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FULL PINTS

Published by



CAMRA
Ayrshire & Wigtownshire

AUTUMN 2026



Break down big beer's wall for independent brewers and drinkers – see page 12

Also inside:
Ayrshire Beer & Cider Festival
Preview: pages 5–7

Scottish Pub of the Year announced



**NUMBER
47**

ALES FROM:

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Volume 28, Issue 3 AUTUMN 2026

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ayr.camra.org.uk

ayrshirebeerfestival.co.uk

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Ayrshire & Wigtownshire CAMRA
Ayrshire Real Ale Festival



ayrshire.camra

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About Us

CAMRA (the Campaign for Real Ale) is an independent, voluntary, consumer organisation whose vision is to have quality real ale, cider & perry and thriving pubs in every community.

Membership is open to all individuals and we currently represent around 142,000 members across the UK. We are governed by a voluntary unpaid national executive, elected by the membership. There is a local branch structure where members can join a CAMRA branch and campaign and socialise locally.

We currently have around 580 members in the Ayrshire & Wigtownshire Branch. We have four social group areas – namely North Ayrshire, South Ayrshire, East Ayrshire and Wigtownshire, with regular events and meetings organised throughout Ayrshire. Details on page 4.

Printed copies of our multi award-winning magazine *Full Pints* are available in our real ale outlets thanks to the generosity of our advertisers – please try and support them. It is also emailed to all our Branch members, and can be downloaded from our website.

Many of our real ale pubs have limited availability of real ale – camra.org.uk should show the latest status but please check with any outlets directly to confirm their opening times and availability of real ale, particularly in rural areas with limited public transport.

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The next edition of Full Pints will be published in December 2026.

Articles, photos and other contributions are welcomed and should be sent to the editor at fullpints@ayr.camra.org.uk no later than **Friday 13 November 2026.**



Quarterly Diary of Events

These are our confirmed events when Full Pints went to print. Any late changes or additions will be shared on our Facebook group.

Our CAMRA Calling monthly email and Facebook page will have full details nearer the time.

TUES 18 AUG

South Ayrshire Social, 7pm
Wellingtons, Ayr

THURS 20 AUG

North Ayrshire Social, 7.30pm
The Paddle Steamer, Largs

SAT 22 AUG

Joint Social with Edinburgh & SE Scotland Branch in Troon

Starts at The Portland, 1pm. Then on to Harbour Bar and Number Forty Seven.

THURS 26 AUG

East Ayrshire Social, 2.30pm
Mill House, Stewarton

FRI 28 – SUN 30 AUG

Twa Dugs Beer Festival, West Kilbride (Independent), 12.30–9.30pm Fri/Sat; 1–5pm Sun

Branch Social on Sat 29 Aug from 2pm

MON 7 SEPT

Branch Committee Meeting and Branch Club of the Year Presentation, 8pm
Cambusdoon Sports Club, Alloway

SAT 12 SEPT

2-Pub Social, Largs
Fraser's Bar, Millport 2.30pm; then Paddle Steamer, Largs approx 5pm

MON 14 SEPT

Beer Festival Planning Meeting, 8pm
Harbour Bar, Troon

TUES 15 SEPT

South Ayrshire Social, 2pm
The Portland, Troon

THURS 17 SEPT

North Ayrshire Social, 2.00pm (*Note time)
Auld Brig, Irvine

WED 23 SEPT

East Ayrshire Social & Branch Meeting, 7.30pm
First Edition, Kilmarnock

THURS 1 – SAT 3 OCT

Ayrshire Beer & Cider Festival, Troon
Troon Concert Hall – see pages 5–7

THURS 15 OCT

North Ayrshire Social, 7.30pm
Railway Inn, Glengarnock

TUES 20 OCT

South Ayrshire Social, 7pm
West Kirk, Ayr

FRI 23 – SAT 24 OCT

Ardrossan Rugby Club Beer Festival (Independent)
including ABC Festival Staff Social on Sat 24 Oct, 1pm

WED 28 OCT

East Ayrshire Social, 2.30pm
The Auchans, Dundonald

THURS 29 – SAT 31 OCT

Carlisle Beer & Cider Festival (CAMRA)
Station Hotel, Carlisle

FRI 6 – SAT 7 NOV

Alloa Real Ale Festival (CAMRA)
Alloa Town Hall; Branch Social on Fri 6 Nov from opening time at 1pm

SAT 14 NOV

Scottish Branches (SCOTB) Regional CAMRA Meeting, 1.15pm
Fox & Hounds, Houston

TUES 29 DEC

Branch Festive Crawl
Largs – Fairlie – West Kilbride. Details in next magazine.





1-3 October 2026

TROON CONCERT HALL

Featuring up to **150 cask ales** and
25 real ciders & perries

*Wine, Low Alcohol Beer, Soft Drinks and
Hot Food/Snacks also available*

Live Music on Fri/Sat evenings

Sat afternoon – Isle of Cumbrae Pipe Band

ayrshirebeerfestival.co.uk



Find us on:



Learn about beer &
cider at our **Learn
and Discover** stall

join.camra.org.uk

Main
Festival
Sponsor:



Nominated Charity:



OPENING TIMES:

THURS 1 OCT

12 noon (CAMRA members)
2pm – 11pm (Public session)

FRI 2 OCT

11am – 11pm

SAT 3 OCT

11am – 10pm

ADMISSION:

£FREE (CAMRA)

£7 (non-CAMRA)



£3 Festival Glass
(non-refundable)
and Programme



£10 Beer Token Card

Over 18s only

Assistance dogs only

Free re-admission with
this year's glass



CAMRA
Ayrshire & Wigtownshire

Pubs, Pints, People

Ayrshire Beer & Cider Festival

1-3 OCTOBER 2026, TROON CONCERT HALL

It's the final countdown to the 25th Ayrshire Beer & Cider Festival from 1-3 October in Troon Concert Hall – the largest cask ale festival in Scotland featuring over 150 different ales and 25 real ciders and perries.

All CAMRA-run festivals now offer FREE admission for CAMRA members – please have your valid membership cards ready at the entrance. Non-member admission is £7. Why not join CAMRA in advance to take advantage of the free entry – details at camra.org.uk/join. Our admission package though still requires the purchase of a 2026 commemorative festival glass and programme costing just £3. Beer token cards costing £10 each will be used for beer purchases. Cash or contactless payments will be accepted. The main entrance will be at the Walker Hall (near the adjacent car park/facing the former library building).

Our main sponsor this year is Brownings the Bakers, and they will be providing a variety of hot and cold snacks throughout the festival.

There will be two ale bars as before, one in the Walker Hall, which will be sorted alphabetically by Brewery (approx A-L, 1-54), and then the Main Hall (approx M-Z and 55-150). Precise numbering and layout isn't yet known, but will be shown in the festival programme. We're hoping to have some Scottish beers available from breweries that are rarely seen in Ayrshire, such as Ardgour, Durty and Newt. Two cask ales should be available from the new Rock Brewery on Arran, along with beer from the two other Arran breweries – Seagate, and Arran. The draft beer lists will appear online here: www.ayrshirebeerfestival.co.uk/ales-ciders/



The Cider Bar will be located in the main hall at the right hand end of the main bar and will have 25 real ciders and perries. In addition to supporting a couple of our local producers, we've got a selection of traditional ciders from Somerset, Kent and Herefordshire, and an increased range of flavoured ciders this year – ranging from Pink Rhubarb, Lemon & Lime to a Pornstar Martini flavoured one! For the first time we'll also have a low alcohol cider on draught – a 0.9% Raspberry Ripple flavoured cider. The full draft list can be viewed at www.ayrshirebeerfestival.co.uk/cider-wine-bar/

Cans of low alcohol beers will also be available at the cider bar, along with the small single pour bottles of white and red wine, and prosecco.

Staying with cider, our Learning and Discovery Zone this year will be featuring three ciders, and will show you what happens when different ciders are blended together – you may be surprised! The stall will be located in the Walker Hall – just pop over and you'll get some free tastings and hopefully discover something new about cider!

Remember to vote for both Beer and Cider of the Festival – the forms will be printed on the back of the token cards this year. Last year's winners were



Jennings Sneck Lifter and Dudda's Tun Cherry Cider. The Jennings presentation in Cockermouth is shown below.

Entertainment will be provided by The Splinters on Friday evening, and by talented vocalist Kenny James on Saturday evening. Back by popular request we have a pipe band playing for us on Saturday afternoon, this year courtesy of the Isle of Cumbrae Pipe Band.

This year our nominated charity is The Fishermen's Mission. They are the UK's only



national charity working to support fishermen and their families. Fishermen face unpredictable weather, long weeks away from home, and conditions where safety cannot always be guaranteed even with the strictest precautions. However, it often comes at a personal cost. Physical strain, financial pressure, and isolation are common. For some, the sea's dangers are all too real. Fishing is a way of life, and having to leave it behind can even be a challenge. The Fishermen's Mission exists to make sure no fisherman – active or former – or fishing family faces those challenges alone. We see a fishing industry where every person feels supported, valued, and safe.

Locally, The Fishermen's Mission operates out of Troon Harbour where the local team offers a crucial safety net for the local fishing and prawning community. Please pop by their stall at the festival and have a chat with them. You can support them by donating any unused beer tokens to the charity at the end of your visit to the festival. Full refunds will be given for beer tokens if preferred. For more information, please visit www.fishermensmission.org.uk

As always, thanks to all our main sponsors and cask sponsors, without whose support we wouldn't be able to run the festival.

If you are a CAMRA member and would like to help at the festival, then volunteering forms are now available on the festival website at www.ayrshirebeerfestival.co.uk/volunteering. Forms need to be returned by **5th September** in order to guarantee a polo shirt for anyone working for more than four hours.

The festival website and Facebook Group and Page will be updated regularly now. Confirmed beer lists will appear online approximately one week before the festival starts.

Finally, look out for our festival beer mats and banners appearing around Ayrshire soon and tell all your friends about the festival. **See you in Troon on 1–3 October!**



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The logo for Village Inn features a black silhouette of a village scene with several houses and a prominent church spire. Below this, the words 'VILLAGE INN' are written in large, bold, yellow 3D block letters with black outlines.

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Steaming to Success



The *Steam Packet Inn*, Isle of Whithorn has been judged as CAMRA's top pub in Scotland. It previously won the Pub of the Year (POTY) competition back in 2014.

The pub, which sits on the harbourside in the idyllic village of the **Isle of Whithorn**, was the Ayrshire & Wigtownshire CAMRA Branch's POTY. It then went forward to the Scottish heats and was judged as a finalist alongside last year's winning pub, *Staggs Bar*, **Musselburgh**; the *Hillend Tavern*, **Hillend, Dalgety Bay**; and the *Four Mary's*, **Linlithgow**. After being visited by another four judges, the *Steam Packet Inn* was judged to be the overall winner in a very close competition. There were only 5.5 points separating the *Steam Packet Inn* from the runner up, *Staggs Bar*.

The *Steam Packet Inn*, or "*Packet*" as it is affectionally known locally, has been in the hands of the Scouler family since 1984, with Alastair Scouler currently running the business, as well as the nearby **Five Kingdoms Brewery**. The bar features no fewer than eight handpumps, seven of which are usually dedicated to the in-house brewery, and with the remaining handpump usually selling **Timothy Taylor's Landlord**. Several keg taps are also available selling beer from **Five Kingdoms** and other craft breweries.

Accommodation is available (with free campervan parking behind the pub) and very high quality meals are served throughout the premises, including on the quayside (during good weather!) – booking highly recommended. There are views from the pub over to the Isle of Man and along the Solway coastline.

Congratulations to Alastair and all his staff on winning the award. A presentation date for the award has still to be arranged at the time of printing – watch our Facebook page for updates, along with our CAMRA Calling email newsletter.

The *Steam Packet Inn* now progresses to the final 16 'Super-Regional' round of the competition and will be judged against the winners from Northern Ireland – the *Dog & Duck*, **Lisbellaw**; from Merseyside & Cheshire – *The Turks Head*, **St Helens**; and from Wales – the *Mold Alehouse*, **Mold**. The four national finalists will be announced in October with the overall winner being announced in early January 2027.

BRANCH CODE OF CONDUCT

Our wish is for everyone to enjoy themselves and have fun on our trips and events. However please remember that trip organisers have only volunteered to arrange times and /or travel arrangements and to provide information about the venue(s). CAMRA promotes responsible drinking and so excessive drinking will not be tolerated on CAMRA outings. Members should not behave in any manner that may bring the Campaign into disrepute. Any member doing so may be barred from future events. You are responsible for your own safety and wellbeing. If you have an existing medical condition that requires support you must bring your own backup/carers with you.



The Ship Inn at Drummorie

Open Tues-Sun from 3pm.
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Two changing hand-pulled ales
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(Search for "The Ship Inn at Drummorie")



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5.5% abv

will be available at

The 25th Ayrshire Beer & Cider Festival
1-3 October 2026 Troon Concert Hall



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comprehensive list of
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the UK

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Scottish Cider Pub of the Year 2026

The *Albert Tavern* located in Freuchie, Fife has been judged to be this year's top pub in Scotland for selling real cider and perry.

In addition to serving three real ales, there are normally four draught ciders available, as well as local bottles from Naughton cider. The pub also hosts regular community events and tastings. A worthy winner – just a short bus ride from Glenrothes or Ladybank.

The award was presented by Sarah Crawford, Kingdom of Fife CAMRA chair and Karen Hetherington, CAMRA Scotland Cider Coordinator.



Loch Lomond Brewery Trip

A CAMRA social was held at the brewery taproom in Dumbarton on 18 July which was supported by around 30 members from Ayrshire & Wigtownshire, Glasgow & West of Scotland, Edinburgh & SE Scotland and Forth Valley CAMRA Branches.

Whilst there Ayrshire & Wigtownshire presented Euan MacEachern with our Branch's Beer of the Year Award for *Silkie Stout*.

Emily Green, the new Scottish CBOB Coordinator then presented the brewery with two certificates for *Lost in Mosaic* and *Southern Summit* being finalists in this year's Champion Beer of Britain Competition.

On the return home, most folk also stopped off at the **No Limits Brewery** taproom near Dumbarton Central station and sampled their range of craft beers.



You're being lied to about British beer...

A new report published by CAMRA shows how independent brewers are being excluded from bars across the UK, and sets out the case for the Competition and Markets Authority action.

'Beer in the UK' is the authoritative consumer view on how the UK beer scene actually works, or doesn't work, for beer drinkers and independent brewers.

The report lays bare the stark state of British brewing – that it is dominated by four international conglomerates with little affinity with our brewing heritage, or what beer drinkers want.

Other headlines from the report include:

- Seven of the top ten selling 'craft beers' in the UK are made by just four global brewing conglomerates.
- Many of the UK's favourite 'continental' and 'import' lagers are brewed in the UK.
- Data from the Society of Independent Brewers and Associates (SIBA) shows that the demand for independent beer is 280% higher than the share that they have of the pub market.

Ash Corbett-Collins, CAMRA Chairman said: "Ordinary drinkers are being short changed when it comes to choice and quality at the bar. Our report proves how the global players are exploiting the status quo to squeeze out independent brewers, to the detriment of ordinary publicans and beer drinkers. The Government needs to step up, start taking the issue seriously, and take action that matches up to their statements about supporting pubs and the communities they serve.

"Andy Burnham recently said that 'People need to be able to look forward to a night out'. The best way he can deliver on that is by ordering a proper market investigation to sort this mess out and deliver a fair deal for publicans and drinkers, and the independent brewers that they want to support. If this report makes you as angry as it makes me, that's good. CAMRA is fighting for changes to the status quo, and I hope you'll join us and get involved."

Tim Webb, Report Editor, said: "The fact that a narrow clique of multinational corporations dominates the UK brewing industry is a national embarrassment. They only make beers that suit their production facilities, ignoring the types that beer lovers want to drink. They do not know how to reverse beer's downward spiral, make little profit, and brew nothing worth exporting. They cannot grow the UK economy.

"The way that better, independent, brewers are excluded from the on-trade beer market is scandalous. Brewing is a business that competition authorities need to investigate, take apart, and reassemble, so the UK can return to playing a leading role in the world of beer."

You can read the full report and recommendations here: camra.org.uk/beer-report



RECENT SOCIALS

ALLOWAY BEER FESTIVAL

The 9th Alloway Beer Festival was held in *Cambusdoon Sports Club* at the start of July and was well supported over the three days. Ten cask ales were available including *Moulin d'or Houblon* and *Pingu Pale* from *Seagate Brewery*, and *Cairngorm Wildcat*. We'll be presenting the club with our Club of the Year Award during a branch committee meeting being held there on Monday 7 Sept at 8pm.



GLASGOW REAL ALE FESTIVAL

Held in August this year, G-RAF was well attended to the extent that on Friday afternoon the venue had reached capacity. A cracking range of ales – including some chosen by Glasladies to support women in beer – were on offer along with a decent selection of ciders and mead.



SULWATH BEER FESTIVAL

Every year on the late May Bank Holiday, *Sulwath Brewery* in **Castle Douglas** hold a small beer festival at their taproom. This year was the first one they'd held since their small fire last year which caused a lot of damage. Having never been at the festival before, your editor travelled down by train from Kilmarnock to Dumfries, then bus to Castle Douglas, where on arrival I met up with Graeme and Sharon-Leah Perry. Graeme had offered to help run a small additional bar at the festival. The full range of Sulwath beers were available and in good condition, and there was some live music in the courtyard. Owner Allan Henderson kindly showed Graeme and your editor all the new equipment that has now been commissioned. A very enjoyable day out.



JOINT SOCIAL TO LOCHWINNOCH

On a rather damp afternoon on 4 July, we had a joint social with the Renfrewshire Branch to visit the *Brown Bull*, Lochwinnoch. It was a very enjoyable afternoon, despite the low turnout of Ayrshire members.



Good Beer Guide 2027

Sir Ian Rankin, the most famous patron of the Oxford Bar in Edinburgh, has been revealed as the foreword writer for the 2027 edition of CAMRA's Good Beer Guide, which is available to pre-order now.

Creator of the iconic Detective Inspector character John Rebus, also a known patron of the Oxford Bar, Sir Ian Rankin writes in the foreword about what makes the perfect pub and reflects on his links to 'the Ox'. The pub even appears on the cover of the Guide, illustrated by David Wardle – the first time a Scottish pub has appeared on it.

The Guide is the UK's definitive guidebook to great pubs that serve top-quality cask beer. It is the complete book for beer lovers and for anyone wanting to experience the UK's finest pubs.

The Good Beer Guide is completely independent, with listings based entirely on evaluation by CAMRA members and volunteers – aided by the submission and assessment of beer scores. The Guide is also endorsed by Cask Marque, a hallmark of beer quality and consistency.

The new edition of the Good Beer Guide is available to pre-order from the online CAMRA Shop and from all good book shops. Published 24 September, pre-order your copy here: shop1.camra.org.uk/product/the-good-beer-guide-2027/



Just Purrfect – Cairngorm Wildcat takes silver award in Champion Beer of Britain Competition

CAMRA has let the cat out of the bag with an expert judging panel going wild for Cairngorm Brewery's premium bitter, *Wildcat* (5.1%), which fought off competitors to be named overall Silver in the Champion Beer of Britain competition held at the Cambridge Beer Festival in May.

Cairngorm is no stranger to CAMRA awards. Along with *Wildcat* being awarded overall Silver, and Gold in the Premium Bitter category, its decorated session stout, *Black Gold* (4.4%), also won Gold in the Session Stouts and Porters category. *Black Gold* has previously claimed the overall Champion Winter Beer of Britain title in 2025 and has achieved the Champion Beer of Scotland four times.



Grinning like the cat that got the cream, Samantha Faircliff, Managing Director of Cairngorm said: "It is absolutely brilliant to get overall Silver competition with *Wildcat*, alongside Gold for *Black Gold* in the Session Stout and Porters categories. It is a real testimony to the consistency and the quality of the beers that Head Brewer Liam Anderson and the team are producing here in Aviemore. We would like to sincerely thank CAMRA and its members for their continued support."

The overall Gold champion was won by **Bristol Beer Factory's** *Independence*, a 4.6% premium pale ale which has been a staple of South West pumps for 15 years.

Local Brewery News

FIVE KINGDOMS

Evergreen is the brewery's 2026 Saison beer, using Belgian yeast and foraged spruce and juniper. Another new kegged ale is **Nutbush** – an 8.5% Chocolate and Hazelnut Stout. **Sick Boy** is a 3.8% hybrid lager brewed to commiserate Nathan's recent period of ill health having ruptured his Achilles tendon in an intense game of football! **808** is a 4.4% Pacific Ale which will be available in cask. The brewery has also been busy attending beer festivals including the independent ones held recently in Kilmarnock and Stewarton.

ARRAN BREWERY

A new 5.3% light amber ale called **Brew Coo** is planned. **Arran ID** has been renamed as **Bjorn to Brew** to celebrate the arrival of Bjorn, an additional brewery dog that's keeping Freya company.

Arran Dark won Gold at the SIBA Scotland Awards for both cask and bottled formats. They also picked up several other SIBA awards for their small-pack beers.



ROCK BREWERY

Rock should have two cask ales available at the Ayrshire Beer & Cider Festival in October. They've got a new exclusive beer available at the *Cladach Beach House* – **Beach Beer** is a 3.4% hazy ale with tropical fruit, peach and citrus notes.

SEAGATE BREWERY

Beers will be available at the *Ayrshire Beer & Cider Festival*, and possibly *Carlisle Beer Festival*. Regular changing cask ale now available at the *Glenisle Hotel*. Still producing **Lion Rampant Lager** at 4% for the *Glenisle Hotel* having proved popular during the World Cup. Will be running a joint tasting session with **Rock Brewery** as part of Arran's Food Journey Food and Drink festival in October. The brewery won another award for 'Best Craft & Real Ale Brewery 2026 – Ayrshire' in the 2026 SME UK enterprise Awards. And somewhat belatedly, brewer Steve Sparshott has been presented with a certificate for **Monday Morning Mocha** being a finalist in the CBOB Speciality Flavoured heats. Your trusty Editor went over to Arran in April to visit the brewery but forgot to take the certificate with him (doh!), however I managed to catch up with Steve at GRAF (pictured opposite).

Local Real Ale Pub News

Some good news to start with – we have a new outlet in **Ayr**. *Wee Windaes* in Newmarket Street now has a handpump selling **Fyne Ales' Jarl**.

Glenisle Hotel, **Lamlash** now has its handpump installed and is occasionally selling cask ale from Seagate Brewery on it. **The Pale Eyes**, a 5% fruity, hoppy summer pale ale, was the next cask due on at the time of printing.

Staying on Arran, *Cladach Beach House* has now been sold. The new owner is initially continuing to sell locally-produced **Rock Brewery** ales on keg, as well as a large selection of cans and bottles from Scottish breweries such as **Simple Things Fermentations**, **Newbarns**, **Campervan** and **Up Front Brewing**. A great selection of bottled ciders is also available. Open from 10am, licensed from 11am, closing at 6pm Sun-Wed; 7pm Thurs-Sat.

Planning permission has been granted for a new community pub, *The Maxwell Tavern*, in **Port William**. **Five Kingdoms** will supply beer, but at this stage it is not known when it will open or whether cask ale will feature.

In other general pub news, the former *Trout Inn*, **Barrhill** has reopened under community ownership as *Crosswater*. The former *Masonic Arms*, **Beith** has reopened as *Finlay's*. The former *Jel* (ex *Eagle Tavern*) in Prestwick has reopened as *Vintage*. *Poosie Nansie's*, **Mauchline** and *No.8 Bar & Grill*, **Ayr** have closed. *Failford Inn* has been sold. *Lochglen Hotel*, **Troon**, and the *Seamill House Hotel*, **Seamill** have been sold to RAD Group. The *Douglas Hotel*, **Brodick** has been sold to Buzzworks, as has the *South Beach Hotel*, **Troon**.



No news to report from **Blackshaw**, **Portpatrick** or **Wigtown** breweries. Contact fullpints@ayr.camra.org.uk if you have any updates to share.



Beers around Bradford

by Allan Merry

Bradford: Joseph Mama via Unsplash

Back in March 2026, a small but intrepid group of CAMRA members left Ayrshire and from elsewhere to visit Bradford for a few days.

Because of the Central Station problems after the bad fire, the North Ayrshire contingent went to Kilmarnock to catch the 0753 train to Carlisle. Once there we met with others who came down from Motherwell and went for a coffee in *William Rufus*, a Wetherspoon pub. We then caught a Northern train down south and enjoyed the journey over the Ribble viaduct and the various picturesque stations on the way.

We were to change trains at Shipley, but as we were feeling thirsty we all went to the *Pride of Shipley* where there were four handpumps and most enjoyed **Ilkley Joshua Jane** (3.4% bitter) or **Ilkley Black Light** (3.4% stout). Other beers included **Courage Directors**.

After this refreshment stop we went back to the station for the train to **Bradford**, with only two stops to Bradford Forster Square. Some of us were affected by a forgotten case on the train but on returning quickly to the station, it was happily retrieved. Then onto the Premier Inn, our hotel for the three days. Others in the group had left early from Shipley for a beer at the nearby *Ginger Goose*, **Timothy Taylor Mild** and **Knowle Spring** were on offer but all had the **Mild**. As previously arranged we met at 5pm at *Jacob's Beer House*, a popular local pub close to our hotel. There were nine handpumps (three with ciders). **Half Moon Dark Masquerade** (3.6%), **Sunbeam Bright Day** (4.2%) and **Great Newsome Holderness Dark** (4.3%) were popular.

Then onto the *City Vaults* for dinner. Most had beer accompanying the meal but I preferred a Shiraz. There were five handpumps with beers including **Saltaire Blonde** (4.0%) and **Timothy Taylor Boltmaker** (4.0%). After food we repaired to the *Corn Dolly* which had eight handpumps,



Jacobs Beer House



City Vaults



Corn Dolly

including **Boltmaker** again, along with **Skipton First Pilgrim** (3.4%) which went down well. Four of our number got lost on way to this pub but reached the hotel safely later via another hostelry and a **Moorhouses White Witch**. After a long and, at times, tiring day we all eventually returned to our Central Premier Inn.

Second day and after breakfast at various places – Premier Inn, a local Wetherspoons and a cafe found by our leader – we met back at the hotel and then made our way to the National Science and Media Museum for the next hour or two. Very good time had by all. Then a reasonably tortuous walk to our late morning pub, the **Fighting Cock**, with seven handpumps including **Millstone Stout** (4.5%), **Ossett Trip Hop #3** (4.0%) and two **Timothy Taylor** beers. Then downhill to the **Lord Clyde**, a music venue although happily for our leader, none at that time of the day. There were five handpumps here, including **Kirkby Lonsdale Dark Side of the Lune** (4.2%) which I had to have due to my Pink Floyd fandom, and **Stancill Harlequin** (4.0%).

After a weary morning, most went back to the hotel for a wee rest! For the start of the evening we went back to **Jacob's Beer House** for a pint of



The Fighting Cock



The Fighting Cock

Sunbeam Chocolate Mild (4.8%) and **Abbeydale Deception**, a NZ Pale Ale (4.1%). Our chief had a half pint and water! Then off to the *International* for a curry. It had no licence, so water only. The curries were quite hot and large portions so a bit of waste for their elderly clientele. Most of the group then adjourned to the *Exchange*, the Bradford Pub of the Year 2025 with seven handpumps including **Sureshot Absolute Casserole** (4.0%), and **Nightjar Lost in Ikea** (4.2%), although two of our party had eaten at the hotel and two others went back after the curry, missing the unusual beers. However a good day, enjoyed by all if I read it properly.

Day three with breakfast as previous day, five of us in Premier, others in the local cafe and local Wetherspoons. A walking stick that was lost, happily found. We all met at the Premier and took the 642 bus to Fagley and a short walk to the Bradford Industrial Museum. Interesting with lots of information about textiles, machines and cars, including the bizarre Scott "sociable", a very unusual three-wheeler, but only 110 were ever built as it tipped over if turning sharply to the left. A few of us left Museum early intending revisiting a bar that we were in on our trip to Leeds, the *Castle Bar*. We met the landlord again, whose parents



The Scott Sociable Three-Wheeler



Whitelock's

were the oldest married couple in the UK, perhaps the world with a combined age of 204 years at that time. His father died aged 111 and his mum only managed to get to 104! The landlord was a busy man, being a chaplain at the local hospital, a singer with two bands, one here and one at home in India and also a TV extra. Anyway there was only one handpump but the beer was good, by **Timothy Taylor** if I remember correctly. We also were offered free a Laphroaig whisky which all but one of us, drank with pleasure.

Then onto the station and off to **Leeds** where we went first to **Whitelock's**, nine handpumps and **Full Circle Stout** (3.9%) and **Grounded Spring Protagonist** (4.4%) amongst others were sampled.

From there, we moved onto the **Banker's Cat**, a Thornbridge pub which had eight handpumps, with **Lord Marple's** (4.0%) and **Jaipur, Hirundo, Pink Grapefruit Jaipur** and **Imperial Stout** amongst the offerings.

Our next hostelry was **Tapped**, a more modern establishment but there were no handpumps, so I and others moved quickly on. Next pub was the **Head of Steam**, more traditional and nine handpumps, with **Kirkstall Blonde** (4.0%), **Camerons Strongarm** (4.0%) and **Saltire New Horizon** (4.8%) being the most popular.

For some reason we went back to the **Tapped** and there was much debate as to whether the beer on offer was cask or not, so I gave the beer a miss. Then we walked over to the **Scarborough Hotel**, again nine handpumps, including **Titanic Plum Porter** (4.9%), **Black Sheep Best Bitter** (4.0%) and **St Austell Proper Job** (4.5%). There were Leeds United strips on the walls, celebrating earlier times when they were more successful.



The Castle

We then went back to Bradford and had a Chinese Buffet, which went down well. After our meal we returned to the **Exchange**, as there was a Beer Festival on. Now brewed by **Heritage Brewing Co, Officers' Best Bitter** (4.0%) and **Wylam Gold** (4.0%) were amongst four others on offer. It was good to see quite a few Best Bitters on our trip here at Bradford. When there we had a fairly long chat with the barman's wife, who was originally from Elgin but had also lived in Kirriemuir. She was pleased to speak to fellow countrymen. I then enjoyed a second beer, **Otherworld Brewing Kindling Fig 80/-** (4.0%). We then made our way home after a very enjoyable, if very busy, day for a well earned rest.

Our last day was mainly travelling home, with breakfast as usual and onto the Bradford Exchange station, an hour earlier than planned, due to the problems at Glasgow Central. We caught a train to Preston, changing there for the return journey to Glasgow, which was uneventful with no lost sticks or luggage.

From Glasgow most went back on the usual train to North Ayrshire, with taking another train at Kilwinning being the only novelty. I think everyone agreed that our stay in Bradford had been entertaining with plenty of good beers to sample. Looking forward to next year's trip.



Jacobs Beer House

CAMPAIGNING TARGETS

2026-27



We have three Branch targets for 2026–27. Below is a summary of updates on them so far. Contact Andy Middleditch at campaigns@ayr.camra.org.uk if you have any suggestions or ideas of other ways to support our targets.



1

Increase the number of beer scores logged by our branch members on camra.org.uk.

During branch events and socials, members are being encouraged to score their beers. Beer scoring updates continue to be printed in Full Pints. It is hoped the new scoring criteria will encourage more scores.



2

Retain and increase CAMRA membership within our branch.

We hope to actively canvass for new members at local festivals, with the Ayrshire Beer & Cider Festival being a key target.



3

Encourage younger people to attend CAMRA supported events.

A challenging target! There is general consensus that we need to make more effort to engage informally with younger people and ale drinkers. This might include casual conversations about beer, our activities, building rapport – and buying someone a pint!



33rd Carlisle Beer and Cider Festival

Station Hotel, Carlisle

29th to 31st October 2026



Non Members: £5 Entry

Free Entry to all card carrying CAMRA Members

Join at: camra.org.uk/membership

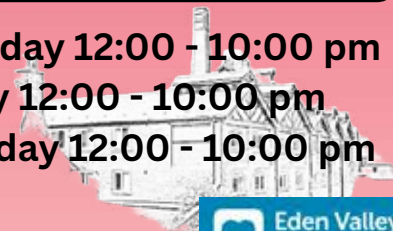
No Advanced Tickets

Festival Programme - £1

Thursday 12:00 - 10:00 pm

Friday 12:00 - 10:00 pm

Saturday 12:00 - 10:00 pm



East Ayrshire CAMRA Trip 2026 – Preston



On Tuesday 26 May, CAMRA members from Ayrshire and beyond made their way to Preston, Lancashire which was to be the base for three nights on a trip organised by the East Ayrshire Social Secretary.

11 (out of 16) participants arrived at Preston station and immediately headed across the road to the *Old Vic* in Fishergate where five cask ales were available. Most folk opted to try the revived cask version of **Boddingtons Bitter** (4%) which is now brewed by **J W Lees** in



Old Vic

Manchester. Cask ales were also available from **Lune, Three B's, Pennine** and **Little Tales** Breweries.

Leaving the *Old Vic*, the group moved to our base at the Preston Central Premier Inn for the 3pm check-in in order to drop bags and excess clothing as there was a late Spring heatwave affecting much of England! At this point, some folk still hadn't arrived and some of those who had split off from the main group. Although there is plenty of pub information online, we were using as our guide an excellent free printed "Ale Trail" map produced by CAMRA Central Lancashire Branch.

The main group chose to visit **Winckley Street Ale House**, a micropub with four handpumps and ten keg lines. The ales on offer were **Abbeydale Dark Mild** (4%), **Ideal Day Grain Store** (a 6.2% special bitter), **Nash Point Gelert** (4.5% hazy pale) and **Track Sonoma** (3.8% hazy pale).

The *Old Black Bull* in Friargate

is a lovely traditional pub with a tiled exterior. This pub had been closed for a while but has now been taken over (from Greene King) by the same group who own the *Old Vic*. Ale offerings here included the cask **Boddingtons** (which seemed to be very popular in the area), **Moorhouse's Free Falling** (3.8% amber ale) and **Farm Yard Haybob** (3.9% golden ale).

The other Preston pubs visited by some (or all) of the group were:

- **Plug & Taps**, Lune Street which is another micropub with four cask ales;
- **Wings & Beer Co.**, Cannon Street – a sports bar serving food and a couple of cask ales which included **Skinnors Sennen** (3.8% pale ale);



Plug & Taps

- Guild Ale House, Lancaster Road – a super venue for ale lovers. Described as a large micropub, it has seven handpumps and offered beers from **Little Brewing**, **Rivington**, **Brightside**, **Big Trip**, **Left Handed Giant** and the very tasty **Ossett/Amity Brew Co.** **Thunder Rat** (5.5% Victorian Mild);



Guild Ale House

- **Black Horse**, Friargate (owned by **Robinsons Brewery** of Stockport) which is a former Central Lancs. Pub of the Year and offers up to ten cask ales which (apart from **Robinsons** own range) included ales from **Milestone**, **Castle Rock**, **Front Row**, **Anarchy** and **Titanic** breweries;
- **Vinyl Tap**, Adelphi Street – a music themed pub where you can choose a vinyl LP to be played while enjoying a cask ale such as **Tiny Rebel Pacha** (4% cherry mild);
- **Market Tavern**, Market Street which, although not actually included in the printed CAMRA guide, offers 10% discount on their cask ales to CAMRA members.



Vinyl Tap

The following day we were joined by Chris & Isabel from Folkestone (formerly of Ayr) and, group complete, everyone took a train to **Chorley** which is well known for having a good selection of pubs and also has a CAMRA printed "Ale Trail" map. Unfortunately, we discovered that Wednesday was not the best day to visit Chorley as a few pubs close on that day but there were still plenty of establishments to visit and ales to sample.

The **Malt 'n' Hops**, Friday Street can be seen from the station platform and is the 2026 Central Lancashire "Pub of the Year". Nine handpumps (all in use) served ale from **Ossett**, **Wily Fox**, **Moorhouse's**, **Goose Eye** and **Bank Top Brewery** (Bolton) which was represented by **Dark Mild** (4%). Everyone agreed that we could quite happily have stayed all afternoon at the **Malt 'n' Hops** and enjoyed the hospitality either indoors or at the outside tables but Chorley required exploring!



Malt 'n' Hops

Riley's Taproom, Baaa 38, **Ben's Tap** and the **Bob Inn** were all closed so our next port of call was **Flat Iron** on Cleveland Street. This was a bit of a disappointment, although almost anywhere would have struggled to match the standard of the **Malt 'n' Hops**! There were initially three ales available from **Lymestone** and **Kirkby Lonsdale** Breweries on sale at the ridiculous price of £2/pint to CAMRA members but the

quality was poor and it was likely that they were all close to the end of the cask.

Moving on swiftly, we visited the **Crown** in Chapel Street which had two cask ales available including **Bowness Bay Swan Blonde** (4%). A short distance along Chapel Street, we piled into **Inn the Dog House** which offered seven ales on handpump from **Kirkby Lonsdale**, **Abbeydale**, **Oakham**, **Ossett** and **Bank Top** Breweries.



Shepherd's Hall Ale House and Victoria Rooms

On the other side of Chapel Street sits the wonderfully named **Shepherd's Hall Ale House & Victoria Rooms**. This is a magnificent building with a multi-area lounge and two bars but the only ale available at the time of our visit was **Theakston Old Peculier** (5.6%) which was in good condition and sold at the bargain price of £2.50/pint.

Around this point, the group split up with some opting to return to Preston for dinner and some Preston pub visits while others headed back to the **Malt 'n' Hops** before catching a later train to Preston.



Clitheroe Castle

Thursday was another warm sunny day and the group left Preston by train or bus to visit **Clitheroe**, a lovely market town in the Ribble Valley. Some members visited the market and the castle grounds but, unfortunately, the castle itself was undergoing repairs and was completely hidden behind scaffolding and plastic sheeting.

Some folk headed directly to the closest pub to the station which is the *Beer Shack* on King Street and tried the **Moor Beer Co. Bristol Best** (4.2% best bitter) but this was not considered to be in "best" condition. Alternative cask ales were available from **Purity** and **Only With Love** Breweries. None of these beers would qualify for the CAMRA LocAle scheme!

The next pub to be visited was the *New Inn*, Parson Lane. This is a large traditional pub with ten cask ales available. These were from **Bowness Bay**, **Moorhouse's**, **Coach House**, **Phoenix**, **Saltaire** and **Goose Eye** with a particular favourite being **Lagonda** (5% pale ale) brewed by **Marble Beers**, Manchester.

However, the main attraction for beer lovers in Clitheroe is the *Bowland Beer Hall* at Holmes Mill which features one of the longest bars in Britain and has an astonishing 42 handpumps although they will rarely all be in use! Around 27 were pouring during our visit, including nine **Bowland** beers brewed on site. Guest breweries included **Rivington**, **Ilkley**, **Rudgate**, **Kirkstall**, **Vocation**, **Hawkshead**, **Marble**, **Two by Two** and **Pomona Island**. It was noted that they were holding a beer festival in July therefore if 27 beers are not sufficient for one visit, you could have had a choice of 60 between 10–12 July! Tasting paddles were available and good value food could be ordered which was delivered to your table. A gem of a place which should be on the radar of any CAMRA member visiting this corner of Lancashire. There is even a hotel on site if you wish to stay for a few days!

Clitheroe has many other pubs which we didn't have time to visit but most of us managed a brief visit to the *Alehouse*, Market Place where five ales on handpump could be found.

This included the delicious (but dangerous) **Peculier Assassin** (5.4% dark IPA) from **Theakston** in collaboration with **Rooster's Brewing Co.**

Returning by train to Preston, some of us managed return (or first) visits to the pubs listed earlier. It was difficult to choose a favourite pub in Preston city centre but the *Black Horse* and the *Guild Ale House* are contenders for the top spot.



Alehouse, Clitheroe

After breakfast on Friday, we all went our separate ways using various trains and one car! A group of nine did manage one final visit to the *Old Vic* which acted as our station waiting room! Train departures are displayed on a screen in the pub therefore it seemed to be a sensible place to end our Lancashire holiday. Many thanks to Alex Burt for organising this event and suggestions are now welcomed for the 2027 trip!

Bowland Beer Hall



Bowland Beer Hall



Bowland Beer Hall



Bowland Beer Hall

Branch Committee and Corresponding Members

Chair	Lindsay Grant	branchchair@ayr.camra.org.uk
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Vice-chair 2	Ronnie Beveridge	website@ayr.camra.org.uk
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Public Transport Liaison	Charles Fisher	transport@ayr.camra.org.uk
Young Members' Contact	Vacant	
Ordinary Member	Eric Johns	
CORRESPONDING MEMBERS		
South Ayrshire Socials	Vacant	south-ayrshire@ayr.camra.org.uk
Kenny Gillies, Douglas Graham, Malcolm McNeill, Tony Scott, Bob Wallace, Roger Cope		

Every CAMRA branch adheres to CAMRA's privacy policy. Within our branch we use a centralised communications tool for sending out our monthly emails to our branch members.

However, for certain aspects of our work, for example, the beer festival, we will occasionally need to contact folk directly by way of having a 'legitimate interest'. Any communications from our branch will contain details of how to unsubscribe from the emails if that is your desire. However, our hope is that as a member of CAMRA, you value the information that is sent to you, and that it is useful, particularly at branch level. If it isn't, then please talk to us in the first instance so we can understand your concerns.

You can check your email address is correct at www.camra.org.uk. Log in using your membership details, and select 'Edit your membership information'.

GETTING AROUND



Listed below are some useful contact details for transport providers in our Branch area.

STAGECOACH WEST SCOTLAND stagecoachbus.com

Tel: 01294 607007 (Ardrossan)
01292 613500 (Ayr)
01770 302000 (Arran)
0345 121 0190 (Disability Helpdesk)

SHUTTLE BUSES shuttlebuses.co.uk

Tel: 0800 072 0373

MCGILL'S BUSES mccgillsbuses.co.uk

Tel: 08000 51 56 51

SCOTRAIL scotrail.co.uk

Tel: 0344 811 0141

CALEDONIAN MACBRAYNE calmac.co.uk

Tel: 0800 066 5000

TRAVELINE SCOTLAND travelinescotland.com

DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY BUS OPERATORS LIST
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IN BRIEF

TASTING PANEL TRAINING

Branch Member and West of Scotland Tasting Panel Chair Ian Martin recently conducted a Tasting Panel Training Session for people who'd volunteered to work at the Peterborough beer festival which will help them identify and talk about beer styles. In total 16 people were able to attend the session. Contact Ian at tasting@ayr.camra.org.uk if you'd like more info about tasting panels or to take part in a future training session.



VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

We've still got some vacant volunteering roles in our branch which need filling – could you help us out with a few hours each month? Contact branch chair Lindsay Grant for more information if you are interested in any of the roles. Email: branchchair@ayr.camra.org.uk

SOUTH AYRSHIRE SOCIAL SECRETARY

Organise regular social events, currently monthly, around South Ayrshire real ale pubs.

WIGTOWNSHIRE SOCIAL SECRETARY

Organise regular social events around the Wigtownshire pubs and feedback any local news.

YOUNG PERSONS' CONTACT

Be a point of contact for any of our younger members and organise socials and events for them on a regular basis.

CHAMPION BEER OF BRITAIN HEATS

Glasgow Real Ale Festival hosted two heats of this year's competitions:

SPECIALITY – DIFFERENTLY PRODUCED (SCOTLAND):

- 1st: Harviestoun **Schiehallion**
2nd: Williams Bros. **Fraoch**
3rd: Cromarty **Red Rocker**

SPECIALITY – FLAVOURED (WEST MIDLANDS):

- 1st: Titanic **Chocolate & Vanilla Stout**
2nd: Titanic **Plum Porter**
3rd: Enville **Ginger Gothic**




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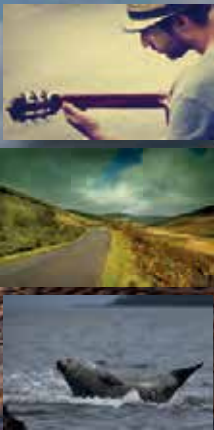
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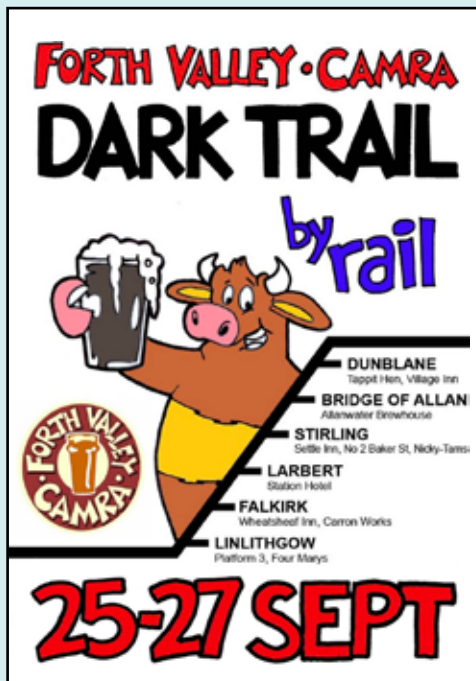
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Forth Valley CAMRA's Dark Ale Trail is an annual opportunity to travel by train between Linlithgow and Dunblane stopping off at various pubs to enjoy dark beers that each pub is putting on specially. There are often some ales available that are seldom seen in the area. Runs from 25-27 September.

Remember that a return train ticket allows you to break journey at each stop. Check Forth Valley's facebook page at www.facebook.com/ForthValleyCAMRA to confirm details.

The pubs participating should be as follows:

- Platform 3, Linlithgow
- The Four Marys, Linlithgow
- The Wheatsheaf, Falkirk
- Carron Works, Falkirk
- The Station Hotel, Larbert
- No. 2 Baker Street, Stirling
- Nicky-Tams Bar & Bothy, Stirling
- The Settle Inn, Stirling
- Allanwater Brewhouse, Bridge of Allan
- The Village Inn, Dunblane
- Tappit Hen, Dunblane

33rd Alloa Real Ale & Cider Festival 6/7 November 2026

Alloa Town Hall, FK10 1AB

Just 5 mins walk from Alloa Railway Station

- Featuring around 50 real ales and 16 ciders
- Alcohol-free beers also available
- Wine, Gin, Prosecco & Spirits Bar
- Hot food / soft drinks

OPENING TIMES:

Fri 6th: 1pm - 10.30pm

Sat 7th: 12 noon - 10.30pm

FREE Entry for CAMRA Members (with current membership card)
Glass and Programme £3

£10 all others Over-18s only

Free re-admission on presentation of your glass and 2026 programme



MORE DETAILS AT:

forthvalley.camra.org.uk



@ForthValleyCAMRA



Interview with Dale Harvey – aka The Great British Pub Crawl

Dale describes himself as a professional drinker, and visited Ayr and Kilmarnock for the first time on 10/11 April respectively. Full Pints caught up with him in the West Kirk, Ayr and asked him a few questions about the Pub Crawl and his vision for pubs. Shortly after this interview Dale was also successfully elected as a member of CAMRA's National Executive.



Q1. You used to run pubs in Nottingham area. What made you leave that side of the industry?

I went into pubs when I was 15 years old, working for a local pub company, and was their youngest general manager when I was just 21. I then worked for a lot of the major pub companies and then spent a long time running pub – 20 years in total. Then COVID hit. I had a discussion with my wife about the fact that I worked 80 hours a week. I've got a mate who runs a darts company, and he asked if I would frame up some of his signed darts memorabilia at home. I said OK, and taught myself how to do that. He was sending me 50-odd shirts a week to do, paying me 500 quid to do 500 shirts. So I thought, I'm gonna have a couple of months off working in pubs when they reopen. So we started the Great British Pub Crawl as a side hobby in March 2022, whilst I framed shirts, which was making enough money; I always intended to go back to running pubs, but after starting this, I had so much fun doing it, it's taken over my life...

Q2. What would be the most beneficial change in government policies to assist pubs which are being crippled at present?

A cut in tax for hospitality. Most of Europe understands the importance of hospitality, where as a whole, hospitality pays a lower tax rate for what they do. For me, in the UK, the whole of hospitality should pay 7%, but I've been campaigning for 10% because we realistically won't get 7%. Hospitality is such a valuable industry. The government needs to understand that, without hospitality, so many of us wouldn't have had our start in life. Businesses can't afford to employ young people. Why would you employ young people that have got no experience? Why would you employ an 17 or 18 year old on the same money as you can employ a 20 year old who's

got 2/3 years experience in the same industry? For businesses, it's a no brainer. So the government needs to understand that if you're going to keep bumping the living wage up for the youngsters, you've got to give something back to hospitality, so it can afford to employ the young people that the government says they want to pay more.

Q3. We often hear that the Battle for cask has been won – we'd argue that's not the case in Scotland. How would you convince publicans to try cask ale when they say there's no demand but have never tried?

This is something I get a lot. I probably visit more pubs a week than anybody in the country does. I will talk to them and say, why don't you do it? And the generic answer is "it doesn't sell." And I'll say, "What did you try?"; "Oh, we had Doom Bar on; we had Greene King IPA. It didn't sell". Why doesn't it sell? Because they're rubbish. There are so many great independent brewers in this country that need supported. Most independent breweries these days do both cask and keg very well. Let's start pushing those independent breweries because they know how to then upsell their beer into pubs. Let's say to publicans, "Are you a free house? What can you order?" But also tell them "This is who you can get stuff from. Go to this brewery, look at what they stock and say, what can we have off this list that might sell to our customers?" If we get independent breweries in more bars, we will automatically get more cask selling than we've got now.

You've got the Tied Pubs Bill up here which has got a guest beer right – But SIBA have just produced a report showing half of the tied pubs are not aware of the bill, and

others where the pubco's are being naughty, complaining and telling them that they can't do certain things. We can help by making tied pubs aware of their rights.

Q4. You've been in Scotland a few times now, what's the biggest difference in pubs you've found so far between here and elsewhere?

Everyone is so much friendlier up here. I have fallen in love with Scotland. I feel like I now come up here and I feel at home. Edinburgh's become my 2nd favourite drinking city in the entire world to go to after Liverpool.

Q5. At the time of this interview you're standing for the NE. Do you think you'll be able to fulfill your NE duties in addition to continuing the GBPC.

100% because my any duties, I think, would fall in line pretty much with what I do already. I think that to be on the national executive, the members who are on there should be going out visiting places, speaking to CAMRA branches, not just in their own area, but all over the country. I do that already.

I will happily drop back a day a week to incorporate more CAMRA duties. I believe strongly that CAMRA is, always has been, and should be the driving force between saving pubs and cask ale in this country. I also strongly believe that for the last five, six, maybe ten years, we have fallen short of the expectation of what CAMRA should be doing at a national level.

Whereas the branches are amazing. The people at branch level put their heart and soul into it. They care, they raise their funds, they get their members out. They score their beers, they just do it. All I hear from the branches is

there's a massive disconnect between them and national level. We get no support. We hear nothing unless they want something from us. But I want to change that. I want to say, look, the branches need to be on the same page as us. My social media is a way of getting younger folk interested. Changing perceptions from the outside; Saying, well, actually, hold on – your perception of CAMRA is something you've probably held onto for 10 years. Come and see us now. Come and talk to us now. Come and see what we do on a branch deal, on a day to day basis. Come and see how we're helping local communities. We're fighting to save our pubs. We're trying to keep cask alive and getting a younger crowd to drink it.

Q6. CAMRA needs more members, particularly younger folk. How do you think we can achieve that??

My social media channels reach millions of people a month across all of it. A lot of them are probably 25 to 35 year old year olds. I can break it down on my Facebook and see the demographics. A lot of them have never heard anything good about CAMRA. They've never heard that what the hard work that goes on, the good side of what we do. The perception has always been always old and that. We all need to get on social media, and say to people, look, this is where we go and what we are actually doing.

Q7. Cask vs Craft – what should CAMRA do differently in promoting it and making craft more acceptable to all? Are prices getting too expensive?

I think it goes back to what I was saying about independent breweries – we need to learn that keg and cask are not enemies of each



Dale Harvey meeting some branch CAMRA members in the West Kirk, Ayr

other. If we have a pub that is doing well, it needs to have a varied range of customers. If we want a cask ale pub to do well, we need it to be populated with customers all the time. If certain customers are in a group and they don't like cask ale, we can try and educate them. But as long as they're in the pub and they're spending money, they're going to help keep the cask ale pub open.

Q8. We've got Minimum Unit Pricing here in Scotland, and it's being proposed for England? Are you in favour of it and what do you see as the benefits and disadvantages? I don't know, really, without sitting down and understanding it. I wouldn't be in favour of it necessarily, but if you argue with me and say there's a benefit to it, I'll listen, and I'll decide from there. A lot of the schemes that the government throw out there don't actually work in practice.

Q9. You'll have visited approximately 9,200 pubs by the end of next week. Plans for anything special for your 10,000th pub?

Teuchters, Edinburgh



When I get home from this trip, I want to be through 9,250. That's my target I've set. I'm then going to America for two weeks and I'm away on holiday for another week during the next few months. So my aim is end of July, start of August to reach 10,000. It will have to be something special, but the problem is it needs to be a pub I've never visited before to be able to count. **[ED – since this interview, Dale visited his 10,000th pub – Teuchters, Edinburgh on 13 July – 1,581 days since the Great British Pub Crawl was started.]**

Q10. Finally, football – Ayr Utd or Kilmarnock FC I'm sat in Ayr right now, so Ayr United! Tomorrow it might be Kilmarnock!

You can follow Dale on his Facebook page at facebook.com/TheGreatBritishPubCrawl or contact him at dale.harvey@camra.org.uk



Branch Communications

As a CAMRA member, do you receive our branch updates by email?

Our monthly 'CAMRA Calling' newsletter covers everything from upcoming social events and the Pub of the Year, to festivals and info about our real ale outlets. Make sure to check your inbox for all the details and stay connected with our fantastic community!

If you don't receive it and would like local news, check your marketing preferences at account.camra.org.uk and make sure that the Branch email option is selected. There's lots of other options available as well. Not a CAMRA member yet? Join the fun at camra.org.uk/join and stay in the loop. Cheers!



FRASERS BAR Millport



7 Cardiff Street,
Millport, KA28 0AS
Isle of Cumbrae
Tel: 01475 530518



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beer
festivals

Death or Glory?

Just a pint please, actually.

CAMRA membership expands your choice of beer, pubs and festivals. Find the best pints, and the places you want to drink them.

Get £30 of beer vouchers, discounts on real ale, free entry to 100+ beer festivals around the UK and more with membership.



Join and save on beer.
camra.org.uk/join



Beer Scoring has changed

AND YOU COULD WIN A MINICASK OF ALE

Previously beers were scored using a numerical scale (0-5). These have been replaced with simpler text 'ratings' with updated descriptions and possible reactions! The new ratings are shown opposite. There is a separate tick box for when no cask ale is available.

One of our branch campaigns this year is to increase the number of scores we receive, which ultimately helps us select the best pubs for inclusion in the Good Beer Guide. As an incentive, we're running a **competition** to win a 5L mini-cask of beer, by encouraging members to visit as many pubs as possible in our branch area (currently around 50 pubs) and submit a beer score.

The prize will be awarded to the A&W branch member who scores beers in the most branch pubs. The competition will run until Sunday 7 March 2027. If two or more members have scored the same number of pubs, then the winner will be the member who has submitted the most beer scores in total.

As of 8 Aug we've received 1157 scores for our branch pubs this year which is higher than the same time last year – keep up the good work!

RATING	DESCRIPTION	YOUR REACTION
Excellent	Exceptional and clear (if intended to be) with fantastic aromas, flavours and ideal carbonation.	Superb! You tell your friends and compliment the cellar manager.
Very Good	Satisfying and well-kept with a great appearance, good carbonation and enticing aromas and flavours.	You consider having another and may cancel plans to move to another pub.
Good	Nice appearance, good carbonation, aromas and flavour.	Pleasant but not memorable. You're happy to have another but might consider something else.
Acceptable	Unremarkable and ordinary, with no noteworthy characteristics.	You're unlikely to have another unless it is all there is and there isn't another pub to go to.
Poor	Noticeably imperfect.	Drinkable with resentment, but you politely ask for a replacement.
Undrinkable	Unpleasant to drink, likely with a disgusting taste, incorrect appearance and off/foul aroma.	You politely ask for it to be replaced and consider asking the publican to take it off.

There are three very simple steps to score beers on your smartphone or computer:

- 1. Sign in** to camra.org.uk/pubs with your CAMRA membership number and password. You can access this on any smartphone or computer – it is useful to save this link as shortcut to your phone's homescreen for quick and easy access.
- 2. Select the pub** you wish to score.
- 3. Score your beer** using the criteria above, select the brewery and then the beer, or enter it manually, and finally click the Submit button.

Our **Top Scorers** from our branch over the past three months were Kenneth Middleditch with 48 scores, followed closely by Graeme Perry with 46 scores, then Ian Middleditch (42), Matt Miller (41), and Stuart McMahon (38).

Our **top pubs for the past three months** (with more than one visit) with average scores over 3.0 are the *Steam Packet Inn*, Isle of Whithorn (4.07), followed by several on an average of 4.0 – *Black Bull*, Darvel, *Ship Inn*, Drummore, *Maybole Arms*, Maybole, *The PHT*, Lamlash, *Ormidale Hotel*, Brodick and *Ardrossan Rugby Club*.

Pubs with the most scores for the past three months are the *Twa Dugs*, West Kilbride (80); *Number Forty Seven*, Troon (47); *Railway Inn*, Glengarnock (40); *Wheatshaf Inn*, Kilmarnock (39), *Grapes*, Stranraer (33); and the *Village Inn*, Fairlie (32).

Pubs with only a single score for the past three months are *Wee Windaes*, Ayr; *Kinloch Hotel*, Blackwaterfoot; *Lochranza Country Inn*; *Mill House*, Stewarton; *First Edition*, Kilmarnock, and *Tigh-na-Mara*, Sandhead. Please try and visit these pubs and submit a beer score.

Ayrshire & Wigtownshire CAMRA Branch



Local Breweries



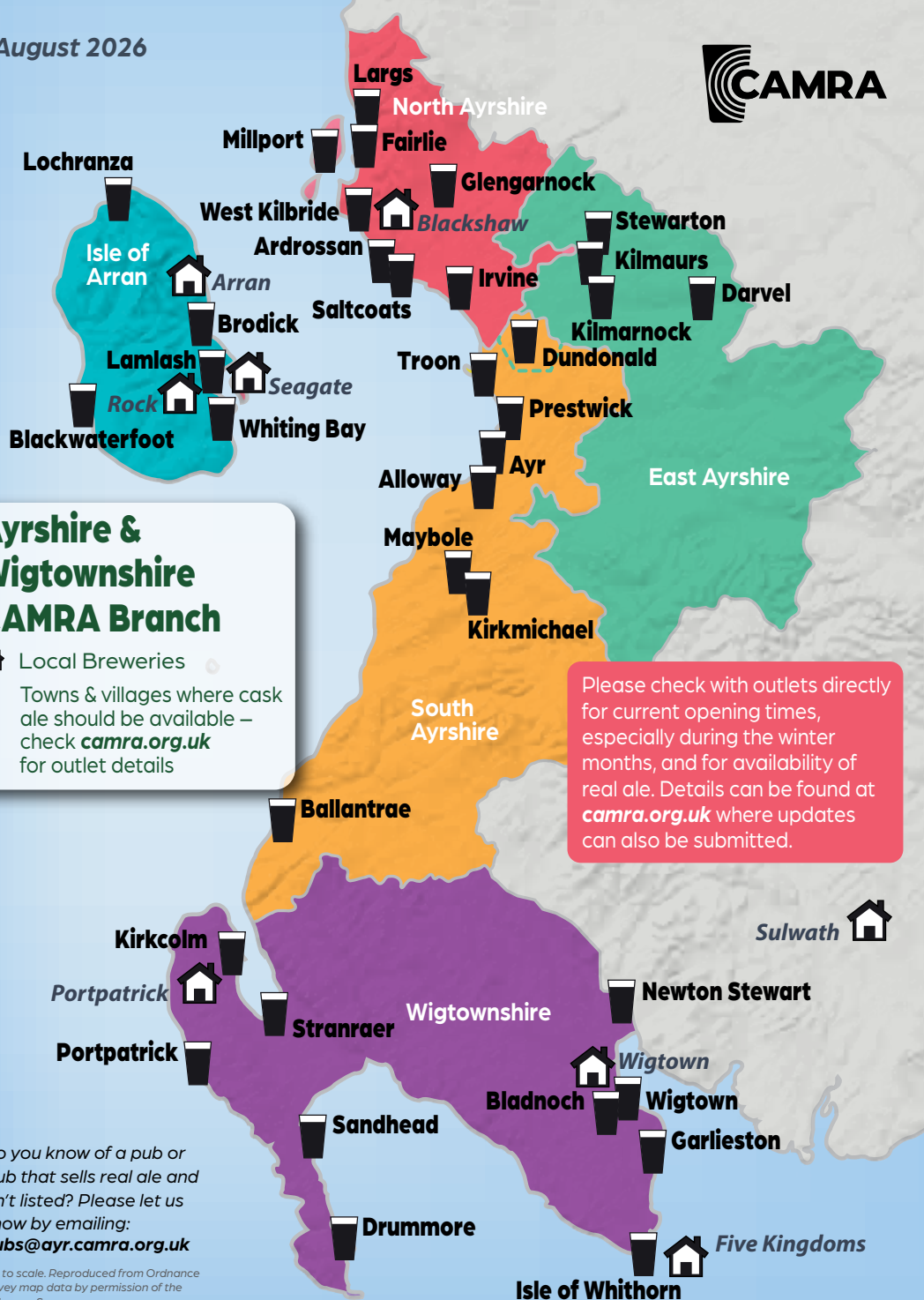
Towns & villages where cask ale should be available – check camra.org.uk for outlet details

Please check with outlets directly for current opening times, especially during the winter months, and for availability of real ale. Details can be found at camra.org.uk where updates can also be submitted.

Do you know of a pub or club that sells real ale and isn't listed? Please let us know by emailing: pubs@ayr.camra.org.uk

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Full branch info at: ayr.camra.org.uk





AYRSHIRE & WIGTOWNSHIRE REAL ALE OUTLETS

NORTH AYRSHIRE

ARDROSSAN

Ardrossan Rugby Club

FAIRLIE

Village Inn

IRVINE

The Auld Brig 
Bar 10 *

GLENGARNOCK

The Railway Inn

LARGS

Largs Sailing Club
(Summer, during
events)
The Paddle Steamer


Sharps *

Three Reasons

MILLPORT

Fraser's Bar

SALTCOATS

Salt Cot 

WEST KILBRIDE

The Twa Dugs 

ISLE OF ARRAN

BLACKWATERFOOT

Kinloch Hotel

BRODICK

Arran Brewery 
Cladach Beach
House **
Ormidale Hotel
Wine Port

LAMLASH

Drift Inn **
Glenisle Hotel **
Pierhead Tavern

LOCHRANZA

Lochranza
Country Inn

WHITING BAY

Burlington Hotel **

EAST AYRSHIRE

DARVEL

Black Bull

KILMAURS

Weston Tavern 

KILMARNOCK

First Edition 
Wheatsheaf Inn 

STEWARTON

The Mill House

DUNDONALD

The Auchans
(Located in South
Ayrshire but East
Ayrshire for socials)

WIGTOWNSHIRE

BLADNOCH

Bladnoch Inn **

DRUMMORE

Ship Inn

GARLIESTON

Harbour Inn

ISLE OF WHITHORN

Steam Packet Inn  

KIRKCOLM

Blue Peter Hotel **

NEWTON STEWART

Creebridge House
Hotel
Vault **

PORTPATRICK

Crown Hotel

SANDHEAD

Tigh na Mara Hotel

STRANRAER

Grapes 

WIGTOWN

Wigtown Ploughman

SOUTH AYRSHIRE

ALLOWAY

Cambusdoon Sports
Club

AYR

Chestnuts Hotel
Tam o' Shanter *
The Growler **
The Smoking Goat
The Twa Dugs

Wee Windaes

Wellingtons Bar
West Kirk 

BALLANTRAE

Kings Arms **

KIRKMICHAEL

Kirkmichael Arms

MAYBOLE

Maybole Arms

PRESTWICK

Prestwick Pioneer 

TROON

Harbour Bar
Marr Rugby Club #
Number Forty-Seven 
The Portland

* CAMRA members have noted limited opening hours and/or that real ale is not always available at these outlets.

§ Special offers for card-carrying CAMRA members

** Bottle/Can-conditioned/Membrane-keg live ales may be available

 CAMRA vouchers accepted

Match weekends only

 Current Branch Area Pub of the Year

 Overall Branch Pub of the Year 2026

Please remember that many outlets may operate seasonal hours – check before visiting

CAMRA members are encouraged to score ales they drink in their local pub, as it assists the committee in considering outlets for inclusion in the Good Beer Guide. Please take a few moments to score your beers at camra.org.uk if you visit them.

FIVE KINGDOMS



fivekingdomsbrewery.com

SCAN FOR
WEBSITE

