



# It's Pub of the Year time!

- **Your chance to get your favourite pub or club recognised**
- **Best town pub, country pub, best town cider pub, best country cider pub, best club.....**
- **Don't waste your vote, folks!**



***See page 25  
for details  
of how to  
vote***

## **Durham CAMRA committee**

**Chairman & Public Affairs Officer: Peter Lawson**

**Treasurer: Neil Shaw**

**Secretary : John Collinson**

**Minutes secretary: John Corbett**

**Membership secretary: Dan Kolb**

**Durham Drinker, publications, & campaigns: Paul Dobson**

**Apple Rep (cider) & Wear Valley Pubs: Paul Dobson**

**Pubs officer: Dave Thornton**

**Website editor: Emma Nicholls**

**Social Secretary & Beer Festival Director: Lindsey Wright**

**Technical and Equipment Officer: Nick Young**

**LocAle Co-ordinator: Joe Davison**

**Pubs Preservation: Peter Jones**

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## **Brewery Liaison Officers**

**Durham: Tony Chilton**

**Consett Ale Works: John Collinson**

**Hill Island: Tony Chilton**

**Yard of Ale: Ian Carrick**

**Stables: John Collinson**

**Weard'Ale: Paul Dobson**

**Black Paw: Paul Dobson**

**Just a Minute: Gerry Vickers**

**Blackhill : Peter Lawson**

**Leamside Ale Company: Joe Davison**

**Sonnet 43: Peter Jones**





Hello and welcome to issue 115 of Durham Drinker.

As you'll see elsewhere in this issue, there has been good news from the Governments regarding the control Pubco's have over their pubs, and also from the Chancellor in his Autumn statement. It's nice to see that CAMRA's voice, that of the common beer drinker, is being heard, and more importantly listened to, and that those in power are taking us seriously by making real changes which should benefit landlords and customers alike should they come to full fruition.



On the other hand, Big Business, in the shape of Greene King taking over Spirit Group, has raised its head again—oh for the days of old when people in the pub trade were interested in making a living for themselves rather than a fortune for shareholders.

At this time of year, the Christmas beers appear—that's Christmas, not *Holidays*—with their amusing names. Black Paw's Santa Paws is one of the more obvious, despite owner Phil proposing "Better than Socks" as a name. Santa Soot (Maxim), and Haway in a Manger (Mordue), are a couple of local seasonal names to savour, but the important thing is that these Christmas brews are still good. Usually on the darker side to reflect the season, and occasionally with spices added to reflect Christmas tastes, they offer an interesting alternative that we won't see until this time next year. Give your taste buds a workout and see which you prefer.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year—and above all, cheers

*Paul Dobson*

**Dates for your diary, mobile phone, iPad, Filofax, Post-it note...**

- January Saturday 10th, Christmas meal at Three Horse Shoes, Leamside
- January 13th branch meeting, Black Horse, Hamilton Row
- January 23rd-24th Beamish Beer Festival, with CAMRA social on 24th
- January 23rd-24th Sedgefield Winter Beer Festival, Parish Hall
- Contact social secretary for details of transport

## The Half Moon Inn



- A Traditional British Pub in the Heart of Durham City
- A choice of Cask Marque approved real ales, including Bass, Durham Brewery's White Gold, and Timothy Taylor's Landlord
- BT Sport, Sky Sports, and ESPN for all live sporting events .
- Fantastic outside drinking area leading down to the river Wear, with two TVs

**BLACK HILL BREWERY**  
**70 FATHOM**  
Single Hop Blonde Ale  
ABV 4.0  
FROM THE BEER MINES OF DURHAM

**BLACK HILL BREWERY**  
**BRASS THILL**  
Fruity & Spicy Pale Ale  
ABV 4.3  
FROM THE BEER MINES OF DURHAM

**BLACK HILL BREWERY**  
**TOP BUSTY**  
Full Bodied Golden Bitter  
ABV 5.5  
FROM THE BEER MINES OF DURHAM

**BLACK HILL BREWERY**  
**REAL ALE**  
FROM THE BEER MINES OF DURHAM  
[www.blackhillbrewery.com](http://www.blackhillbrewery.com)  
 Tel: 07905 778 286 Email: [Info@blackhillbrewery.com](mailto:Info@blackhillbrewery.com)



Like our Facebook page to see our weekly guest ales & sporting events  
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## The Half Moon Inn

New Elvet, Durham City, DH1 3AQ  
 Tel: 01913741918

[www.thehalfmooninndurham.co.uk](http://www.thehalfmooninndurham.co.uk)

As seen on TV!

## Doubling up at Sonnet 43

County Durham's microbrewery Sonnet 43 has topped off an award-winning year by more than doubling its production.

Figures recently released by Sonnet 43 Brew House, of Coxhoe, reveal that the firm had brewed 512,346 pints in 2014 – and that was with three weeks of busy trading still to go.

These figures, almost double the 264,644 pints produced in 2013, mark the close of a successful and award-winning year for Sonnet 43 – showing that people really do like real beer. The company, which was recently included in Mitchells and Butlers list of recommend beers meaning that their brews can now be enjoyed across the country, has claimed a raft of accolades in the past 12 months, including two star Great Taste Awards for its American Pale Ale and Bourbon Milk Stout.

The current core range of five beers includes American Pale Ale which achieved a silver for best bitter over 5% ABV at the North East Society of Independent Brewers (SIBA) awards this year.



**Sonnet 43 Brew House's head brewer Michael Harker, and owner Mark Hird**



## Pubs of Character

*Number 216 in an occasional series—***The Pollards Inn, Bishop Auckland**

Think of local legend in the Bishop Auckland area, and one of the first names that comes to mind is that of Richard Pollard. Way back in the mists of time, even before the town's famous Two Blues football club was founded, the town was, as it is now, home to the Bishops of Durham. Back then though, the terror of the town was not bands of marauding chavs, but a fierce wild boar. A bit like the Lambton Worm a few miles down the River Wear, it was causing havoc amongst the local populace, so the Prince Bishop – because that's what they were in those days – offered a reward for its capture or death. Many tried, but all failed until a brave local lad by the name of Richard Pollard had a go. Armed to the teeth with spears and swords, he and the beast chased each other around the countryside until the young knight finally triumphed. Exhausted by his efforts, he cut out its tongue as a souvenir (as you do) and put it in his pocket before falling asleep. During the night, a passing chancer saw the dead boar, cut off its head, and raced to the Bishop to claim his reward.

Epic fail, as they say these days. Pollard arrived soon after and proved his triumph, so the Bishop said that his reward would be possession of all the land he could ride around while before the Bishop finished his dinner. So off went Pollard and horse, circling the Bishop's Palace in no time – obviously, he couldn't have that, so the Bishop awarded him lots of nice land to the South West of the town. It's still called Pollards Lands, and in the middle of it is the **Pollards Inn**.

Which, at last, is the point of the story. Starting life a couple of centuries ago as a single storey building, the **Pollards** became surrounded by houses as the town expanded around it, and has long been established as a popular and comfortable establishment. Until the mid-seventies, the single bar served the bar and lounge, with an off-sales hatch to the hallway, and two separate rooms occupied the south side of the building. Then a central bar was introduced which served all four rooms, and more recently a large restaurant was added to the rear. As the customer needs of the pub trade have changed, the **Pollards** has kept up with the new while retaining the old.

While the pub has built a great reputation for food, including a renowned Sunday carvery, and has a popular quiz on alternate Sunday evenings, it has not lost what pubs were originally based on – the public bar. It is here that the handpumps live. This room has one of the two open fires, bare floorboards, houses the dartboard, and is the heart of the pub where newspapers are read, and the issues of the day are discussed, dissected, and generally put right. There's always someone willing to join in a debate, which is how it should be, and that person could be of any age from eighteen to eighty. Back in the day, it was a Cameron's Bitter and Strongarm pub, but the choice grew to offer beers from the Marston/Jennings/Wychwood range, and these proved so popular that the five pumps were joined by a further two in 2013. The regularly changing real ale menu makes it popular with those who like to try something new or different—or just good.

Landlord Chris Shaw has been around the trade all his life, and it shows in the way the “proper” aspects of the pub are maintained and encouraged – good beer, good company, and good food should you want it.

## Greene King take over Spirit Group

*Should we be worried? Quite possibly.*

In a deal worth an estimated £774 million in cash and shares, Greene King have begun the process of taking over the Spirit Group. This merger, of two of the UK's largest pub groups, will create a hospitality empire of more than 3,000 pubs and restaurants employing 40,000 staff. The combined group will have around one-fifth of the market for branded pubs.

All of which is slightly worrying in the current climate of good feeling generated by the potential reduction in control that Pubco's have over how their workers operate their pubs. On the one hand (see elsewhere in this issue), the government lost the vote on Pubco reform, but in this case we seem to be going back towards a situation that the formation of Pubco's was supposed to address – that of the old tied house system where brewers had almost total control over how pubs were run.

Greene King made this move to increase their presence in the London area, but we're more concerned about what will happen to the Spirit group's Taylor-Walker pub in our area – namely the **Market Tavern** in Durham market place, which was refurbished not that long ago. Initial reaction from the pub itself is that they'll fight to keep things just as they are – which is a fine town centre pub with a great range of both local and national beers.



Should the deal be approved by those needed to do so, we can expect things to start happening fairly early in the New Year. As for what happens to the pubs themselves, only time will tell.



As they say, watch this space.

# The Victoria Inn

Free House

86 Hallgarth Street, Durham, DH1 3AS

Te. 0191 3865269 Fax: 0191 386 0465

## • *Bed & Breakfast*

### *Accommodation*

- *All rooms en-suite*
- *Friendly, atmospheric bar*
- *Private car parking*
- *Five cask ales, including guests*
- *English Heritage Grade 2 listed*
- *Durham's only CAMRA National Inventory listed pub*
- *Whiskey and Whisky galore!*



*CAMRA Durham's Pub of the Year 2003, 2005, 2007, 2009, 2012, and Town Pub of the Year 2014*



## **CAMRA welcomes Chancellor's Autumn Statement which provides further help for pubs**

*This seems to be getting a bit of a regular occurrence, this good news from budget-type announcements!*

*CAMRA head of communications, **Tom Stainer**, had this to say:*

*"With 31 pub closing every week, the Chancellor's extension of small business rate relief and an additional £500 business rates reduction for most pubs in England is great news for pub goers. Business rates are a significant burden on pubs and so these announcements will help keep pubs open, boost investment and ensure consumers continue to benefit from great pubs."*

*"The review of Business Rates also provides an opportunity to address the disproportionate tax burden on pub beer sales compared to supermarket beer sales."*



# TAP & SPILE

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ENTERPRISINGLY RESTRAINED!

THE ALL YEAR ROUND BEER  
FESTIVAL

***Durham CAMRA Pub of the Year 2013, runner up 2014***

FRONT STREET, FRAMWELLGATE MOOR

0191 3865451 [lesley@tapandspile.co.uk](mailto:lesley@tapandspile.co.uk)



The Pavilion, formerly known as Bishop Auckland Cricket Club Bar is under new management. We have added a unique sun terrace and are re-fitting the bar & function room.

Having recently introduced Cask Ale we have two guest ales each week to complement our permanent Black Sheep Best.

Come and see Kingsway's hidden gem.

Open from 6.00pm Wed – Fri, and 12.00 Weekends with Quiz night on Thursday. Sunday Lunch served 12.00 till 2pm.

Large Function Room available for parties and corporate events. Bookings now being taken for Christmas Parties.



South Church Road, Bishop Auckland, DL14 7JU  
01388 603371

### Good news for Upper Weardale,

...and Rookhope in particular, as the village's only pub, the Rookhope Inn, has reopened after a closure lasting thankfully only a few months. As well as giving the village its pub back, it also means that those intrepid souls cycling the Coast to Coast route have somewhere else to slake their thirsts.

Oh, and Durham CAMRA can put it back on the itinerary for our summer trip

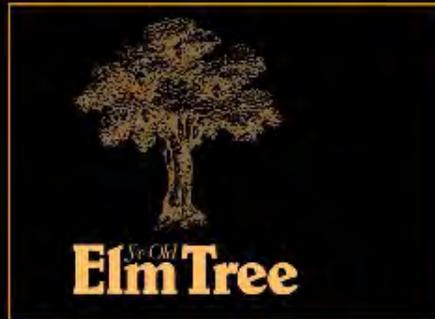




# The John Duck

ALE HOUSE

91a Claypath, Durham City- Cask & Craft  
Ales - Live music Friday nights



12 Crossgate, Durham City - Homecooked food  
all week - Cask Ales



53 Crossgate, Durham City- Live music  
Saturday nights - Pub quiz Wednesday night



## THE FIR TREE COUNTRY HOTEL

At the Fir Tree Country Hotel we welcome you to the charming rural surrounds of the Weardale Valley. Share in our cosy, traditional 'home from home' atmosphere perfectly situated on the A68 gateway to the Durham Dales and in easy reach of historic Durham City, Barnard Castle, Beamish Open Air Museum, the Durham Vale and Hamsterley Forest. The Fir Tree Country Hotel houses 14 well equipped bedrooms to include double, twin and family rooms all offering modern en-suite accommodation. We also offer a full breakfast menu.



We cater for lunch between 12-5pm (2 for £10) and evening meals are available between 5-9pm.

Steak nights Thursdays £19.95 for two grill meals and a bottle of wine.

Curry night on a Wednesday which is £6.95 with a free pint

Fish and Chip night on a Friday for £5.95

Sunday lunch Carvery starting from 12-5pm every week, table service still available, £7.50 and £2.50 with dessert. Specials are always available.

Card-carrying CAMRA members receive 40p off a pint and 20p off a half



**The Fir Tree Country Hotel, The Grove, Fir Tree, Crook, Co Durham, DL15 8DD**  
**Tel: 01388 762161**  
**[enquiries@firtreecountryhotel.com](mailto:enquiries@firtreecountryhotel.com)**

## Brewery News

Since our last issue, two new breweries have come on the scene in County Durham.

**The Fat Brewer** in Crook has set up a partnership with Bishop Auckland College so that young people can learn the ins and outs of the hospitality trade, and, as we went to press, had yet to produce its first brew. Watch this space for details.

Up in Chester le Steet, the **Jam Brewery** produced its first ales a few months ago, and has supplied a few pubs in that area, including the Smiths Arms at Brecon Hill and the Ivy House in Sunderland. Again, watch this space for details as we get them—and let us know if you find any Jam beer out there!



### The Black Lion

County Durham Cider Pub of the Year 2013

North East Cider Pub of the Year 2013

Follow us on Twitter and Facebook

*..and runner-up 2014!*

A choice of Regional and National Ales.  
A selection of up to nine Real Ciders on draught

*..and 2014!*

Open from 6.30pm during the week, open all day at weekends

Sunday Night Quiz – starting at 8.30pm

Curry Night the first Tuesday of the month – booking essential

Everything you would expect from a proper pub: a real fire, a warm welcome, a beer garden, football, pool, and darts. Dogs welcome

21 Meadhope Street, Wolsingham, Co Durham DL13 3EN  
Telephone: 01388-527772

## **General Knowledge Quiz (nee googling, mind!)**

1. The English city of Lincoln lies on which river?
2. **What was Field Marshall Montgomery's first name?**
3. How many Englishmen have refereed a World Cup Final?
4. What is the principal ingredient of guacamole?
5. What is the collective noun for a group of nightingales?
6. In what year was the Tyne Bridge built?
7. Which city is the main location for Ian Rankin's crime novels?
8. In which year was the first version of Windows, Windows 1.0 launched?
9. In which County Durham village was actress Wendy Craig born?
10. Who is the current Secretary of State for Work and Pensions?

Answers on page 31

### **Local CAMRA pub discounts**

#### **Show your membership card at these pubs and get.....**

- ◆ Court Inn, Durham - 30p off a pint
- ◆ Market Tavern, Durham—10% discount
- ◆ Bishop Langley, Durham— 50p off pint (and loyalty card)
- ◆ Water House, Durham—20p off pint (20p off for everyone on Mondays)
- ◆ Fir Tree Country Hotel, Fir Tree—40p off a pint, 20p off a half
- ◆ The Library, Durham— 10% discount
- ◆ Duke of **Wellington, Durham** – 20p off a pint of cask ale
- ◆ Clarence Villa, Coxhoe - 20p off a pint of Sonnet43 beer
- ◆ Lambton Worm, Chester-le-Street – 20p off a pint of Sonnet43 beer
- ◆ Frog and Ferret – Spennymoor – 10% off a pint of cask ale
- ◆ Five Quarter - Peterlee - 20p off pint of cask ale.
- ◆ Various pubs have their own loyalty schemes (The Library in Durham and The Black Bull in Wolsingham to name but three) so please look out for these as well.

*Please let us know if you find any other pubs or clubs offering dis-*

# THE GOOD THE BAD AND THE UGLY



## **Real Ale is now available in:**

- The King's Head, Newgate Street, Bishop Auckland—Black Sheep Bitter
- The Welcome, Low Waldron Street, Bishop Auckland—regularly changing guest ale
- Old Fleece, Bishop Middleham
- The Turf, Consett
- The Timothy Hackworth, Shildon—Cameron's Strongarm
- Hogan's, Willington—Cameron's Strongarm



## **The following Real Ale outlets have re-opened:**

- The Chester Moor, at Chester Moor
- The Avenue, High Shincliffe,
- The Old Mill at Knitsley, near Consett
- The Rookhope Inn, Rookhope

## **No more real ale at:**



- ◆ The Mason's Arms, Etherley Dene
- ◆ The Castle Bar, Bishop Auckland Market Place
- ◆ The Grey Horse, Haswell Station, Bishop Auckland
- ◆ Mill Inn, Seaham
- ◆ Market Tavern, Chester le Street



## **The following pubs have closed:**

- ◆ The Burn, Willington
- ◆ The Engineers, Seaham
- ◆ The Red Lion, Trimdon
- ◆ The Black Diamond, Consett
- ◆ The Travellers Rest, Witton Gilbert—but only temporarily, for refurbishment. Hopefully this one will be in the "Good" section in our next issue



***Please let us know if you find any changes—we've almost certainly missed a few!***

## **CAMRA's National Winter Ales Festival 2015**

*Where: The Roundhouse, Derby, DE24 8JE*

*When: Open from Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> – Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2015*

In 2015 CAMRA's flagship National Winter Ales Festival will return to Derby for the second year running, with over 400 beers available the Festival will showcase some of the very best ales, ciders, perries, bottled world beers and mead in three separate areas.

Located beside the Pride Park exit of Derby Railway Station (just 93 minutes from London) Derby's historic Roundhouse could not be in a more convenient location.

Four Brewery Bars have been agreed: multi award winning **Blue Monkey** from Nottingham; innovative **North Star** from Derbyshire both in the Main Hall, Derby's very own **Brunswick Brewing Company** in the Music Marquee and Yorkshire's shining gem **Brass Castle** in the Carriage Room.

The National Winter Ales Festival is home to CAMRA's prestigious Champion Winter Beer of Britain Competition which sees the four winter styles of beer (porters, stouts, old ales/strong milds and barley wine/strong old ales) being gathered from across the UK to be judged and a winner declared. Though the festival itself has lots of pale beers and golden ales to choose from too.

The website [www.nwaf.org.uk](http://www.nwaf.org.uk) will be updated regularly with details of admission prices, live entertainment, tutored tastings and special hotel rates thanks to our partners at [www.visitderby.co.uk](http://www.visitderby.co.uk). There are no advance tickets as this is a pay on the door event. Well behaved and supervised under 18s are welcomed until 19:00 each evening, after which they must leave due to a licencing requirement.

The feedback from 2014 revealed that our customers loved the building, the beer quality and selection as well as the hot and cold food which was available. So why not join them and come and see Derby at its beery best!!

Cheers!

Gillian Hough , Organiser National Winter Ales Festival

OVER 400 REAL ALES CIDERS & PERRIES BOTTLED WORLD BEERS AND MEAD

LIVE MUSIC [EVENINGS]

NATIONAL WINTER ALES FESTIVAL

2015

11TH FEB 14TH FEB

CAMPAIGN FOR REAL ALE

ROUNDHOUSE PRIDE PARK, DERBY DE24 8JE

WED	THU	FRI	SAT
11	12	13	14

FEBRUARY

QR code

nwaf.org.uk

@WinterAlesFest

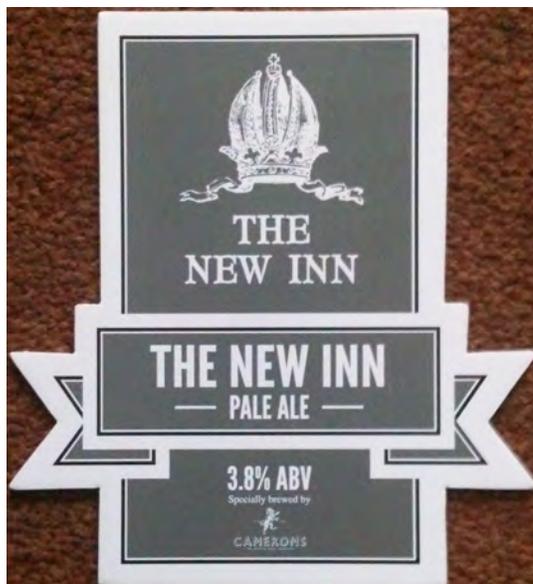
CAMRA's National Winter Ales Fest

## Make it personal

There's nothing like making things a little bit personal to get the attention of people, and pub-goers are no different. At the New Inn, Durham, Cameron's have rebranded their IPA as The New Inn Pale Ale.

Cameron's IPA is a light but tasty easy-drinking beer that comes in at 3.8%, keeping firmly in the session ale category.

Landlord Martin Nixon tells CAMRA Durham that the new pumpclip is certainly catching people's attention, and that the beer is proving very popular.



The New Inn, 29 Church Street, DH1 3DN

## Hyde & Beast Beer Launched at The Dun Cow, Sunderland

Only a few weeks after launching their own ale, Sunderland band Hyde & Beast have gone one better and introduced a second, called A Dark Mistake. This was officially launched to the press at The Dun Cow, (Head of Steam) Sunderland, in late November. As we at CAMRA Durham are always keen to investigate a new beer produced in the region, as I'd liked their first brew, and as I'm mates with their manager, an invitation was obtained and off we went to welcome the new beer. Real ale and live music - a great way to spend a Monday.

Hyde & Beast's drummer and producer, Neil Bassett, explained: "Basically, we sold all the stock we had of our first ale, Train To Nowhere, on our last UK tour, so we thought we may as well make some more beer, so we have! Obviously the guys at Wylam Brewery did a lot of the hard work, but we had a big hand in the tasting process and are delighted with the results. We had Train to Nowhere on draught in selected bars in Sunderland such as The Ivy House, The Dun Cow, and The Museum Vaults and with the festive season approaching other pubs got in touch, so we will be able to supply them with A Dark Mistake too."

The band's front man, Dave Hyde, added: "We seem to be as good at making beer as we are music these days, so we thought we'd launch this new ale in The Dun Cow, give the press a free taste, and play a few of our songs. We also have our hometown Christmas show at Independent on Saturday December 20 and A Dark Mistake will be on sale then. I might have a pint before I go on to calm my nerves - just the one, though!"

Matt Boyle, from Wylam Brewery, said: "Hyde & Beast just didn't want to do the same brew again and, as the title suggests, A Dark Mistake is deeper in colour and more full bodied. Hyde & Beast considered this one first time around, so it's nice to get it out there. We're delighted with the way the beers have been received and A Dark Mistake will also be available on draught and in bottles in bars throughout the region." Hopefully, we'll see some in Durham.

*The name of the ale was inspired by the track A Dark Mistake from the new Hyde & Beast album, Keep Moving, which you can listen to in full at [www.hydeandbeast.co.uk](http://www.hydeandbeast.co.uk)*

Tickets for Hyde & Beast's hometown Christmas show, at Independent on Saturday December 20 are available from Hot Rats or on line <http://www.netickets.net/home/202-hyde-beast.html>

*For a full range of Hyde & Best merchandise visit <http://hydeandbeast.bigcartel.com/>*

## We've got a Library!

No, not the pub of that name in Saddler Street, Durham, but a collection of beery documents of the historical variety.

Thanks to Eddie Turner, a former stalwart of Durham CAMRA (chairman, festival organiser, Durham drinker editor, and just about any other job you can think of), who has passed over his (vast) collection of Good Beer Guides, Durham Festival posters, and old copies of Durham Drinker. He and his wife are preparing to move house, and downsizing means that his treasured collection needed a new home. All will join the other real-ale-related books and documents that form Durham CAMRA's Library. Thanks again Eddie and best wishes to you both in your new home.

If any Durham Drinker reader has real-ale-related books or documents that they are prepared to donate to our Library, please e-mail details to Peter Lawson at [peter.a.lawson@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:peter.a.lawson@hotmail.co.uk).

## If you stock it, they will come

After a period of sustained pestering by some of the locals, landlord Dave Scott at the Welcome, Bishop Auckland, gave in and installed handpumps. Initially, it was just to give it a try and see how it went, but things have moved on a level since the introduction of real ale. The first month saw demand exceed supply, meaning that a greater variety of beer than initially intended was available, with Mordue's Workie Ticket, Deuchars, Broadside, Wadworth 6X, Yard of Ale's Yard Dog, Best By Yards, Yard Bird, and IPA going down well. The cask ale has proved so popular that on one busy quiz night, only three pints of a well-known nitro keg beer were sold – proof, if proof were needed, that if the real thing is offered, people will drink it.

It's also a real time-saver for the two CAMRA Durham committee members who live within a few yards!



**The Welcome, Low Waldron Street, Bishop Auckland DL14 7DS**



## What's in a name?

With the popularity of real ale increasing, the number of beer styles that have been either invented or revived in the last few years can have you wondering just what sort of beer it is you're drinking. Two styles that have been the subject of much discussion of late are Black (or dark) IPA and White Stout.

The former seems like a straightforward misnomer – India Pale Ale can't be dark, it would seem. IPA was so named because it was specifically brewed to be robust enough to survive shipment to India in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, where it would be quaffed by the thirsty servicemen who were on the sub-continent protecting the interests of the British Empire, or filming Carry On up the Khyber. Presumably, had there been a dark ale shipped out there, it would have been called India Dark Ale, or IDA. (what's the betting some enterprising brewer makes one of these within a couple of months of reading this?) So, it would seem, that's that one sorted – Black IPA is a misnomer.

The latter came under similar scrutiny – surely Stout can't be White? Well, when you think about where Stout got its name from, perhaps it can. Steve Gibbs of Durham Brewery took the opportunity of our November Tuesday Tingle/ Presentation Evening to give us a bit of background, and when it comes to beer history and styles, he's the man to ask. Back in the mists of time (a couple of centuries ago) weak porter was the standard beer, and strong beer was called stout. Simple, as they say in advertising. Only the omnipresence of The Irish Drink has made us regard stout as always black.

Look in the dictionary – stout doesn't just mean plump. A "Stout Fellow" was simply a robust, reliable person, so strong beer became logically referred to as Stout. Before the porter brewers commandeered the word to mean a stout, or strong, porter it referred to any strong beer. Therefore, there is no reason why stout can't be white, or at least light in colour. Steve took this argument one step further and set about brewing White Stout, which he launched in November 2011. Soon there were others copying the idea.

So, there you have it. Another bar room debate put to bed courtesy of Durham CAMRA, with special thanks to Steve Gibbs for providing the facts.

# PUB OF THE YEAR

**The time of year has arrived when you, the CAMRA members, get to choose your favourite pub or club of the year.**

In our last issue, we asked for your nominations in the various categories, and in they came. So far, these are:

**Town Pub:** Victoria, Durham. Dun Cow, Durham. Ye Old Elm Tree, Durham. Half Moon, Durham. Tap & Spile, Framwellgate Moor. Duke of Wellington, Durham, Bishop Langley, Durham. Pollards, Bishop Auckland. Grey Horse, Consett

**Country Pub:** Surtees Arms, Ferryhill Station. Ship Inn, Middlestone Village. Morley Wood, Brandon. Hare & Hounds, Westgate. Dun Cow, Seaton. Clarence Villa, Coxhoe. Smith's Arms, Brecon Hill. Black Bull, Frosterley. Three Horse Shoes, Leamside. Seven Stars, Shincliffe.

**Club of the Year:** Chester le Street Cricket Club. Shildon Football Club. Beamish Park Golf Club. Durham City Rugby Club.

**Town Cider Pub:** Bay Horse, Bishop Auckland. John Duck, Durham. Bishop Langley, Durham.

**Country Cider Pub:** Black Lion, Wolsingham. Black Bull, Frosterley.

Now is the time to cast your votes, but please note that you are **NOT** restricted to the pubs and clubs listed above. **If your favourite isn't there, please vote for it anyway**—we want to give everywhere and everyone a chance. You have to be a paid up CAMRA member to vote, which you can do by emailing your choice in as many of the five categories that you wish to vote in, along with your membership number (which will be used for verification purposes only) to [pubsgroup@camradurham.org.uk](mailto:pubsgroup@camradurham.org.uk) by January 9th.

*One lucky voter will have their number drawn out of a hat or similar receptacle, and will win a selection of local bottle conditioned ales.*

**Please vote** —the results are up to you, and will be announced in the New Year.

## Landmark victory for beer drinkers, pub goers and licensees as Government defeated in Commons vote

Tim Page, CAMRA Chief Executive said:

*"This landmark Parliamentary vote helps secure the future of pubs. CAMRA is delighted that, after ten years of our campaigning, MPs have today voted to introduce a market rent only option for licensees tied to the large pub companies - a move that will secure the future of the Great British Pub."*

*The Government was defeated by 284 votes to 269 with MPs from all parties voting in favour of a new clause to the Small Business Bill that will empower pubco licensees to choose between a tied agreement and a market rent only agreement that will allow them to buy beer on the open market. Allowing over 13,000 pub tenants tied to the large pub companies the option of buying beer on the open market at competitive prices will help keep pubs open and ensure the cost of a pint to consumers remains affordable. The large pub companies will no longer be able to charge their tenants prices up to 60 pence a pint higher than open market prices."*

*"This simple choice should spell the end of pubco licensees being forced out of business through high rents and tied product prices."*

*"Thank you to the 8000 CAMRA members and campaigners who lobbied their local MP to help make this happen and to those MPs that voted to support pubs. CAMRA are now urging the Government to accept the outcome of the vote."*

### Tim page became CAMRA chief executive on November 1st

Tim brings a wealth of experience from the charitable sector, having previously held positions as Chief Executive of the East Anglian Air Ambulance (EAAA) and former National Director of homeless charity Emmaus UK.

*"I am absolutely thrilled to be joining CAMRA as Chief Executive and look forward to meeting the volunteers when I start work in November. The Campaign has an outstanding reputation which appears to me to be the result of its large membership, its huge number of hard-working and committed volunteers and its highly-competent and professional team of employees. My aim is to continue to develop CAMRA as both the universally-recognised representative and the most-authoritative voice of real ale drinkers and pub-goers in the UK."* Tim succeeds Mike Benner as Chief Executive, who has moved to SIBA, the Society for Independent Brewers.



## Join CAMRA Today

Complete the Direct Debit form below and you will receive 15 months membership for the price of 12 and a fantastic discount on your membership subscription.

Alternatively you can send a cheque payable to CAMRA Ltd with your completed form, visit [www.camra.org.uk/joinus](http://www.camra.org.uk/joinus) or call 01727 867201. All forms should be addressed to the: Membership Department, CAMRA, 230 Hatfield Road, St Albans, AL1 4LW.

### Your Details

Title \_\_\_\_\_ Surname \_\_\_\_\_  
 Forename(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date of Birth (dd/mm/yyyy) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tel No(s) \_\_\_\_\_

	Direct Debit	Non DD
Single Membership (UK & EU)	£24 <input type="checkbox"/>	£26 <input type="checkbox"/>
Joint Membership (Partner at the same address)	£29.50 <input type="checkbox"/>	£31.50 <input type="checkbox"/>

For Young Member and other concessionary rates please visit [www.camra.org.uk](http://www.camra.org.uk) or call 01727 867201.

I wish to join the Campaign for Real Ale, and agree to abide by the Memorandum and Articles of Association

I enclose a cheque for \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Applications will be processed within 21 days

### Partner's Details (if Joint Membership)

Title \_\_\_\_\_ Surname \_\_\_\_\_  
 Forename(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date of Birth (dd/mm/yyyy) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email address (if different from main member) \_\_\_\_\_

01/10

**Campaigning for Pub Goers & Beer Drinkers**

**Enjoying Real Ale & Pubs**

**Join CAMRA today - [www.camra.org.uk/joinus](http://www.camra.org.uk/joinus)**

### Instruction to your Bank or Building Society to pay by Direct Debit

Please fill in the whole form using a ball point pen and send to: Campaigns for Real Ale Ltd, 230 Hatfield Road, St Albans, Herts AL1 4LW

Name and full postal address of your Bank or Building Society Service User Number

To the Manager Bank or Building Society 9 2 6 1 2 9  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
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 Name(s) of Account Holder \_\_\_\_\_  
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Bank or Building Society Account Number  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Branch Sort Code  
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 Reference  
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### FOR CAMPAIGN FOR REAL ALE LTD OFFICIAL USE ONLY

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 Instructions to your Bank or Building Society  
 Please pay Campaign for Real Ale Limited Direct Debits from the account detailed on this instruction subject to the safeguards agreed by the Direct Debit Guarantee. I understand this instruction may remain with Campaign for Real Ale Limited and, if so will be passed electronically to my Bank/Building Society.  
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- This Guarantee should be detached and retained by the payer.
- The Guarantee is offered by all banks and building societies that accept instructions to pay by Direct Debit.
- If there is any change to the amount, date or frequency of your Direct Debit The Campaign for Real Ale Ltd will notify you 10 working days in advance of your account being debited or in otherwise agreed. If you request The Campaign for Real Ale Ltd to collect a payment, confirmation of the amount and date will be given to you at the time of the request.
- If an error is made in the payment of your Direct Debit by The Campaign for Real Ale Ltd or your bank or building society you are entitled to a full and immediate refund of the amount paid from your bank or building society.
- If you receive a refund you are not entitled to you must pay it back when The Campaign for Real Ale Ltd asks you to.
- You can cancel a Direct Debit at any time by simply contacting your bank or building society. Written confirmation may be required. Please also notify us.

# **The Market Tavern**

## **Market Place**

### **Durham**

*We welcome you to the Market Tavern, a traditional real ale pub in the heart of Durham city centre, located in the picturesque market square, next to the historical indoor market.*

*We have six pumps serving real ales and cask ciders. Ales from local breweries such as Maxim, Sonnet 43, Cameron's, Tyne Bank, Allendale, and Wylam are always on sale, and brews from national brewers and micro and small breweries across the country are also offered.*



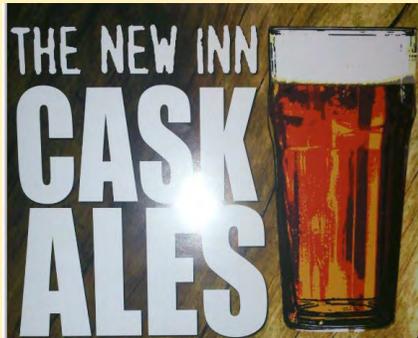
*CAMRA Members receive a 10% discount on all ales.*

## The New Inn

29 Church Street

Durham

- Three regularly changing cask ales



- Food from noon-8pm daily
- Large beer garden
- Favourite with Town and Gown!

## The New Inn

## Sedgefield Winter Beer Festival

Friday 23-Saturday 24 January  
6-11pm

Parish Hall, Sedgefield

Real Ale and beers on tap, plus  
bottled beers

Hot dogs and snacks

Two great live bands—Fri 101,

Sat— Q Jumpers

Tickets £5 from Sedgefield Post  
Office, or Ean2005@hotmail.com

Steve 07919 369698

Paula 07415 275363

## THE SURTEES ARMS & YARD OF ALE BREWERY

- 2014 Camra Durham Pub of the Year Runner-Up,
- Cask Ales from Yard of Ale & Guests,
- Home-cooked Sunday Lunches..
- Big-Screen Sports,
- GBG & Cask Marque listed. Now on TripAdvisor, too!



**Yard of Ale Tap Take over from Dec 12th.  
3-Bottle Gift Packs now available.  
Christmas Party Night - Dec 27th.**

Supplying beers to regional pubs, clubs, beer fests.



- A ward-Winning on-site brewery,

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- SIBA listed.

Surtees Arms / Yard of Ale, Chilton Lane, Ferryhill, Co.  
Durham, DL14 0DH, 01740655724 or 07540733513,  
[www.thesurteesarms.co.uk](http://www.thesurteesarms.co.uk), Facebook & Twitter.



## A Landlord Writes...

As I write this, most people are planning some sort of Christmas event - I know we are. We've just had the madness of Black Friday, too, when the shopping public go crazy for a not-to-be-repeated bargain.

Well fear not, because the great British pub will continue to offer a great value product every day of the year, not just a Friday.

There's been excitement surrounding the beer-tied pubs, too. It may be a little naive to think this heralds the start of a pub revolution - expecting tied houses to suddenly be able to order beer from any brewery may not happen, certainly not overnight. Some estates currently employ an "invite only" policy, where prices are fixed by the pub company - a case of lump it or leave it for the brewers.

However it pans out, it looks to be a step in the right direction - time will tell - and importantly, you, the drinker, will get to sample a wider range of beers from around your region. Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year!

Alan Hogg is landlord at the **Surtees Arms and Yard of Ale Brew Co. Ltd**  
DURHAM CAMRA Country pub of the year runner -up 2014  
DURHAM CAMRA Pub of the year runner-up 2012 & 2013  
NORTH EAST CAMRA Regional pub of the year 2010  
DURHAM CAMRA Pub of the year 2010 & 2011  
Chilton Lane, Ferryhill Station DL17 0DH  
01740 665724 or 07540 733513



# The Black Horse Inn



A popular village pub built in the early 1800's as a coaching inn, this welcoming family run free house pub is situated on the A690 at the edge of Willington, locally referred to as the "Gateway to Weardale". The large open plan bar has three constantly changing real ales which is sourced both nationally and from local micro-breweries.

This community pub is also a proud sponsor of the newly formed Willington Ladies football club.

## Low Willington

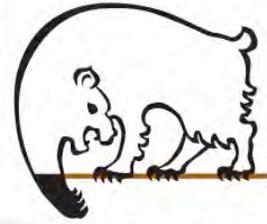


PUBS MINISTER DRINKS A  
PINT OF DOUBLE MAXIM  
-BEER DUTY GOES DOWN-  
INFLUENT'ALE !!



## FAMOUSLY LOCAL

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- Paw's Gold, Alc. 4.0% vol.
- Polar Paw, Alc. 4.4% vol.
- Archbishop's Ale, Alc. 4.1% vol.
- Dark Seam, Alc. 5.0% vol.
- Black Paw IPA, Alc. 5.0% vol.

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**A WARM WELCOME  
AND**

**A LOG FIRE AWAITS**

Traditional Country Inn Serving Local Real Ales  
And Home Cooked Food  
All Real Ales £2.50 A Pint

Monday Night  
Curry Night  
Curry And A Pint £6.50

Tuesday Night  
Steak Night  
A Choice Of 2 Steaks  
Bottle Of House Wine £21.95

Thursday Nights  
Quiz Night  
Open The Box

Sunday Lunch  
3 Course Special £6.95

**Durham CAMRA  
country Pub of the  
Year 2014**

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country Pub of the  
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## The Hare and Hounds

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A Real Ale pub with on-site brewery  
Home-made Evening Meals  
served from 6.30pm Tues-Sat  
Private car park with riverside setting

### Quality Sunday Carvery

*Reserving a table is recommended*  
*Established over 8 years*  
*3 meats, 9 vegetables, and occasional pie*  
*When possible we use our own home-grown*  
*vegetables*  
*Most eggs supplied by our feathered pets*



## Battle of the Beers 2014

If you attended this year's Durham Beer Festival (and if not, why not?) or if you read issue 114 of Durham Drinker (again, if not...) you'll have been aware of the Battle of the Beers competition. This is run every year, with the challenge to brewers being to produce a beer of a particular style. 2014 asked for a Ruby Red type, and competition was fierce. As announced in the last issue, the winner was Durham Brewery's Red Herring, in second place was Tyne Bank's Maple Rye, and in third was George Samuel's Ruby Tuesday.

Durham CAMRA took the chance of choosing Durham Brewery as the location for November's Tuesday Tipple, as it gave us the opportunity for chairman Peter Lawson to present Steve Gibbs with the winner's certificate. We spent the evening sampling the Red Herring and other Durham beers, as well as doing a spot of Christmas shopping from the extensive range of Durham's bottle conditioned ales. There was also another award – that of third place in the Beer of the Festival public vote, which went to Durham's Columbus. Keith Blundy of Aegies Associates, which is a Communications, Marketing & PR company, had sponsored that beer at the festival, and therefore was happy to present Steve with the certificate. As you can see from the photo's, the brewery's walls are crammed with awards from throughout their 20 year history, proving that they are still at the forefront of brewing in the area.



*Steve Gibbs receives his certificate for first place in the Battle of the Beers from CAMRA's Peter Lawson, left, and for third place in Beer of the Festival from Aegies Associates' Keith Blundy, right*

Durham CAMRA's Steve Hogg nipped down to the Duke of Wellington in Welbury, near Northallerton, to present Andrew Ferriman with his third place award.

Andrew only began brewing early in 2014, with the initial aim of supplying a range of beers to his own pub. It proved so popular that he decided to enter the Battle of the Beers competition, and people noticed his success. As a result, he has also sold a number of firkins to other outlets, and had a request from the Nottingham Beer Festival for his Ruby Tuesday. Naturally, he is delighted with his success in the challenge and the ensuing popularity of his beers away from the Duke of Wellington.



*A happy Andrew Ferriman with his third place certificate*

### **Quiz answers**

1. Witham, 2. Bernard, 3. FOUR (George Reader 1950, Walter Ling 1954, Jack Taylor 1974 & Howard Webb 2010), 4. Avocado, 5. A Watch, 6. 1928, 7. Edinburgh, 8. 1985, 9. Sacriston, 10. Iain Duncan Smith

## ***Merry Christmas from Hadrian Border Brewery.***

We wish all our customers all the best for the coming New Year.

Our seasonal special this year is *The 12 Hops of Christmas*.

An amber red beer, it's well hopped with 12 different varieties.

Bitter, but well balanced.

We hope you enjoy it.

[www.hadrian-border-brewery.co.uk](http://www.hadrian-border-brewery.co.uk)

[sales@hadrian-border-brewery.co.uk](mailto:sales@hadrian-border-brewery.co.uk)

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beer at its best

Hadrian Border Brewery presents

# The 12 Hops of Christmas

A FESTIVE ALE TO WISH YOU A VERY HOPPY CHRISTMAS

Finely balanced malts, with the addition of 12 hop varieties making a wonderful Yuletide drink

beer at its best

ABV 4.8%