

DURHAM DRINKER!

News for Discerning Drinkers in the City and County of Durham



ISSUE NO. 46

BEER FESTIVAL EDITION

FREE

13th TIME LUCKY

The North-East's premier beer festival will once again take place at **DUNELM HOUSE** in **DURHAM**, from the **1st** to the **3rd** of **SEPTEMBER**. Having avoided the temptation to call it the 12A beer festival, the **13th DURHAM BEER FESTIVAL** will have over 85 different beers to offer the discerning drinkers of the north-east, as well as cider and perry. And for the first time in a number of years, lager drinkers will be able to try one of the few "real" lagers brewed in this country, in the form of **REEPHAM GOLD** lager from Norfolk.

The theme of this years' festival is the independant brewery. With over 85 different ales available out of a total of 110 kils, the big brewers take a back seat this year. Independant breweries come in all shapes and sizes, from the likes of Vaux, who are providing a cask version of their popular **DOUBLE MAXIM**, to tiny concerns like Byker's **HADRIAN BREWERY**, whose **GLADIATOR BITTER** will be available. Fans of the famous Strong Bar will have their usual festival favourites available. **MARSTONS OWD RODGER** and **ARCHERS HEADBANGER** will be joined by **BAZ's BONCE BLOWER**, a brain-numbing 1110 gravity full mash brew from the smallest commercial brewery in Britain. This will only be available by the half!

As usual at the Durham Beer Festival, families are very welcome, and a creche is available on Friday and Saturday lunch-times. Entertainment will be provided at all sessions by the Moorcock Ceilidh Band and the Heritage Hall Stompers, as well as the more impromptu performers that are sometimes seen on Friday and Saturday nights. The charity we are supporting at this years' festival is **CHUFF**, from the Childrens Heart Unit at Freeman Hospital in Newcastle. We are sure all our customers will join us in supporting this very worthwhile cause.

Finally, the beer festival would not be possible at all without the help of a loyal band of volunteers. Anyone who would like to help set up and run this years festival can turn up on Tuesday morning (or anytime afterwards) and they will be made most welcome. Come along, its great fun!!!

VAUX BID?

Vaux Breweries have become the latest of the region's brewers to see their share price rise dramatically on the Stock Exchange, as bid rumours continue to circulate. After Aussie conglomerate Elders IXL (who own Courage and John Smiths) upped their stake in Scottish and Newcastle to nearly 9%, by buying the stake built up by New Zealand financier Sir Ron Brierley,

the same Brierley has acquired a 2.65% stake in Vaux over the past two months, in which time its share price has risen by a quarter. Vaux chairman Paul Nicholson is not expecting a full bid at the moment, and would certainly mount a very vigorous defence if one did materialise. "Anyone wanting to buy us will have to pay a hell of a price" he insists.

DURHAM'S OLDEST LANDLORD DIES

It is with great sadness that we report the death, at the age of 89, of George Parkin - known to all and sundry as Dode - landlord of the Dun Cow, Billy Row. The pub is better known as the Cowstail - or Dode's - and was run by him since he took over from an uncle in 1930, since when it has remained virtually unchanged. No juke-box here - the loudest noise to be heard is the click of dominoes or the low hum of conversation. A real character, Dode was much loved by his regulars - and held in great awe by other, less regular visitors. Dode's son Stephen has taken over the running of the pub with his wife Lynn. They are the fifth generation of Parkins to run the pub, and they plan to leave the place unchanged. Our condolences to them, and best wishes for the future.

SPIKKA DA LINGO?

The following is essential reading for anyone who is thinking of buying a beer guide at this year's beer festival.

The following text was taken from a Salisbury pub which has NO connection with CAMRA.

CAMRA SPEAK

ENGLISH EQUIVALENT

<i>Friendly pub</i>	Drunken licensee
<i>Basic local pub</i>	Rat-hole
<i>Stone built</i>	Freezing cold
<i>Popular</i>	Suffocating
<i>Unspoilt country pub</i>	No paper in the toilet
<i>Pleasant inn in tourist village</i>	Tourist infested
<i>Modernised</i>	Licensee wears suit and tie and has a degree in economics
<i>16th century local</i>	17th century local
<i>17th century local</i>	18th century local
<i>18th century local</i>	Victorian pub
<i>Local's pub</i>	Strangers made unwelcome
<i>Odd clientele</i>	Gay pub
<i>Pleasant atmosphere</i>	Drunken clientele
<i>Traditional pub</i>	Licensee thinks he is God
<i>Riverside pub</i>	Full of students
<i>Quiet pub</i>	Miserable licensee and no music
<i>Young person's pub</i>	Acne stricken yobboes throwing up all over the place
<i>Ordinary pub</i>	For alcoholics
<i>Busy</i>	Service diabolical
<i>Smugglers haunt/mediaeval building</i>	Expensive
<i>Large pub</i>	Young persons' pub (v.i.)
<i>Lively</i>	Fights break out regularly
<i>Unpretentious</i>	No lock on W.C. door
<i>Attractive pub</i>	Twee and frighteningly expensive
<i>Theatrical associations</i>	Maggie Smith once peeked inside the door and quite rightly went on her way
<i>Serious minded local</i>	The vicar drops in for a pint
<i>Worth going out of your way to find</i>	You have to go out of your way to find it

BREWERY TIES TO END?

A report by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission into the "Supply of Beer in the U.K." due out in September has been delayed by six months - leading to speculation that it will recommend an end to the "tied house" system. The reason for the delay, according to a spokesman for the Department of Trade and Industry "is to allow the industry time to finalise their case. In the course of the inquiry, the MMC has come to a number of conclusions, which they must present to the industry in order to receive their reply". However the spokesman was not prepared to speculate on what those conclusions might be.

CAMRA in its submission to the inquiry called for major changes to be made, including the slackening of the brewery tie to allow every landlord a choice of one "outside" beer, a severe restriction on local monopolies, and limits on the size of tied estates. The first of these proposals in particular would be a great help to small independent breweries, who have always had difficulty in finding outlets for their products, especially in areas like the north-east, where there are so few real "free" houses. We await the report with great interest.



FAKE HANDPUMPS

Customers at Whitbread pubs are warned to be on the lookout for fake handpumps dispensing the recently-launched White Lable low-alcohol beer. Pumpclips on the handpumps carry the words "brewery conditioned", but in letters so tiny as to be virtually unreadable from more than a few inches. CAMRA totally deplores the use of fake handpumps as a deliberate attempt to mislead the drinking public. Anyone finding one of these fake handpumps should complain in writing to the Managing Director, Castle Eden Brewery, Peterlee, Co. Durham.

"The busy man's recreation, the idle man's business, the melancholy man's sanctuary,
the stranger's welcome ... the citizen's courtesy"

The

TAP & SPILL

Pay us a
visit soon!

NOW OPEN AT
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DURHAM 091 3865 451

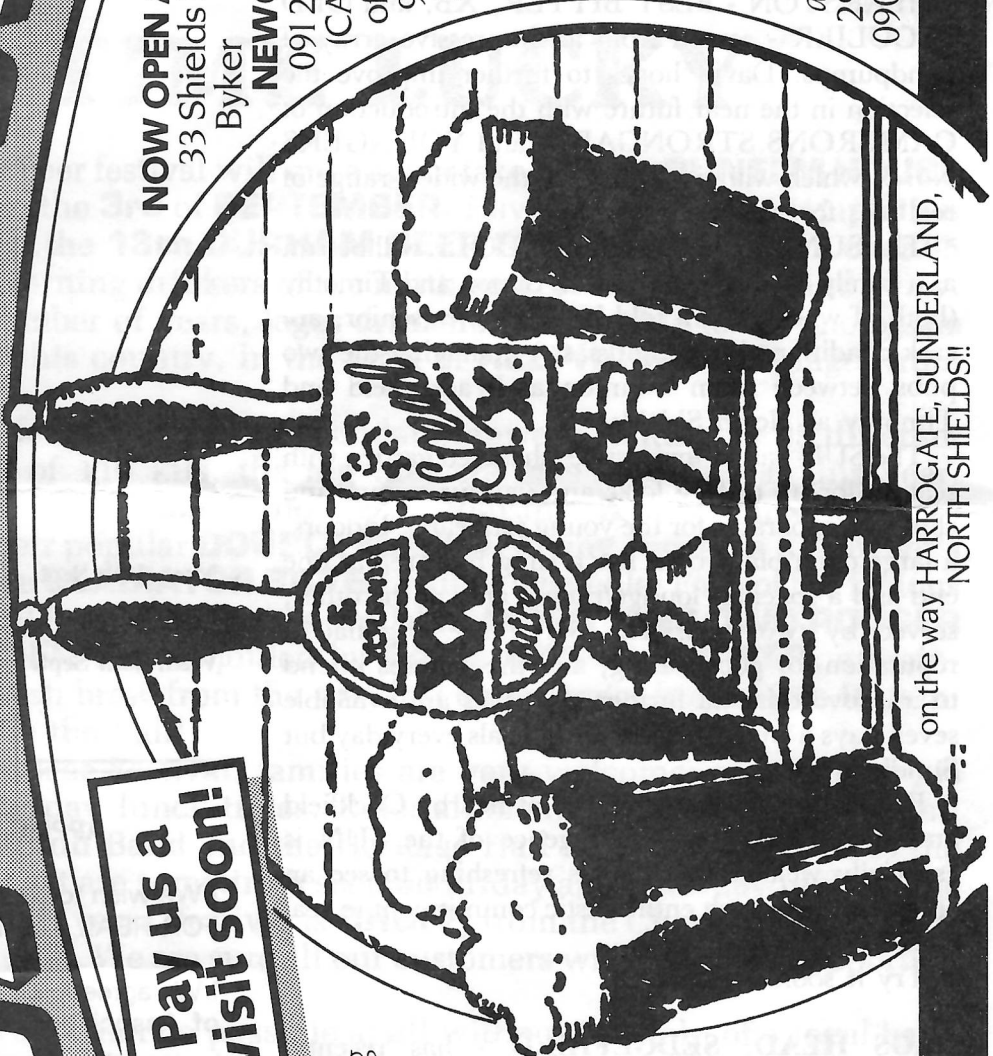
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to eight different ales in
each house - all regularly
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time-honoured skills to
bring you beer like it used
to be!

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TRADITIONAL BAR GAMES
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on the way HARROGATE, SUNDERLAND,
NORTH SHIELDS!!

PUB NEWS

SUN, WACKERFIELD - After five successful years at the Wooden Doll, the pub at the forefront of North Shields real ale revival, landlord (and CAMRA member) David Jones has spread his wings to give South West Durham the benefit of his enthusiasm. To the SUN INN at WACKERFIELD, to be precise.

The SUN has an ideal roadside location a few miles south of West Auckland on the Bishop Auckland to Barnard Castle route, the A688. A former Camerons house, it now boasts the full range of beers from THEAKSTON - BEST BITTER, XB, and OLD PECULIER - served from an impressive array of handpumps. David hopes to further improve the selection in the near future with the introduction of CAMERONS STRONGARM and YOUNGERS No. 3, which will give the SUN the widest range of real ales for many a mile.

The SUN and the WOODEN DOLL will be run as a family enterprise, with sons Simon and Timothy (both of whom, I am told by Mr Jones senior, are cask conditioned ale enthusiasts) managing the two pubs between them - Simon at Wackerfield and Timothy at North Shields.

The SUN has an impressive, sheltered garden with seating for up to fifty folks and various swings and climbing apparatus for the young (at heart). Indoors, a large open plan room has a snug bar area at one end and a spacious lounge/dining area at the other, served by two bars. The SUN has long had a reputation for good eating, and the Joneses intend to improve this still further. Lunches are available seven days a week, and evening meals every day but Sunday.

Following the loss of real ale at nearby Cockfield and Evenwood, the re-emergence of the SUN is especially welcome, and it is refreshing to see an enterprise with such enthusiastic commitment to real ale behind it.

Try it soon!

NAGS HEAD, SEDGEFIELD - has recently changed hands, and the new owners have lost no time in installing STONES BITTER and DRAUGHT BASS on handpump.

HARE & HOUNDS at WESTGATE - is reported to be selling CASTLE EDEN on handpump.

The following three S & N houses are now selling THEAKSTON's XB as well as their S & N cask beers:-

SHAKESPEARE, DURHAM
VICTORIA, DURHAM
BLACK BULL, FERRYHILL

Diary

Sat. 13th Aug.

12 noon - Lunch-time social at the SUN, WACKERFIELD. Children welcome.

Mon. 22nd Aug.

8 p.m. - Committee meeting, TAP & SPILE, Framwellgate Moor.

**Thurs. 1st Sept. -
Sat. 3rd Sept.**



13th DURHAM Beer Festival, Dunelm House, New Elvet, Durham City. Hours:
Thurs 5.30-10.30 p.m. (admission £1);
Fri 11.00 a.m.-3.00 p.m. (free),
6.00-11.00 p.m. (£1); Sat 11.00 a.m.-3.00 p.m., 6.00-11.00 p.m. (50p).
Commemorative glasses, creche lunchtime, entertainment all sessions.
Weekend tickets £2.20. Approx. 89 beers, plus cider and perry. Admission free to CAMRA members. Contact: Eddie Turner, (091) 386 9105 (h).

Mon. 12th Sept. -

8 p.m. - Social at the BRAUNS DEN, BRANDON

Wed. 28th Sept. -

8 p.m. - Committee meeting at the COWSTAIL, BILLY ROW.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

I/We wish to become a member(s) of the CAMPAIGN FOR REAL ALE LTD!

I/We agree to abide by the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the CAMPAIGN.

I enclose £9 for FULL MEMBERSHIP.

Full name
(Block Capitals)

Full Postal Address

.....

.....

Signature Date

Cheques should be made payable to Campaign for Real Ale Ltd. Applications should be sent to Membership 34 ALMA ROAD, ST. ALBANS, HERTS, AL1 3BW.