

BEEER

Necessities



SPECIAL
ONLINE
ISSUE FOUR - OCTOBER 2020

The magazine of the Campaign for Real Ale in south-east Wales

Welcome

Beer Necessities Magazine

The normal printed *Beer Necessities* magazine comes out three times a year, in April, August and December. The April 2020 magazine was already at the printers when, with the lockdown impending, we decided to pull it, with the result that the magazine appeared online only.

We hoped the August issue would appear and then the December one. However, in the present situation, many publicans are reluctant to have leaflets and magazines in their pubs as many customers will pick them up, read them then replace them to be picked up later by subsequent customers. This poses the risk of cross-contamination. Therefore, we regret that there will not be another printed *Beer Necessities* until April at the earliest.

In the meantime, we continue to publish special online issues. In May and June, we published three issues giving pub and

brewery news and CAMRA's views on various matters. In particular, we supported local pubs and breweries by publishing details of those providing takeaway and home delivery services.

Now pubs are open again albeit subject to severe restrictions that threaten their viability. To keep costs down, many pubs are limiting their opening hours and, of course, all have to close by 22:00 by law. CAMRA's *Whatpub* website remains a valuable pub guide and CAMRA members are keeping it as up to date as well as they can. However, before travelling to a pub it is always wise to visit the pub's website or social media to confirm the latest opening times.

Needless to say, don't visit pubs if you feel unwell or the visit involves illegal travel. However, with the precautions that pubs are forced to have in place, they are overwhelmingly safe places to visit. So, support your local pub.

In this issue of *Beer Necessities*, now that most pubs have reopened, we have dropped the information on takeaway and online outlets but have plenty of other pub and brewery news. We also have many other items including awards to pubs and lobbying the Welsh Government over restrictions.



Pub News

Brynmawr

The **Hobby Horse** in Greenland Road reopened in December 2019 after being closed for a year.

Caerleon

The licensees of the **Bell Inn** in Bulmore Road quit during lockdown but it reopened with new licensees in September. The **Dog House** in High Street, owned by Mad Dog brewery, officially closed in June and is not expected to reopen. The **Red Lion** in Backhall Street did not reopen after lockdown eased and will remain closed.

Caerphilly

Brew Monster are planning to open a brewery and taproom in premises near the castle in the centre of Caerphilly. They were granted a premises licence in July, and planning permission on 8 October. **13 Market Street** (formerly the **Wheatsheaf**) has been relaunched as the **Urban Bar BQ** – a trendy burger and grill restaurant. While the additional restrictions are in place in Caerphilly it is operating a takeaway service only.

Cardiff Bay

The new **Brew Monster** pub in Bute Street opened in August. It serves traditional cider and there are future plans to sell handpumped real ales. The historic and architecturally magnificent **Coal Exchange** in Mount Stuart Square has been given permission to sell alcohol for consumption on and off the premises despite opposition from local residents.

Cardiff – Canton

Chris Rowlands, who has in the past run

several well known city centre pubs has applied for a premises licence for the **Corporation** in Cowbridge Road East. The Council is planning a hearing on 16 October. It is believed he is planning to establish it as a brewpub. **Chapter Arts Centre** failed to reopen when the lockdown eased and, as of mid-October, a reopening date was still awaited.

Cardiff City Centre

Brigden brewery **Cold Black Label** has applied for a premises licence for a unit in Grand Arcade, St David's Centre to permit on and off sales during the hours that the centre is open.

Cardiff – Heath

The owner of **Pop'n'Hops** in Whitchurch Road has applied for permission to sell alcohol for consumption on the premises as well as off.

Cardiff – Roath

There are plans to demolish the **Roath Park** in City Road and replace it with a building consisting of ground floor retail units with flats above.

Cardiff – Thornhill

A fire at the **Miller & Carter** pub/restaurant in August resulted in the establishment's temporary closure. The **Fynnon Wen** has applied for permission to open at 0900 daily.

Chepstow

The **Chepstow Castle Inn** in Bridge Street has closed and is to be converted into residential accommodation, including the construction of four new homes at the rear.

Coed y Paen (near Pontypool)

The owner of the **Carpenters Arms**, near Landegfedd Reservoir, applied for a change of use in August, but a campaign has been set up by locals, supported by Gwent CAMRA, to oppose this.

Cwmoody (near Pontypool)

The **Horse & Jockey**, which closed a few years ago, reopened in August

Deri (near Bargoed)

As of mid-October, the **Old Club** had not reopened following the lockdown and its future was unknown.

Devauden (near Chepstow)

The owner of the **Masons Arms** applied for a change of use in March, but a campaign to oppose this has been set up by locals, supported by Gwent CAMRA.

Draethen (near Machen)

As of mid-October, the **Hollybush** had not reopened following the lockdown and its future was unknown.

Efail Isaf

The **Carpenters Arms** has retained its shop operation.

Glan-y-llyn (near Taff's Well)

The gravity stillage has been removed from **Fagin's Craft Beer House and Art Café** and all real ales are now served by handpump.

Eglwysilan (near Abertridwr)

As of mid-October, the **Rose and Crown** had not reopened following the lockdown and its future was unknown.

Groeswen (near Caerphilly)

Sales of Williams Brothers cider in the **White Cross** increased significantly when the landlady decided to abandon keg lager and cider for the duration of the lockdown. Even though keg taps have now been reinstated, there continues to be a loyal following for Williams Brothers products. The pub is continuing to take orders twice weekly for dairy and bakery sales.

Gwaelod-y-Garth

The **Gwaelod-y-Garth Inn** is marketing

work units for people fed up with working from home. The charge includes a desk, wi-fi connection, non-alcoholic drinks and snacks.

Llandeud (Near Newport)

The **Foresters Oaks**, on the A48 road, was due to reopen in September as the **Tamarind Bar & Restaurant**.

Llanfrecha (near Cwmbran)

The **Gate** in Caerleon Road transformed into a 'food hall' in June, with a restaurant, bakery and food stalls.

Llanharry

As of mid-October, the **Bear** had not reopened following the lockdown and its future was unknown.

Llantwit Fardre

The **Brown Trout** (formerly **New Inn**) in Llantrisant Road decided to continue to run the grocery shop after re-opening.

Mwyndy Cross (near Llantrisant)

As of mid-October, the **Barn** had not reopened following the lockdown and its future was unknown.

Newport

Baneswell Social Club in Stow Hill, which had been struggling for some time, was closed permanently during lockdown

Pontsticill (near Merthyr Tydfil)

There has been some healthy competition between the **Butchers Arms** and **Red Cow**. They both take regular supplies of Grey Trees beers with the latter claiming to be the only permanent outlet in Wales for Grey Trees Afghan Pale Ale. The Butchers has also been running through a series of different Brewdog beers on tap, which have proved popular, and its resident Crafty Dragon brewery is reported to have restarted.

Pontyclun

The **Windsor Hotel** in Llantrisant Road has re-opened following extensive refurbishment. As well as the food operation they are offering two real ales.

Pub News (continued)

Pontypridd

The **Ty Mawr** in Pantgraigwen Road reopened in September following a period of closure for refurbishment. The **Llanover Arms** in Bridge Street also reopened in September and has expanded the outside drinking area into the car park. Two bars received closure orders from the Council in September - the **Players Sports Bar** on Broadway, which has since reopened with additional control measures in place, and the **Cricket Club** in Hopkinstown, which remains closed.

Rassau (near Ebbw Vale)

The long closed and abandoned **Rhyd y Bleu** has been demolished.

Taffs Well

The **Taffs Well Inn** was refurbished and reopened in August.

Trefforest

The **Otley Arms** reopened on 30 September following major alterations at

the back of the pub to demolish the conservatory and create a new outdoor patio.

Tyla Garw (near Pontyclun)

The **Boars Head** now operates principally as a restaurant with drinks available only to diners.

Upper Boat (near Pontypridd)

The **Upper Boat** did not reopen following flood damage earlier in the year. Repairs started but were not completed before lockdown and the pub remained closed through August and most of September.

Upper Church Village (near Trefforest)

Following reopening as a pub, the **Farmers Arms** in St Illtyd Road continues to offer 'deli picnic box' sales.

Usk

The **White Hart** in Bridge Street, which closed over a decade ago, reopened in August as the **White Hare (sic) Gin Distillery Bar**.

Brief Halves

- **Williams Brothers Cider** now have an online shop via their website, selling smaller five litre bag in a box as well as their usual 20 litre version. As a result of exchanges with breweries, their shop in Bedwas also serves mini-kegs from Bang On Brewery. The shop is open for business though anyone planning a visit is recommended to check the opening hours. There are also plans to supply their pressed apple pulp to a local pig farmer in Groeswen – perhaps to produce self-marinating pork!

- **Llanblethian Orchards Cider** has started supplying their products in returnable champagne style bottles and has introduced a loyalty card system to encourage customers to return them for refilling.

- **Figures** from researchers CGA and AlixPartners show that of around 115,000 licensed premises in Britain that were open in March, just over 90,000 had reopened by the end of September, indicating a reduction of around 25,000.

CAMRA Celebrates Cardiff's Top Pubs

Cardiff CAMRA, the Campaign for Real Ale, is making *Pub Of The Year* awards to the city's top pubs.

Pride of place goes to the Gwaelod y Garth Inn, a superb village local in the shadow of Garth Mountain in Cardiff's northern outskirts. This has been voted by CAMRA the overall winner of its 2020 *Pub Of The Year* competition.

The pub is no stranger to the award, having won in the past under the ownership of Richie and Babs Angell. When they retired, there were fears for the pub's future but, in the event, things could not have turned out better. Pub manager Rob Pearson, who had been employed at the pub since 2004 and assisted by wife Sam, teamed up with chef Helen Mahoney to buy the pub and they now run it jointly.

The pub continues to be noted for the excellence of its real ales, traditional ciders and food but it goes much further than this. As Rob said: "The pub was at the

heart of the community and we wanted to keep it that way. It is not only important that the Gwaelod is a place for people to come for a nice meal and a drink, it is also important that it forms a place where the local community can socialise."

A presentation took place on 24 September. A bigger celebration had been planned for March but was cancelled due to the COVID-19 lockdown. However, true to Rob's and Helen's philosophy that the pub be at the heart of the local community, it never actually closed. Instead, a village shop was set up in the pub, selling a wide range of fresh food, and the bar remained open for take-home sales.

The operation was highly successful, attracting customers not only from the village itself but also from neighbouring areas. With the pub reopening for normal trading the shop had to close but there are now plans to reopen it in October elsewhere in the building.



Gwaelod y Carth Inn – Outside this attractive stone pub are, from right to left, Rob Pearson, his wife Sam, Helen Mahoney and her partner Dave.

CAMRA Celebrates Cardiff's Top Pubs (continued)

This being a CAMRA award, the Gwaelod would not have won without an exceptional beer offering. Real ales are served in fantastic condition in the pub and Rob boasts that a total of 310 different cask beers were sold in the year to December 2019. One danger of such an operation is that staff know little about the beers currently on sale and are unable to advise customers properly. Rob avoids this by ensuring the staff are well briefed.

Highly commended in CAMRA's 2020 *Pub Of The Year* contest is the Lansdowne in Canton. This is another past winner and shows how a failing pub can be revitalised and turned into a thriving community local. The Lansdowne is run on a job-share basis by Hayley Budd and Phil Miller. CAMRA had been planning to make a presentation to them but this fell foul of the latest restrictions.

The third pub to be honoured is the Cathays Beer House in Crwys Road. This is



Cathays Beer House – Almost hidden by their traditional ciders, Martin Holmes and Diane.

Cardiff CAMRA's *Cider Pub Of The Year* and a presentation was actually made to owner Martin Holmes and his wife Diane before the lockdown in March. Despite the pub's name, it serves up to eight bag-in-box traditional ciders that were stacked on the bar. During lockdown, Martin constructed a set of shelves to provide a more convenient display.

Like the Gwaelod, the Cathays Beer House continued trading through the lockdown, opening at weekends for takeaway sales of beers and ciders.

Cardiff CAMRA chairman, Huw John commented on how all three winners in their various ways have managed to adapt to changing circumstances to provide an outstanding service to their local communities and to customers from further afield. "Cardiff is most lucky to have such fine, enterprising pubs" he said and added that "all the publicans concerned must be congratulated for what they have achieved, and receive CAMRA's best wishes for their futures".



Lansdowne – Behind the bar at the Lansdowne stand Hayley Budd and Phil Miller.

Un'appy Pub Customers

There are so many necessary annoyances to suffer in pubs nowadays it seems strange to have to put up with an unnecessary one. However, such an unnecessary annoyance being foisted upon customers by a small number of pubs is the requirement to order drinks using an app.

Don't get me wrong. I am not against apps. Many people find them very useful. The issue is merely that customers are forced to use them, or not get served at all.

Not everyone has a mobile device that can deal with apps. Even those who do may find that their particular device has software that is incompatible with the pub's software, meaning the app won't install. Even with the app correctly installed, the device's battery may be run down, or a signal might not be available.

Apps turn an operation that takes a couple of seconds – ordering verbally “two pints of bitter” or whatever it might be – into one taking several minutes. It is frequently hard, or even impossible to find what you want on the app menu even

though you might have just walked past the bar and seen the pump clip advertising the beer of your choice. Apps require customers to set up payment procedures, a possible source of financial insecurity.

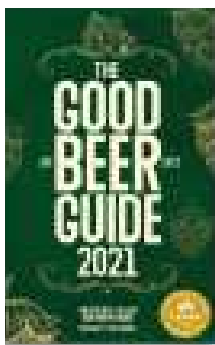
When asked why they will only accept orders via an app, pub staff will usually cite health reasons without providing detail. But this is nonsense. The human voice carries for more than two metres making it possible to place an order verbally whilst still socially-distancing. In any case, staff must still approach customers in order to deliver the drinks. Handling cash is unnecessary if payment is made using a contactless card. The majority of pubs give customers the choice. Why can't the minority?

One would think, under present circumstances, that publicans would be eager to grab any business they can. It therefore seems strange that some are willing to turn custom away because they totally refuse to do business other than via an app

New Good Beer Guide Out

The 2021 edition of the *Good Beer Guide*, published by CAMRA, comes out on 29 October. Normally published in September, its appearance this year has been delayed by working restrictions arising from COVID-19.

As ever, it lists 4,500 pubs all around the UK, serving the best real ales, as well as listing all known real ale breweries. This is the 48th edition, having first been published in 1974, and it will be available from bookshops and from camra.org.uk.



With the 2021 guide hardly out, CAMRA branches will be starting work on the 2022 one. This year, more than ever they will depend upon input from CAMRA members entering their beer scores on the *Whatpub* pub guide database.

Therefore, if you are a CAMRA member and want a say in what pubs go in the 2022 guide, when you visit a pub, log into *Whatpub* and give us your scores. If you are not yet a CAMRA member, why not visit camra.org.uk and join?

The Top Pubs and Clubs in Mid Glam

Mid Glamorgan CAMRA has belatedly made Pub and Club Of The Year presentations. The winners were selected before the lockdown in March but it only became possible to make the presentations once the lockdowns were eased. In fact, the branch is in a particularly difficult situation as it covers several local authority areas and since September travel between these has been banned.

The overall *Pub Of The Year* winner, also the winner of the award for the best cider and perry pub was the Pencelli Hotel in Treorchy. The branch did manage to make a presentation to the pub between pubs being allowed to reopen and travel restrictions being introduced.

Although the judging for the award took place before the lockdown, the pub continues to excel. CAMRA members

noted that the social distancing and hygiene arrangements in the pub are among the most effective they have seen, without being oppressive. However, one unfortunate effect of the current situation is the curtailment of live music, for which the Pencelli is particularly well known. At the start of the national lockdown, the Pencelli demonstrated its community focus by giving away its unsold stock to the regulars.

Mid Glamorgan CAMRA also made two awards to clubs. Winner of the overall *Club Of The Year* prize is Pontypridd Golf Club. A 'Highly Commended' award went to the Gelliwastad Club and Institute in Pontypridd. Presentations to these establishments could not easily be made and their winners' certificates were simply delivered.

Neil and Mary Fisher of the Pencelli Hotel receive their Pub Of The Year certificates.



This magazine is published by the South East Wales branches of CAMRA, the Campaign for Real Ale of 230 Hatfield Road, St Albans, AL1 4LW. Whilst every effort is taken to ensure the information it contains is correct, CAMRA cannot be held responsible for any inaccuracies that might occur or for failure to operate events as advertised. To contact us email editor@beernecessities.org.uk

CAMRA Events in South East Wales

Even with pubs open again, CAMRA is not yet holding traditional meetings as these would contravene the laws against social gatherings. However, some branches are holding virtual meetings using computer applications such as Zoom. Why not contact your local CAMRA branch, find out about happenings in your area and perhaps join their meetings.

Cardiff

Covers the City and County of Cardiff.

Website - www.cardiffcamra.org.uk

Facebook - [Southwalesbeerforum](https://www.facebook.com/Southwalesbeerforum)

Email - secretary@cardiff.camra.org.uk

Phone - Brian Francis on 079 7090 9343.

It is hoped to start holding online branch meetings shortly.

Gwent

Covers Monmouthshire, Newport, Torfaen, Blaenau Gwent and NP11 and NP12 postcode areas of Caerphilly.

Website - www.gwent.camra.org.uk

Emails - see website

Phone - Gerry Watkins on 01633 253209.

Mid Glamorgan

Covers Caerphilly excluding NP11 and NP12 postcode areas, Merthyr Tydfil and Rhondda Cynon Taff.

Website - www.midglam.camra.org.uk

Email - contact@midglam.camra.org.uk

Phone - Bill Roberts on 01443 205693.

Branch meetings continue to be held on the second Monday of each month at 2000. These are online meetings, with contributions by email from those unable to join by Zoom. See website for latest information..

Vale of Glamorgan and Bridgend

Covers Vale of Glamorgan and Bridgend county boroughs.

Website - www.vog.camra.org.uk

Facebook - [Campaign-For-Real-Ale-CAMRA-Vale-of-Glamorgan-Bridgend-Branch](https://www.facebook.com/Campaign-For-Real-Ale-CAMRA-Vale-of-Glamorgan-Bridgend-Branch)

Email - pubsofficervale@vogcamra.org.uk

Phone - John Chapman on 079 0122 9622 or 01446 794568.

Notice Board

The situation concerning CAMRA members' discounts has become rather confused. The system was changing in any case before the lockdown with some pub chains moving from granting their own discounts to accepting the new CAMRA discount vouchers instead. Many of these pubs are no longer accepting vouchers, particularly when drinks are ordered using apps, which often can't cope with them.

Unrelated to this, but should you have

difficulties involving Trading Standards issues, remember you can complain to your local Trading Standards office. This is done via the Citizens Advice Consumer Service, phone 034 5404 0506 (English) or 034 5404 0505 (Cymraeg) or visit tradingstandardswales.org.uk/help/consumeradvice.cfm.

However, please make every effort to resolve the issue with the publican first and remember to be particularly understanding during this very difficult time for pubs.

COVID Restrictions in Pubs – Give us the Evidence

The following is the text of an open letter sent on 4 October to Vaughan Gething MS, Minister for Health and Social Services in the Welsh Government by Rick Zaple, CAMRA member and editor of Beer Necessities.

As of 12 October, Rick was still awaiting a reply. The reply, when received, will be posted on the South Wales Beer Forum by CAMRA Facebook site.

Dear Mr Gething,

Open Letter re. COVID-19 Restrictions in Pubs

This is an open letter relating to the two further restrictions placed upon pubs on 24 September, namely the requirement to stop serving at 2200 and to close completely by 2220 and also the requirement for table service in all pubs. I plan to publicise this letter on social media and elsewhere and to similarly publicise your reply.

I am a constituent of yours in Cardiff South and Penarth, am a keen pub-user and also a member of CAMRA, the Campaign for Real Ale, which you may know is a consumer organisation that campaigns for beer and pubs, although I

Social-distancing measures such as these lines on a pub floor are found in all pubs now.



am writing this in a personal capacity.

The two changes have been widely condemned by the pub trade and by consumers. My understanding is that the justification for the early closing is that pub-users tend to be more inebriated after this time than before and therefore less capable of social-distancing. This might seem a reasonable assumption but I have seen no evidence to prove it despite Matt Hancock, UK Secretary of State for Health and Social Care being called upon to provide such evidence.

I believe the justification for the table service requirement is that it stops customers having to move around the pub thereby coming into close contact with other customers. Again, I have seen no evidence of the effectiveness of this given that customers still have to move around pubs for other purposes, are required to wear face coverings when doing so and must comply with social distancing markings on floors and pub one-way systems, etc.

I am asking you to provide actual evidence that early closing and table service produces positive results in the battle against COVID-19 at least in Wales.

In my opinion pubs do not contribute to the spread of COVID-19 in any case. Pubs are very highly regulated environments

and if social-distancing measures are not applied and enforced in them they can and will be closed down. This makes pubs generally safe places to go.

This is borne out by Public Health England Surveillance Report figures. Pubs in England opened from 4 July and, according to PHE, in the 11 weeks from 9 July, the hospitality sector saw only 5.18% of COVID-19 cases. This compares with the education sector accounting for 19.89% of cases even though education establishments were closed for much of that time. The PHE figures for 2020 Week 38 show a fall in Food outlet/restaurant and Other COVID-19 incidents compared with the previous week even though early closing and table service in English pubs were yet to be introduced. Even though these are English figures, I have no reason to believe the situation is different in Wales.

Within Wales, ONS statistics tell us that until 25 August COVID-19 infection rates remained stable. There was no increase immediately following the reopening of Welsh pubs on 3 August as one would have expected if pubs were responsible for a significant number of infections. In fact, the increase in incidents in the UK seems to follow international trends and is independent of pub reopening dates, e.g. 4 July in England, 15 July in Scotland, 3 August in Wales and 21 September in Northern Ireland.

This proves that pubs were already relatively safe places to visit prior to the additional measures being introduced on 24 September. Unfortunately, these measures are not simply unhelpful, they are almost certainly counter-productive.

The effects of throwing people out onto the streets at 2220 (2200 in England) have already been much publicised – crowds gathering in the streets, on public

transport and in people's homes where socialising continues. None of these environments are as well regulated as pubs and social-distancing rules are far less likely to be observed in them than in pubs, leading in all likelihood to an increase rather a decrease in infections.

The requirement for all pubs to employ table service is also almost certainly counter-productive. Table service works well in some pubs but not in all of them. Many publicans have invested in Perspex screens for their bar counters. These avoid direct contact between bar staff and customers. Customers queuing to be served are told to socially-distance. The requirement for table service causes staff to have to emerge from behind the screens and approach customers sat at tables where it is impossible to provide screening. This puts bar staff at greater risk now than before.

One must also examine the economic consequences of the 24 September changes. Most pubs were already on a financial tightrope having been forced to remain closed between March and August. The early closing is restricting sales and the need for table service is increasing staff costs. This is making pubs increasingly unviable, leading to permanent closures. This will increase unemployment and social isolation with resulting physical and mental health damage to the population as a whole.

Therefore, I underline my request for evidence proving the efficacy of the measures introduced on 24 September. If no such evidence exists, can I call upon the Welsh Government to rescind the measures as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely

Rick Zaple

What's Fermenting

Brewery news

Baa, Chepstow

The brewery closed in late January.

Brains, Cardiff

The company was slow reopening pubs when the lockdown was eased in August but all the pubs were believed to have reopened by mid-September.

Brew Monster, Caerphilly

Formerly based in Cwmbran, the brewery relocated to much needed larger premises in Caerphilly in August. However, these were originally used only for storage and the company only received planning permission to convert the premises to a brewery on 8 October. This will eventually incorporate a pub.

Coal Shed, Caerphilly

Aspirations by the former head brewer of Hopcraft to set up in a garage in Caerphilly appear to have stalled.

Crafty Dragon, Merthyr Tydfil

Resumed brewing in October, producing their Cwrw Coch, Chocolate & Rum Porter, Goldings Bitter and Citrus IPA beers. These are all expected to be available at the brewery tap, the Butchers Arms in Pontsticill in November

Grey Trees, Aberaman near Aberdare

Off-sales have expanded at both the brewery shop and the National Tap pub.

Lines, Usk

This Caerphilly-based brewery, which closed suddenly in early 2019, reopened in

Usk this August. It produces keg beer only.

Mad Dog, Penperlleni, near Pontypool

Having ceased trading in February, the brewery reopened in June under the ownership of Gavel Auctioneers and the stewardship of Alexis Jones, the founder of the original company. The brewery bar has since reopened.

Rival, Cardiff

The company has applied for an off-sales licence for its brewery premises in the Llanrumney area of the city.

Twin Taff, Rhydycar, Merthyr Tydfil

Brewing has not taken place for some time. They continue to seek a venue in Merthyr Tydfil to set up their brewpub.

Twt Lol, Treforest

The brewery shop beer range has been greatly expanded and it is now open on Wednesday to Saturday afternoons with part of the frontage designated as an on-sales drinking area. Online purchases are also available via the brewery's website. There is concern that following February's flooding, the owner Phil Thomas is unable to get insurance for the business.

Well Drawn, Bedwas near Caerphilly

Following a period of closure, this brewery reopened in October with new backers and plans to expand. A range of bottle-conditioned pales, IPAs and bitters is being produced, available online via the brewery's website. A more experimental range is expected early next year.