to reopen, and get back to whatever may be the new 'normal'. Cheers!

*If you have any pub news to report to the rest of the membership,  
contact :- [pubsofficer@cornwall.camra.org.uk](mailto:pubsofficer@cornwall.camra.org.uk)*

## POPULAR FORMER LANDLADY DIES

The Cornwall Branch was saddened to hear that Sue Swiss died in early February.

Serving for more than twenty-five years as landlady of the Fox and Hounds, Comford, she oversaw the dispense of thousands of pints of St Austell brewery beers from wooden barrels into an enamel jug and thence your glass. She earned a reputation for keeping the best pint of Bass, also served straight from the barrel, for miles around.

For the last nineteen years before her retirement in 2019 she ran the other Fox and Hounds, this time in Scorrier. The pub was a Punch leasehold before being bought by local brewery Keltek and Sue Swiss continued as licensee.

She actively supported Cornwall CAMRA and took part at several beer festivals acting as a judge to taste beers and find the champion beer of the festival. Her tasting notes were legendary in that she would classify a beer as suitable for breakfast, lunch, or evening drinking.



The forward to the Campaign for Real Ale Good Beer Guide 2021 was written by Tom Kerridge. He writes — “The Great British pub is recognised around the world. It is something that cannot be replicated in any other country.

The one thing about the British pub that separates us, is real ale. Our brewing heritage varies from region to region. The passion and the heart and soul that goes into brewing is equal to the top wine makers, distillers, cheese makers, bakers, artisan chocolatiers or any other craft led hospitality producer. It is something we should be very proud of.”

Copies of the guide are available at a discount rate of £11 (cover price £15.99) from Cornwall Branch Pubs Officer Rod Davis.

Pubsofficer@cornwall.camra.org.uk

## GIVE THE GIFT OF CAMRA MEMBERSHIP

As we adapt to the new normal, CAMRA is supporting pubs and breweries during these unprecedented times. From lobbying Government to keep the small brewers duty relief to making it easier for consumers to buy locally, we're campaigning with added urgency to help pubs and breweries recover from the three lockdowns.

Help us keep the great British pub alive by giving the gift of CAMRA membership for a birthday or special anniversary this year.

Gift Membership starts from just £28.50 for a single membership and £33.50 for a joint one. In addition to supporting our campaigns, membership includes:

- The award-winning BEER magazine that is published quarterly
- Online resources to help you discover more about beer and brewing as part of our Learn & Discover offering
- Discounts at various partners including Adnams, Exmoor Ales, BierNuts, Fullers, Cotswold Outdoors and more. See website for full details.
- Our recently launched Pubs. Pints. People. podcast and access to hundreds of pubs and breweries offering takeaway and delivery services through our Pulling Together campaign and Brew2You app
- Tasty Tuesday events and more in our virtual pub the Red (On)Lion – as a member you can pull up a seat at the open bar or book a table for a video chat with friends and family
- Discounts on CAMRA books including our best-selling Good Beer Guide

Join online using the CAMRA website  
[www.camra.org.uk](http://www.camra.org.uk)



# CAMRA MEMBERSHIP COUNTS

Campaigning for pubs, pints and people since 1971.

We're leading the fight to keep pubs alive and thriving in every community, serving a broad selection of quality ales and ciders.

Here's how CAMRA makes a difference

[www.camra.org.uk/campaigns](http://www.camra.org.uk/campaigns)

Our Campaigns ▼

COVID Campaign Response ▼

**Promoting live beer, cider & perry**  
CAMRA promotes local, small and independent producers. Initiatives include *LocAle* (promoting locally brewed ale) and the *Real Cider Served Here* scheme.



**Helping you save your local**  
Our in-depth pub-saving guides for England, Scotland and Wales, and advice on Assets of Community Value listing and Community Pub Ownership, provide campaigners with all the tools required to save your local, if it is under threat.



**Lobbying Government at all levels**  
CAMRA members across the UK actively lobby their MPs, devolved elected representatives and councillors via email and social media. Our branches talk to politicians about a range of vital topics including taxation, regulation and consumer choice.



**Pubs as a force for good**  
Pubs play a vital role in tackling loneliness and social isolation, foster community spirit and encourage social interaction. Research commissioned by CAMRA found that people with a local pub are happier, have more friends and are more engaged with their local communities.



**Pub Company Reform**  
CAMRA campaigned for over ten years to introduce a Pubs Code and Adjudicator in England and Wales, to address the imbalance of power between pub companies and tenants. We continue to make sure tenants are treated fairly by pub companies, so they can thrive and run great pubs for us to enjoy, and are seeking a Pubs Code for Scotland too.



## Pulling Together

Our cross-industry campaign supports pubs, clubs, taprooms, breweries and cider makers through the COVID-19 crisis. They need your support now more than ever. We are campaigning on their behalf and providing resources to help them survive. This includes promoting Cheers for Choice to ensure beer stocks in reopened pubs, Brew2You and Save our Pubs.



## Brew2You

This digital platform has been a vital tool in connecting beer lovers to local pubs, breweries and cider makers offering takeaway and delivery during lockdowns and beyond.



## Speaking up for pubs, clubs, brewers and cider makers

CAMRA is at the forefront of lobbying for better support, and against unfair restrictions during the Coronavirus pandemic. We support a cut in beer duty on draught beer served in pubs to ensure fair competition with supermarkets and changes to the Business Rates system to end the unfair burden on pubs.



For member benefits visit  
[www.camra.org.uk/benefits](http://www.camra.org.uk/benefits)

If you love beer and pubs,  
CAMRA membership is for you!  
[join.camra.org.uk](http://join.camra.org.uk)

