

# DURHAM DRINKER

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



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## PHENOMENAL SUCCESS FOR DURHAM 800 FESTIVAL

Local CAMRA officials have been staggered by the success of the Durham 800 Beer Festival. It was hoped optimistically that about 3500 people would attend and drink about 1400 gallons of beer. In the event, nearly 5500 people were allowed in to Dunelm House over the weekend thereby doubling last years record figures. Up to 1000 people were turned away from the two evening sessions. By 2.00 p.m. on Saturday, the beer was being strictly rationed but even so, it was virtually all sold out by 8.30 p.m. and by 10.00 p.m. there was not a single drop of beer or cider left in the building. 200 gallons had disappeared without trace and the organisers believed that they could easily have disposed of another 350 gallons.

Local breweries and publicans must surely realise now that there is a substantial demand for real ale in the north-east and that the demand is still increasing. The fact that many people are apparently prepared to travel from all over the area to drink a decent pint of beer, suggests that this demand is not being met.

CAMRA now expects local breweries to respond to the outstanding success of the festival and to put cask-conditioned beer into a substantially increased number of pubs in the region. We know of pubs where we are certain that real ale will make a significant contribution to the total sales and we can see no reason why these pubs could not be approached with regard to selling real ale. The answer lies in a more positive approach to cask-conditioned beer from the directors downwards. Brewery representatives should not be telling interested licencees 'You don't want to bother with that stuff', rather they should be pushing the fact that sales of cask-conditioned beer are growing steadily throughout the area and that in certain pubs, it is an excellent seller.

## ONE OVER THE 800

Make a date now for next years Durham Festival — August 29 and 30.

## WHERE THE MONEY GOES

A number of people have asked, quite rightly, what CAMRA intends to do with the profits from the beer festival. This festival represents our only major source of income for the year and although we can obtain money from the national executive for specific projects, the day to day running of the branch is in our own hands. We spend considerable amounts of money on printing and postage and in addition, many committee members must travel considerable distances to attend meetings and other functions. They are generally allowed a petrol allowance for this purpose.

We believe that our branch members should have additional benefits for actually joining CAMRA and actively supporting the fight for real ale. To this purpose we put a small amount of money aside for a Christmas Party and also organise 3 or 4 subsidised coach trips to isolated pubs in the county which would otherwise only rarely be visited by Campaign Enthusiasts.

We shall spend a large sum of money publicising the new local real ale guide due out in March and in addition to regular coverage of real ale pubs in the "Durham Drinker" we shall produce leaflets advertising and promoting real ale in specific parts of the county. Finally, we shall use press adverts and other promotion to obtain new members for CAMRA and thereby extend our campaigning activities.

## A BIG THANK YOU

To all those persons and organisations who helped to make the Festival a success no matter how small or large part they played. The success of such a massive undertaking depends on the willingness of literally hundreds of people to support in some way The Campaign for Real Ale, too numerous unfortunately to mention by name with the exception of the Festival Director, Roger Francis who pulled all the loose ends together.



## **NORTH EAST REAL ALE PUB GUIDE 1980**

### **A message to Landlords**

Individual licencees, can be assured that CAMRA will give them all the help they need if they want to try cask-conditioned beer. We have handpumps which we can loan out and a number of members with considerable expertise who can help solve any initial technical problems. Furthermore, we intend to devote a large proportion of our albeit limited resources to advertising and promoting real ale pubs. There is a new guide to all pubs in the north-east which sell real ale due out next March. If you want to be included in that guide which will almost certainly sell over 5000 copies, now is the time to think about selling real ale. If you need any information, ring Graham Line on Durham 720840 after 5.00 p.m. and he can arrange for a CAMRA official to visit your pub. We believe that within the next 12 months, the real ale revolution will finally hit the north-east. Make sure that you don't miss out.

### **PUB SNIPPETS**

**The Cross Keys**, Bellerby, North Yorks now has the new KGB on tap.

**The Glendenning Arms**, Witton Gilbert has so great a demand for CASK SAMSON that the brewery has recognised this by installing Barrels (36 gal.) instead of Kilderkins (18 gal.) This relieves the Kilderkins for use elsewhere.

**The Bird**, Tantobie has hit the headlines again, MARSTONS Pedigree and Owd Roger now joins the list of specialist Real Ales available in this village. Chris Ward, the landlord is so enthusiastic about it, he collects it himself from Burton-on-Trent amazing! The Marstons Beers join Castle Eden, New KGB, Theakstons BB and OP, Belhaven 80 and Strongarm on the menu.

### **NOW, FOR SOME GOOD NEWS AND SOME BAD NEWS**

First, the bad news; Draught Bass has disappeared from the 'Hare & Hounds' in Gilesgate Moor. The tragedy here is that the beer was selling extremely well unfortunately, it seems that the new manager cannot be bothered to look after it but perhaps a big campaign will persuade him to change his mind. Keep visiting the pub and asking for Draught Bass. It is fortunate that not all managers adopt the same attitude. Up at the 'Pot & Glass' at Crossgate Moor, Eric Armstrong keeps an excellent pint of Sunderland Draught Bitter and you can enjoy a fine choice of snacks and meals at both lunchtimes and evenings.

### **THE CROSS KEYS (Esh) and the STONE BRIDGE (Durham)**

It seems that we are not just converting the general public to real ale. Several licencees have joined us in realising that cask-conditioned beer is best. A year ago, Gordon Dowson who runs that delightful little Whitbread pub 'The Cross Keys' at Esh, was rarely seen without a half of lager by his side. Now that he has found out exactly how good his Castle Eden Ale is, he has switched allegiance. Paul Smith at 'The Stonebridge Inn' has also been known to sup the odd half of Durham Charter Ale. Lets hope that he will soon have the chance to drink Castle Eden Ale as well.

### **Support your local Whitbread REAL ALE Landlord**

**WARDLES BRIDGE INN**, Holmside (near Burnhope or Edmondsley depending on the route).

Barry Gunn at 'The Wardies Bridge Inn' at Holmside has now added Theakstons Best Bitter to his expanding range of cask-conditioned beers (how about Belhaven Barry!). The Wardles Bridge really is a smashing little pub which caters for all tastes. There is an excellent folkly group 'Nawt Spectacular' who play every Wednesday evening and regular piano sing-songs take place at weekends. Incidentally, Barry is looking for a new pianist. Any budding Russ Conways (if you can remember him) should contact the Wardles Bridge.

Meanwhile, at West Cornforth (or 'Doggie' its local name) the landlord and patrons of the **SQUARE AND COMPASS** (Bass & Extra Light Bass), have raised nearly £1000 recently by means of sponsored walk and through the Jolly Boys to brighten the lives of mentally handicapped children and provide facilities for a Doctors Ward at Sedgfield Hospital. Past efforts included an 'Organ Marathon' and future efforts will include weekly shows for the children. All this and real ale too. While in Doggie you will be sure of a welcome at the other real ale pub, **THE SLAKE TERRACE** just around the corner purveying **CAMERONS** Strongarm and Best Bitter on handpumps.

In the latest County Durham Guide the word 'syeady' was used to describe the Square and Compass, this should of course be 'steady', apologies to all concerned.



## LOCAL CAMRA ACTIVITIES

Durham Branch Social Meetings — All are welcome along

September 27th (Thurs) The Uplands, Crook (Camerons Ales)

October 17th (Wed) The Wheatsheaf, Piercebridge (Camerons Ales)

A darts and dominoes match against the North Yorkshire branch of CAMRA has been arranged. Alan Lawson, landlord of this delightful village pub in South Durham keeps an excellent pint of Camerons Strongarm and made us all very welcome when we thrashed our North Yorkshire colleagues at a similar function last year. A coach will leave the 'Big Jug' in Claypath, Durham City at 7 p.m. The cost is only 50p per person and members, friends and anyone interested in joining CAMRA should ring Roger Francis at Sacriston 710509 to book a place on the coach.

October 30 (Tues) THE HALF MOON, Durham (Bass)

## NEW AREA ORGANISER FOR CAMRA

After a number of years spent working as area organiser for CAMRA in the North-East, international athlete Charlie Spedding has finally decided to resign and concentrate on his athletic career with Gateshead. Charlie has put an enormous amount of time and effort into CAMRA and his energy and enthusiasm will be sorely missed. We wish him well in his continuing athletic career. Fortunately, we have found an equally enthusiastic and able successor in Jim Whitton, past chairman of the Cleveland branch of CAMRA. We feel sure that Jim's quiet and tactful approach will make him a popular and successful area organiser.

## A 'CANNY BEVVY' IS LAUNCHED AT BENWELL

Following the success of the 'Durham Drinker', the Tyneside branch of CAMRA are to launch their own monthly newsletter called 'Canny Bevv'. The newsletter which will be available in over 30 pubs in the area, including some in Durham, was launched officially at a press conference during September at 'The Mitre', Benwell Towers, Benwell Lane, Newcastle 5 which has a large selection of Real Ale available including Batemans, Theakstons, McEwans, Selby and Camerons. CAMRA National Chairman Joe Goodwin was on hand to carry out the launch. We wish the Tyneside Branch the best of luck with their new venture.

## 'NATIONAL ASSISTANCE' FOR NORTH EAST

The National Executive of CAMRA, plans to direct substantial funds and efforts to campaigning in the North East which has been classified as a Real Ale Dessert. In County Durham for instance about 18% of the pubs sell Real Ale, much less than the National Average. If you include the CIU Clubs the percentage becomes very small, thats how you define a dessert.

The AGM of CAMRA will be held in Durham in 1981.

## LOCAL BEER GUIDE AMENDMENTS

The following alterations are noted in the New County Durham Local Real Ale Guide. Insert No. 19 COPLEY, Three Horse Shoes, Cameron Strongarm.

alter No. 25 COXHOE, Commercial, Samson not Strongarm.

alter No. 111 SPENNYMOOR, Crown, Samson not Strongarm.

Delete No. 63 GILESGATE MOOR, Hare and Hounds.

The Durham County Real Beer Guide is available FREE from selected pubs and the Branch Secretary or Committee. North East enthusiasts are able to purchase (20p) a complete set for Northumberland, Tyne & Wear, Durham & Cleveland. These lists are a register of all known outlets in the North East on September 1st.

## Local Durham Contacts

Chairman — Graham Line, Sherburn, Durham

Telephone 720840

Secretary — Denise Bending, Darlington

Telephone 721056

Treasurer — Richard Wheeler, Durham

Telephone 67637

Membership Secretary — Mike Bending, Darlington

Telephone 721056

Publications Officer — Roger Carr, Chester-le-Street

Telephone 884735

District Organiser East Durham, Chris Gordon, Peterlee

South Durham, Mike Stock, Darlington

North Durham, Roger Carr, Chester-le-Street

Festival Director — Roger Francis, Sacriston

Telephone 710509

Pubs Officer — Ian Miller, Shincliffe, Durham

Telephone 62199



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\* \* \*

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15 Duke Street  
Darlington  
Tel. 55140

9.30 — 6 p.m.

## **CAMRA MEMBERSHIP**

*Durham*

write or phone the Secretary

**Denise Bending**

**6 Eden Close**

**Hurworth Place**

**Darlington**

**Telephone 721056**