



Festival of Winter Ales

Welcome to the 31st Exeter & East Devon Festival of Winter Ales.

Hello and welcome to our 31st Festival of Winter Ales where we have 72 real ales and 9 cider/perries and 2 wines to whet your appetite. For those that are new to our festival, you will find there are 36 ales and the cider on the ground floor along with the Stage where there will be entertainment: Friday night at 7.30pm, 'Go Tell Alice' and Saturday night at 5.30pm, 'Marnie'. You will also find a selection of some light food. On the 1st floor you will find the main Hot and Cold Food Outlet along with the remaining 36 beers, Membership and Product stands. We also have additional seating areas on this floor. Access to the 1st floor is via the stairs at the far end of the building or by the entrance lift. Please do not overload the lift! All beers are listed in alphabetical brewery order. This year our selection includes a variety of Champion Beer of Britain contenders, some specialist winter-only brews and a number of member's choices. Whatever you choose to drink, we believe that you will enjoy them.

Finally I would just like to say thanks to all those hard working branch members who have organised this festival, all of our sponsors - their adverts and logos can be seen on the Posters and Big Screen. Last but by no means least, thanks to everyone who donated prizes for our Tombola. Have fun but drink sensibly!

Cheers

Ray Dwan, Festival Organiser.

| No | BREWERY | BEER | LOCATION | ABV | STYLE | COLOUR | DESCRIPTION |
|----|-----------------|----------------------|---------------------------|-----|----------------|------------|--|
| 1 | Acorn | Guiding Star | Wombwell, S. Yorks | 4.5 | Best Bitter | Dark Brown | Bitter with dry aftertaste. Malty, too. |
| 2 | Beer Engine | Whistlemas | Newton St Cyres, Devon | 7.2 | Strong Old Ale | Pale Brown | Fruity aroma; smooth and sweet with a lingering finish. Must-have if you missed it at Christmas! |
| 3 | Bexley | Bexley's own beer | Erith, Kent | 4.2 | Pale Ale | Tawny | Fresh-tasting session beer, very easy-drinking. |
| 4 | Black Tor | Advent | Christow, Exeter | 4.8 | Strong Bitter | Copper | Malty taste, and slightly sweet. Shadows of Christmas-tide. |
| 5 | Black Tor | Resolution | Christow, Exeter | 4.4 | Best Bitter | Amber | Light tasting with citrus overtones. |
| 6 | Blue Anchor | Christmas Special | Helston, Cornwall | 7.6 | Strong Old Ale | Dark Brown | Full-bodied and sweet. A classic beer from this brewery, the home of Spingo Special. |
| 7 | Branscombe | Festival Frolics | Branscombe, Devon | 4.5 | Best Bitter | Tawny | Slightly dry flavour with a hint of hops. |
| 8 | Branscombe | Yo Ho Ho | Branscombe, Devon | 6.0 | Speciality | Dark Brown | Fruity aroma with a dry finish. |
| 9 | Brewsters | Aromatic Porter | Grantham, Lincs | 4.5 | Porter | Dark Brown | Very fruity, certainly aromatic, light tasting and dry finish; is this a Porter, or Brown ale? |
| 10 | Burton Bridge | Hearty Ale | Burton upon Trent, Staffs | 5.0 | Best Bitter | Amber | Smooth, but 'fresh' tasting; lingering finish. A truly 'traditional' ale. |
| 11 | Cairngorm | Santa's Sledgehammer | Aviemore, Scotland | 5.6 | Strong Bitter | Pale Brown | Classic Scottish beer. Slightly malty, well-rounded with a sweet lingering aftertaste. |
| 12 | Castle Rock | Snow White | Nottingham | 4.2 | Golden Ale | Golden | Refreshing, smooth-tasting, easy on the palate. |
| 13 | Checkstone | Warm Yer Cockles | Exmouth, Devon | 7.5 | Speciality | Tawny | Dry, fruity and malty, sweet with a lingering and warming aftertaste to suit the winter seaside. |
| 14 | Conwy | Hoppy Christmas | Llysfaen, Wales | 4.3 | Golden Ale | Golden | Discreetly hoppy, citrus notes, a very quaffable light session beer. |
| 15 | Crossed Anchors | Exe Porter | Exmouth, Devon | 4.7 | Porter | Dark Brown | Rich, smooth and sweet, with a lingering and pleasant aftertaste, a great example of Porter. |
| 16 | Dartmoor | Black Porter | Princetown, Devon | 4.5 | Porter | Dark Brown | First time out for this new beer, subtle banana notes, smooth-tasting with lingering aftertaste. |
| 17 | Dartmoor | Dragon's Breath | Princetown, Devon | 4.4 | Best Bitter | Pale Brown | Sweet, full-bodied with treacle aftertaste. |
| 18 | Driftwood Spars | Alfie's Revenge | St Agnes, Cornwall | 6.5 | Strong Old Ale | Pale Brown | Rich and full-bodied, trad. strong ale. One of Pete's finest, a true traditional brewer, sadly departed. |
| 19 | Driftwood Spars | Bolsters Blood | St Agnes, Cornwall | 5.0 | Porter | Dark Brown | Coffee aroma with malty, dry, bitter finish. |
| 20 | Driftwood Spars | Pudding Ale | St Agnes, Cornwall | 7.5 | Strong Old Ale | Pale Brown | Christmassy aroma, honey, treacle, sweetly-tasting with warming aftertaste. |
| 21 | Elland | Winter Wonderland | Elland, West Yorkshire | 5.0 | Golden Ale | Golden | Citrus aroma, gently hopped and a hint of marmalade. |
| 22 | Exe Valley | Exemas Ale | Silverton, Devon | 4.1 | Speciality | Amber | Strong aroma of cloves and cinnamon, also in the taste. |
| 23 | Exe Valley | Winter Glow | Silverton, Devon | 6.0 | Old Ale | Brown | Sweet fruity nose. Full-bodied with the sweet fruit continuing into the taste and lingers in the finish. |
| 24 | Exeter | Santa's Sack | Exeter, Devon | 5.1 | Strong Bitter | Tawny | Caramel aroma and taste; short finish. |
| 25 | Exmoor | Beast | Wiveliscombe, Somerset | 6.6 | Old Ale | Dark Brown | Roast malt and fruit aroma. Blackberry and raisins on the taste buds and a long dry finish. |
| 26 | Great Newsome | Newsome Noel | Winestead, E Yorks | 5.0 | Strong Bitter | Golden | Smooth, easy-drinking, light with floral aroma, but deceptively strong. |
| 27 | Green Jack | Lurcher Stout | Lowestoft, Suffolk | 4.8 | Stout | Black | Good example of a light stout; complex undertones with a lingering finish. |
| 28 | GT Ales | GT #346 | Barnstaple, Devon | 4.5 | Golden Ale | Golden | Grapefruit on the nose, giving way to citrus fruit with dry finish and aftertaste. |
| 29 | Gyle59 | Capitalist Hippie | Thorncombe, Dorset | 4.3 | Golden Ale | Yellow | Unfined; Citrus/Orange, dry orangey taste leads to a short finish. |
| 30 | Hambleton | Marey Christmas | Melmerby, North Yorkshire | 3.6 | Speciality | Amber | Sweet Christmas Pudding nose and taste. Light cinnamon flavour and a short finish. |
| 31 | Hanlons | Goodwill | Newton St Cyres, Devon | 5.0 | Strong Bitter | Tawny | An aroma of winter spices. Well balanced spicy taste giving a good mouth feel. Dry satisfying finish. |
| 32 | Hanlons | Stormstay | Newton St Cyres, Devon | 5.0 | Strong Bitter | Tawny | Well-balance smooth, easy-drinking beer with a malty fruit finish. |
| 33 | High Weald | Charcoal Burner | East Grinstead, W. Sussex | 4.3 | Best Bitter | Dark Brown | Roast malt nose and taste; hints of Port in the lingering aftertaste. |
| 34 | Holsworthy | Pale Star | Clawton, Devon | 4.2 | Golden Ale | Straw | Strong citrus aroma with grapefruit and Orange on the palate; dry finish. |
| 35 | Hopback | Winter Lightning | Downton, Wilts | 5.5 | Strong Bitter | Golden | Very dry; hints of yeast on first taste, and cloves throughout. Sharp bitter aftertaste. |
| 36 | Ilkley | Mary Christmas | Ilkley, West Yorkshire | 4.7 | Speciality | Tawny | Winter spices predominate in the aroma, hints of banana in the taste and aftertaste. |

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|----|-----------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|-----|----------------|------------|---|
| 37 | ISCA Ales | Slay Rye'd | Holcombe, Devon | 4.3 | Speciality | Golden | (Unfined) Session beer with citrus aroma, hoppy taste, with a dry bitter aftertaste. |
| 38 | Itchen Valley | Russian Winter | Alresford, Hampshire | 5.3 | Stout | Black | Pontefract cakes' aromas of treacle and licorice. Very drinkable, with a bitter aftertaste. |
| 39 | Kelburn | Ginger Bells | Glasgow, Scotland | 4.8 | Speciality | Amber | Exactly as it says on the label, with ginger all the way through. |
| 40 | Kelham Island | Conkers Hazelnut Stout | Sheffield, South Yorkshire | 4.5 | Stout | Black | (No Nuts!) Nutty aroma with very nutty taste, and hints of vanilla. Dry aftertaste. |
| 41 | Lytham | Bailey's Blinder | St Anne's, Lancashire | 4.6 | Best Bitter | Golden | Very little aroma; light hops and a bitter taste and aftertaste. |
| 42 | Mauldons | Dickens | Sudbury, Suffolk | 4.0 | Best Bitter | Amber | Malty aroma; initial bitterness which quickly fades, leading to very little aftertaste. |
| 43 | Moor | Old Freddie Walker | Bristol, Avon | 7.3 | Strong Old Ale | Black | Chocolate and vanilla aroma, Christmas pudding and black treacle taste, short hazelnut aftertaste. |
| 44 | Naylor's | Three Spirits | Cross Hills, N. Yorkshire | 4.0 | Golden Ale | Golden | Grapefruit aroma and initial taste hit; hints of pineapple at back of the tongue, short aftertaste. |
| 45 | Orkney | Clootie dumpling | Stromness, Orkney | 4.3 | Speciality | Tawny | Toffee on the nose, Christmassy taste with cloves and a malty although bitter aftertaste. |
| 46 | Otter | Otter Elf | Luppitt, Devon | 4.0 | Best Bitter | Pale Brown | No aroma to speak of; Bitter taste and short aftertaste. |
| 47 | Purple Moose | Madog's Ale | Porthmadog, Wales | 3.7 | Bitter | Copper | Hoppy aroma; easy-drinking, very refreshing session beer. Slight hoppy taste. |
| 48 | Quantock | New Dawn | Bishops Lydeard, Somerset | 4.5 | Pale Ale | Tawny | Fruity on the nose; hoppy taste leading to a smooth aftertaste. |
| 49 | Ramsgate | Little Cracker | Broadstairs, Kent | 5.0 | Speciality | Tawny | Malty aroma, malty taste. Leading to (guess what) a smooth malty finish. |
| 50 | Red Rock | Hoppy Crimbo | Bishopsteignton, Devon | 4.0 | Best Bitter | Amber | (Unfined: contains Rye) Slightly 'malty' nose, malt + hoppy taste which quickly goes. |
| 51 | Robinsons | Mister Scrooge | Stockport, Cheshire | 4.3 | Golden Ale | Golden | Session beer with slight hoppy and fruity aroma, hops on the tongue. |
| 52 | Salcombe | Island Street Porter | Churchstow, Devon | 5.9 | Porter | Black | A fine, rich Porter with chocolate/vanilla aroma, and a sweet, lingering coffee aftertaste. |
| 53 | Settle | North Pole | Settle, North Yorkshire | 3.9 | Pale Ale | Yellow | Very drinkable with a hoppy aroma and also hoppy lingering taste. |
| 54 | Strathaven ales | Fat Santa | Strathaven, Scotland | 5.0 | Golden Ale | Golden | Another classic Scottish ale. Smooth-headed, with in-depth flavours. |
| 55 | Summerskills | South Star | Plymouth, Devon | 5.6 | Old Ale | Brown | Slightly sweet upon first tasting, smooth malty body with hints of chocolate and a bitter aftertaste. |
| 56 | Swannay | Christmas Light | Swannay, Orkney | 3.8 | Golden Ale | Golden | Session beer with slight hoppy and fruity aroma, easy drinking, some bitterness. |
| 57 | Teignmouth | Blitzened | Teignmouth, Devon | 4.8 | Best Bitter | Copper | Allergy note: Contains Crustaceans – seriously. Distinctive, hard-to-place flavour! |
| 58 | Teignworthy | Cor Bugga! | Newton Abbot, Devon | 6.2 | Strong Bitter | Pale Brown | Malt aroma and a fruity, malty-tasting Strong Bitter. |
| 59 | Teignworthy | Martha's Mild | Newton Abbot, Devon | 5.3 | Strong Mild | Dark Brown | Malt aromas and very pleasant fruity taste with some roasted flavours. Think I'll have another! |
| 60 | Three B's | Santa's Skinful | Blackburn, Lancashire | 4.0 | Best Bitter | Pale Brown | Sweet caramel aroma with a mellow, fruity taste. |
| 61 | Three Engineers | Whiskey Porter | Winterbourne, Bristol | 5.1 | Porter | Dark Brown | Distinctive smoky aroma and fruity, smoky taste leading to a bitter aftertaste. |
| 62 | Tintagel | Caliburn | Tintagel, Cornwall | 5.8 | Old Ale | Dark Brown | Fruity aroma with rich, well-bodied and fruity taste. |
| 63 | Titanic | Plum Porter Grand Reserve | Stoke on Trent, Staffordshire | 6.5 | Porter | Dark Brown | Clue's in the name; outstanding aroma and taste dominated by plum, full-bodied. |
| 64 | Topsham | Pooka | Exeter, Devon | 4.1 | Oatmeal Stout | Dark Brown | Slight smoky aroma and taste, with some fruit. |
| 65 | Treen | Cloud Cuckoo | Ponsanooth, Cornwall | 5.9 | Old Ale | Brown | Full bodied, malty with a hint of fruit and whisky barrel aftertaste. Very drinkable. |
| 66 | Tring | Little Donkey | Tring, Hertfordshire | 3.8 | Bitter | Copper | Refreshing beer with orangey aroma and taste. This one kicks above its weight! |
| 67 | Tryst | Double Chocolate Porter | Larbert, Scotland | 4.4 | Porter | Dark Brown | Chocolate dominates both the aroma and taste. |
| 68 | Wessex | Golden Rivet | Longbridge Deverill, Wiltshire | 4.5 | Golden Ale | Golden | Subtle nose and gently malty taste, with dry, bitter aftertaste. |
| 69 | White Horse | Panto Horse | Stanford in the Vale, | 4.2 | Golden Ale | Yellow | Fruity taste with a 'bitter lemon ' aftertaste. |
| 70 | Windswept | Rudolph | Lossiemouth, Scotland | 5.7 | Speciality | Tawny | Pleasant orangey aroma and taste, a very drinkable beer. |
| 71 | Wolf | Santa Paws | Attleborough, Norfolk | 4.5 | Best Bitter | Brown | Caramel aroma and taste; short finish, leaving little aftertaste. |
| 72 | Yeovil | Yeo Ho Ho! | Yeovil, Somerset | 4.5 | Best Bitter | Dark Brown | Mild smoke and fruity nose, and throughout. Christmas cake end. Definitely one to leave out for Santa |

Cider, Perry and Wine

| No | PRODUCER | PRODUCT | LOCATION | ABV | Dry (1) – Sweet (7) | Description |
|----|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|-----|---------------------|---|
| T1 | Coles & Pring | Gold Medal Dry Farmhouse | Clyst St George | 6.8 | 1 | Selected East Devon bitter sweet cider apples, freshly pressed and fermented. |
| T2 | Ridge & Furrow | Medium Cider | Mutterton | 6.0 | 5 | Naturally fermented in small batches and using the technique of arrested fermentation. |
| T3 | Venton's Cyder | Thirst Responder | Clyst St Lawrence | 6.1 | 3 | Made from a large blend of East Devon bitter-sweets and bitter-sharps. CAMRA Gold Medal winner. |
| S1 | Courtneys | Silly Cow Cider | Whimble | 4.6 | 4 | Made from apples grown in traditional orchards in the cider making village of Whimble. |
| S2 | Sandford Orchards | Rib Tickler Cider | Crediton | 5.0 | 4 | Cider apples picked, crushed, blended and prepared by rugby players !! |
| P1 | Hecks | Blakeney Red Perry | Street | 6.0 | 3 | Single variety Somerset perry, very clean on the palette, fresh, light perry, a classic. |
| P2 | Hecks | Medium Blend Perry | Street | 6.0 | 4 | This fine Perry is the result of a skilful blend of six different Somerset perry varieties. Clean and fruity. |
| F1 | Hunt's | Red Head Strawberry Cider | Stoke Gabriel | 3.8 | 6 | A fresh summer blend of strawberries and medium sweet cider, very fruity. |
| F2 | Sandford Orchards | Fanny's Bramble Cider | Crediton | 4.0 | 5 | Late summer fruit is carefully blended with freshly pressed and fermented medium cider. |
| W1 | Ai Galera Mistico, white wine | | Portugal | 12 | Light and Crisp | Fernao Pires & Verdelho grapes produce a crisp wine with elderflower, citrus & almond on the palate. |
| W2 | Volasdas Cabernet Sauvignon, red wine | | Chile | 13 | Medium | Bright garnet with hints of chocolate, plums and vanilla. Soft and harmonious with a good finish. |