

THE INDEPENDENT DRINKER



FREE JULY 1993

SUPPORT YOUR INDEPENDENT BREWERIES

The North-East branches of CAMRA, the Campaign for Real Ale, are undertaking in July a campaign, of which this special newsletter is a part, to promote the Independent breweries within the region.

You may not be aware of the fact that we have 11 such breweries in the North-East and that between them they produce nearly 50 different real ales. How many have you tried?

Unfortunately most of Britain's beer is produced and sold by the big, national brewers, created by decades of takeovers and mergers. They have expanded by taking over their rivals and tying up pubs with tempting deals - not by being cheaper, better or more innovative.

The Independents may only sell 20% of our beer nationally (and it's less here in the North-East), but it's the 20% which matters most.

That's why CAMRA says -

Support your Independent Breweries!

BACK BRITAIN'S
INDEPENDENT
BREWERS



WHAT DO BRITAIN'S INDEPENDENT BREWERIES OFFER THE PUB-GOER?

GOOD VALUE: Prices surveys carried out by CAMRA and other organisations over the past 12 years show that it is competition from the Independent Breweries which keep prices in check. Areas dominated by national brewers have higher prices.

GOOD QUALITY: It is the Independent Breweries who take real pride in a local product, with local character. 'Local beers' brewed by a national brewer can come from hundreds of miles away. Courage Best Scotch, only available in the North-East, is brewed in Trowbridge, Wiltshire. National brewers often brew average beers that offend few people and excite even fewer.

GOOD VARIETY: Independent Breweries provide the choice of brands that make beer drinking so interesting. Often they are keeping different styles of beer alive and they innovate by trying new brews. Without them we'd be left with only six or even less brewers with a scattering of mediocre brands.

REAL PUBS: Only by having a variety of pub owners can we be protected against thousands of lookalike pubs with the character of cheap supermarkets. How many more 'cloned' pubs must we have? Sadly here in the North-East not enough pubs are owned by our Independents to turn back this ever increasing tide.

THE FIGHT FOR THE INDEPENDENTS: CAMRA believes that the future of quality real ales and pubs depends on the independents. If nothing else they keep the giants on their toes. But good independent breweries are taken over and closed every year with the loss of jobs and well-loved, local real ales.

We seek to promote good beer and good pubs, and that means promoting the good breweries too. So please, **SUPPORT YOUR INDEPENDENT BREWERIES.**

NORTH EAST INDIES TOUR '93

In order to publicise and promote the wide choice and great quality of Real Ales available from the North-East Independent Breweries, the local branches of CAMRA are undertaking a 'North-East Indies Tour' on 22nd and 23rd July.

Along with a small party of journalists, we will be visiting every Independent North-East brewery - Border, Longstone, Hexhamshire, Federation, Hadrian, Big Lamp, Butterknowle, Whitworth Hall, North Yorkshire, Camerons and Vaux.

Yes, all eleven of them. It's a dirty job, but someone has to do it!

BORDER BREWERY



THE BORDER town of Berwick-upon-Tweed is home to England's most northerly brewery, the Border Brewery. The brewery itself actually stands on the south bank of the Tweed between the Old Berwick Bridge and the Angel. The Angel is the Border tap, selling both Old Kiln Bitter and the more discerning Scottish Ale.

The building itself dates back to the eighteenth century or earlier and was the home of Berwick Brewery until it amalgamated with Darlings and Johnsons to become the first Border Brewery.

Vaux bought the Border Brewery and closed it in 1937. Ghosts of the past still haunt the premises and the adjoining joinery shop from which the idea to brew again emanated.

The beer is now brewed by Mandy and Carol in equipment bought from Hadrian when it decided to expand into larger premises. The Angel was a necessary purchase to counter the Vaux/S&N monopoly of the border pubs.

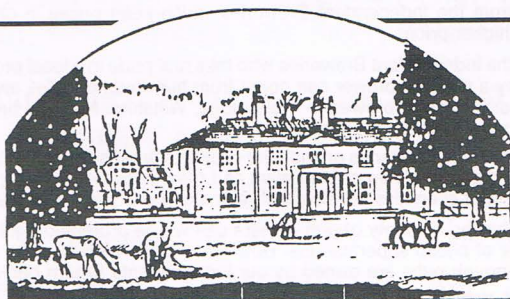


LONGSTONE BREWERY

LONGSTONE Brewery, run from an industrial unit in Belford, is the oldest continuous brewery in Northumberland dating all the way back to August 1991.

The brewer, Peter Darling, is a descendant of the sturdy Northumbrian family which ran Darlings and Johnson's Berwick Brewery and the Longstone lighthouse from which Grace Darling set out to save the crew of the Forfarshire from a watery grave.

Longstone Bitter is a fruity and refreshing session beer available in the Victoria Hotel in Bamburgh and the Stag Line and Magnesia Bank in North Shields plus various free houses in the North East, the Borders, and Edinburgh.



Ancestral Home of 'Bonnie Bobbie Shafto'

WHITWORTH HALL & GARDENS

*Whitworth Park, Page Bank, Nr. Spennymoor,
Co. Durham DL16 7QX.*

Telephone: 0388 720849 Fax: 0388 721415

HEXHAMSHIRE BREWERY



HEXHAMSHIRE is the first brewery in Hexham in over 80 years. Situated at Ordley, just south of Hexham in a converted cattle byre, three partners are now brewing a range of ales using ex-dairy vessels.

No milk stout, but three bitters beginning with Low Quarter (1035OG) named after the local parish. Described as a malty light bitter this is complemented by a 'bitter' bitter, the straw coloured Shire Bitter (1037OG). The third recipe is for a dark, fruity bitter; Devil's Water, a 1041OG beer again named after a local feature, a nearby stream.

Although only brewing since January 1993, over 30 outlets are taking their beers. The brewery tap is the nearby Dip-ton Mill Inn, who always stock the full range.

FEDERATION BREWERY



A REMARKABLE SURVIVOR arising from the aftermath of the First World War. The Federation Brewery (The Fed) was founded in 1919 to overcome the post war beer shortages. It was one of many brewery co-operatives founded in those days, but time has whittled these down to just the one survivor; the Fed.

540 member clubs own the brewery and their business accounts for the majority of the brewery's trade. The beers are brewed in a modern brewery which opened in 1980 but unfortunately only a very small proportion of the output is cask conditioned.

This is a pity, since the cask conditioned versions deserve a much wider audience. There is the Best Bitter (1035OG), Special Ale (1040OG), and the recently introduced Buchanan's Original (1045OG). A reddish-brown, full-bodied beer named after a Newcastle brewery taken over in 1927; hopefully, a sign of increasing commitment to real ale from the brewery.



Shire
Bitter

Low Quarter
Ale

Devil's
Water

HEXHAMSHIRE BREWERY
Lee Fields, Hexham,
Northumberland, NE46 1SX.
Tel: 0434 673031.

HADRIAN BREWERY




HADRIAN BREWERY has been in operation for six years and was forced to transfer to new larger premises at the end of 1991. The move allowed Trevor Smith, the brewer, to vastly increase his output and meant that he was able to meet demand for his flagship brand Gladiator and also brew his other main beers Centurian and Emperor on a more regular basis. Gladiator still accounts for 70% of his output none-the-less.

At the beginning of 1993 Trevor had to call in the receivers and it seemed as though we would be robbed of his fine beers. Happily, rescue was soon at hand in the shape of Michael Westwell who runs the highly popular and successful Cooperage pub on Newcastle's Quayside.

Thanks to the support package put together by Michael, Trevor is today brewing at maximum capacity.


The quality of Hadrian beers is well known, and Trevor now brews Zetland Bitter under contract to the Village Brewer.

We can only hope that Trevor and his new co-directors reach even wider markets with his excellent beers. In independents month Hadrian shows how a small brewery producing individualistic beers can succeed in what is a very competitive business.



**Probably the
oldest Brewery
in the Country**

**Traditional
Ales from the
cask**



**Border Brewery
Berwick upon Tweed
303 303**



BIG LAMP

THE OLDEST established 'micro' in the region is Big Lamp, who brew their distinctive beers in a district of Newcastle which gives them their name.

Big Lamp changed hands at the end of 1990, and the present partnership of Lee Goulding and George Storey have extended their beer portfolio to include the roast malt flavoured Summerhill Stout (1044OG, 4.5%ABV), a winter warmer (1048OG, 11%ABV), and the powerful Blackout (1100OG, 11%ABV) brewed occasionally for beer festivals.

The fact that their single tied house, the Wheatsheaf at Felling has been awarded Pub of the Year by Tyneside CAMRA is just reward for their efforts to establish a varied and consistent beer range.



BUTTERKNOWLE BREWERY

BUTTERKNOWLE Brewery is housed in the old school house at Lynesack near Butterknowle. The brewery started out as a small family business concentrating on the quality of the beers.

The demand for these beers has increased in such a short time that the brewery has had to start brewing twice a day just to keep up. They are now producing 77 barrels a week. To help with this extra brewing, the brewery has purchased new premises, bought a new hot liquor tank and employed two more people.

They have changed the recipe on some of the beers to improve flavour. This has been very satisfactory and a huge success. So much so that the brewery continues to grow from strength to strength.



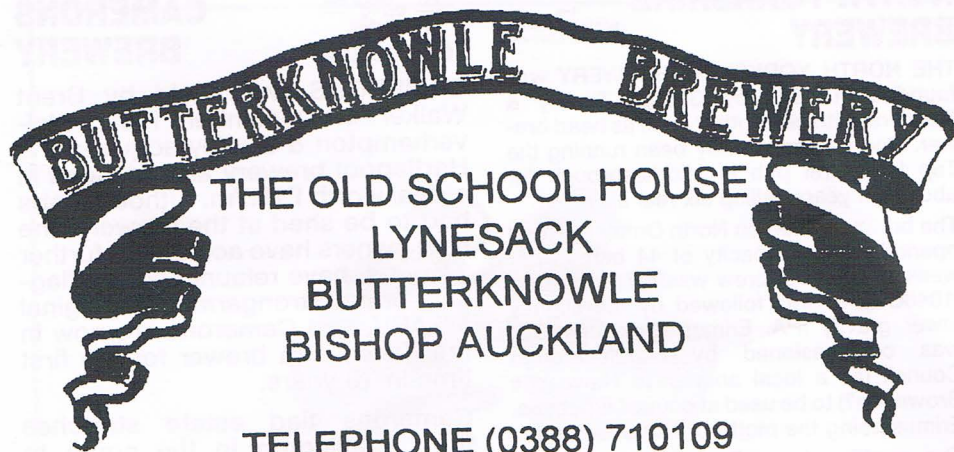
WHITWORTH HALL

IN THE HEYDAY of the country estate, centred upon the Hall, one of the crafts performed for the owner of the house and his large staff was that of brewing. When Derek Parnaby discovered the old brewery in a cellar at WHITWORTH HALL he decided to revive the tradition.

Whitworth Hall, near Spennymoor, is of course famous for an earlier association with a certain Robert Shafto Esq. So the name for the first brew produced, a strong beer (1055OG) was of course Bobby Shafto Special.

The other beer so far produced is a plum beer, using fruit from the hall's orchards. Fruit in beer is a Belgium speciality and as some of the equipment now used came from an old Belgium village brewery, maybe this is not so surprising.

Regular outlets are the hall's tearooms and the Manor House Hotel, Ferryhill. Bottled beers may become available when the bottling plant is renovated, otherwise try the local beer festivals.



TELEPHONE (0388) 710109

May We Recommend:-

The Crown Posada, The Side, Newcastle Upon Tyne.

Fitzgeralds, Dean Street, Newcastle Upon Tyne.

The Rose & Crown, City Road, Newcastle Upon Tyne.

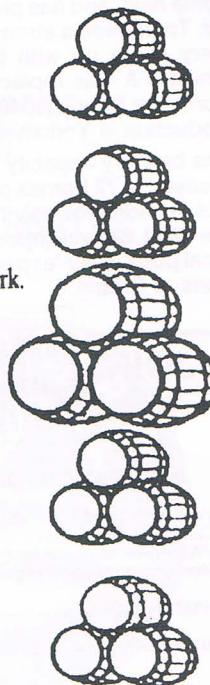
The Shiremoor House Farm, Middle Engine Lane, New York.

The Magnesia Bank, Camden Street, North Shields.

The Alum House, River Drive, South Shields.

THE SMALL INDEPENDENT BREWERS ASSOCIATION

Please support the Independent Brewers
of the North East by drinking our products
where available and encouraging landlords
and managers where not.



For further details

CONTACT JOHN CONSTABLE
on Bishop Auckland (0388) 710109

NORTH YORKSHIRE BREWERY

THE
NORTH YORKSHIRE
BREWING COMPANY

THE NORTH YORKSHIRE BREWERY was founded in 1990 by George Tinsley & Partners, with his brother John as head brewer. George had already been running the Tap 'n' Barrel pub in Middlesbrough for about ten years selling six real ales.

The brewery, sited on North Ormesby Road opened with a capacity of 44 barrels per week and its first brew was Flying Herbert (1048OG), shortly followed by the slightly lower gravity IPA. Erimus Dark (1046OG) was commissioned by Middlesbrough Council (as a local answer to Newcastle Brown Ale?) to be used at council functions. Erimus being the motto of Middlesbrough.

The quaffing brew Best Bitter (1036OG) came next, and has proved to be very popular. To provide a strong ale element the brewery came up with Dizzy Dick (1080OG), whilst IPA was replaced by the delectable Yorkshire Brown (1040OG). A more novel introduction is Yorkshire Porter (1040OG).

The brewery capacity has recently been increased to 72 barrels per week. Regular outlets include, not only the Tap 'n' Barrel and the Malt Shovel (opened 1991), but many local pubs. Beer 'exports' are made to many parts of Britain.



APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

I/We wish to join the
Campaign for Real Ale Limited.
I/We agree to abide by the
Memorandum and Articles of the Campaign.

NAME (S)

ADDRESS

.....

.....

Membership for 1 year: £8.00 (Special Offer)

Please send your remittance (payable to CAMRA Ltd.) to CAMRA, 34 Alma Road, St. Albans, Herts AL1 3BW.



Cameron's

CAMERONS BREWERY

CAMERONS were sold by Brent Walker in December 1992. Wolverhampton & Dudley acquired the Hartlepool brewery and 51 pubs in a deal worth £18.7m. Although jobs had to be shed at the brewery, the new owners have acquired a further 34 pubs, have relaunched the flagship brand Strongarm to its original 4%ABV, and Camerons are now in the hands of a brewer for the first time in 18 years.

Camerons tied estate stretches from Bridlington in the south to Blyth in the north, and Banks' brands are also available in selected outlets.



VAUX BREWERY

FIRST ESTABLISHED in 1806 and now one of the country's largest regional brewers, VAUX remains firmly independent.

After a recent series of acquisitions the tied estate stands at almost 1,000 pubs. Many are in South Yorkshire following the 70's takeovers of Wards of Sheffield and Darleys of Thorne.

The beers range from Lorimers Best Scotch (after the Edinburgh brewery sold to Caledonian in 1987), to the Bitter (1036OG), Samson (1041OG), and Double Maxim (104OG). Vaux ESB (1047OG) is produced at Wards.

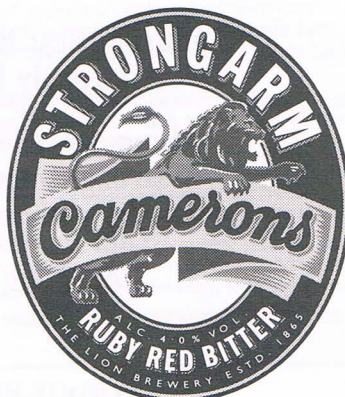
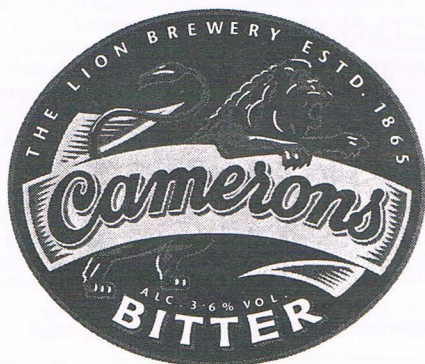
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Lion Brewery, Hartlepool
Cleveland TS24 7QS
Tel: (0429) 266666 Fax: (0429) 868195



Brewers of Quality Ales since 1865



Alive And Kicking

Gladiator Bitter: O.G.1039 4.0%ABV

A smooth, well rounded, and nicely balanced drink

Centurion Best Bitter: O.G.1045 4.5%ABV

A strongly hoppy and malty beer

Emperor Ale: O.G.1050 5.0%ABV

Strong, smooth, and very moreish

Yuel Fuel: O.G.1060 6.0%ABV

A strong, rich, seasonal ale

Hadrian Brewery Ltd.

Unit 10, Hawick Crescent Industrial Estate

Walker, Newcastle Upon Tyne

Tel: (091) 276 5302