



Issue 108 **Spring 2013**

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**An Appeal
On behalf of CAMRA
Durham**

**Do you own any un-
wanted bar equip-
ment?**

**Give us a call, and
we'll consider taking
away your hand-
pumps, coolers, pipes,
etc.**

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*Serving honest, home-cooked food 7 days a week
The Cross Keys is the perfect place to stop for lunch
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money bar menu as well as an ever changing
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ingredients and our beef, pork and freshly baked
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Co. Durham DL13 1RX

01388 517212

A Real Ale pub with on-site brewery

Home-made Evening Meals
served from 6.30pm Tues-Sat

Private car park with riverside setting

Quality Sunday Carvery

Reserving a table is recommended

Established over 6 years

3 meats, 9 vegetables and occasional pie

When possible we use our own home-grown vegetables

Most eggs supplied courtesy of our feathered pets





Welcome to *Durham Drinker Issue 108*, the first one of 2013.

As well as what we planned to be regular features, there's one that we didn't really want to keep running—but it just won't go away, and by the time some of you read this, you'll be feeling the effects of it.

The Beer Escalator Tax, which is a sneaky mechanism for keeping the price of your pint increasing faster than inflation no matter what happens, looks to be upon us.

Having said that, it's far from being all doom and gloom in the pub industry. Elsewhere in this issue, you'll find out about the opening of another Wether-spoon pub, the Horse Shoe in Crook, the imminent opening of another in Spennymoor, and the re-opening of a famous pub, the Lambton Worm on the northern side of Chester le Street—the latest move by the Sonnet 43 Brewery of Coxhoe.

Then there's Black Paw, the latest brewery to supply the Houses of Parliament with real ale, and other Durham breweries going from strength to strength. Unusually, we don't have a new brewery to report so far this year!

Just in are the results for the Pub and Club of the Year for the county—all of which shows that there is lots of good stuff going on with real beer and proper pubs in the Land of the Prince Bishops.

Cheers!

Paul Dalton



The inaugural BAF7 beer & wine festival.


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FESTIVAL

BEER AND WINE

A fantastic selection of beers from the North East, Yorkshire and Cumbria and hand-picked wines from across the globe.

Entertainment throughout the day - beer, wine and whisky tastings; beer/wine and food matching; The Fabulous Baker Brothers on Sunday 21st at 4pm; musical entertainment each night from 7pm.

DATES/TIMES

Friday 19th April 5.30pm-11pm
 Saturday 20th April 11am-11pm
 Sunday 21st April 11am-10pm

VENUE

Bishop Auckland Cricket Club, Church Road,
 Bishop Auckland DL14 7JU

DRINKS

48 Handpicks and 60 beers; over 20 different wines; battle of the beers competition

ENTRANCE FEE

£10 (Includes commemorative glass, two half pints or glasses of wine and tasting notes)

TICKETS

Available in advance on:
 03000 262626 or on the door.
 Under 18s welcome before 5pm if accompanied by an adult, over 18s after 5pm only.

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In association with CAMRA Durham



Visit County Durham



Durham CAMRA branch committee

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Durham Drinker: Paul Dobson

Pubs officer: Bill Walker

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Lindsey Wright

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Hill Island: Tony Chilton

Yard of Ale: Ian Carrick

Stables: John Collinson

Weard'Ale: Paul Dobson

Black Paw: Paul Dobson

Gambling Man: John Corbett

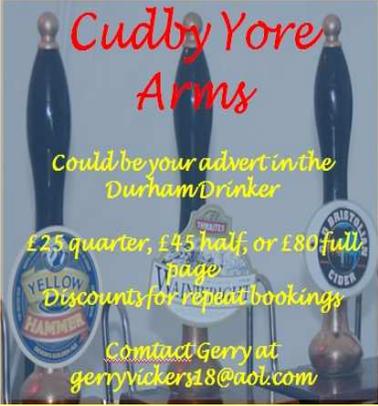
Just a Minute: Gerry Vickers

Blackhill : Peter Lawson

Leamside Ale Company: Joe Davison

Sonnet 43: Peter Jones

Contact us at drinker@camradurham.org.uk



Cudby Yore Arms

Could be your advert in the DurhamDrinker

£25 quarter, £45 half, or £80 full page
Discounts for repeat bookings

Contact Gerry at gerryvickers28@aol.com

Advertise here!
2000 copies circulated around the pubs and clubs of County Durham every quarter



County Durham—as defined by CAMRA's postcode system



Bishop Brews Head South

Following on from the success of their latest brew, Archbishop's Ale—brewed to celebrate the promotion of the Bishop of Durham, Justin Welby, to Archbishop of Canterbury— Black Paw Brewery of Bishop Auckland, opened officially by the now-Archbishop last summer, is the latest small brewery to provide beers to the Houses of Parliament.



MPs, as if they needed it, will be able to lubricate their vocal chords with real ale from the Land of the Prince Bishops, and perhaps George Osborne might feel the pinch of his Beer Escalator Tax (see Durham Drinker ad infinitum for details) - assuming he pays for his beer.

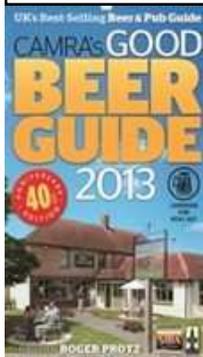
Another example of small-scale North East industry taking their quality produce to the capital to show the government that great beer comes from Durham

Nice one, Phil!



All of that wonderful equipment—bars, pumps, coolers, and the rest—that CAMRA Durham uses to keep the drinkers served at beer festivals in the region doesn't just look after itself between festivals. So, a big thank you goes to Consett-based Eldiss Transport.

They have kindly provided storage space to keep our gear safe in those periods of calm between the manic activity of beer festivals. Cheers indeed.



The world's most important beer book is back!

The 2013 edition of the Good Beer Guide is now available.

See the CAMRA website to order your copy



Durham
CAMPAIGN FOR REAL ALE



Durham
CAMPAIGN FOR REAL ALE

The New Inn Cask Ale Festival

14th March - 17th March

Beers from the North East & afar
15+ cask ales to try,
including 4 special brews

**FREE
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drinkaware.co.uk

Coming in March

The 1st joint



Beer Festival

- 24 Hand Pulls • 48 Varieties of Cask Beer •
- 8 Ciders Available •

Thursday 7th March 11am-11pm

Friday 8th March 11am-11pm

Saturday 9th March 11am-11pm

Sunday 10th March 11am-6pm

Entry: £2.00 £2.50 a pint

For more information, contact festival@camradurham.org.uk,
visit Durham CAMRA's website www.camradurham.org.uk or
call Julie or Derek on 0191 3861172 or email dcrfc@talk21.com

 Join CAMRA Durham group and like the Rugby Club page on Facebook

Durham City Rugby Football Club, HollowDrift, Green Lane, Durham, DH1 3JU

Stanley Jefferson tries something new....

As part of an initiative to introduce the beers, the brewers, and the drinkers to each other, the **Stanley Jefferson** in Bishop Auckland hosted a “Meet The Brewer” session as part of a recent real ale promotion. As well as the promotional team tempting drinkers with samples of regular brews (Abbott and Ruddles, **Belhaven** brewer Alan McLaren was on hand to explain how their beer is made, what plans the brewery has to offer their ales in the North East, and generally talk about the excellent **St Andrew’s Ale** that was on tap. Although part of the **Greene King** empire, **Belhaven** has been allowed to continue their long tradition of independent brewing.

Hopefully, some of the lager drinkers who partook of the samples will have been convinced of the superior quality of the cask stuff, and change their habits.

The Stanley Jefferson plans to have more Meet The Brewer evenings, possibly on a monthly basis, so watch this space for details.

Right—enjoying the samples..Neil Cameron, Gerry Vickers, and Paul Dobson at the Stanley Jefferson. Picture courtesy Leanne May



STOP PRESS

Pub and Club of the Year voting is just in....

Winner—Tap and Spile, Framwellgate Moor

Runners Up—Victoria, Durham, and Surtees Arms, Ferryhill Station

Club of the Year—Durham City Rugby Club

Runner Up—Chester le Street Cricket Club.

Cider Pub of the year voting is not yet complete, so watch Durham Drinker 109 for this result, and also for details of the presentations of these awards.



Manager Simon Ritson with his awards

Awards for Head of Steam

Simon Ritson, Manager of The Head Of Steam in Durham, and his staff were celebrating in November when they won the Best Pub award at the 'Best Bar None' ceremony at Ramside Hall. 'This is a marvellous achievement; I'm really proud of all my staff, who've made The Head Of Steam the fantastic pub it is' said Simon.

Not only that, but the next night, they won a second gong by being awarded Bar Of The Year at the Durham City Retail Standards awards ceremony.

The Head of Steam offers a different pub-going experience, with a good range of rare Belgian beers amongst their range of over 180 bottled beers. Special 'tasting nights', with food accompaniments, have become very popular with food and drink connoisseurs. Of course, there are real ales—three of them, usually featuring local brews.

The Head of Steam is in Reform Place, North Road, Durham, and CAMRA Durham says "well done."



Campaign for Real Ale

Campaigning for real ale, pubs & drinkers' rights since 1971

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THE CAMPAIGN

BUDGET 2013 - LOBBY YOUR MP NOW!

EMAIL YOUR MP

Please use this website to join CAMRA's final big push to persuade the Chancellor to scrap the damaging beer duty escalator in the Budget on Wednesday 20th March.

SIGN E-PETITION

CONTACT CAMRA

With 18 pubs closing every week it's time for him to listen!

VISIT CAMRA



Durham City Rugby Football Club (DCRFC) 2013

Congratulations to Durham City Rugby Football Club for becoming Durham CAMRA's Real Ale Club of the year for 2013.

In recognition of the City Club's commitment to real ale, Durham CAMRA is to support them in a weekend Real Ale and Cider Festival in March.

The club house at Hollow Drift, along Green Lane, is few hundred yards from the Dun Cow in Old Elvet and a short walk past the Prison and Magistrates Court.

The club house is situated in a venue with an impressive vista which supports sporting and social activities. The stewards Derek and Julie Best are thrilled to receive the Club of the Year award, recognising their commitment to Real Ale and are looking forward to work with CAMRA for the festival and future events. There is always a regular good supply of Timothy Taylor's Landlord and Black Sheep Best Bitter.

The Rugby Club was formed in 1872, and the present club house was opened in 1993 with Senior, Junior, and Mini Rugby teams all playing for the Blue and Gold and the iconic Sanctuary Knocker shirt. The beer festival has been organised to help support community rugby at the club.

The City club fought off five times Club of the Year winner Chester-le-Street Cricket Club, who became this year's runner up, to become Club of the year. This first ever Durham City Rugby Football Club and Durham CAMRA Beer festival will be held from Thursday 7th March to Sunday 10th March, to include 48 real ales and 8 ciders, from all round the British Isles.

Contact Derek at dcrfc@talk21.com (0191) 3861172 or John at secretary@camradurham.org.uk for more details

Beer News

Witton le Wear The Victoria has added a second handpump, with a third on its way. Early February saw Hobgoblin and Ringwood's on offer, and if you like chatting about proper beer, I'm told that Thursday is the night to be there. Landlord Carl has decided that the customers are always right, and is planning to have four beers available. With a further three ales to be enjoyed at the nearby **Dun Cow**, Witton le Wear looks like a decent place for an evening of trying out proper village pubs and beer.

Beer News...

Bishop Auckland

The Pollards is soon to install another two handpumps, taking its total up to an impressive seven. Landlord Chris Shaw has seen great demand for his well-kept ales, and was more than happy to take on the responsibility of providing another two.

The Bay Horse has added a guest beer, often from Black Sheep, to the highly-regarded Timothy Taylor's Landlord. Old Rosie cider takes up the third hand-pump.

General Knowledge Quiz

1. What is the more common name for magnesium sulphate?
2. What is the capital city of Indonesia?
3. Who was the only heavyweight champion to finish his boxing career with a perfect record? (49 wins-0 defeats)?
4. A black Perigord is an expensive example of what?
5. What are the five boroughs in New York City?
6. What is currently the UK's longest continuous running game show?
7. Which band had a U.K. number one album with 'Synchronicity'?
8. Who was the first cricketer to achieve 10,000 runs in test cricket?
9. Leonard Rossiter appeared in a series of adverts alongside Joan Collins. What product were they advertising?
10. To which bird family does the jay belong?

Answers on page 31

Dates for your diary, mobile phone, iPad, Filofax, Post-it note...

- March 7th—10th Durham City Rugby Club beer festival—see advert in this issue for details.
- March 12th, Branch meeting, Tap & Spile, Framwellgate Moor, 7:30
- March 14th—17th, New Inn Durham beer festival
- Community Pub Month—CAMRA v Daleside Arms, Croxdale. Pubs games night Friday April 5th 7:30
- April 9th, Annual General Meeting, Ship Inn, Middlestone Village, 7:30. See the website for transport news.
- Auckland Food Festival—Bishop Auckland, April 20th-21st. See advert for details
- Community Pub Month—April 24th, Quiz night at the Tap and Spile, Framwellgate Moor, 7:30 start
- Community Pub Month—CAMRA v Surtees Arms, Ferryhill Station Pubs games night. Friday April 26th 7:30
- May 14h, Branch meeting, Grand Hotel, Bishop Auckland 7:30 start
- June 4th, Branch meeting, Pollards, Bishop Auckland, 7:30
- July 9th Branch meeting, Stables, Beamish 7:30 start

Need more information on anything related to real ale? Visit www.CAMRADurham.org.uk for all sorts of local details, and for you techie types....



The Half Moon Inn



- A Traditional British Pub in the Heart of Durham City
- A choice of Cask Marque approved real ales, including Bass and a local beer from the Durham Brewery.
- Live Sky Sports and ESPN for all live sporting events - also in 3D.
- Fantastic outside drinking area leading down to the river Wear.

The Half Moon Inn



Why not sign up to our webpage for more info on offers

The Half Moon Inn

New Elvet, Durham City, DH1 3AQ
Tel: 01913741918

www.thehalfmooninndurham.co.uk

As seen on TV!

CAMRA Community Pubs Month—April

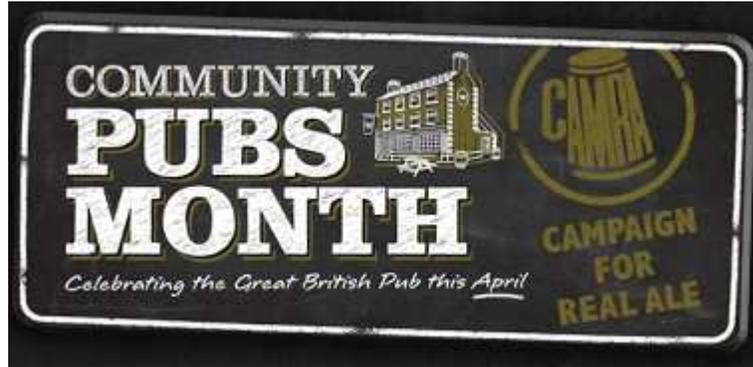
Eighteen pubs close every week, meaning that over 5,800 of these wonderful establishments have been lost to us since 2008.

This fact makes it all the more important than ever to support the pubs at the heart of our communities.

After a massively successful launch in 2012, CAMRA's Community Pubs Month will again be

organised, for April 2013. Throughout the month, CAMRA branches will be working with pubs in their regions to organise events that will showcase the important roles pubs play in villages, towns, and cities throughout the UK.

Posters, beer mats, and other promotional material will be available for volunteers and licensees to order FREE from www.communitypubsmonth.org.uk in the near future.



Great British Beer Festival & Champion Beer of Britain

13th-17th August, Olympia, Hammersmith Road, London W14 8UX

The Great British Beer Festival is back and beers from all over the country and around the world are coming to London.

CAMRA will be taking over the Olympia, in the very heart of London, and cramming it with over 800 real ales, ciders, perries, and traditionally-brewed foreign beers. Tickets for entry into Britain's biggest pub will be available from May 2013, and keep your eyes open for more information on tutored tastings, book signings, and other special offers and events at www.gbbf.org.uk.

Don't forget that CAMRA's Champion Beer of Britain will be announced on the first day of the festival. Why not nominate a beer from one of our County Durham or North Eastern breweries and show the rest of the country what good brew we have up here? To nominate, visit www.CBOBvoting.orguk and take a look at some of the previous winners while you're there.

DH1 Lettings
& PROPERTY MAINTENANCE
0191 371 3313

**DH1 Lettings & Property
Maintenance
4 Front Street
Sacriston
DH7 6LE**

DH1 Lettings and Sales is a dynamic company and we pride ourselves in finding good quality tenants for landlords and reliable buyers for vendors.

We are a relatively small company, but we feel this is a huge benefit to us as it enables us to give a tailor made service which caters to the needs of the landlord and their property as individual cases, as opposed to one standard form of service for every property.

Our enthusiasm and dedication to property empowers us to provide a service far exceeding that of an average 9:00am-5:00pm company. We understand that people live very busy and hectic lives therefore we are willing to operate outside of normal office hours. We are more than happy to carry out evening and weekend viewings and our office number, 0191 371 3313, is diverted to the mobile after 5:00pm, giving us the means to implement our policy of answering the phone at any time, which further enhances our services as it means we never miss a lead. We also open the office at any time so that we are always available for people to come to us to go through the credit and referencing checks etc and we move people in to properties at their specified time of convenience too.



Being available at any time is a great asset, not only to prospective tenants but also the landlords too as they know that we are always there for them if they have any queries, concerns or if they simply need some support or advice.

However, we do not simply let houses. We also offer an all-round management package and can sort out any issues that may occur with properties and obviously we carry out house inspections and organise CP12s (Gas Safety Certificate). We also have DH1 Gas Care which can take care of all your central heating needs, and this includes a yearly service. DH1 really take the stress out of letting a house, both in terms of the tenancy itself and the maintenance of the property.

Further to our letting and Gas care services, we also sell houses. We offer an excellent, competitive selling package which we are really proud of. The vendors and buyers also greatly benefit from our out of office hours and our policy to answer the phone at any time. DH1 Lettings and Sales is a company that every member of our team is proud to work for. We are a flexible company and tailor make our service so that it suits every client individually, whether they be a tenant, landlord, vendor, buyer, or even simply a gas care client, we always do right by you. We are always available if you would like advice too.

Further Afield - Realaleski !

The things we do to bring you a story.....on a recent trip to the Highlands of Scotland, it was confirmed that Real Ale and Skiing (in moderation) complement each other perfectly. Aviemore, in the Cairngorms, was used as a base to try both. At the ski resorts, bottled real ale was available, and during Après Ski, hand pulled real ales were on offer in Aviemore. The Cairngorm Brewery Company supplies local restaurants and pubs, and quality Cairngorm Black Gold was sipped as an accompaniment at La Taverna Ristorante, then their Gold and Stag were served well at the Cairngorm Hotel.

The Brewery in Aviemore has recently undergone a successful £1.6m expansion. Seasonal brews that were sampled included Brochan 4.0%, made with blueberries and oats (sounds healthy!), and Ginger Rodent 4.5%, a beer to brewed celebrate the opening of the new expansion.

CAMRA Durham Branch Secretary

John Collison was drinking on your behalf, because he's nice like that.

Josie's Amazing Adventure

Doing a spot of work experience in the kitchens at the **Black Bull, Frosterley**, must have been perfect practice for Josie Broome from Lanchester, as she made it all the way to the final of TV's Junior Masterchef. By way of tribute, Black Bull chef Will Davies is putting two of her dishes on the menu at the pub. Congratulations from Durham CAMRA, Josie.



Sonnet 43—for the love of beer

*This time to me is a quiet release,
It's a hug and a handshake, a break and belief.
In gathering together with people we trust,
We all take a moment to remember and fuss.
Sit back and smile and wonder -
Stand up and laugh about blunders.
Lean a bit closer and gather round beer,
Making a case that you all have to hear.
"Another", is cried from across the bar,
It's gusto, it's guts, it's all taste and heart.
So, create those moments around you,
When building big plans with a nice view.
Bring me a sonnet, a song, and my wallet,
I love it when beer is the right brew*

Thanks to Sonnet 43 brewery for these inspiring lines.

The Victoria Inn

Free House

86 Hallgarth Street, Durham, DH1 3AS

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- *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*
- *Whiskey and Whiskey galore!*



*CAMRA Durham's Pub of the Year 2003, 2005,
2007, 2009, and 2012*



Members Weekend & National CAMRA AGM 2013

19th—21st April 2103, St Andrew's and Blackfriars Halls, Norwich, Norfolk NR3 1AU.



The members' weekend & Annual General Meeting is your chance to come together as members of our campaign. Together we will make important decisions on strategy for the coming year and debate motions put forward by CAMRA branches and committees from around the country.

The Members' Bar in the AGM venue will serve a variety of beers from local breweries and there are over 140 pubs in and around Norwich for visitors to explore.

Register at www.camragm.org.uk now to ensure you receive all the latest information on the AGM and further details on accommodation and travel in and around the city.

Wetherspoon's latest venture

When the Horse Shoe Inn, Crook first opened, it was the only pub in a town of two hundred or so souls. Almost two hundred years on, some lucky folks were present at the "live training" sessions, where beers from Black Paw went down a treat. The official opening was carried out by two local lads made good—swimmer Lyndon Longhorne and former Sunderland footballer Darren Holloway - and The Shoe is a welcome addition to the Real Ale scene in South West Durham.



This piece of local memorabilia is at the top of the stairs. Nice touch



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...and while on the subject of new pubs, and moving away from an unusual 'Spoons' effort in renovating a former pub, they go back to their more usual plan of converting premises from a different use to a pub, with the **Grand Electric Hall** in Spennymoor, which is scheduled to open in April. Formerly a bingo hall and cinema (hence the fantastic name), this is an interesting venture, so watch out for detail of opening events on CAMRA and Wetherspoon websites.

Warmed In Consett

What on earth is a Brewery Liaison Officer, you may well ask. Officially, BLOs provide a link between a brewery and CAMRA. It being Durham, there are quite a few of them, as new breweries appear at regular intervals these days. I have the happy responsibility of keeping tabs on two—**Black Paw** in Bishop Auckland, and **Weard'Ale** at the **Hare & Hounds** at Westgate—and enjoy catching up with the brewers and their plans.

However, when the chance to have a chat with “somebody else’s” brewer, I jumped at it. Any excuse for a visit to the **Grey Horse** in Consett is a good excuse for me, Only a five minute walk from the bus station (and the adjacent Wetherspoon’s, **The Company Row**), the **Grey Horse** is a Good Beer Guide stalwart, and the brewery is just out the back. Not only are there two separate rooms with completely different atmospheres, but there are a pair of cracking open fires—especially



welcome on a chilly January evening. As well as three of their own beers, there was a selection of guest ales on offer as I chatted with Rufus the brewer, Lynn who does Telesales amongst other things, and Lynn’s mam, and warmed my nether regions at the kitchen range.



The **Consett Ale Works**, to use its full name, is now well established and has a good reputation in brewing circles. I had their **White Hot**, a personal favourite, and a little taste of the **Men of Steel**. Part of the chat was about their recent move into bottling—currently available are **White Hot**, **Men of Steel**, and **Red Dust**, but the renowned **Consett Stout** might be next. If it proves as popular as the cask version, it will be a top seller.

I could have stayed an enjoyed the ale, the blazing fire, and chatting about beer, pubs, football, the steelworks, the wonderful “muriels” in the bar, and the world in general, all night, but all good things must come to an end. Had I planned it a little better, I’d have had the time to nip to the Traveller’s Rest for a swift one, but the number 15 bus ride back to Durham gave me a chance to appreciate the pleasant evening I’d just enjoyed.

It’s what proper pubs are all about—proper beer, proper chat, proper fires—just proper.



Now available in bottles—and a coaster made from the last billet to be produced at the Steelworks on September 12th 1980

**The Grey Horse, Sherburn
Terrace, Consett**

Paul Dobson

Calling all collectors!

Convenzione Mondiale Di Collezionismo Birrai

Be you a tegeologist, labeorphilist, or just a plain old labologist (that's collectors of beermats, beer bottles, or just plain old beer bottle labels to most people), there's usually something in a pub to create a bit of interest.



Collections are something that can create a great conversation, and almost all of us collect something or other. There are those who take it very seriously, and if you're interested in pubs and beer, there's always breweriana to keep you happy, and there conventions where collectors can get together.

This year, the **First World Convention of Brewery Collectibles** takes place in **Martin, Slovakia** from the 3rd to the 6th of October, and we're lucky in the North East in that the UK Co-ordinator and Assistant Co-ordinator (both CAMRA members) are based on Tyneside.

For the first time, breweriana collectors clubs from all over the world have arranged a convention, hosted by the Martin Porter Club, and will feature beer mats, bottles, labels, bottle tops, glasses, postcards, pump clips, and just about every other possible item to do with beer that you could wish to collect—or just look at. Of course, there will be beer, provided by local breweries, and with a half litre costing only about a Euro, that's a good enough reason to visit this beautiful part of Europe. Also, **Martin** is close to the Polish and Czech borders, making a trip to either an attractive option to try some of the beers on offer there.

So far, collectors from Argentina, Australia, Belarus, Bulgaria, through to Spain, UK, and the Ukraine have indicated their attendance.

Don't be put off by the travel—the Co-ordinator and Assistant Co-ordinator are here to provide advice on that, as well as accommodation and anything else you might need to consider. If you're interested in attending, contact Assistant Co-ordinator **Mat Debinski** at **55 Waverley Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE4 7SD**, (enclosing a stamped addressed envelope).

Stout Chocolate Scones

I have to admit this idea was stolen and adapted from the Guinness factory café (well, they will let people have a drink), and with some tweaks here and there we now have a fantastic recipe. This has a good malty rich taste perfect with a cup of coffee or ,of course, a fine ale.

With Easter around the corner what better way to deal with it than beer and chocolate. ?

- 1 ¼ cups dried cherries, or dried cranberries
- ¼ cup Stout Beer
- 2 cups plain flour
- 1 tbsp baking powder
- 3 tbsp sugar
- ½ tsp salt
- 5 tbsp very cold butter, cut into ¼ inch chunks
- 4 ounces dark chocolate, chopped into small chunks
- ¼ cup double cream
- 1 tbsp icing sugar

If using cherries, chop coarsely. Soak cherry pieces or dried cranberries in Stout Beer for 30 minutes. Preheat oven to 425 F. Cover

Cover large baking sheet with greaseproof paper and set aside.

In large mixing bowl, combine flour, baking powder, sugar and salt. Cut in butter with pastry blender until mixture resembles coarse bread-crumbs. Add cherries and beer, chocolate pieces and cream. Dough should be sticky and wet, but not soggy; add another tablespoon of flour if needed. Mix well and form into large ball.

Place dough on flat work surface and press into roughly an eight inch circle. Cut into 8 wedges; place wedges onto paper-covered baking sheet. Bake in preheated oven 14-15 minutes. Remove from oven; cool slightly and dust with icing sugar.

Place in a suitable container, walk to the pub of your choice, order yourself a pint of suitable cask beer (Just a Minute Darkest Moment, Black Paw Dark Seam, and Consett Stout spring to mind), put you feet up in front of the fire, and had them round.



Sandra, The Grand



Anarchy...the home of...



The Worm Returns

After a couple of years during which its doors were closed and in which its future was very much in doubt, the Lambton Worm at North Lodge, Chester le Street has re-opened. The first of four pubs planned by Tavistock Leisure as part of the Sonnet 43 Brewhouse “chain”, the Lambton Worm Sonnet 43 Brew Pub and Restaurant, to use its full Sunday name, is, as the name suggests, a gastro-pub, providing food from an extensive menu.

For us lovers of real beer, though, the important bit is that they’ll be offering six of their own ales from Coxhoe, as well as guests from further afield. Sonnet 43 beers have spread across the county and region with impressive speed since the first casks rolled out of the brewery last year, and The Lambton Worm is another welcome outlet for their beers in particular, and real beer in general.

The Lambton Worm is on the A167 at North Lodge, about a mile north of Chester le Street town centre, on 0191 387 1162



The Name Game

Over the years, there have been some wonderful names for beers, but it's probably true that the better beer names have appeared since the resurgence of Real Ale over the last forty years, and in particular the last decade. With the burgeoning number of small breweries appearing recently, brewers have had to be more and more imaginative with their beer names. Gone are the days of Ordinary, Best, Special, Mild, and stout – even 80 Shillings is no longer considered a tad unusual – and the unusual names from way back, such as Old Peculier. Merrie Monk, and Owld Roger, are now part of brewing history.

Look locally – we've got Mordue's Radgie Gadgie and Workie Ticket. Try explaining those names to someone visiting the area for the first time. Likewise their Haway in a Manger and All Wheat Pet. Up at the Hare and Hounds in Westgate, home of the Weard'Ale brewery, we've been offered Guzzle Guts, Ginger Cock (named after the pub's cockerel, George – RIP), Colin's Bitter and Twisty (to do with the landlord?) and, most recently, Bubblycock – the local name for a male turkey. Just A Minute Brewery of Spennymoor have managed to keep all their beer names time related – Darkest Moment, Ruby Tuesday, and so on. Christmas also helps with weird and wonderful beer names – Brewdolph and Red Nosed Reinbeer to name but two of this season's offerings – as there's always room for a pun, but crazy names appear all year round now.

I, being a bit obsessive about beer, have a few personal favourites, and my top three has recently been invaded by a newcomer. Understandably, most of my favourites are local – Whapweasel, from Hexhamshire Brewery, because it's such a wonderfully unique word, and Sauce of the Niall, a stout originally from the Bull Lane Brewery in Sunderland, because former Sunderland chairman Niall Quinn wasn't scared of a pint of stout. But the new one – well, it reached new heights of strangeness. I'd popped up to the Red Lion at North Bitchburn for a quiet pint or two (quiet? Not really possible on a Wednesday, quiz night, but the pint part was achieved) when I was confronted by a pumpclip that made me smile. Bearing an image of a gap-toothed Michael Palin sporting a blond Afro, it also bore the beer's name (which is normal, I believe—unlike the beer's name) Tarquin Fin tim lin bin whin bim lim bus stop F'tang F'tang Ole Biscuitbarrel (Very Silly Brewing Company).

Actually, it was a cracking brew from Arkwright's of Preston, and was naturally referred to as Arkwright's all evening, rather than its full name, but it still raised a smile every time one was ordered. For those of you unfamiliar with the works of Monty Python's Flying Circus, Tarquin etc. feature in episode four of their second series, when he stood for election as a representative of the Very Silly Party in Luton. Actually, the Crosby by-election of 1981 really did feature a candidate from the Raving Loony Party who rejoiced in the same name. So there you have it.

The good thing is that you've probably got a few favourites of your own, and, whenever you go for a pint, there's always the chance that you'll find another beer name that takes your fancy. If you do, please let us know, and we might be able to compile a list of the favourite beer names of Durham's beer drinkers.



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FURTHER AFIELD

Many years ago, a group of friends from the Bishop Auckland area decided to have a trip to York between Christmas and New Year, to visit some of its numerous hostelrys. This became an annual event and some years later I was fortunate enough to be included in this expedition and was pleased to be there again at the end of December. As has become the norm, we started in the Punch Bowl, the Wetherspoon house that is close to the rail station. There are two reasons for this, a) it is open earlier than most places and b) we can fill up on one of their substantial breakfasts. This was washed down with Hambleton Saint Sledger (3.2% abv), a very tasty, light winter special and followed by Northumberland's On The Pull (4.0), which was not at its best.

Next was the wonderful Golden Ball on the corner of Cromwell Road. This, in my world, is everything a pub should be. A proper bar with old-fashioned tables that have shelves underneath for your pint when playing cards or dominoes. A cosy little snug. A smart lounge, or Garden Room as they call it, for when you want to take the missus somewhere posh. (Just kidding, dear). A games room with a bar billiards table and a beer garden with built-in BBQ's for the summer (remember them?). Most importantly, 6 hand pumps serving a great range of ales. I had Plum Pudding Stout, from Wentworth (4.7), which was superb. I could have stayed there all day.

That was not to be though, and the next stop was the Golden Fleece on Pavement, opposite M & S. Very much a part of tourist York, it makes a claim to be the most haunted pub in the city. Four ales are served, and I had the increasingly popular Golden Pippen from Copper Dragon (3.9), which was as good as ever.

The Blue Bell on Fossgate was the next port of call. Some of you will know that the small dimensions of this pub mean that the landlady restricts numbers at times but thankfully we were granted entry. 7 hand pumps provide an excellent range of beers, and pork pies are sold from a basket on the front of the bar. I wasn't really hungry but they were too good to resist. It was complimented by the superb Rudgate Ruby Mild (4.4) and Roosters Franklin (4.3), a very nice pale ale. For us, the Blue Bell is also the scene of a special ritual. Six years ago we were stood in the centre of the front bar. In the course of our conversation, one of our party, for reasons no-one can properly recall, said in a louder than usual voice, `John can f**k off`. As I said earlier, it is not a large room and at that precise moment all of the other people in the room had gone quiet and looked up in obvious disapproval. The person who made the exclamation was extremely contrite and apologised profusely, as he was one of the nicest, most mild mannered individuals you would ever wish to meet. His name was Brian Gill and not long after this he passed away, very unexpectedly and has been a great loss to all who knew him. So now every year, we make the toast of `John Can`, in the memory of Brian and then have to explain why to anyone in earshot.

The Last Drop Inn, on Colliergate, is one of York Brewery's own pubs in the city. They have four ales, usually three of their own and one guest. The guest on this occasion rejoiced in the name of `There is Noel in Christmas` (4.5) and was from The Hop Studio, a relatively new venture brewing in Elvington, near York. I had to try it with a name like that and it was actually rather good.

Then it was on to the Golden Lion on Church Street. This is a Spirit house and to our knowledge has only recently become a good stop for real ale. We got in there just in time to see the end of Sunderland losing to Spurs on the many screens around the open plan pub. (The mention of Sunderland losing was not just to wind up the editor, honest!) This was accompanied by Saltaire's lovely Cascadian Black (4.8) from one of 5 hand pumps.

Just around the corner, on the way into the market, is Pivni. Situated in a wonderful old timber framed building, there are 5 hand pumps and many more first class beers from around the world, both in bottle and on draught. I tried Magic Rock Sherry Barrel Dark Arts Bramble Stout (6.0). The name is a bit of a mouthful but the beer was terrific if not a bit pricey at £2.75 for a half. Magic Rock are based in Huddersfield but their brewing ethos owes much to the burgeoning craft beer movement in the US and Canada. Not dissimilar to Brewdog in Scotland, these breweries are leading to CAMRA having to rethink their attitude to keg beer but maybe that is a discussion for another day.

On to the Three Legged Mare on High Petergate. Another of York Brewery's houses, they had 6 ales available including Silver King from Ossett (4.3), always a welcome sight. Like many good pubs nowadays, they also have a good supply of beers from outside of the UK, served in a modern but still cosy atmosphere.



The Golden Ball—don't be put off by the John Smith's sign

The Exhibition is on Bootham, not far from Bootham Bar. They had 7 hand pumps and I enjoyed the Sharps Doom Bar, an ale that we are seeing more and more since their takeover by Coors. Despite the fears of many, the quality of Doom Bar does not seem to have suffered after being taken over by a larger company - Greene King take note, it is possible.

Our time in the Exhibition was notable for a something else though. One of my friends had a pint of one of his favourite tipples, Theakston's Old Peculiar and it cost, wait for it, £4.03, yes that's right, four pounds and three pence. I even went and asked at the bar to make sure he had it right. The Exhibition is a perfectly good pub but this sort of price would be unacceptable in some pretentious trendy bar let alone in a pub like this. We thoroughly enjoyed our day out and I would always encourage folk to enjoy the pubs of York, this however highlighted the downside of the day. The average price of a pint was well over £3, this seems to me to be blatant profiteering on behalf of the majority of the pubs in the city. It seems that they know that they have a captive visitor patronage and are happy to exploit it. This is true of other cities - Edinburgh and Cambridge spring to mind within my own experience - but having spent excellent days out in places like Huddersfield and enjoyed great pubs and beer for about a pound a pint less, it does leave a slightly bitter taint over the day.

Anyway, soapbox away and over the road to the White Horse. This is probably one of Thwaites Brewery's most eastern outposts and a welcome one too. 4 ales included Young's Winter Warmer (5.0) as a guest ale, always a good thing. The White Horse had the feel of a proper local, despite being in the city centre.

Back over the river to the Maltings which has been substantially extended since our last visit. Up to 7 hand pumps are available, always offering an interesting choice as well as a selection of world beers and good food. The toilet in the corner is always an interesting talking point but you'll have to go there to understand what that is all about.

Last but very much not least was the York Tap, within the railway station. It has the same owners a Pivni but they also have the Euston Taps and the Sheffield Tap. Hopefully they plan to add



to their stable of station bars, which could lead to the possibility of travelling around the country, drinking lots of great beer, and never having to leave the station. I am unsure as to whether that is entirely a good thing. This one is superb, a large room which is accessible from the platform or from the outside of the station, it has a large round central bar housing 20 hand pumps, (I think it was 20, it was the end of the day!). Ciders as well as ales and many beers from around the world, I had Kirkstall Contemplation (7.0), dangerously drinkable and ended the day with Thistly Cross Cider Gold (4.0), from Scotland no less, that renowned centre of cider making, and it was very nice.

Left—the Blue Bell, where John Can.....



The York Tap—photo by Andy Thornton Contracts, responsible for the fitting-out of the pub

I would hope that my earlier rant about prices does not put anyone off visiting York's pubs. It is still very worthwhile. There are so many other great places other than those we visited, notably the Rook & Gaskill, and Brigantes, and they can all be found on York CAMRA's excellent downloadable map via their website.

Gerry Vickers

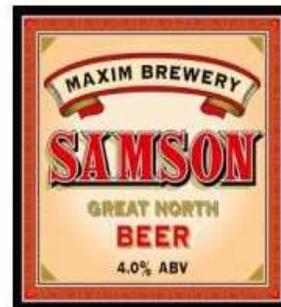
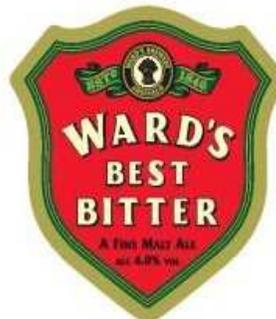
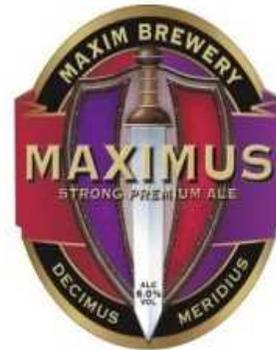
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Quiz answers 1. Epsom salts, 2. Jakarta, 3. Rocky Marciano , 4. Truffle, 5. Staten Island, Queens, Manhattan, Brooklyn and The Bronx, 6. Countdown, 7. The Police, 8. Sunil Gavasker, 9. Cinzano, 10 Crow.

Carl Maddison is congratulated by CAMRA Durham chairman Peter Lawson on the opening of Wetherspoon's Horse Shoe Inn, Crook

Picture Quiz The Butcher's Arms, Chester le Street, The Black Horse, Willington, and the Grand, Bishop Auckland



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