

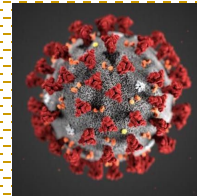
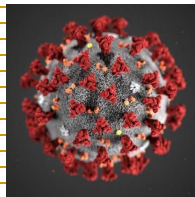
# ONE & ALE

Campaign for Real Ale Cornwall Branch Newsletter

Autumn 2020

Covid-19

Online Edition



**Pub of the Year  
2020**



**White Hart Chilsworthy**

## BRANCH NEWS



Due to the ongoing Coronavirus situation and the restrictions that are still in place we have not been able to set a date for the Annual General Meeting. This was intended to be held on 28 March but lockdown commenced the week beforehand that was rather unfortunate.

We, as a branch, are not alone in this respect and we await further instruction from H M Government and CAMRA HQ.

As you may be aware several of the committee were intending to stand down at the AGM, including Bob Bunce our chairman. The forced inactivity of the branch and his paid job with Cornwall Council keeping their IT systems running during this crisis has meant that he can no longer take an active part and has passed his CAMRA role to me, Vince Curtis, as Acting Chairman. Your committee continues to keep the branch ticking along. We've held an on-line committee meeting (a first for CAMRA Kernow) and the minutes are available along with reports to view on the website ([www.cornwall.camra.org.uk](http://www.cornwall.camra.org.uk)). As soon as we are able we will hold an AGM. It was considered not viable to hold one on-line, bearing in mind the numbers that usually attend.

Well it's just over three months since pubs were allowed to re-open and most in the branch area have been able to. Publicans have been creative in ensuring the safety of staff and customers alike, ranging from one way systems, utilising outdoor space (including car parks) to table service. It has been good to see people out behaving responsibly and enjoying the hospitality of Cornwall's great pubs.

We are delighted to announce that the **White Hart at Chilsworthy** has been voted branch **Pub of the Year** for the second year in succession. Massive congratulations to Amy and her team. A few of us travelled down to present a certificate and we will have a proper branch celebration at this delightful pub in the Tamar Valley when restrictions are lifted.

When and if you're able to please consider supporting the pubs by paying them a visit. They'd love to see you and a warm welcome awaits.

Stay Safe and Cheers  
**Vince Curtis, Acting Chairman**



## EDITOR'S COMMENT

Although my column has normally been a description of my various misadventures and perhaps a rant or two, I start with a plea for information.



Now that many pubs have taken the opportunity to reopen, are you getting out and about and visiting your previously favourite haunts, and how are you finding the experience? Let me know by emailing [newsletter@cornwall.camra.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@cornwall.camra.org.uk).

For myself I was not in a great rush to return to the pub and my experiences in many have not encouraged me to visit those that will remain nameless, again.

The reopening of pubs came at the same time as the influx of holidaymakers hit Cornwall. Often a time in previous years when those of us who live here choose more carefully where we drink in the hope we can avoid long queues to be served or get a seat. Now you can expect to join a queue to get in! Granted this is often only caused by the various methods of Track & Trace or table allocation, but get your timing wrong and you might have to wait for some customers to leave before you are allowed in. No longer can you just stroll in and up to the bar. In fact you're not allowed anywhere near the bar. I know this is all for my own safety and I certainly don't want to catch the virus, but my whole pub-going experience has changed.

If I am with a group (social bubble) it is different to trying to get into a pub on my own. The capacity of pubs has been reduced to enable social distancing, so when I turn up alone I appreciate that I may take up a table that is designated for 4 or 6. You are less likely to receive the warm welcome of pre-covid days.

During August when the Eat Out to Help Out half price meal deals were on offer if you hadn't booked a table you might have to wait even longer to get in. I only took advantage of the scheme on 3 occasions, twice in Wetherspoons and once with a booked table. Tim Martin is continuing with a Stay Out to Help Out discount until November 11th. Here in Cornwall many pub and restaurant proprietors would have preferred the Eat Out scheme to have been offered by Rishi Sunak in October-November as they are normally busy anyway in the height of the summer season. Some are reported to have even dropped out of the scheme as they were receiving abuse from customers. There's no need for that.

## BREWERY NEWS

### **Black Flag**

The brewery Taproom has reopened and offering 6 keg beers served at your table inside or out, as well as carryout. No real ale is currently available as they are concerned a second lockdown would mean pouring beer away. Very little was wasted in March when bottles or growlers could be ordered and deliveries were available in the Perranporth-St Agnes area. The keg is unfiltered, unfiltered and unpasteurised, but is kept and served using CO<sup>2</sup>.

A new 8bbl brewery was installed during lockdown (the previous one was also 8bbl) and was manufactured in China, so a slight delay in receiving it, but all up and running now.

The Taproom seems to be the major outlet for the beers as functions such as weddings and festivals are limited at the moment and were preferred to pubs pre-covid.

### **Blue Anchor**

Brewing was continued during lockdown to supply a carry-out trade and so, although there has been a reduction in output, the full range of Spingo ales are now served over the bar and, it is believed, in the handful of other pubs that were supplied before.

### **Driftwood Spars**

Following the death of Pete Martin in January his former second in command Mike Mason was asked by Louise Treseder, landlady and owner of the Driftwood Spars pub to take over.

30-year old Mike had not had time to settle in before the pandemic hit, but used the time of lockdown to



take stock and think about the future of the brewery. "We looked at the beers Pete made and decided which ones will continue as our classic range," he said. "It also allowed me to experiment and launch our new Cove range of craft beers, something that might not

have been so easy to do during the full tourist season." Beers continued to be served as takeaway and delivery in the local area during lockdown and has led to a shortage of bottles in the brewery shop. Mike hopes to have some assistance soon to catch up and restock.

Mike's experience in his brewing career has come from some two-and-a-half-years with Brewhouse and Kitchen in Lichfield, during which time he won an award from the Society of Independent Brewers, hosted a beer tasting in the Houses of Parliament and judging at the World Beer Awards.

He now lives in Porthtowan with his partner Lisa Piechowicz, who works in the marketing department at Sharp's Brewery in Rock.

"My plan was always to move down to Cornwall," said Mike. "The surf is not too great in the Midlands."

Pete's plan was for Mike to focus on developing a range of more contemporary beers using only British ingredients.

### **Dynamite Valley**

Cask and bottle production has continued during these challenging times. The popular beer café has re-opened on Saturdays with social distancing measures being observed.

### **Granite Rock**

At the end of August Dave and Frances announced they were closing the brewery and moving on to pastures new. Evidently Dom Lilly is in the process of taking over the brewery, but intends at first to concentrate on small pack, cans, bottles and keg as he believes the cask market is saturated at the moment.

### **Keltek**

Keltek now has the brew team back at work full time and are brewing near to pre lock-down volumes. The difference is it is now about 90% bottled beer and 10% cask. They are also contract bottling for some other breweries. Their shop should have returned to the usual hours of 09.00 - 16.30 Mon-Fri. Head Brewer Tom Bryant was very happy to announce that at the recent Taste of the West awards Bottled versions of Pilot Gig Porter, Grim Reaper and Beheaded won gold awards, with Even Keel and Lance picking up silvers.

### **St Austell**

Following the death of Roger Ryman St Austell have a new Brewing Director. It is Georgina Young, promoted from Head Brewer at Bath Ales. She will oversee brewing operations at the St Austell and the Bath Ales sites. Georgina first joined the company in May 2019, leaving her leading role at Fuller's after being appointed by her long-time friend Roger Ryman. In Georgina's new role she will continue to be based at Bath Ales headquarters—Hare Brewery—while overseeing operations in St Austell. She reports to Andrew Turner, managing director of St Austell's beer and brands business, who joined the company from Heineken earlier this year. St Austell is back at nearly full production of their core real ales namely Cornish Best, Trelawney, Tribute, Proper Job and Hicks. Due to the current COVID crisis, they have suspended their "Small Batch Beers" programme. They hope to re-start later in the year, but we will not see a full season of small batch beers.

### **Sharp's**

The brewery succeeded in gaining 6 accolades at the World Beer Awards 2020. Sea Fury was judged to be the best Pale Bitter 4.5-5.5%. The firm's innovative new brew, and allegedly the first no-alcohol amber ale in the UK market, Doom Bar Zero was awarded a silver. Other significant accolades in this year's awards included a bronze medal for Sharp's Wolf Rock and a bronze medal for Offshore Pilsner, while the brewery was also honoured for its collaboration with TV celebrity chef Rick Stein producing Chalky's Bite.

Production at Rock is almost back to pre-Covid levels for their mainstay Doom Bar.

### **Skinner's**

The brewery shop was open for draught and bottle takeaways while stocks lasted and brewing began again in time to supply pubs when lockdown easing

## BREWERY NEWS

occurred. Only 3 ales are currently being brewed, Betty Stogs, Lushington and Porthleven.

### Tintagel

Brewing continued on 'tick-over' while pub lockdown was in force, with several of the pubs regularly supplied doing takeaways, enabling production to be ramped up immediately upon lockdown easing.

### Treen's

The brewery continued to produce for both cask and bottle throughout lockdown. They have also introduced a free local home delivery service for cask ale and bottles.

Many congratulations to Sarah and Simon on the arrival of their third child, Robert, could be a future brewer?

### New Brewery in Penryn

See report on the right. We have no further details yet regarding a start date for brewing behind the Seven Stars in Penryn, but look forward eagerly to this new microbrewery. Whether it will have a separate name and who will be doing the brewing we are yet to discover, but will let members know as soon as details become available.

## PUB NEWS

21st September saw the welcome reopening of the Seven Stars in Penryn. The pub has had a complete makeover and has a modern but relaxed feel. As well as stylish letting rooms, a cask micro brewery is being installed to supply the three hand pulls. They hope to be up and running with this during October with some test brews. Penryn mayor Chas Wenmoth performed the official ribbon cutting which was well attended by locals eager to see the transformation. Best of luck to Andrew Watson and his team. Open daily 11-11 (Covid restricted to 10pm)



Report and pictures by Vince Curtis.



## PUB OF THE YEAR

In these uncertain times for the hospitality sector and pubs in particular, it's nice to be able to announce some feel good news. Many congratulations to the White Hart in Chilsworthy on becoming CAMRA Kernow's Pub of the Year for second year in succession.

Mindful of the current conditions, a smaller than usual group made their way to the Tamar Valley in early September to make the presentation. (When conditions permit we will have a proper celebration). This is a great community pub in a lovely location (see Page 1) and is a just reward for the hard work put in by Amy, Ian and the team over the past three years.

The pub itself has been opened up and has a lighter feel to it, taking advantage of the glorious views. It



also hosts a village store making it a true community hub.

To be selected from over 600 real ale pubs is a fantastic achievement and great hospitality with a real friendly welcome is guaranteed.



Vince Curtis

## PUB NEWS

In common with everywhere else, Cornwall's pub scene has suffered a painful reset with the sudden imposition of the Covid-19 lockdown in March, as all venues were forced to close down and prospects of reopening looking grim for many. There have been dire and gloomy predictions about the future of our pub estate, but the reality has been, thankfully, somewhat less disastrous as we emerged from total lockdown, with a few pubs seemingly giving up the ghost completely but the handful of closures reported as permanent so far have turned out to be not so permanent after all. A number of pubs once permitted to do so started a takeaway and local delivery service, which at least kept them ticking over and able to make a little money.

### Pubs closed but reopening again

An early shock concerned CAMRA's award-winning Falmouth real ale pub and GBG regular the **'front'**, when its manager Matt Reay announced he was to give up the pub and concentrate instead on getting the **Moth & Moon** (formerly Masons Arms) refurbished and back up and running instead. The lease went up for sale and it looked as if the 'front' might be finished as a pub, but reports say that a new buyer, or buyers, have come forward and it looks as it might start up again much as before, which would be welcome news. Further west, long-serving landlord of the St Austell Brewery pub the **Bucket of Blood** in Phillack, (near Hayle), retired at long last and the pub closed down, but during lockdown a new young couple took over and straightaway started a takeaway service, with a promise of all day opening and food available every day when reopening was permitted. In the east near Gunnislake, the **Rifle Volunteer** is open again after closing early 2019, and is currently serving 3 real ales, mostly local to Cornwall or over the border in Devon. In North Hill north of Liskeard, the **Racehorse Inn** closed down and looked to be sold and turned into private accommodation, but the locals rallied and started to try for getting it listed as an Asset of Community Value (ACV) with Cornwall Council. However, someone has now come along and bought the lease intending it should remain as a pub. New management has taken over the **Copperhouse** in Hayle, closed for some time, and that was planned for reopening September. A further pre-Covid closure, the **White Hart Hotel** in Launceston, is further reported as being 'done up' by its new owner so that looks like another lost pub soon returning to the fold.

### The Casualties

Inevitably there have been a few. In St Austell **Mr Small's Cornish Taphouse**, a town centre micropub which opened there in 2018, closed permanently, only reopening briefly in early July to auction off the stock and equipment. The premises are now a cake shop. At The Lizard, the **Top House** has gone into 'creditors' voluntary liquidation' as of 1 August and is closed. In Stithians, St Austell house the **Seven Stars** saw its licensees quit during the lockdown and it is still closed, although the local parish council has applied for ACV listing as there is plenty of support for keeping it as a pub once new tenants are found. In east Cornwall, the **Cardinal's Hat** at Hatt, near Saltash, closed down in June, and

## PUB NEWS

in Gunnislake the **Buccaneer Inn** was reported as defunct during July. The **Wheel Inn**, Tresillian (near Truro) also looks as though it is dead, being firmly closed and with its lease now up for sale. There are no doubt others among our 600+ pubs and bars but it is impossible to keep tabs on everyone – any news of lost pubs to the Pubs Officer via WhatPub feedback please, or any committee member.

### New Micropub in Saltash

A new micropub has opened in Saltash to offer the town a bit of decent variety in real ale choice (at last!), the Cockleshell in Fore Street, right in the town centre.

Opened in mid-August, it has no TV, loud music or electronic gaming machines to distract from the choices on offer, which also include a selection of wines and gins. Three changing real ales have so far seen beer from Harbour, Treen's and Tremethick breweries, which must surely be a first outing for these local brews in Saltash, where real ale has so far been confined mostly to what might be called the 'usual suspects' normally so beloved of the pub chains. For anyone who fancies giving it a go, the opening hours currently are 16:00-21:30 Mon-Fri; 12:00-21:30 Sat&Sun.

There is also another new micropub working towards opening in Callington – watch this space for developments.



## 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 lockdown and any secondary restrictions.

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:

- Our award-winning BEER magazine (quarterly) and What's Brewing news (monthly)
- 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
- 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)





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