

# DURHAM DRINKER

SPRING 2001



ISSUE 85

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## ASK IF IT'S CASK!!!!!!! CAMRA'S major campaign for real ale.

CAMRA, the Campaign for Real Ale, is launching one of its most ambitious campaigns yet.

For the last two years we've been getting together a fighting fund, supported by many brewers, and now at last we're ready. You should be seeing on Adshell sites and in pubs all over the country an advertising campaign promoting real ale and defending choice for drinkers.

Yet for all the effort we're putting into it, and for all the support we've received, we won't be able to spend even a fraction as much on promoting real ale and defending drinkers' choice as a national brewer can spend on a single lager or smooth beer brand.

And that says it all, really.

Big brewers are interested in big brands. They'll spend millions on pushing their own brands and,

hopefully, knocking out the brands of their rivals. Their ambition is to shoulder all others aside, and to freeze out the competition.

But what CAMRA is interested in is choice. Variety. A pub culture where there are beers of all styles and characters to suit beer drinkers of all styles and characters. You choose lager? Fine - let there be lager. You choose smooth beer? That's fine too. But we'd like to be able to choose real ale as well, and unfortunately, in too many pubs, that choice no longer exists.

Big brewers have been yanking the handpumps out of pubs all over the country, to create the appearance of "consumer demand" for smooth beers - which are more profitable because they're easier to store and easier to serve, and they don't have any wastage. But it's bogus. Thousands of smooth beer drinkers only drink smooth because their pub no longer stocks cask ale. We know the demand is there because regional and micro brewers are all reporting sales rises

in the 20% of the market they control. But in the 80% of the market controlled by the big brewers, power over supply is being used to distort demand.

That's why CAMRA is taking to the billboards. It's about defending choice and variety. It's not about knocking lager and smooth beer, or putting down the people who prefer them. It's about persuading people who prefer cask beer to demand it in their local pub, and to be refused to be fobbed off with something they regard as second best.

For only when every pub in the land has a handpump alongside the lager and smooth beer fonts will brewers and landlords be able to say - and mean it - that:

**"THE CHOICE IS YOURS"**

So don't forget to "ask if it's cask" next time you go to the pub!!!

(For more information check us out at [www.askifitscask.com](http://www.askifitscask.com))

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## **BLACK DOG, WHITBY GOES BUT CATHEDRALS, DURHAM IS SET TO BREW**

As Durham Drinker was being prepared news was received that Black Dog Brewery based in Whitby, North Yorkshire had ceased brewing. Operations had ceased because of the squeeze placed on the real ale market by the big brewers and pub companies and the ridiculous amount

of duty that has to be paid by the micros in comparison to their bigger counterparts. Beers such as Rhatas will be lost for ever.

But on the plus side Cathedrals looks set to commence brewing. Early information points to staff training commencing mid April with official opening to the public on 30<sup>th</sup> April. Five regular cask ales are likely with a monthly special. A non-cask lager also brewed on the premises will be available. Durham Drinker will give further details once the beer range and names have been finalised.

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## **CAMERONS SITE TO SURVIVE AT THE EXPENSE OF CASTLE EDEN?**

As Durham Drinker went to print news was still awaited of the proposed buy out of the Camerons brewery by Castle Eden. As previously reported it looked likely that Cameron's parent company Wolverhampton & Dudley would be looking to sell off the Hartlepool site to avert a hostile take over. Since the last issue it emerged that Castle Eden were in discussion with W & D about acquiring the Hartlepool site. Brewing is to be transferred to Hartlepool if the negotiations are successful.

Sadly the Castle Eden site will be sold for development; part of the proceeds will cover the cost of buying the Camerons brewery. Durham CAMRA have stated publicly

that another brewery closure cannot be condoned, after all how many does County Durham now have? Not many!!! But unfortunately the sad reality is that if the deal does not proceed then both breweries may disappear. Reluctantly Durham CAMRA accepts that it is better to save one brewery than see two disappear.

Initial indications are that the core of both the Castle Eden and Camerons ranges will be brewed along side but the reality is that some brands are bound to be dropped.

It is only hoped that the Camerons site will not disappear in time as well as the Lion Brewery is situated on what many see as land prime for development. But only time will tell.

## GUEST BEER UPDATE

Durham real ale fans have sampled some unusual brews around Durham in recent weeks. The Woodman has seen beers from Derwent (Cockermouth) including Parsons Pledge and Carlisle State Bitter. Also Buffys Polly's Folly appeared from deepest Norfolk.

Redruth Cornish Rebellion appeared in both the Hogshead and Tap And Spile whilst Titanic beers from Stoke appeared in The Lambton Hounds, Daleside and Tap & Spile. It is not possible to print all that has been on BUT Durham Drinker will be only too pleased to print details of any forthcoming beers that a pub is going to have on sale. Simply give us a call or drop us a line.

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# DURHAM CAMRA PUB OF THE YEAR 2000



Grey Horse, Consett

DERWENTROSE  
BREWERY

DERWENTROSE  
BREWERY

**Evening Chronicle Best Beer Pub 2000**

**115 Sherburn Terrace, Consett, Co. Durham DH8 6NE**

Tel: 01207 502585 [www.thegreyhorse.co.uk](http://www.thegreyhorse.co.uk) e-mail: [paul@thegreyhorse.co.uk](mailto:paul@thegreyhorse.co.uk)

**How to get there:**

From Durham – 765/766 to door From Newcastle –46A to door

**Beer brewed on the premises at Derwentrose Brewery  
6 beers available.**

The Lambton Hounds now has a guest beer usually from Titanic. The Victoria, Hallgarth Street is serving up regularly changing guests. And The Market Tavern, Durham is seeing a regular flow again. The range in the Woodman is more diverse as Peter and Mary have cast their nets far and wide.

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### **DURHAM CAMRA AGM**

Members are notified that the annual general meeting of Durham CAMRA will be held on 18<sup>th</sup> April in The Victoria, Hallgarth Street. Please bring your membership cards along for voting purposes. It starts at 8.00p.m.

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### **DURHAM BREWERY VISIT**

Durham CAMRA is visiting Durham Brewery on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> May. The cost per head is £5.00 per CAMRA member, £6 per non-member (subject to availability), payable in advance and the visit commences at 10.30a.m. Please note that transport is not provided. But if you need directions or bus details then please get in touch. Contact numbers are provided in this issue.

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### **ADVERTISERS PLEASE NOTE**

From the Summer Issue new rates will apply. These are £35 for a quarter page, £50 for a half page and £80 for a full page. This is necessary to cover our production costs.

Would all would be advertisers please note that payment will be required ahead of the issue, with your advert. Cheques will be processed after publication.

If you wish to E-mail any advert then please contact Ken Weaver for further details.

Durham CAMRA would like to extend a warm thank you to all our advertisers and for the support shown.

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### **Durham Brewery News**

Durham Brewery scooped another award when Sanctuary was voted Beer of The Festival by the Deal, Dover, Sandwich & District branch of CAMRA. Some of this prize-winning brew is still available in bottles from Durham Brewery.

Seasons Greetings, the Christmas offering from Durham was well received. It has now been given a little more character and launched as Dark Secret at 4.3%.

Cathedral Gold has also been created. At 5.1% it is a blend of Frostbite and Millennium City. The result is a rich, light-golden beer with a body approaching that of a barley wine.

Benedictus is Durham's new barley wine. A pre-production poll resulted in over 50% voting for an ABV of 8% although at the time of writing the actual ABV may be a touch higher. Benedictus, which will be available

in bottle shortly is the strongest beer ever brewed by Durham and is based on St Cuthbert but with more colour and a slightly different hop character.

Last year a historical replica of Whitaker's Old Tom was produced. A recipe based on this beer is being devised and the resultant brew will be called Evensong. At 5.0% it will also be available in bottles.

Durham Brewery now has a 40 barrel capacity. A 13 barrel fermenting vessel has been custom made for Durham by Bibby's Of Halifax. Production capacity is actually exceeding 40 barrels a week but increasing demand can now be met as well as being able to maintain a varied choice of beers at all times.

Durham have also recently installed electronic temperature regulation on their fermenting vessels. This automatically holds temperature to the optimum throughout fermentation thus maintaining quality all the time. The system was designed and built by Benchmark Electronics.

We have been asked to remind drinkers that Durham Light Ale is brewed by Darwin and NOT Durham! Many thanks to Steve and Christine at Durham for keeping us up to date.

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### **Beer Belly Blues**

Why do fervent beer drinkers develop beer bellies? Well believe it or not it is the fault of beer's

relaxing qualities, caused by valerianic acid (a relation of Valium!). It relaxes your muscles, particularly in the stomach and if you drink a little too much of the good stuff your belly muscles remain permanently relaxed! So there you go!

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### **WETHERSPOONS COMING TO DURHAM AFTER ALL?**

After an abortive application to turn the disused cinema in Claypath into a new Wetherspoons the company have confirmed that the Cheltenham & Gloucester site in North Road is now their intended site.

Durham Drinker reported in a previous issue that the former C & G premises were under scrutiny by Wetherspoons. A drinks licence is already in place for the site and at the time of writing news of planning permission was awaited.

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### **STOP PRESS**

In a twist of irony in the Camerons saga it has been revealed that the Hartlepool based pub chain, Pubmaster have made a take over bid for Wolverhampton & Dudley. Pubmaster of course used to be part of Camerons and is thought to have joined the bidding for the brewery. This is in addition to the interest shown by Castle Eden in the Camerons site previously reported. At present it is not clear whether any deal would include the Camerons Lion brewery or whether it would



simply be interested in the pub estate. Pubmaster who are also linked to a possible take-over of Whitbread's 3000 strong pub estate are known to be wanting to increase their position of strength in the pub market. A possible purchase of some or all of the 920 pubs being auctioned off by Scottish Courage is also being mooted. Durham CAMRA hopes that any take over will not result in a further decline of choice in pubs (as the range of cask ales available to most Pubmaster houses is much less compared to what some of the houses were able to sell before.)

The final bidding date for Wolves and their breweries is 5<sup>TH</sup> APRIL so hopefully it will not be too long before we have some answers.

(Watford based pub group J D Wetherspoons are thought to be interested in Whitbread's Hogshead chain. Details of who the new owners may be in the future are unknown at the time of writing but this is one possibility.)

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### **YET ANOTHER BIDDER ENTERS W & D CHASE**

Japanese banking and pub group Nomura have now entered the bidding for Wolverhampton & Dudley. The announcement comes hot on the heels of their acquisition of the Bass pub estate. They are another example of a pub group wanting to become the biggest. And their interest in W & D does not seem likely to extend to their four breweries which they will most likely seek to close or sell off.

The future of the Camerons brewery, Mansfield Brewery and Marstons are no more certain. Even W & D's Bank's Brewery cannot assume to be safe from closure or sell off. The sooner everything is settled the better!

Are there any more bidders we don't know about?

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### **QUICK HALVES**

The Daleside Arms, Croxdale, was host to Mordue's Black Midden Stout during mid March. This 4.4% brew considered somewhat rare was a bargain at £1. 60 a pint. (Especially when compared to the over inflated prices charged at The Magnesia Bank, North Shields on the brewery's doorstep.)

Newcastle Beer Festival starts on 4th April at its usual venue in The Students Union, Haymarket.

The Maltings, York is holding another legendary festival from Sunday 29th April to 31st April. Over 40 rare beers or those relatively new to the scene will be available. (Up to 24 at a time while stocks last.)

And congratulations to Tap & Spile, North Shields, voted Tyneside and Northumberland CAMRAS pub of the year 2001.

## **CASK ALE NEWS AT THE PLOUGH**

A different cask ale every week plus resident Black Sheep.

Forthcoming ales for March include ales from Big Lamp, including Big Lamp Stout. Daleside Old Leg Over is also featured amongst others.

Also every Thursday - The new JUMBO QUIZ - a quiz with a difference. (which for the clever people could lead to a first prize of £40,000!!!)

For further information contact:

The Plough Inn  
High Flatts  
Chester-le-Street  
DH2 1BL

Tel: 0191 388 2068

### **WELL DONE WHITE VELVET**

We've just heard that Durham's White Velvet has picked up Beer Of The Festival award at Rugby CAMRA's beer festival. Well done Durham.

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### **HORNY DRINKERS MADE A TUMBLER!**

A tumbler is associated with drinking water rather than beer yet it's name is directly related to the golden brew.

In Anglo-Saxon days drinking horns were used by ale loving warriors and tradition demanded that the ale had to be drained in one guzzle or gulp. To stop anyone cheating the horns had rounded bottoms so that if you put one down it would "tumble" and spill any ale left inside for all to see. The first glasses followed this round bottomed pattern and so became known as "tumblers" - and the name stuck when they acquired flat bottoms!!!!

## **HADRIAN AND BORDER BREWERY**

Durham CAMRA were fortunate to visit Border Brewery's Tweedmouth site on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2000, shortly before it closed and production was moved to Tyneside. The visit was arranged to present the Summer 1999 Beer of The Festival Award for Border Special Bitter.

In October 2000 Shona and Andy Burrows of Border and Trevor Smith formerly of Hadrian and Four Rivers joined forces and acquired the Four Rivers 20 barrel brew plant, premises and brands including the name of the liquidated Hadrian brewery. The new name for the brewery is Hadrian and Border Brewery.

Noggins Nog, SOB and Old Kiln Ale were initially removed from the Border list. Vallum Bitter was added to the Hadrian list and Emperor Ale made a welcome return after a very long absence.

As well as supplying around 150 free trade houses from Glasgow in the North to Yorkshire in the South the beers are available nationally through wholesalers, pub groups and other small brewers.

The current beer range is:-

### **VALLUM BITTER (3.6%)**

- a well hopped amber coloured bitter with a distinctive dry refreshing taste.

### **SPECIAL BITTER (3.8%)**

- a straw coloured, delicately hopped and well balanced bitter. Winner of Durham CAMRA'S Beer Of The Festival for Summer 1999.

### **GLADIATOR (3.8%)**

- a deep copper coloured award winning session bitter with a soft malt palate.

### **FARNE ISLAND (4.0%)**

- an amber coloured bitter with a refreshing malt and hops balance.

### **FLOTSAM (4.0%)**

- a deep bronze colour with a very clean citrus bitterness and a distinctive hoppy, flowery aroma.

### **LEGION ALE (4.2%)**

- a well-hopped and full-bodied beer rounded off with a good malt flavour.

### **CENTURION BITTER (4.5%)**

- a light coloured award winning bitter with a distinct hop palate, pleasantly fruity, clean tasting and refreshing.

### **RAMPART (4.8%)**

- a golden bitter, complex hopping gives this beer a clean characterful taste. One of your editor's favourites!

### **JETSAM (4.8%)**

- a pale golden bitter, clean and fresh with a flowery palate and hoppy nose.

### **EMPEROR (5%)**

- the latest addition to the range and powerful. Dangerously drinkable! Welcome back!

Our thanks go to Hadrian and Border Brewery for supplying the above information.



Peter and Mary welcome you to

## **THE WOODMAN INN**

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Current cask ales include:

Old Speckled Hen+

Draught Bass

Marston's Pedigree+

\*Castle Eden Bitter expected soon\*  
+currently on promotion

Shincliffe Bridge, Durham DH1 2LY

Telephone 0191 386 8512

## WENTWORTH TO COME TO DURHAM?

News has been received that Sheffield based micro brewery is to brew a new 5.0% beer exclusively for the Hogshead chain. The beer will be available hopefully in about a months time in Hogsheads around the country. Their other beers will also be available to Hogsheads if they wish to stock them. Durham's Hogshead in Saddler Street will stock Wentworth beers when available.

(Wentworth beers are always on sale at their brewery tap at Chapeltown, Sheffield, not far from Meadowhall and very nice they are too.)

The Hogshead will be holding a mini beer festival hopefully some time in April although details had yet to be finalised.

## GUESTS AT THE BRIDGE

News now received... The Bridge, North Road, Durham is now stocking Marston Pedigree plus a guest.

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### Daleside beers for March/April

<b>Caledonian</b>	- Flying Scotsman
<b>Titanic</b>	- Captain Smiths/ Drop Anchor/ Best Bitter
<b>Mordues</b>	- Pride of Croxdale (special for the Daleside)
<b>Mordues</b>	- Black Midden Stout
<b>Highgate</b>	- Special Bitter
<b>Wyre Piddle</b>	- Piddle in the Hole

# HOGSHEAD PUB CO.

- Up to eight Real Ales available
- Constantly changing guest ales from all over the UK
- Meals available until early evening

We look forward to seeing you, so come and join the friendly Management and Staff down at the Hogshead.

58 Saddler Street, Durham City. Telephone (0191) 386 9550



## Time to join the CAMRA crew



- Europe's most successful consumer organisation.
- Regular events in the Durham area, social and campaigning.
- Big discounts off the Good Beer Guide, other publications and products.
- Reduced or free admission to most CAMRA beer festivals.
- Monthly What's Brewing, the newspaper for beer drinkers.

I/We wish to join the campaign for Real Ale, and agree to abide by its rules.

Name(s) .....

Address .....

..... Postcode .....

Signature(s) ..... Date .....

I/We enclose remittance for membership as follows:

Single £14 ☐ Joint (both at same address) £17 ☐

Concessions (please supply proof). Student/Unemployed/Disabled/Under 26:

Single £8 ☐ Joint (both at same address) £11 ☐

Send a cheque (payable to CAMRA Ltd.) to Membership Secretary, CAMRA,

230 Hatfield Road, ST. Albans, Herts, AL1 4LW.

**For Forthcoming CAMRA events  
contact:**

**Branch Chairman & Editor**

Ken Weaver 0191 384 4389

**Secretary**

Stephen Campbell 0191 388 3321

**Social & Membership Secretary**

Declan Teare 0191 384 7044

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Quarter page £35

(Discounts for multiple bookings).

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Published by the Durham Branch of CAMRA.

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Layout and typesetting by  
Lesley Lumley.

Printed by Paul E May Printing.  
Telephone 0191 373 2589.

Circulation 2000

Address for communications:  
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Durham



pub of the year 1998