

## Why not join CAMRA to-day

### Membership & its benefits:

- ✓ Membership costs just £16 a year and for this you receive:
- ✓ Our lively monthly publication *What's Brewing*, giving hard news from the world of pubs and beer as well as providing information about festivals and special events.
- ✓ Free or substantially reduced entry to all CAMRA beer festivals throughout the UK, including the Great British Beer Festival
- ✓ Discounts on many CAMRA publications, including our best-selling *Good Beer Guide*.

There are over 180 branches and 66,000 members Nationwide. Between campaigning, beer festivals, brewery trips and pub visits there is plenty going on So find out more about what's going on in your local area and join online at [www.camra.org.uk](http://www.camra.org.uk) or use can use the application form below



### Membership Application

Please complete and send with your payment (cheques should be made payable to CAMRA Ltd) to:  
CAMRA, Membership Secretary, 230 Hatfield Road, St Albans, Herts, AL1 4 LW

#### Yourself

Title ..... Surname ..... Forename(s) .....

D. O. B. .... / .... / .....

#### Partner

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Address .....

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Please indicate below, by circling amount, which category applies to the recipient:

Single	£16	Joint	£19	Under 26	£9
Under 26 Joint	£12	Retired	£9	Retired Joint	£12

Signed: ..... Date: .... / .... / .....

# DURHAM DRINKER



SUMMER 2004

ISSUE 97

[www.geocities.com/camradurham](http://www.geocities.com/camradurham)

## VILLAGERS FIGHT TO SAVE HETT ARMS

Proof that rural pubs face the threat of closure was evident when the Hett Arms, Hett Village closed without warning during March. In fact some customers left the pub the night before without knowing the pub would no longer be opening it's doors to customers. However the closure provoked an outcry and so many villagers joined forces to save their local.

Determined that the only bitter taste left should be from the beer they held a meeting which overwhelmed the small village hall. Over 120 people attended and their chief spokesman, Keith Banks was amazed at the response.

A campaign was mounted to try to safeguard the Hett Arms and to promote it as a viable business. Although CAMRA have assisted in part the customers have lobbied many interested parties including Newcastle Breweries who admittedly were keen to see it continue as a going concern. Unfortunately the owners who have now departed had seemingly run the pub down and on many occasions did not have any beer to serve in the dirty glasses that were on offer!!

Keith Banks has admitted that although they have a fight on their hands to save the pub there is hope. And if saved then people will need to use it. And if proof is needed of how successful a pub can be after having been brought from the brink then look no further than the award winning Ship at Middlestone Village.

We will keep you informed but meanwhile if you would like to assist in the campaign then please contact Keith Banks on 01388 827463 or one of the Durham CAMRA branch officials listed in this newsletter.

### DURHAM BEER FESTIVAL A CAUSE FOR CELEBRATION!!

Durham CAMRA is pleased to announce that Durham Beer Festival will be taking place from 2nd September to 4th September. It promises to be another great event for the real ale fans as once again a varied selection of cask ales will be on sale. Up to 60 ales will feature including some never sampled in the area before. And of special significance is the fact that our festival sponsor, The Durham Brewery is celebrating it's tenth

anniversary. And a festival special is being brewed for the event.

A special commemorative glass and programme will be on sale in recognition of the festival and Durham's 10th anniversary.

The venue is Dunelm House. Admission is £1.00 (free to CAMRA members) plus £1.50 deposit. The festival will run from 5.00pm to 11.00pm on Thursday and 11.00am to 11.00pm Friday and Saturday.

#### NEWS AND BREWS

The Brown Jug Inn, Evenwood Gate has been bought by former IT consultant Neil Pearson. The old coaching inn is destined to become a real ale haven and there is a possibility that a microbrewery will be added at a later stage. The emphasis will be very much on the traditional pub serving quality food and cask ales.

And the possibility of microbreweries at The Beamish Mary, No Place and The Sun Inn, Beamish Museum makes a mini brewing revolution a distinct possibility in the region.

#### EXPLORER NORTH EAST

Now that the summer has landed the temptation to travel a bit further a field may give you itchy feet and a wee bit of a thirst. So why not leave the car at home and visit some of the area's cask ale pubs by using public transport?

Explorer North East offers an excellent way of doing this. For only £6 (£5 for oaps) you can have pretty much unlimited travel on most major bus operators including Stagecoach, Go Ahead and Arriva. In addition you can use both the Tyne & Wear Metro and Shields Ferry.

The Good Beer Guide offers a choice of excellent pubs and most are served by public transport. And don't forget that

## The Beamish Mary Inn



No Place, Beamish, County Durham  
Telephone 0191 370 0237  
[www.beamishmary.co.uk](http://www.beamishmary.co.uk)

Simply great music and great beer.

Durham CAMRA Pub of The Year 2004

For Forthcoming CAMRA events contact:

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#### Secretary

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#### Advertising Rates:

Full page £80 Half page £50  
Quarter page £40

(Discounts for multiple bookings).

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## The Victoria Inn

### Free House

86 Hallgarth Street, Durham, DH1 3AS.  
Tel: 0191 386 5269 Fax: 0191 386 0465

- Bed & Breakfast Accommodation
- All rooms En-Suite
- Friendly, atmospheric bar
- Private car parking
- Five cask ales including guests
- English Heritage Grade 2 listed
- Durham's only CAMRA National Inventory listed pub



Durham  pub of the year 2003

## THE NEW IMBIBER

Replacing the departed beer magazine The Independent Imbiber is a new magazine called The New Imbiber. Priced at £1.50 it gives news on new breweries and beers but also covers a much wider range of topics. Of special interest are the articles on various towns and areas of the UK etc, which can prove especially useful to those of us who frequent other parts. It is useful to know where interesting pubs might be, ones which could easily be missed.

Subscriptions are available from The New Imbiber, Long High Top, Colden, Heptonstall, Hebden Bridge, West Yorkshire, HX7 7PF. A yearly subscription is £10 and cheques should be made payable to Imbiber Distribution. Alternatively copies can be purchased locally at The Tap & Spile, North Shields, The Foresters Arms, Carlton, Leyburn or

The Buck, Thornton Watlass, Nth Yorks. And don't forget that courtesy of our friend Alistair Downie, Wear Valley CAMRA's newsletter, Weird'Ale News carries useful brewery and beer news,

## CEDDESFIELD HALL

Durham CAMRA finally made it to Ceddesfield Hall on 2nd July. A presentation took place at their beer festival and three certificates were awarded. These were for Durham CAMRA Club Of The Year 2001 and 2002 and for runners up in 2004.

Thanks go to all for making us welcome. If you haven't been Ceddesfield Hall is well worth a visit. The beer is good and the building and surroundings are impressive. It is a credit to all the unpaid volunteers who keep it going. Well done!!

## TONY MOLYNEUX

Sad news received by Durham Drinker was of the untimely death of Tony Molyneux on 2nd July. He was well known to many in CAMRA and beer festival circles and had made many friends in the North East. He was also tour guide for Cains Brewery in Liverpool and was an accomplished folk singer. He often gave impromptu performances at beer festivals and was also a star of CD and TV. He was a very sociable person who will be missed by many.

the more rural pubs can be reached as well. Weardale offer a good service up the dale and Tynedale Group Travel will take you up to Allenheads. From as far South as Scarborough, and as far North as Berwick or West to Carlisle if you prefer then the choice is yours.

And if you get back home and feel like an evening tippie then your ticket is still valid! So for one day's travel (valid all day June, July and August) at £6 you can have a great day out!!

## TYNE BREWERY CLOSURE ANNOUNCED

As mentioned in DD issue 96 the closure of Scottish Courage's Tyne Brewery has been announced. The production of most core brands will be transferred to its plant in Tadcaster whilst the production of Newcastle Brown Ale will be transferred to the newly acquired Federation Brewery south of the river in Dunston.

There will be redundancies on both sites but the move has safeguarded the future of the Dunston site which has resulted in a payout for the affiliated clubs around the region. It was a sad day for many at Federation as the deal was effectively rubber stamped in mid June. Most if not all of Fed's brands will pass into history

although no cask ale had been brewed there for some time. Federation cask ales such as Northumbrian and Angel are contract brewed at Big Lamp Brewery. The Buchanans range contracted out to Robinsons have been terminated.

It was understood that Scotco were to try and retain the protected status for Newcastle Brown which under European law can only be brewed in Newcastle and not copied elsewhere. So other brewers could not brew a Newcastle Brown outside the city!! But as most point out it will be brewed on the Gateshead side of the river and not in Newcastle!! Anyway this aside, the end of another major North East brewery is in site. Ironic for those who remember Scotco's plea for public support to prevent the takeover by a well known Australian brewer not so many years ago!! Nowt so ruthless as business folks!!

## GREY HORSE GOES KEGLESS

The Grey Horse, Consett is now devoid of any keg ales. The John Smiths keg has been removed from sale. Such is the turnover of the cask ale that it was no longer viable to stock the pasteurised product. A keg of John Smiths took about 15 days to sell whereas the equivalent volume of Hancock's HB was sold in one day! This is a proper pub with proper beer!

Peter and Paula welcome you to  
Durham CAMRA's Pub of The Year  
2002

## THE WOODMAN INN

Friendly local pub close to the city centre

At least six ales  
Featuring  
Durham Brewery beers and guests

23 GILESGATE, DURHAM CITY  
TELEPHONE (0191) 386 7500

## BOTTOMS UP GO REAL

The off licence chain Bottoms Up have launched a new bottle conditioned ale. The beer called Firebrand is brewed and bottled by Hop Back. Similar to Summer Lightning, the brew imparts a citrus hoppiness leading to a pleasant bitterness and dry aftertaste. Goldings hops are used and the use of crystal malt can also be detected. And at £1.59 per bottle it represents good value. You can purchase 4 bottles for £5. In fact you can mix and match most of the bottled ales on sale in Bottoms Up on the same basis. This is certainly a step in the right direction and the Durham store is keen to stock some local bottle conditioned brews which would prove very popular.

## NEWS AND BREWS 2

The Smiths Arms, Great Lumley, is reportedly up for sale.

The Daleside Arms, Croxdale held a successful mini beer festival during the late May bank holiday. Featured brews included Northern Al-niter, William Bros Joker, Tring Abbot's Wonderful Clock, Portchester Trebouchet and Wharfedale Folly. The festival special was Mordue Neptune which was scheduled as the last beer of the festival and featured the ship yard cranes on the pump clip. Such was the success that a mini winter festival may take place. And yes folks, the chilli still burns holes in your underpants!

The Grange Foundry, Gilesgate is stocking Castle Eden Ale.

The Daleside Arms, Croxdale, will be holding a mini beer, folk and food festival on Saturday 21st August. The event will feature up to 6 beers and live music and runs from 2.00pm to 11.00pm. This follows on from the highly successful beer festival and is not to be missed at

this popular venue. Further details are available from Mike on 01388 814165.

## CLUB OF THE YEAR

Congratulations go to Pelaw Grange Greyhound Stadium for scooping Durham CAMRA's Club Of The Year award. Presented to clubs who have shown an initiative in stocking real ale in a friendly and pleasant environment this award will hopefully become much sort after. Following in the footsteps of runners up Ceddesfield Hall who have won it previously the folk at the stadium have not only stocked cask ales but now feature changing guests. There is an enthusiasm about the ale there and Durham CAMRA will be paying a visit to present the award shortly. Well done!!

(Who said Durham CAMRA had gone to the dogs?...Ed.)

## NORTH SHIELDS PUBFEST

A multipub beer festival is planned for August Bank Holiday. Organised by Rob Shacklock, manager of the Tap & Spile, North Shields it will run from Thursday 26th to Monday 30th August. Pubs involved include The Tap & Spile, Wooden Doll, Garricks Head and Magnesia Bank. Further details can be obtained from Rob on 0191 2572523

## DURHAM ALE - THE FIRST DURHAM BEER GUIDE

Durham Drinker has recently been loaned a copy of the first Durham Beer Guide dating back to 1984. It makes an interesting comparison when compared to the real ale scene today.

Amazingly 29 ales were available in the region from 12 breweries. Quite good at the time but nothing compared to the choice now. The breweries were Bass, Drybroughs, Matthew Brown, Camerons,

Fantastic Staff, loads of atmosphere, great decor but the Landlady's still a fat geodieg tart.

Well, you can't have everything, but you can have a great pint of beer.

You'll find it all at



27 Front Street Framwellgate Moor

Tel: 0191 386 5451

## CAMRA DIARY DATES

- > 11th August 2004, 8pm - branch meeting, Victoria Inn, Durham
- > 18th August 2004, 8pm - pre festival meeting, Woodman Inn, Durham
- > 2nd - 4th September 2004, Durham CAMRA 24th Beer Festival, sponsored by Durham Brewery. Thursday 5.00pm to 11.00pm. Friday and Saturday 11.00am to 11.00pm.

Theakston, Vaux, Scottish & Newcastle, Whitbread, Westmoreland, Marston, Tetley and Sam Smith. Some of these have passed into history or are under a different banner.

As for the pubs Chester-Le-Street's only entry was The Red Lion, Front Street long since cask free. Consett had three entries, Butlers Bar, Mount Pleasant and The Park. Durham City included The Neville and the since demolished Redhills Hotel. Framwellgate Moor included the

Queens Head which of course is now The Tap & Spile. Langley Park featured the now departed Centurion. Many of the current cask havens did not feature at the time.

And especially ironic was the ad from Theakston proclaiming "An independent Family Brewer Since 1827".

Funny how things go full circle.

At the time a great book to buy for £1.50 and it may yet return!!