

DURHAM DRINKER!



News for the Discerning Drinkers in the City and County of Durham

Issue No.6

FREE

AUG~SEPT — 1979

DURHAM 800 BEER FESTIVAL EDITION

On August 31st and September 1st, the biggest beer festival ever held in the North East of England takes place at Dunelm House, New Elvet in Durham City. Over 40 different beers and 5 ciders totalling nearly 2000 gallons have been gathered together from all over Great Britain to give lovers of good beer in the north east their biggest ever treat. Home-made lemonade will also be on sale for anyone having to drive. Live Jazz with 'The Heritage Hall Stompers' has been arranged and in addition, it is hoped to arrange exhibitions of traditional arts and crafts by local artists.

Two breweries, Vaux and Whitbreads, are producing special beers. Dunelm 800 Special is a new strong beer from Vaux which will ONLY be on sale during the festival. Whitbreads are supplying Durham Charter Ale, another exceptionally strong beer which is also being sold in Durham City pubs until the end of the year.

Following the tremendous popularity of the last festival, we have increased the amount of accomodation available this year and there will be no problem fitting everyone in. There will again be a special room for children at lunchtimes. It all adds up to a unique opportunity to sample some of the best beers in the country in a wonderfully friendly atmosphere.

FESTIVAL DETAILS

VENUE — DUNELM HOUSE, NEW ELVET, DURHAM

Open Friday, August 31st 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.
Saturday September 1st

Admission Friday Lunchtime — Free
Saturday Lunchtime — 20p
Both Evenings — 30p
Weekend Tickets (All Sessions) — (Avoids Queuing) — 50p

Weekend Tickets from	NORTHGATE BOOKSHOP SADDLER STREET DURHAM	} Personal Application
	ROGER FRANCIS 37 BROOKSIDE WITTON GILBERT	

Prices — All beers will be on sale at typical public bar prices

Beers — Menus giving details are freely available

There will be over 40 different beers and 5 different ciders and perrys available at the festival. This is far more than any other festival ever held in the North of England. Besides the two festival beers, most of the beers which are available locally will be on sale including Castle Eden Ale, Vaux Samson, Scotch and Sunderland Draught Bitter, Camerons, Theakstons and Sam Smiths Old Brewery Bitter. In addition there will be a number of beers on sale which are brewed on the borders of the area but unfortunately rarely find their way into our pubs. These include the mouthwatering Marstons Pedigree, McEwans 70/-, Wards Best Bitter and Stones Bitter from Sheffield, Jennings, Belhaven and Darleys.

As usual, we shall have a number of beers from different parts of the country which will be totally new to north-east drinkers. These include Tolly Cobbold Cantab and Mild from Ipswich and Simpkins Bitter and Mild, Hansons Bitter and Mild, Holdens Bitter and Mild and Springfield Bitter all from the West Midlands.

In the last two years, there has been an unprecedented rise in the number of breweries in Great Britain as a result of individuals setting up their own breweries. Although these people are unlikely ever to compete with the big brewers, they often produce excellent beer at very reasonable prices. CAMRA is very keen to encourage these mini-breweries and four of their products will be available at the festival. First, our very own local brewers, Peter Kelly from Darlington will have his Kellys Golden Bitter (KGB) available. Secondly, Selby Old Ale from the tiny Selby brewery will be making a welcome return to Durham following its outstanding success at last years festival. From the village of Goose Eye in West Yorkshire comes the delightfully named Goose Eye Bitter. Last, but by no means least, we have managed to obtain 72 gallons of the legendry Ma Pardoes Old Swain Bitter brewed at the back of the pub of the same name near Birmingham. This superb beer, brewed by Doris Pardoe, has never been available in the north-east.

OTHER ATTRACTIONS AT THE FESTIVAL

*We shall, of course, have our usual supply of cider and perry available plus the famous Scumpy.

*All these superb drinks can be mopped up with a wide range of sandwiches, pies and hot meals which will be available throughout the festival.

*This year for the first time there will be stalls, all kinds of Arts, Crafts and Hobbies.

*Music at the Saturday sessions will be produced by the Heritage Hall Stompers who specialise in the 'Strict Tempo' New Orleans style.

CERTAINLY, A FESTIVAL NOT TO BE MISSED'

LOCAL NEWS

***SAMSON MARCHES ON**

After many attempts over the last year the Landlord of the QUEENS HEAD, NEWFIELD (near Byers Green) has taken delivery of Vaux Samson which he hopes will be a permanent fixture. If you are out that way or live near, why not give it a try. —Ask for Cask.

***SUCCESS FOR PETERLEE BEER FESTIVAL**

Despite the misgivings of some CAMRA members that drinkers in Peterlee, where real ale is non-existent, would not be interested in a beer festival, the first Peterlee Festival proved to be a runaway success. Over 300 gallons of beer disappeared in a mere 8 hours in a hall with a capacity of under 200. CAMRA officials are so delighted with the success of the festival that they are already planning another festival next year and looking at other areas of the county such as Darlington or Chester-le-Street, as potential sites for future events. Once again, the assumptions of the local breweries, who believe that drinkers in the north-east are not interested in real ale, have been totally confounded.

***80 SHILLING FOR TEESDALE**

The George and Dragon at Boldron in the 'White Rose' area of the county, 2 miles South West of Barnard Castle has McEwans 80/- Special for sale.

***DARLINGTON OFF LICENCE DISPENSES SELBY ALES**

The Hop and Grapes Off Licence in Duke Street run by John Braithwaite has SELBY Pale and SELBY Strong Ales together with Symmonds Cider on tap.

***NORTH EAST GUIDE to all Real Ale Pubs**

The new book will be published next year but at Durham Beer Festival (AUG 31st — SEPT 1st) it is anticipated that up to date sheets giving the up to date situation in the region will be available.

***TEMPORARY REAL ALE PUB BECOMES PERMANENT**

The Stone Bridge Inn just out of Nevilles Cross on the Crook road is at present serving Durham Charter Ale for a limited period and local enthusiasts hope that when Charter Ale ceases Castle Eden Ale will be available, at the Stone Bridge ask for cask!

***GOOD BEER GUIDE DELETIONS (page 59—61)**

Note that the following Durham County pubs should be deleted from the National & Local Beer Guide. The Raby, Barnard Castle: The Flint Hill, Flint Hill: The Bee Hive, Fishburn: The Smiths Arms, Little Lumley: The Plough, Shadforth: The Black Horse, Coxhoe: The High Gate, Blackhill.

***DURHAM COUNTY REAL ALE OUTLETS**

At the time of publication; since the last North East Guide was produced the nett INCREASE in the number of Real Ale Pubs is 10. Included in the pubs converted from keg to a choice of cask and keg is the Bay Horse (free house) at Upper Town, Wolsingham dispensing THEAKSTON Bitter from handpumps (Theakston Mild could well be available there in future months) The Bay Horse joins the Black Lion in Meadhope Street to provide a selection of Real Ales in Wolsingham and the Dale.

***DURHAM COUNTY BRANCH MEETINGS**

August 15th Social Evening, Blue Bell, Lanchester
August 31st and September 1st, Dunelm House, Durham Beer Festival
September 11th, Branch Meeting (Business), Elm Tree Durham
September 27th, Social Evening, Uplands, Mown Meadows, Crook

(THE HEXHAM BEER FESTIVAL THAT WAS SCHEDULED FOR 27th and 28th AUGUST HAS BEEN CANCELLED DUE TO CONSTRUCTION WORK ON THE VENUE)

NEW IDEAS FROM VAUX

Vaux are experimenting with 'all real ale' pubs in Edinburgh. They have installed most of their group beers, including Wards Bitter and Darleys IPA in three pubs for a trial period. The licencees concerned have been especially trained and initial results would seem to suggest that the experiment is proving a considerable success. Stand aghast as drays packed with Wards and Darleys excellent products roll through the region without stopping, you will doubtless wish to know when Vaux intend to repeat the experiment in our own area.

CAMERONS – TANK AND CASK TOGETHER

At a recent, very amicable meeting between Camerons officials and local branch members, Mr. Andrew Dundas, marketing manager at the brewery, suggested that they were looking at ways of putting tank and cask beer into the same pub. It seems that the licencee at 'The Warriors Arms' at Great Lumley has already solved the problem as he is dispensing Strongarm in both forms. Cask Strongarm is not surprisingly the best-seller. Another pub where the same beer is dispensed in keg and cask forms, is 'The Fox & Hounds' at Neasham where cask-conditioned Samson totally outsells the keg version. These figures lend considerable support to the long-held view of CAMRA members that customers will generally prefer cask to keg beer if they are given a straight choice. Unfortunately, very few pubs offer such a choice.

BASS – 'WHATS WITH THIS STONES BITTER'

In recent months BASS pubs in the region have been installing keg Stones Bitter backed by a huge promotion by BASS. This 'new' beer is usually installed at the expense of some existing product such as keg WorthyE or keg Piper Scotch or as in some cases cask-conditioned E.L.B. Now, few people would suggest that E.L.B. is the greatest real ale in the county but it can be very pleasant and in some Co. Durham villages it is the only real ale for miles around. There are signs that BASS may be phasing out the E.L.B. in the North East and in Co. Durham the Smiths Arms at Little Lumley has already suffered this fate. Poor quality of the cask-conditioned beer is often the Licencees reasons for switching to KEG varieties, and of course this problem is compounded by the arrival of KEG Stones Bitter heavily promoted and bent on making a hole in the E.L.B. sales. The situation is causing concern to north east CAMRA members who have been pleased with the enlightened approach to real ale from BASS who have increased outlets for their Draught Bass over the last year.

If the cask-conditioned E.L.B. is to be phased out then CAMRA north east want a committment from BASS that it will be replaced by a cask-conditioned STONES BITTER a delicious and far superior brew to its keg counterpart.

If the present trend continues another real ale could be lost to the region without a suitable replacement. Keg Stones drinkers are invited to sample the real thing at the Durham Beer Festival.

MARSTONS – JUST OVER THE BORDER, IN WEARDALE

The town of Alston which is just on the Cumbrian side of the border with Durham, has gained its first real ale pub. CAMRA member, Mike Stone, has recently taken over as landlord at 'The Blue Bell Hotel' and has installed Marstons Pedigree and Burton Bitter on handpumps. Visitors to that delightful CAMRA outpost, 'the Cowshill Hotel' in Cowshill may now find it worth their while to pop over the hill having finished an excellent pint of Theakstons and the best ploughmans lunch in the county, and sample the pleasures of Marstons.

Marstons superb beers are now getting closer and closer to the north-east. Lets hope that they soon make their first regular appearance in our pubs.

BOOKS on BEER and PUBS

CAMRA BEER GUIDES (most areas)

PUB GUIDES

BREWING HISTORIES AND MANUALS

BOOKS ON THE HUMOUR, LITERATURE, MUSIC, ART AND POLITICS OF BEER & PUBS

A wide selection available from:—

North Gate Bookshop

50 SADDLER STREET, DURHAM CITY

Tel. Durham 63309

DURHAM 800 BEER FESTIVAL

THE NORTH EASTS BIGGEST FESTIVAL OF REAL BEER

==== AUGUST 31st — SEPTEMBER 1st 1979 ====

Session 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.

DUNELM HOUSE, NEW ELVET, DURHAM CITY

OVER 40 BEERS AND CIDERS

FOOD — MUSIC — STALLS

COME EARLY!

THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON

HIGH BRIDGE NEWCASTLE.

Real Bellhaven 70/- and 80/- —

Camerons Best Bitter and Strongarm,

*Jennings and Sam Smiths Bitters available
on pump or carry out.*

A CAMRA INVESTMENTS PUB

N.O.R.A.

— Northern Real Ale Agency —

*Real Ales for all occasions available
from Dick Atlee*

Telephone Newcastle 816393

Any Time

All types of Real Ale Beer Equipment
for Hire

WEEKEND TICKETS DURHAM BEER FESTIVAL

'AVOID THE RUSH'

All sessions — 50p

P. O./Cheque plus S.A.E.

Roger Francis
37 Brookside
Witton Gilbert
Co. Durham

CAMRA MEMBERSHIP

Durham

write or phone the Secretary

Denise Bending

6 Eden Close

Hurworth Place

Darlington

Telephone 721056

Application Forms at the
Festival Bookstall