

# DURHAM DRINKER

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



ISSUE NO. 10

FREE

MARCH/APRIL 1980

## DISCERNING DRINKERS ALWAYS ASK FOR CASK CONDITIONED BEER

### **CASTLE EDEN IN THE CASTLE EDEN IN CASTLE EDEN**

Because its the nearest pub to the WHITBREAD Brewery, the Castle Eden Inn can be loosely called The Brewery Tap. The Castle Eden Real Ale handpump is located in the lounge but patrons will need to be enthusiastic as there is a general lack of point of sale advertising material particularly in the bar. Features include a novel adaptation of wooden NIMMO casks to provide downlights in the lounge servery and a well appointed Restaurant adjoins (no service on Sundays).

### **THE GREAT SWALLOW FROM VAUX**

The Three Tuns Hotel in Durham has become the first Swallow Hotel to install Cask Conditioned Beer. VAUX Samson can be found in the bar of the traditional part of the Hotel. Since the installation and the introductory price offer trade appears to be settling down to a satisfactory level. This is a very significant step forward for THE CAMPAIGN in the City where nearly all the pubs are serving Real Ale.

### **WELCOME BACK**

The Highgate at Blackhill near Consett lost its VAUX Samson last year (unfortunately the pub at the time was featured in the 1979 Good Beer Guide) however the new tenant, keen to build up the business, has Sunderland Draught Bitter from the cask available in the bar, lounge and the downstairs games room, a new innovation featuring traditional and modern pub pastimes.

### **AT THE COACH AND HORSES (Butcher Race)**

Joe Maddison the Landlord is leaving at the end of April. As a correction to last months 'Cherrio Joe' article the length of service with VAUX should be corrected to 19 years and incidently the 722 and 723 buses pass the door. It is reported that the new landlord will carry on the tradition of providing good Cask Conditioned Samson and Scotch.

### **PROGRESS REPORT ON SDB**

The latest launch of Cask Conditioned SDB by VAUX has produced some varying results including withdrawal from the Argus Butterfly (Peterlee) and replacement by LORIMERS at the Fox and Hounds (Neasham). Remaining outlets have either made a poor start or been very successful. The situation is being closely monitored by CAMRA and although its early days yet the experiment can be classed as a success in Real Ale terms.

### **AT THE WHEATSHEAF (Piercebridge)**

CAMRA is pleased to report that the handpumps have returned to this recently modified pleasant village pub. During the building work it was feared that the handpumps (and Cask Beer) would be withdrawn and be replaced by modern fonts (and possibly tankbeer). Fortunately the cries of the regulars were heard at Hartlepool and the future of the excellent pints of Strongarm is assured.



## **BOOKS on BEER and PUBS**

CAMRA BEER GUIDES (most areas)  
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### **CAMRA MEMBERSHIP**

Denise Bending,  
6, Eden Close,  
Hurworth Place,  
Darlington  
Tel: 721056

## **NORTH EAST BEER GUIDE 1980**

No further ammendments to the September 1979 list are to be published. New guide will be available early April from any Committee Member, some Real Ale pubs at 60p or 75p post free from Jim Whitton, 37 Newstead Avenue, Whitehouse Farm Estate, STOCKTON, Cleveland. The guide will list all known pubs (and clubs) in the North East selling Real Ale. This is the first time in over two years that such a guide has been published and since that time there have been dozens of new pubs in the area which have started to sell Real Ale. The 60 page booklet is packed full of details about The Pubs and the facilities they offer. In addition, there will be information about the beers, local breweries and places of interest throughout the region. In short, a must for anyone in the North East interested in drinking a pint of Real Beer and preserving a little of our past traditions. Advance orders are being taken and copies can be reserved for the first delivery by sending P.O./Cheque (Durham County Branch of CAMRA) for the 75p to Roger Francis, 37 Brookside, Witton Gilbert, Durham.

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The CAMRA AGM is being held at Loughborough University in the Middle of April. On the Agenda is a Durham motion regarding the desirability of a campaign against processed lagers. (CAMRA were successful recently in objecting to the promotion of a British lager brewed in Tadcaster perporing to be of German character). The experience will be important to the Durham team as Durham will be the venue for next years AGM marking the end of a special North East years campaign.

## **BREWERY NOTES —**

**WHITBREAD** — Lovers of Castle Eden Ale, the excellent Cask Conditioned Beer produced by the local brewery will be pleased to hear that promotional activity for the beer finally seems to be getting off the ground. A large consignment of pump clips have now arrived at the brewery and licencees who have been unable in the past to obtain these clips should be receiving them very shortly. In addition, a large batch of Castle Eden drip mats are now on order and should soon be appearing hopefully followed by a series of posters. Meanwhile, the beer seems to have taken off in the Leeds area where it was recently introduced. We hope that this welcome news will finally persuade WHITBREAD that a sizeable market exists for this fine Real Ale and that we shall soon see Castle Eden appearing in a greatly increased number of pubs in the North East. In the meantime a full list of existing outlets for the beer will appear in the new North East Guide and details of additions will appear in this publication from time to time.



**VAUX** – following the sale of one brewery and 214 pubs in Scotland to Allied Breweries (Ansells, Tetleys, Inde Coope etc., etc.) VAUX are to buy some Tetley pubs in Yorkshire and expand the English operation possibly looking at taking over another Brewery. The future of Lorimers Scotch is reported safe as it is brewed at the remaining Brewery in Edinburgh. Our Scottish colleagues will now be losing their Lorimers Scotch Cask Conditioned outlets, but one wonders if a new Allied Real Ale will emerge to fill the gap which would give fresh hope for Real Tetleys Bitter men in the North East.

**TETLEYS** – now have a Regional Director in Durham and CAMRA have asked Charles Spedding to be Brewery Liaison Officer, to be part of the campaign to bring Tetleys Real Ale Bitter to the North East. Charles has been a member of Durham CAMRA since its formation 4 years ago and is a member of Gateshead Harriers.

#### **DURHAM CAMRA NEWS –**

The Durham Branch held a successful AGM at the Lambton Hounds and the following appointments were made to the Committee. **Chairman:** Roger Frances, **Secretary:** Denise Bending, **Treasurer:** Mike Bending; Members: Chris Gordon, Ken Brownless, George Malone, Mike Stock. Following the first Committee Meeting further members were coopted to carry out special functions, Roger Carr (Newsletter Editor); Ian Miller (Pubs Officer); Jack Kirk (Durham University Liaison).

Representatives from North East Branches were addressed by Dave Travers VAUX Marketing Services Manager at the Lambton Hounds in early March who took advantage of the opportunity to reinforce the firms commitment in providing Cask Conditioned Beers in the future including particular LORIMERS Scotch and VAUX Sunderland Draught Bitter (SDB).

**BEER FESTIVALS** – Plans are well advanced for **The Darlington Festival** on MAY 16th and 17th to be held at the Arts Centre. 17 beers will be available, local brews, CAMERONS Strongarm, Best Bitter VAUX Samson, S.D.B., Scotch, SAM SMITHS Old Brewery, BASS on draught. THEAKSTON Best Bitter, Mild, Old Peculier, KELLY Golden Bitter. WHITBREAD Castle Eden Ale. MARKSTON Pedigree, McEWANS 80/- plus. National Brews; TOLLY-COBOLD Cantab (from CAMERONS), WARDS Bitter and DARLEYS Mild (from VAUX). Lemonade and Cider will be available together with the usual expansive range of beer orientated books (from Northgate Bookshop, Durham). A Jazz Festival is being held at the same venue, on the same weekend. **The Durham Festival** will be held at Dunelm House, New Elvet, Durham on August 29th and 30th.

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Theakstons Old Peculier  
Timothy Taylors Landlord

The Duke of Wellington is owned and managed by  
CAMRA (Real Ale) Investments Limited.

Published early April

### THE NORTH EAST REAL ALE GUIDE

60p + 15p postage from  
Denise Bending,  
6, Eden Close,  
Hurworth Place,  
Darlington.  
Tel: 721056



**DURHAM BRANCH** have asked NORA (The Northern Real Ale Agency) to provide Real Ale Bars at Hamsterly Forest (The Countryside Commission) on 25/26 May and at Framwellgate Moor Carnival on 21st June this year.

### **DIARY DATES (Social Events)**

- March 11 **WARDLES BRIDGE** Holmside (between Edmondsley and Burnhope) **PUB OF THE MONTH**. This pleasant Free House is situated in the small hamlet of Holmside, a former S & N House (the blue star is still there) where the Theakstons Best Bitter & McEwans 80/- beers are dispensed by Barry and his Wife. Accommodation includes a bar with sitting area adjacent and a comfortable lounge. **MUSIC** nights are held on Wednesdays and some Sundays and basket meals and toasties are available. 7.30 p.m.
- March 27 **ROSE TREE**, Shincliffe. Social Evening celebrating the reintroduction of Cask Conditioned SDB. 7.30 p.m.
- April 8 **LAMBTON ARMS**, Chester-le-Street. Joint Social with CAMRA Sunderland. 7.30 p.m.
- April 9 Launch of North East 1980-81 Campaign and New Beer Guide, **DUKE OF WELLINGTON**, Newcastle.
- April 11-12 Cleveland CAMRA Beer Festival, Coatham Hotel, Redcar.
- April 23 **QUEENS HEAD**, Framwellgate Moor, Camerons Best Bitter, 7.30 p.m.
- May 1 Durham City Area Pub Crawl, details to follow.

**DURHAM DRINKER** – About 1500 copies are printed then distributed to all Branch Members, North East Branches and Beer Festivals, Local and National Breweries, all our advertisers, Real Ale pubs, Local Media, Durham exiles and other people interested in the current Real Ale and Brewery scene scattered about the Country. It is published by the Durham County Branch of CAMRA (The Campaign for Real Ale) and opinions expressed are those of our contributors and not necessarily those of the Branch Committee.

**TIMOTHY TAYLOR BEERS** have arrived in the North East. The distribution of the beer to The Duke of Wellington, The Cumberland Arms and The Mitre in Newcastle is being carried out via The Ale House in Leeds run by the first Durham Branch Chairman Toby Johnson who, incidently, provides us with several beers at the North East Beer Festivals. Timothy Taylors Beers have always been in the fore front of prize giving at the National Beer Exhibitions and it is fair to say that each brew has now won a major prize over 30 years. Durham Free Landlords should make a note of the name as Taylors are determined to find new outlets particularly where visitors from Yorkshire mix with the indigenous population from Durham.

**DURHAM BEER FESTIVAL** – to be held on August 29th and 30th has been placed on the Major Events Calendar of the ENGLISH TOURIST BOARD. International enquiries have already been received and it firmly places the Durham Festival as the major Beer Festival North of Alexandra Palace.

**THE WHITE SWAN, BARNARD CASTLE** perches dramatically on the South Bank of the River Tees at Startforth, the building is thought to date from 1530 and it has been a pub since the seventeenth century. It is nice to report that Phil and Christine Woodward, who took over at the beginning of the year, are carrying on tradition. They offer not only Cask Conditioned CAMERONS Best Bitter and THEAKSTONS Bitter but also now they have introduced WHITBREAD Castle Eden Ale. They are considering further additions to the range of beer which can be easily accommodated in an ample cellar. Work is well advanced during March on refitting the restaurant in preparation for the introduction of a full meals service together with bar snacks.

**NEWCASTLE BEER FESTIVAL** (7th – 10th May) held as usual in The Guildhall will present some 50 Real Beers of Local and National Brews. Many are scheduled to appear for the first time, these include, Appleby Brewery; Boddingtons, Websters, Gooseye, Higsons and a Special Brew from Jennings. Certainly an event not to be missed.