A&W CAMRA Calling November 2026

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Branch Events in November

Friday, 6 and Saturday, 7 November 33rd Alloa Real Ale & Cider Festival (CAMRA)
Alloa Town Hall. Mars Hill, Alloa, FK10 1AB; Friday 13:00 - 22:30, Saturday 12noon - 22:30
Organised by CAMRA's Forth Valley Branch this festival features 45+ cask ales and 15+ ciders/perries. Full details at https://camra.org.uk/event/33rd-alloa-real-ale-and-cider-festival-84044?utm_source=brevo&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=MARKETING%20-%20CAMRA%20Festivals%20November

Friday, 6 November Branch Social
Alloa Real Ale & Cider Festival; 13:00
Join like minded members in the opening time queue. The venue is a short walk from Alloa Railway Station.

Monday, 9 November Branch Committee Meeting
Wheatsheaf Inn, 70 Portland St, Kilmarnock, KA1 1JG; 20:00
Obviously targeted at committee members but any interested members are more than welcome to attend.

Saturday, 14 November Scottish Branches Meeting
Fox & Hounds, South St, Houston, PA6 7EN; 13:15
A business meeting when issues affecting all CAMRA's Scottish branches are discussed. All interested members are encouraged to attend.

Monday, 16 November ABCF Wash-up Meeting
Twa Dugs, 71 Main St, West Kilbride, KA23 9AW; 20:00
This is when we analyse what went well and what wasn't so good during our recent beer festival. All those interested are encouraged to attend.

Tuesday, 17 November South Ayrshire Social
Harbour Bar, 169-173 Templehill, Troon, KA10 6BH; 14:00
Targeted at members residing in South Ayrshire, but those from other areas of the branch are more than welcome to attend.

Thursday, 19 November North Ayrshire Social & Branch Meeting
Twa Dugs, 71 Main St, West Kilbride, KA23 9AW; 19:30
Targeted at members residing in North Ayrshire, but those from other areas of the branch are more than welcome to attend, especially as it will include a very short, bimonthly branch meeting demanded by our constitution.

Wednesday 25 November East Ayrshire Social
Wheatsheaf Inn, 70 Portland St, Kilmarnock, KA1 1JG; 19:30
Targeted at members residing in East Ayrshire, but those from other areas of the branch are more than welcome to attend.

Dates for Your Diary

This is advance notice of some forthcoming events. Full details will appear in the relevant A&W CAMRA Calling in advance of each event.

5 Dec	**South Ayrshire Festive Lunch, Chestnuts, Ayr (see article below)**
16 Dec	**North Ayrshire Festive Lunch; Twa Dugs, West Kilbride (see article below)**
29 Dec	**Festive Crawl, Largs/Fairlie/West Kilbride**
9 Jan	**East Ayrshire Festive Lunch, Auchans, Dundonald (see article below)**
20 Mar	**Branch AGM, venue tbc**

Social Area Festive Lunches

These are primarily targeted at members, family and friends residing in the relevant area but those from other areas of the branch will be made more than welcome.

South Ayrshire - Chestnuts Hotel, Ayr Saturday, 5 December 14:30

- £26.95 for 2 courses, £32.95 for 3 courses (includes tea or coffee). Menu choices are not required in advance.
- Bookings by **21 November** to Matt Miller (social@ayr.camra.org.uk). £10 deposit required to reserve a place. This can be paid in cash or, if you require bank details, contact Matt.
- Menu
  Homemade soup of the day
  Prawn & crayfish tian
  Platter of fresh fruit with raspberry sorbet
  Chicken liver pâté
  Garlic button mushrooms

  Traditional roast turkey
  Beef bourguignon
  Pan-fried breast of chicken
  Fillet of salmon
  Moroccan spiced chickpea & mixed bean cassoulet
  Grilled goat's cheese salad

  Lemon & lime cheesecake
  Traditional Christmas pudding
  Salted caramel choux buns
  Snowball coupe
  Platter of fruit with strawberry ice cream
  Cheese platter

North Ayrshire – Twa Dugs, West Kilbride Wednesday, 16 December 13:00
Details from Ian Middleditch north-ayrshire@ayr.camra.org.uk

East Ayrshire - Auchans, Dundonald Saturday, 9 January 14:00

- £19.50 for 2 courses, £24.50 for 3 courses. Bookings and menu choices must be confirmed in advance.
- Bookings to Alex Burt east-ayrshire@ayr.camra.org.uk by **28 November**. A £10 deposit is required to reserve a place. This can be paid in cash or, if you require bank details, please contact Alex. Please note that deposits paid are non-refundable in the event of no shows.
- Menu
  Soup of the day with crusty bread
  Chicken Liver Pate, dressed salad, chutney & oatcakes (gf)
  Vegetable Tempura with sweet chilli dipping sauce, salad (v/vgn) (gf available)
  Loaded Potato Skins, topped with cheddar, BBQ sauce, crispy onions (v)
  Seasonal Melon, sorbet and mixed berries (v/vgn/gf)

  Steak Pie, puff pastry, mashed potatoes, seasonal vegetables
  Wholetail Scampi, fries, tartare sauce
  Chicken stuffed with haggis, wrapped in bacon, vegetables, creamy mash
  Vegetable Tempura, sweet chilli sauce, salad, fries (v/vgn) (gf available)
  Cajun Salmon Fillet, steamed rice, Cajun & tomato cream

  Sticky Toffee pudding, tablet ice cream
  Chocolate fudge cake, chocolate ice cream (gf)
  Cheesecake with vanilla ice cream
  Trio of ice creams

Pub of the Year (POTY

Each social area selects a POTY for 2026. These are selected by members' votes. Members may vote for pubs in any area of the branch but whether an Area Social Coordinator takes account of votes from members residing outside his area is entirely at his discretion. Votes for pubs in each area should be sent to the following by **31 December 2026.**
North Ayrshire Ian Middleditch north-ayrshire@ayr.camra.org.uk
South Ayrshire Matt Miller social@ayr.camra.org.uk
East Ayrshire Alex Burt east-ayrshire@ayr.camra.org.uk
Wigtownshire Lindsay Grant branchchair@ayr.camra.org.uk (unless a Wigtownshire member volunteers to do it!)

You may also volunteer to be, or suggest, a judge for the next round of the competition where judges assess the 4 winning pubs by 7 March 2027 for the overall Branch POTY 2027 This pub will then progress to be considered for the Scottish POTY 2027.

Ayrshire Beer & Cider Festival (ABCF)

The weather was kind to us this year and attendance was almost double that of 2025. Surplus is estimated to be around £9000. Following on from the Wash-up Meeting on 16th November, full details will be in December's A&W CAMRA Calling.

Champion Beer of Britain (CBOB) Nominations

Online voting for beers to be included in CBOB heats in 2027 runs until Saturday, 31 October via CAMRA's national website https://camra.org.uk/cbob

For several years now, our branch has been the best performing branch in the UK. It would be great if we could achieve that accolade again this year. Last year 81 of you participated, to date around 60 have done so this year. If you have still to nominate, you are encouraged to participate prior to the deadline.

Champion Beer of Scotland (CBOS) Presentation

The presentation of this year's Champion Beer of Scotland, to Cromarty Brewery for their AKA IPA, will take place in the Castle Tavern, Inverness on Thursday, 12 November at 15:00. A finger buffet will be available from 14:00. To inform the pub of likely numbers for catering, If you intend to attend, please contact CBOS Coordinator Emily Green at competitions@scotb.camra.org.uk by 7 November.

Branch and Scottish Officer Vacancies

We still have some vacant volunteering roles in our branch which need filling. Contact branch chair Lindsay Grant branchchair@ayr.camra.org.uk if you are interested in any of the roles.

South Ayrshire Social Secretary - organise regular social events, currently monthly, around South Ayrshire cask ale pubs.

Wigtownshire Social Secretary - organise regular social events around the Wigtownshire pubs and feedback any news or updates about the outlets in the area.

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, some of which could be based around non-cask outlets.

Scottish Director (SCOTD) - Our current SCOTD, Stewart Campbell, was elected on an initial one-year term in February of this year and is happy to seek re-election. However, we still need to go through the election process and invite nominations for the role. Anyone interested should contact the Scottish Secretary Stuart McMahon at secretary@scotb.camra.org.uk Nominations should be received by Stuart **before noon on the 14 November.**

Other Scottish Branches vacances are for a **Young Persons' Coordinator** and **Public Transport Coordinator**. Anyone interested should contact the Scottish Director Stewart Campbell rd.scotland@camra.org.uk

Full Pints Copy

The copy deadline for the winter edition of our award-winning magazine is 13th November. Our editor Stuart McMahon is always on the lookout for fresh articles. Send to fullpints@ayr.camra.org.uk

Full Pints Advertising

The viability of our multi award-winning magazine *Full Pints* is dependant in advertising income covering production and distribution costs. To this end, we are always on the lookout for new advertisers. If you are aware of any business, doesn't have to be real ale related, who might like to advertise in our magazine, please supply details, in the meantime, to our Editor Stuart McMahon full pints@ayr.camra.org.uk

Branch Code of Conduct

This applies to all events.
Our wish is for everyone to enjoy themselves and have fun on our trips and events. However please remember that 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/carer with you.