

It takes all sorts to campaign for real ale

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01727 867201 .

I wish to join the Campaign for Real Ale, and agree to abide by the Memorandum and Articles of Association.

I enclose a cheque for .....

Mem Form 0108

Signed .....

Date .....



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Please fill in the form and send to:  
Campaign for Real Ale Ltd  
230 Hatfield Road, St Albans, Herts AL1 4LW

Name and full postal address of your Bank or Building Society

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FOR CAMRA OFFICIAL USE ONLY  
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Please pay CAMRA Direct Debits from the account details on this instruction subject to the safeguards  
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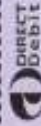
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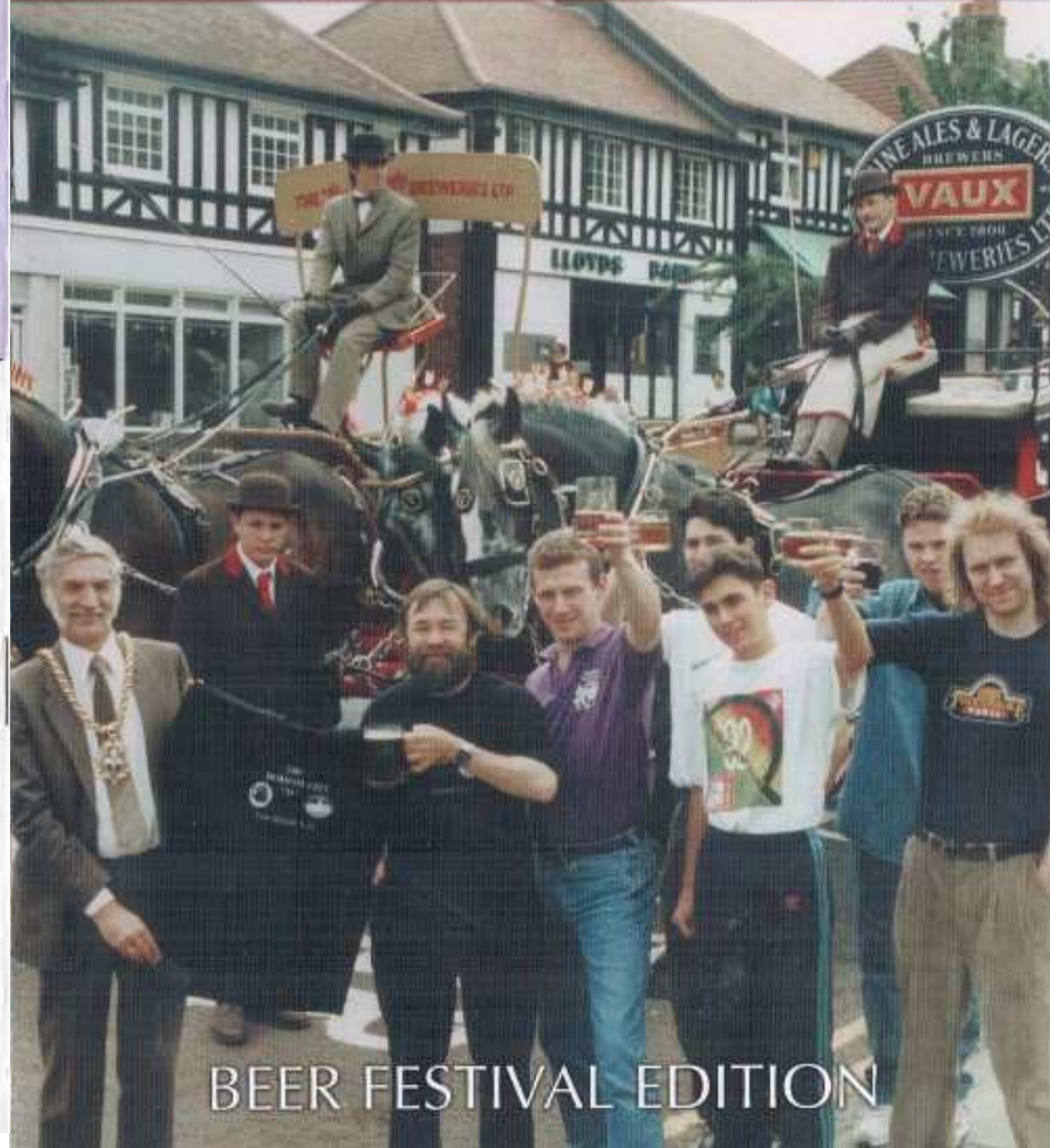
CAMPAIGN FOR REAL ALE



DURHAM DRINKER

Summer 2009

Issue 102



BEER FESTIVAL EDITION





Dunelm House  
New Elvet  
Durham City  
DH1 3AN



Thursday 3rd Sept.  
17.00 - 23.00  
Admission £2

Friday 4th Sept.  
11.00 - 23.00  
Admission £2

Saturday 5th Sept.  
11.00 - 23.00  
Admission £1.50

Live entertainment on Saturday

80 Cask Beers - Cider & Perry - Bottled Beer  
Commemorative Tankard  
Hot & Cold Food



**MAXIM**  
BREWERY

Festival Charity: St Cuthbert's Hospice. Please be generous.

Disabled Access Available  
[www.camradurham.org.uk](http://www.camradurham.org.uk)

Contact:  
Eddie Turner 07960 543085  
[festival@camradurham.org.uk](mailto:festival@camradurham.org.uk)



### Reasons to be Cheerful - What we do well

We can't or won't build passenger liners (French, Italians & Germans). We don't build trains (Germans & Japanese). Our clothes come from the Far East and we have to rely on the Europeans and Americans for our Aircraft.

The one thing is we have is more breweries than any other country brewing a greater variety of ales and the 29th Durham Beer Festival will be a celebration of that fact. The word festival *means* celebration so come along to Dunelm House and try some Britain's many cask ales. The event will also cater for cider & perry drinkers with an eclectic selection. There is also a very interesting "girl" band appearing on Saturday.

This year is the 100th anniversary of a team of West Auckland Miners who travelled to Turin to participate in (and win) the first "World Cup", known as the Thomas Lipton Trophy. Maxim Brewery is producing a commemorative beer called Lipton Trophy Special which will be sold for the first time at the festival. The Lipton Trophy will be on display at the festival at the invitation only Trade Session between 4 & 5pm on the first day.

We think the beer price this year is very reasonable but don't forget there will be a surcharge on strong beers in line with the higher Custom & Excise duty levied and the commemorative 11.5oz Tankard will be £2 sale or return.

*Cover Photo: If you can guess the year this was taken, e-mail the editor and the first person to get the correct answer will receive two free pints and a commemorative tankard at the beer festival. There are two clues in the picture.*

### The Yard of Ale Brewery



Now supplying to outlets of quality cask ales in the north east.

Now available: First Yard Bitter (3.8%), Yard Hopper (4%), Yard's Ahead IPA (4.2%), Black as Owt Stout (4.2%) & One Foot in the Yard Ale (4.5%).

Look out for our Hallowe'en Beer Fest!

Try our ales direct from the source at Ferryhill's only Cask Ale Freehouse, The Surtees Arms, Ferryhill.  
Tel: 01740 655724  
[www.thesurteesarms.co.uk](http://www.thesurteesarms.co.uk)



## The Pub – Who Cares?

Not the ruling political class it seems. When looking for statistics on this subject, the numbers come thick and fast. 52 pubs a week closing; 50% of pubs with a half-million pound turnover clearing less than £15,000 a year; pubs losing £100 a week etc, etc. The country's largest Pub Companies are struggling as well because income is insufficient to service the debt they incurred but some think this pain is self-inflicted. According to the GMB Union pub companies have been overcharging publicans by up to 80p a pint as well as driving up rents to pay for interest charges. The reasons for this decline are also well documented. *The smoking ban; competition from cheap drink in supermarkets; and the ever-increasing duty hikes from an arrogant ruling class.*

CAMRA is and has been well aware of this situation for some time and is taking action by urging MP's to ask their masters in Brussels to consider changing the rules to allow a reduction in duty of draught beer sold in pubs. It's a pity we have to rely on the Eurocrats to sort this out when we should have the collective will to solve the problem ourselves. Yeah, right, dream on son.

There are some members who believe CAMRA is concentrating too much on pub closures and not enough on the quality of cask beer. Before there was CAMRA, there were pubs selling cask beer. *The Pub is the Hub* said the Prince of Wales. People who should know better should know what that means.

Eddie Turner

Guess which pub in the County has 7 cask beers all in good nick at £2.30 a pint?

Serves probably the best pub food in County Durham?

Has a beautiful garden area with a view looking out to the North Sea?

Has 6 luxury chalets with colour co-ordinated interiors and a 3 bedroom apartment?

Received ONE vote in Durham CAMRA's Pub of the Year competition?

Answer: The Ship Inn, High Hesleden.

Shame on us.

## Letting off Steam

Tony Brookes brings his *Stuff the Supermarkets* campaign to Durham by purchasing the Reform Bar in Reform Place just off North Road and converting the pub to the latest in the *Head of Steam* chain. The alterations will include a beer garden with children's play equipment, a cellar and kitchen extensions etc. Cask beers will be a Cameron's Ale, Deuchars IPA and two guest beers. World beers in bottle and draught dispense are also be available and real cider, so it looks like a pub to cater for all tastes. Upstairs there are booths with a balcony outside.

Eddie Turner



The Fully Refurbished

# Ye Old Elm Tree

0191 386 4621

12 Crossgate, Durham City, DH1 4PS

Now open from 12 noon daily

Ye Old Elm Tree on Crossgate is one of Durham's most original pubs. Without destroying tradition, the eagerly awaited refurbishment has changed the Elm Tree for the better. The friendly atmosphere of this good old fashioned pub is complimented with popular largers and ciders, a fantastic range of real ales and beers from around the world. A fine selection of wines and quality pub food completes the experience. However don't just take our word for it - come in and take a look!

**Ye Old Elm Tree**

Mondays & Tuesdays F&K Night	Wednesdays Quiz Night
Food served every lunchtime including Sunday lunch	Beers from around the world
Quality Cask Ales	Beer Garden

Monday - Friday 12-6pm  
Fosters, John Smiths &  
all Cask Ales £1.99 a pint



Leffe



Duvel



Desperados



Bulmers



Kaiser Brewery 1664



Guinness



# 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



CAMRA Durham Pub of the Year 2003, 2005, 2007

## Ye "New" Elm Tree?

It is safe to go back in the Elm Tree. The old seats have been re-upholstered but we are unsure of the rumour that they walked out on their own. The pub was initially bought from Punch Taverns by Michael Webster of the Victoria Hotel and then sold to Andrew Ward who owns the Angel just across the road. Other changes include a new paint job on the walls, two log burning stoves in the bar and in the toilets, no more wet feet for the ladies. The plumbing in the gents has also been fixed. The refurbished pub was due to open on Friday night of the 7<sup>th</sup> August. Andrew owns the now closed Bar 19 building and has plans in that area for a brewery sometime in the future. Can we expect to see the Elm Tree return to its former glory? We hope so.

## You Tie if you Want To

It does not help when campaigning groups with the same aims are not singing with one voice. Such is the situation concerning the beer tie, where pubs are tied under agreement to breweries or pub companies for their beer supplies and the often inflated wholesale prices. Pub companies in particular can force heavily discounted lagers and keg beer onto tenants but won't pass on this discount to the licensees, which results in many tied houses being un-competitive.

The Publican's Fair Pint Campaign wants the problem referred to the Competitions Commission but CAMRA thinks this will take too long for any decision to be made and as an organisation with "Super Complainant" status, thinks the tied pub issue should be referred to the Office of Fair Trading which will arrive at a decision sooner. Pint have joined forces with the GMB union and the Federation of Small Businesses to take their case to the bosses in Brussels but CAMRA further argues that an abolition of the Tie would hurt Regional and Family Independent breweries, who in the main, brew cask beer for their tied houses. Without this market these breweries may well conclude the effort is just not worthwhile. Welcome to the club.

Eddie Turner

## The Half Moon Inn

New Elvet, Durham City, DH1 3AQ



come and enjoy a beer at the  
best pub in durham..... BAR NONE

Keith, Pauline and staff would like to welcome customers  
old and new.

- Winner of Durham's Best Pub Award 2 Consecutive Years.
- Large Riverside Beer Garden.
- Featured in The Camra Good Beer Guide for 30 Years.
- Cask Marque Accredited.



## A Publican Writes – The price of a pint

You may or may not guess who the author of this article is but you won't hear it from us. This licensee prefers to remain anonymous.

The question I am most often asked is "Why is your beer so expensive?" Well, in an effort to answer this, I've been doing a few calculations!

For each £1.00 a customer spends on a pint of beer  
15p (net) goes straight to the Government as VAT (17.5p from next January)  
40p goes to the suppliers (includes Customs & Excise duty)  
16p goes on staff wages (because they're worth it!)  
16p goes on rent, rates and depreciation etc.  
8p plus goes towards the increasing costs in the pub – utilities, laundry, phone, etc.  
5p profit before tax leaves 4p.  
And this assumes a gross profit of 52% (The figure the industry says you should be aiming for. I would KILL for 52%. Mine's nearer 45%)

So despite the money going into my till, small local pubs are run on a financial knife-edge. Yes it would be lovely to have a handy £20,000 to spend on revamping the place – but I've got to face commercial realities.

In an ideal world, running my pub as a freehouse, I would be able to buy cask ale at a reasonable price (saving on average £45,000 a year), convert my rent payments into mortgage repayments and be able to source beer from a much wider range of breweries.

But this isn't an ideal world.

I love my pub and don't want to lose it. My heart goes out to all those landlords that have been forced into leaving a way of life that can be the best job on earth. I hope the Government and Pubco's understand the situation can't continue as it is and realise the system MUST change. The local pub is dying and only a fairer system of rents, distribution of discounts and a cessation of duty hikes can save it.

### The Newton Hall – Gone but not forgotten?

This was probably the first pub I drank in after moving to the North East from down south in 1975. It was a Cameron's pub then, selling keg Strongarm, one of the better pasteurised beers and had a healthy number of clients during the week and was packed at the week-end. Probably built in the late sixties or early seventies, The Newton Hall was an "estate" style pub of that era and flirted briefly with cask ale, first with Cameron's Lion Bitter in the middle eighties then John Smiths Bitter in the early nineties but it was always a "keg" pub. I remember visiting the pub not long after I joined CAMRA to sample the Lion Bitter, it was off. When I complained to the bar staff a guy next to me said "see, that's why we don't drink the stuff!" He could not see the irony of his statement and I wasn't going to explain. The Newton Hall has been demolished. Closed on May 7<sup>th</sup>, demolition started on August 7<sup>th</sup> another casualty of pubco apathy and the fact that estate-style pubs are no longer attractive to the drinkers of today.

Eddie Turner

'Reform Place' is  
dead  
- long live



3 Reform Place  
North Road  
Durham DH1 4RZ  
0191 3832173  
durham@theheadofsteam.co.uk

- up to 5 **real ales**

- **draught world beers** – Budweiser Budvar, Singapore Tiger, Peroni, Erdinger Weiss, Timmermans Strawberry and Peach, Amstel ....
- up to 6 Westons **draught ciders and perries**
- huge range of bottled world and British beers and soft drinks

- Bulk **Take out beers** very, very cheap!

\* **Full food menu**

\* **FREE juice and ice cream with kids' meals**

• **FREE taxi** –ring Freedom Private Hire  
0191 375 7409 (conditions apply – ask Freedom or in pub)

\***FREE Wi fi** - \***FREE film club**

Coming soon – beer garden and kids' play equipment

**DEAL !** Buy 2 pints THWAITES 'Graduator' ale or bottle of wine, get a **FREE 'The Head Of Steam Durham' t shirt**

**DEAL!** Lots of **promotions** to get free gifts with Duvel, Deuchars IPA, Jack Daniels, Vedett, Tiger and more

**\*\*\*Buy 2 meals from our Favourites menu, GET ONE OF THEM FREE with this voucher – until 30 September 2009**

(excludes steaks; Offer on 11am – 3pm, Monday to Friday)

[All offers, promotions, deals and prices are subject to terms and conditions, availability and change without notice]



## Down Memory Lane 2 - The Paper Round

In the 1950's I was living in Gilesgate and had a paper round that started at the top of Gilesgate bank and finished in South Bailey. The first pub on the route was the *Bay Horse* (now the much extended Durham Light Infantryman) at Sunderland Road End. The *Queen's Head* was and still is on the opposite corner. Walking along the Duck-pond, I passed the *Britannia* an ancient pub that has recently been converted to a private residence. This was followed by the *Brewers Arms* which eventually became, I think, Rosie O'Grady's before closure and conversion to flats. At the bottom of Gilesgate Bank where the road to the Railway Goods Station branched off, stood the popular *Volunteer Arms* which disappeared as part of the through road scheme together with the close-by *Durham Ox* an imposing building with an over the door sign showing the famous animal. Not far along the street as I approached Claypath was the *Woodman Inn*, thankfully still going strong.

The round had a diversion into Mayorswell Field and Kepier Terrace before rejoining Claypath at the *General Gordon* which closed, I think, in the seventies and is now a private residence. Further down Claypath on the opposite side was the *Travellers Rest* which has undergone various changes from pub to restaurant and soon to be student accommodation. Next door to the now closed Palladium Cinema was *The Maltman* which closed in the seventies and is now a shop. Across the road was the *Big Jug* still going after major alterations.

Below the Northern Gas Board Offices (now Oldfields Restaurant) stood the *Wearmouth Bridge* which together with the ancient *Wheatsheaf* just down the street and the *Kings Arms* on the opposite side below the Market Place were demolished to make way for the through road. The Market Place boasted the still existing *Market Tavern* and my route took me into Saddler Street past the *Shakespeare* (once again serving excellent real ale) and the *Buffalo's Head* (now a tapas bar) and the end of the round in Museum Square behind the Scout Shop.

John Corbett

### Branch Contacts:

Chair: Peter Lawson  
0191 3890284  
[chair@camradurham.org.uk](mailto:chair@camradurham.org.uk)

Secretary: Evelyn Simpson  
[secretary@camradurham.org.uk](mailto:secretary@camradurham.org.uk)

Membership: Dan Kolb  
[membership@camradurham.org.uk](mailto:membership@camradurham.org.uk)

Web: [www.camradurham.org.uk](http://www.camradurham.org.uk)

Opinions expressed in Durham Drinker  
Are those of the authors and not  
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national level.

Editor: Eddie Turner  
[edwardturner589@msn.com](mailto:edwardturner589@msn.com)

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DURHAM CAMRA'S  
**PUB OF**  
**THE YEAR**  
**2008**

WE'VE GOT GREAT BEER, WE'VE GOT GREAT BARMAIDS  
**WHAT MORE DO YOU WANT?**  
FRONT STREET, FRAMWELLGATE MOOR  
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