

# DURHAM DRINKER

SUMMER 2005



ISSUE 99

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## DURHAM DRINKER APPROACHES MILESTONE

The observant amongst you will have noticed that this is issue number 99 of Durham Drinker. So with the next issue the ton will be up. Issue number 100 will coincide with the 25th Annual Durham CAMRA Beer Festival so that's 2 landmarks reached at once!

has gone. But much has happened in that time. So the next issue may well take a look back at past articles and events.



### THE VICTORIA INN SCOOPS PUB OF THE YEAR 2005

I thought it might be a good idea to reproduce some material from the first issue. So if anyone has a copy I could borrow I'd be grateful. (I certainly wasn't of legal drinking age when this would have been published!... although I have been informed that it wasn't produced on slate!).

The Victoria Inn, Hallgarth Street, Durham has been named as Durham CAMRA's Pub Of The Year for 2005. The accolade has been given for an unprecedented 4th time! Ever consistent, this unspoilt pub beat off stiff competition, which included The Beamish Mary Inn, No Place, The Tap And Spile, Framwellgate Moor, The Grey Horse, Consett and The Plough, High Flatts.

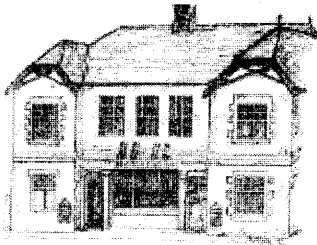
I have been responsible (?) for it's production since issue 79 in 1999 and I have no idea where the time

This year's contest, the result of which was determined via a postal ballot of the membership, was especially heartening as a number of pubs were nominated for the first time. Thus giving further proof of a resurgent cask ale revolution happening in the region. So our congratulations are extended once again to Michael, Angie and all the staff. Well done!!

## 25TH DURHAM CAMRA BEER FESTIVAL

It's time to get your diaries out and make a note of this year's beer festival dates. The festival will be the 25th annual event and will commence on Thursday 1st September and finish on Saturday 3rd September. The last festival was a resounding success. So this year we have expanded it once again

# The Beamish Mary Inn



**No Place, Beamish, County Durham**  
**Telephone 0191 370 0237**  
**[www.beamishmary.co.uk](http://www.beamishmary.co.uk)**

**Come and celebrate "No Place" day at our Beer Festival**  
**29th - 31st July 2005**

**Live bands, Traditional home cooked food, Accommodation**

**Durham CAMRA Pub of The Year 2004**

so that 80 beers will be available as well as ciders and perries.

As you may be aware our supplies ran out on the Saturday afternoon and once again I can only apologise for those who went away disappointed. However plans are in hand to enable us to keep going on the Saturday!

The festival will feature some special commemorative brews along with a good selection of beers from near and far. Local breweries will be well represented and indeed some will feature for the first time at Durham Festival.

So look out for further details!

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## COCK OF THE NORTH CLOSES

Durham CAMRA, customers, staff and locals were amazed to be told that the Cock Of The North was to close at short notice as the land had been sold for redevelopment. This imposing roadhouse has been a prominent feature alongside the A167 for a number of years and although not a bastion of real ale was popular for food. In previous years it had built up a good

reputation for it's food as well as a healthy passing trade and many readers may well have been there at sometime in the past.

Unfortunately the final owners Mitchells And Butlers considered the pub to be no longer viable. And were able to sell the land to Shepherd Homes. Within a fortnight of the announcement and with the protests of staff, CAMRA and locals alike echoing through the local press, the premises were closed and boarded up. Closure was swift and it didn't see out the month of April.

It is always sad to see a pub close, especially one which has provided a prominent landmark. And one, which has provided a point of geographical reference for motorists over the years.

The Cock Of The North was at one time a well-run and well-patronised popular pub with a reputation for good fayre. It begs the question as to how such well-run establishments take a supposed downturn in fortunes. And as such are no longer considered attractive propositions. I will leave you to draw your own conclusions.

This proves that no pub can be considered safe, as the value of the land may prove more valuable than it's profitability. And Durham has seen a number of pubs disappear with the land earmarked for development. The Grange, Carrville is another recent casualty.



## BEER, BUSES AND TRAINS

It's amazing how many people have an interest in transport and beer! This is witnessed by the number of events, which now take place and combine these. Many heritage railways operate their services with either cask ale available in the buffet car or a selection of bottled beers from their local brewers.

A good example is the Keighley and Worth Valley Railway, which operates from Keighley to Oxenhope via Haworth in West Yorkshire. And is famous because of it's Bronte connections as well as being the setting for the famous classic film, The Railway Children.

It also operates the on train K&WVLR Buffet Bar which

effectively is a moving free house! Up to three beers are available which enables the drinker to sit and relax on the train whilst taking in the local scenery. Usually steam hauled, it is also in operation during special events including the line's annual diesel gala. Timothy Taylor beers, Goose Eye and Eastwood and Sanders can often be found amongst the breweries on offer. Further information can be obtained from the railway on 01535645214 or from their website on [www.kwvr.co.uk](http://www.kwvr.co.uk)

Of course the North Yorkshire Moors Railway offers bottled Cropton beers in their buffet on Grosmont station. Or on services where a buffet car is provided you can sample from the bottled range whilst taking in the scenic delights between Grosmont and Pickering in North Yorkshire. Running through "Heartbeat" country it is one of the UK's premier heritage lines.

Further afield the East Lancashire Railway provides the Trackside Bar on their Bury Bolton Street station. This line runs from Heywood to Rawtenstall via Ramsbottom and some trains offer a buffet service with beer served on gravity. (Although this may be on gala weekends only). However the

## NEWS AND BREWS

trackside bar offers an extensive range of 9 ales from far and wide but local micros get a good airing. Red Rose and Leyden beers are quite popular.

Of course the bus traveller or enthusiast can combine their interests at virtually any time with the availability of local day rover tickets. The Explorer North East scheme still provides the most extensive ticket as this allows travel on most major bus operators, Metro and the Shields Ferry. And covers the area from Berwick to Scarborough plus the service 685 from Newcastle to Carlisle.

And with the North East now seeing an amazing choice of ales across the region, if you know where to look, and some truly wonderful hostelries then there has never been a better time to leave the car in the garage and set off on the bus in search of good ale and interesting pubs. And for just £6.50 adult for the day an Explorer ticket will still leave change out of a tenner for the first pint, possibly two!

So pick up your Good Beer Guide and look at the pubs listed and then decide where to go!

Durham CAMRA's Pub Of The Year for 2005, The Victoria Inn, Durham, has had a special brew from Hill Island on sale. Hill Island have brewed Angie's Bitter at 3.7%. This is a golden ale which leaves a pleasant bitterness and hop notes on the palate.

Another pub seeing special brews is The Daleside Arms, Croxdale. Darwin have produced a number of "one-offs" for the pub as well as supplying some of the experimental brews from their Brew Lab plant situated at Sunderland University. Daleside Light at 4.0% is one of the most recent and was also brewed on the Brew Lab equipment. Subsequent brews have included Yankee Gold 4.6% followed by Maple Leaf. The latter were brewed by a Canadian member of the brewing staff using recipes from across the Atlantic! Echoes of Roosters brewery! Also beers brewed using old recipes from the former North Eastern Brewery have proved popular. Including once again 1901 at 4.5% Credit goes to Michael Patterson who has made a big effort to generate additional interest in the cask ales. And the specials have all been genuine with

## IMPOSTERS ON THE BAR

Some beers on the bar are not what they first appear to be. As the brewery stated on the pump clip may be defunct. Here are some examples along with who actually brews the beers.

Beer	Brewery
Flowers IP A	Badger
Smiles beers	Highgate
Boddingtons	Hydes
Black Dog beers	Hambleton
Bartrams beers	Buffys
Morland (inc. Old Speckled Hen)	Greene King
Hartleys XB etc	Robinsons
Castle Eden	Camerons
Tolly Cobbold beers	Ridleys
Ushers beers	Wychwood (Refresh UK)
Marston Moor beers	Rudgate
Malton (Suddabys)	Hambleton or Brown Cow (the latter in the case of the After Dark Coffee Porter)

Of course there are many more! But it is technically possible to walk into a pub and for all the beers on the bar to be brewed by someone other than the original brewer! And in some cases the point of origin may not be clear (think of Theakstons beers where they are brewed under the control of the Theakston family again in Masham but also still by Scotco in Newcastle. Ironically this could get even more complicated once the Tyne Brewery closes as some brewing will transfer to Tadcaster, home of John Smiths. Ironically production of Magnet Ale may move to accommodate other brews and this has of course never been brewed outside of Tadcaster!! Confused yet??) Time to go for a beer I think.

# **THE DALESIDE ARMS CROXDALE**

**Durham CAMRA Pub of The Year 2001 & Runner Up 2004**

**Durham Britain in Bloom 'Best Pub Winner 2004'**

**Multi award winning village local, serving top  
quality cask ales  
and traditional home cooked food.**

**Sunday lunchtime special 12 till 2pm  
Every pint of cask ale, regardless of abv—£1.60**

**Wednesday, Thursday & Friday 5—6pm  
Tea time specials—first come first served  
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5—8pm Book a table in advance  
Complete menu choice 2 for £10.00 or 2 for £12.00**

**Saturday lunches now served between 12 .00 and 4pm**

**The now legendary Daleside Sunday Lunch  
Served 12.00 until 2pm (Booking advised—01388 814165)  
Senior Citizen Special—2 main courses for £6.00**

**Exclusive beers to the Daleside from Darwin Brewery .  
Plus guests from microbreweries, including  
beers not usually seen in the North East**

**The Croxdale Folk Club  
At the Daleside every Tuesday from 8pm  
Singarounds alternative weeks  
Singers, musicians and good listeners very welcome**

**The Daleside Arms—You'll never know until you've tried it!!!!**

no rebadging thus preserving their exclusiveness. Meanwhile some of the experimental brews may well feature as subsequent specials from Darwin. Also featuring recently have been ales from the truly magnificent Acorn Brewery from Wombwell near Barnsley. The Summer Pale at 4.1 % is one of the best beers I've tasted for a long time. And helped to cool me down after the Chilli (although the hole in the ozone layer could not be prevented.) Other breweries have still appeared such as Broughton and Wooden Hand.

The Seven Stars, Shincliffe has been selling both Black Sheep Bitter and Black Sheep Special. Houston beers have continued to appear frequently at The Market Tavern in Durham. The Half Moon, Durham has added Taylor's Landlord as a regular and still features a guest ale usually from Durham Brewery.

The Frog and Ferret is up and running again in Spennymoor and along with the resurrected Penny Ghyll provides a reasonable choice. Guest ales feature in both pubs. Meanwhile The Square And Compass, West Cornforth has once again started to specialise in

independent brewers' beers as guests.

The Red Lion, Plawsworth is selling up to 3 ales including a guest.

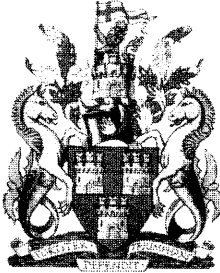


## BEER FESTIVALS

The Beamish Mary, No Place will be staging a beer festival on 29th and 30th July and will feature a number of beers not previously featured in the pub before. Beers include; brews from Bull Lane, Fugelston, Surrey Hills, Peelwalls, Rugby, Hopstar, Peakstone Rocks, Danelaw and Station House. And for those of you unfamiliar with Bull Lane this is a new venture based at the Clarendon, Sunderland and involves John Taylor, previous licensee of the Beamish Mary. Why not come along on the Saturday and meet a few of your local CAMRA members and branch officials, as we will be holding a branch meeting and social on the Saturday! And of course don't forget to put the 1st-3rd September in the diary for Durham CAMRA's 25th festival more details for which will follow.

# The Newcastle Arms

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## Stop Press

CAMRA have learnt that initial planning permission for the Cock Of The North development was rejected.

Objections had been received from local residents and the City of Durham Trust. Shepherd Homes may submit revised plans. Reasons for refusal included loss of amenities, trees and density of the housing development. However, demolition of the premises had already taken place as this issue closed for press.

Peter says "Don't mention the war!!"  
Coming soon - a Festival of German Beers

Durham CAMRA's  
Pub of The Year 2002

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# The Victoria Inn

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Durham  pub of the year 2003 and 2005

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### Membership & its benefits:

- ✓ Membership costs just £18 a year and for this you receive:
- ✓ Our lively monthly publication *What's Brewing*, giving hard news from the world of pubs and beer as well as providing information about festivals and special events.
- ✓ Free or substantially reduced entry to all CAMRA beer festivals throughout the UK, including the *Great British Beer Festival*
- ✓ Discounts on many CAMRA publications, including our best-selling *Good Beer Guide*.

There are over 180 branches and 72,000 members Nationwide. Between campaigning, beer festivals, brewery trips and pub visits there is plenty going on. So find out more about what's going on in your local area and join online at [www.camra.org.uk](http://www.camra.org.uk) or use the application form below

### Membership Application

Please complete and send with your payment (cheques should be made payable to CAMRA Ltd) to:

CAMRA, Membership Secretary, 230 Hatfield Road, St Albans, Herts, AL1 4 LW

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