Durham Drinker



Inside:

- DD gets about even more >>>>>>>>>
- Pub adjudicator: may the farce be with you #3
- Your voice counts: Pubco backs down
- Durham Brewery wins national accolade

The Half Moon Inn



- A Traditional British Pub in the Heart of Durham City
- A choice of Cask Marque approved real ales, including Bass,
 Durham Brewery's White Gold,
 and Timothy Taylor's Landlord
- Sky Sports, Racing UK, BT Sport, Premier Sports, & At The Races for all live sporting events
- Fantastic outside drinking area leading down to the river Wear, with two TVs

Overall winner Durham's Best Bar None award 2015, winner of PUB category 2017



Like our Facebook page to see our weekly guest ales & sporting events

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

The Half Moon Inn

New Elvet, Durham City, DH1 3AQ

Tel: 01913741918

Diary Dates:

- Tuesday January 8th, 7:30—Branch Meeting, Victoria, Hallgarth Street, Durham
- Saturday January 19th—walking social and pub judging day in Durham city.
 Details to follow—check the website!
- Saturday January 26th—trip to Beamish Beer Festival, which starts on 25th. Details to follow
- Monday February 11th, 7:30—Branch Meeting, Smiths Arms, Castle Dene nr Chester le Street. Bus from Durham will be arranged
- Saturday February 16th—Social and pub judging trip. Details to follow.
- February 19th-23rd—Great British
 Winter Beer Festival, Norwich
- February 21st—24th. Beer Festival, the Grey Horse, Consett
- March 13th-17th, Station House beer festival, Durham



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Sunny beer garden, pool, darts, football & a real fire for a cosy atmosphere. DOGS WELCOME





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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 12 years
3 meats, 9 vegetables, and occasional pie
When possible we use our own home-grown
vegetables
Most eggs supplied by our feathered pets



Hello, and welcome to Durham Drinker 131

The nominations are in for CAMRA Durham's Pub and Club of the Year awards, and the shortlist has been drawn up based on these. Members will be visiting all of the nominated premises over the coming weeks, and here will be a number of "judging days" - see "Diary Dates" for when, as we'd love you to come along and give your opinion. The more the merrier, as they say, and the wider range of thoughts, the better represented the thoughts of the membership will be

As ever, there have been openings, closures, and renovations, in line with the national trends in the pub industry. More details can be found in the article on page 7—suffice to say, Durham is no different to the rest of the country.

There has also been a Silver award for Durham Brewery's Temptation in the Champion Bottled Beer of Britain competition. However, for every up, there seems to be a down, with George Samuel brewery in line for closure. After coming third, second, and first in the Durham Beer Festival Battle of the Beers, there was undoubtedly good ale coming from the Spennymoor brewery, so it's very sad to lose it.

Swings and roundabouts, I suppose, but please keep enjoying the good range of quality local ale that is available.

Paul Dobson

The Victoria Inn

- Bed & Breakfast accommodation
- All rooms ensuite
- Friendly, atmospheric bar
- Private car park



- Five cask ales, including guests
- English Heritage Grade 2 Listed
- Durham's only CAMRA national inventory listed pub
- Whiskey and Whisky galore!

CAMRA Durham's Pub of the Year 2003, 2005, 2007, 2009, & 2012. Town Pub of the Year 2014, 2017, 2018, Runner-up 2015. North East Regional Pub of the Year runner-up 2018

Free House, 86 Hallgarth Street, DH1 3AS 0191 3865269

CAMRA Durham committee

Chairman & Public Affairs Officer: John Collinson

Treasurer: Sean Quilty

Secretary: Chris Mansfield

Minutes secretary: John Collinson

Membership secretary: John McAninly

Durham Drinker, publications, & campaigns: Paul Dobson

Apple Rep (cider) & Wear Valley Pubs: Paul Dobson

Pubs officer: Dave Thornton
Website editor: Neil Shaw
Social Secretary: Anne Giles
Technical Officer: Nick Young
LocAle Co-ordinator: Joe Davi

LocAle Co-ordinator: Joe Davison

Pubs Preservation: Peter Jones

Social Media Officer: Neil Wakelam

Minutes Secretary: John McAninly Club Campaigns: Dave Thornton

Brewery Liaison Officers

Durham: Neil Shaw

Consett Ale Works: John Collinson

Hill Island: David Thornborrow

Yard of Ale: Arthur Corner

Stables: John Collinson **Weard'Ale:** Paul Dobson **Blackhill:** John McAninly

Working Hand: Joe Davison

Sonnet 43: Peter Jones **Castle Eden:** Arthur Corner

George Samuel: Paul Dobson

McColl's: Graeme Wade



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County Durham's pubs and
clubs, and anywhere else our
members are visiting.

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Hare & Hounds, Westgate

Special offer for CAMRA members.
With every evening meal or Sunday carvery, get your first two pints of Weard'ALE beer HALF PRICE!

All you have to do is:

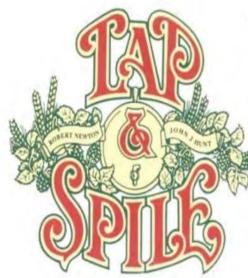
- Book a table in advance
- Produce your valid CAMRA membership card Tel 01388 517212





Great to see real ale back at the **Daleside**, Croxdale—appropriately enough, from the Daleside brewery, with their famous Old Legover being the first on offer.





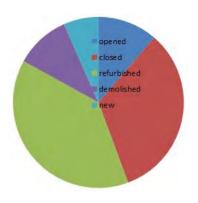
THE ONLY PLACE TO BE FOR A FOLK SINGING, MOUNTAIN CLIMBING, DOG LOVING, QUIZ WINNING, POND FISHING, BEER LOVING MEMBER OF THE WI

(AND ALL THEIR MATES)

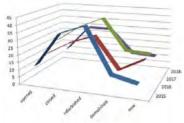
FRAMWELLGATE MOOR, DURHAM
YOU CAN'T MISS US!

The statistical bit.....

We're constantly reading and writing about pubs closing, being renovated, and reopening, so here's some meat on the bones of those discussions. Figures have just been released which reveal that a quarter of pubs have closed in the last decade. One in every four pubs that were available to someone



entering the pub scene have gone before they reached the age of twenty eight, which is some going.



The Office for National statistics tells us that over 11,000 pubs have closed since 2008. Pubs that have suffered least are the larger ones, which employ more than ten staff and which focus on food. Apparently Birmingham has suffered a higher proportion of closures, with 220 pubs closing over that period,

while Hackney, in London is at the other end of the scale, as thirty pubs have opened there.

So it's far from being just Durham where things change, and I think it's fair to say that the last decade has seen more changes in the pub industry than any other. With the emphasis moving to food, the advent of the Micropub, the antics of PubCos, and the change in the nation's drinking habits, it's been a fairly hectic period in the industry. In recent weeks we've seen the reopening of the Hope Inn as the Impeccable Pig, the neighbouring Black Lion as the Corner House, and not too long ago the Crosshill Hotel became the Pickled Parson— all within a few yard of each other in Sedgefield, and all offering real ale. All of this goes to show that pubs are constantly changing as they strive to attract custom, but what can



always be said is "use them or lose them."

Enjoy your beer in the ever-changing world of pubs—they're brilliant!



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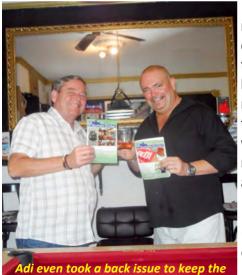
We travel far and wide....

While the editor might have forgotten to take issue 130 to the Algarve recently, he did manage to get it to Shrewsbury, Plymouth, Doncaster, and Lichfield. Locale co-ordinatorJoe Davison got copies to various locations in Dumfries and Galloway, but CAMRA Durham member Adi Mileham has been on his travels again.

This time, it was to the Costa del DD, more specifically to Fuengirola, Costa del Sol, in Spain. Most prominently, the he got the magazine into **Majesty's Bar**, which is owned and run by Danny, a British ex pat, and it's a real 'cor blimey' English pub.

As you'd expect, Majesty's is frequented by a lot of British ex pats and holidaymakers.

It's a small pub with big screen TV, pool table, free WiFi and a nice drop of beer to cool you off.



library topped up

Danny and his team are really welcoming and can't do enough for you— and the locals are a friendly bunch too. Definitely a nice place to while away the afternoon in the sun, while catching up with all matters CAMRA and real



ale back in the land of the Prince Bishops.

Why not send us your snaps of DDs in exotic locations?

"Government cannot any longer ignore the failure of the Pubs Code and must now commit to legislate and appoint a new Adjudicator"

...is how we started our now traditional Pubs Watchdog-bashing article in DD 130. This time, we can report that the Watchdog itself has informed tenants that the Statutory Pubs Code, which was created to allow tenants to get a fair deal from their Pubcos, simply doesn't work when they try to break free from the oppressive beer tie.

Publicans who've been trying to exercise their legal right to a Market Rent Only deal—which would allow them to buy beer at a price not inflated by the Pubco—have found that unaffordable rents and/or huge deposits have been forced on them.

If you've been reading DD for a while, you're probably familiar with the (non) activities of Paul Newby in his role as adjudicator, in which he's supposed to investigate disputes. This has simply not happened, even after the appointment of deputy Fiona Dickie to speed things up. Unfortunately, she's spent all of her time trying to decide what exactly is or isn't unreasonable in terms of a contract. One of her more baffling instructions has been to tell Pubcos to rewrite an MRO agreement without telling them which part she considered unfair. Result? More costly delays.

An easier way would be to simply amend the existing agreement to remove the tie-related bits, and move to an open market rent agreement. Of course, Pubcos draw up new agreements with the associated fees and charges.

When Newby and Dickie met with campaigners, she claimed that the above simple option was not what the pubs code was there for, which basically kills the MRO option. Even if a Pubco is told an MRO agreement is unfair, all they have to do is keep submitting it until the tenant runs out of money and admits defeat.

Far from providing the option for tenants to pay a fair market rent, like free-or tie publicans, which was its original objective, the Pubs Code seems more likely to preserve the interests of the Pubcos at the expense of the tenants it was supposed to help.

Bonny Dundee



We've had an unprecedented response to our call to register attendance of the 2019 Members' Weekend, AGM & Conference in Dundee next April. Not surprisingly, over 750 members have already put their names down as it's 8 years since the event was held in Scotland. Over the Weekend you can discover great breweries and pubs; relax in the Members' Bar within the Caird Hall; take part in the AGM & Conference and join in discussions too. CAMRA Durham sent Dr Jones along to check out the lie of the land....

Once famed for jute, jam and journalism, Dundee had become very worn down over last few decades, but has of late had somewhat of a renaissance, perhaps best expressed through the opening of the first V&A museum outside London, in October this year.

Dundee is also the site of next year's CAMRA conference, but is also moderately well blessed with some stunning pubs which are recognised by CAMRAs National inventory of pub interiors

The best pub in my opinion is the **Speedwell Bar** or "mennies" at 165 Perth road, DD2 1AS, about a mile west of city centre near the University. Built in 1903 and in remarkable state of preservation, it boasts a mosaic floor, wall panelling, original fireplaces, a magnificent mahogany gan-





try and anaglypta Jacobean ceiling. The hidden gem is the gents loo, which has a mosaic floor and white tiling. The pub sells three real ales on a revolving basis, and a nice touch is that you are welcome to bring your own food to eat - excluding fish and chips or curries!

Further to the North near Dundee United football ground lies **Frews Bar**, 117 Srathmartin Road, DD3 7SD. A three roomed pub built in Art Deco style in 1915, it has a gantry with bevelled mir-

quess what?





rors. The lounge to the right has stylish interwar panelling and bell-pushes, while a further lounge at the rear is only open weekend evenings. The pub sells one real ale which was Deuchars IPA on the occasion of my visit.

A non—real ale outlet called the **Clep Bar** lies at 96 Clepington Road DD3 7SW about ½ mile east of Frews Bar, even nearer the Dundee United football ground. It was converted from two shops in 1940, unusual in that very few pubs were built during the war, and features a bar, lounge, and jug and bottle bar. The lounge has partitions have seating bays with bell-pushes, and a leaded window advertising Bernard's Edinburgh ales.



There you have it—among the pubs that serve good beer, including the Phoenix, the Lab, and the Mayfly—are some that are worth an extra look because of their architectural status as part of the National Inventory. Enjoy!

The Joiners Arms, Hunwick

- Cash Conditioned ales £2.50 a pint
- Listed in the CAMRA Good Beer Guide
- Meals Wednesday to Saturday evenings
- Traditional Sunday Lunch
- Coming soon.....Christmas Fare £15.95 three courses, New Year's Eve £22.95 three courses.
 Bookings being taken



South View, Hunwick, DL15 0JW

01388 605131

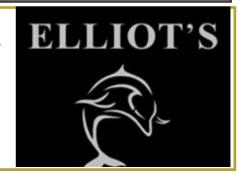
CONGRATULATIONS!



Many congratulations to Steve and the team at **Durham Brewery**, on the Silver awarded to their 10% **Temptation Imperial Russian Stout** in CAMRA's Champion Bottled Beer of Britain. An awful lot of thought, skill, and patience has gone into creating this masterpiece, resulting in this prestigious national award.

Well done on doing Durham proud!

Another addition to the real ale scene in Crook is **Elliot's** bar and restaurant. Formerly Lotty's, and opposite the football ground on Commercial Street, there are initially three ales on offer in a smartly refurbished pub.



Grand Winter Quiz

- 1. What were T S Eliot's first names?
- 2. What was the first frozen vegetable to be available in the UK?
- 3. In which city was the U.S. leg of the Live Aid concert held in July 1985?
- 4. Which chemical element has a name meaning "The Sun" in Greek?
- 5. The geographic region of Patagonia is situated between which two South American countries?
- 6. In which city would you find cricket's WACA ground?
- 7. If you cross the border to Scotland at Carter Bar on which main road would you be travelling?
- 8. Which is the only marsupial native to the Americas?
- 9. Which European country became the first to issue banknotes in 1661?
- 10. Who played Ebenezer Scrooge in 1992's "The Muppet Christmas Carol"?



The Bell still tolls

In the last issue of DD, we encouraged you to consider the plight of John Pybus at the Blue Bell in York, one of the city's most popular pubs. Punch Taverns were planning to replace him with a manager, but people power has apparently saved the day, and he's recently signed a six year lease.

The problems began when John used new legislation to get a fair deal on rent and purchasing with the building owners, but after spending a lot of money, he gave up six months later due to the Pubco having seemingly infinite financial resources. After he explained to customers that he'd be leaving, York CAMRA set up an on-line petition urging Punch Taverns to reconsider, and 6,500 people were concerned enough to sign it. This meant that the Pubco CEO met face to face with John, and the result is a new lease. It's not free from tie, but it does guarantee John will be there for another six years, and prevents the Pubco from installing a manager. A victory for the individual against the might of the big corporations, and a perfect example of "if it aint broke, don't fix it."

However, this is far from a unique case, and similar situations are occurring across the country. The victory shows that people power can overturn such decisions, and that the Pubcos don't always have to win.



Bits and Bobs

- Seaham's Crow's Nest is undergoing a refurbishment and will be open by the tie you read this
- The Black Bull in Trimdon Village is being refurbished
- New fires are among the refurbishments at the Pollards in Bishop Auckland
- The William Hedley, on North Road in Durham, has reopened after refurbishment and now offers four real ales. It will be LocAle accredited to reflect the fact that at least one of the four will be a local brew. Featured so far have been Rivet Catcher from the Great North Eastern Brewing Company, Allendale Pennine Pale, Taylor's Landlord, and Doom Bar—and there's a cask loyalty card, with six "stamps" earning you a free pint
- The opening of the Village Tavern in Coxhoe (formerly the Red Lion) has been delayed slightly, but should take place soon.

New face

Welcome to Craig Pritchard, the new host at the **Bay Horse**, Bishop Auckland. Craig has committed to continuing the tradition of Real Ale at the "Hoss", alongside a real cider.



Old favourites like Double
Maxim and Hobgoblin will
continue to feature, as well
as brews from further
afield, such as Ossett Big
Red, which has proved very
popular. The range will vary
from week to week, offering drinkers the chance to
try something new on a
regular basis.

Picture Quiz

can you name these local hostelries?





DOOMAN PARE







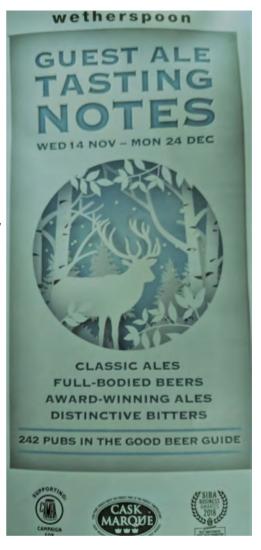


Winter Wonderland

JD Wetherspoon have released tasting notes for the guest beers available for the rest of the year, and there are some real goodies on the list.

As well as the favourites that are available all year, like Hook Norton Old Hooky and Thornbridge Jaipur, we have the seasonally -themed ales that always pop up at this time of year. See which name catches your attention first....(warning, seasonal puns may occur)

They include......Admans Shingle Shells,
Banks & Taylor Santa's Slayer, Mordue
Winter Tyne, Butcombe Chris Moose,
Wychwood Bah Humbug, Burton Bridge
Santi-Freeze, Milestone Comet, Maxim
Santastic, JW Lees Plum Pudding, Titanic
Plum Porter., Exmoor Exmas, Coach House
Christmas Stocking, Hook Norton Twelve
Days, and Woods Christmas Cracker.



The seasonal list also includes more traditionally-named winter ales such as Wadworth Bishop's Tipple, Nethergate Old Growler, Long Man Inn Keeper, Arundel Winter Knights.

There's a nice leaflet available with tasting notes so that you can peruse the list at your leisure and decide which description (or name) suits your taste (or mood)

Merry Christmas!

CAMRA members get discount here....

- Italian Farmhouse, Coxhoe: 20p off a pint of Sonnet 43 beer for CAMRA members.
- Court Inn, Durham: 30p off a pint of real ale for CAMRA members.
- Duke of Wellington, Durham: 20p off a pint of cask ale for CAMRA members.
- Hare and Hounds, Westgate: First two pints of Weard'ALE beer half price with an evening meal or Sunday carvery. Table must be booked in advance.
- Market Tavern, Durham: 10% off real ale for CAMRA members.
- Pelaw Grange Greyhound Stadium: free entry to race meetings for CAMRA members.
- The Library, Durham: 10% off real ale for CAMRA members.
- Chilton Country Pub & Hotel, Fencehouses: 15% off real ale and food for CAMRA card carrying members
- The Woodman, Durham: 10% off a pint of real ale for CAMRA card carrying members
- Green Tree, Bishop Auckland: 10p off pint, 5p off half cask ale on production of valid CAMRA membership card
- Durham Brewery, Bowburn: 10% discount for CAMRA members in their brewery shop on production of card
- Head of Steam, Durham: 20p off a pint of cask ale for card carrying CAMRA members
- Church Mouse, Chester Moor: 20p off pint of cask ale to card carrying CAMRA members
- Merry Monk, Bishop Auckland: 20p off pint of cask ale to CAMRA card carrying members
- Bay Horse, Bishop Auckland: 20p off per pint cask ale to card carrying CAMRA members
- Langley Park, Langley Park 20p off a pint of cask ale to card carrying CAMRA members
- Three Bridges, Durham 10% discount on cask ale for CAMRA members
- The Waiting Room, Durham 5% discount on cask ales (not keg) on production of valid CAMRA membership card
- Miners Arms, Medomsley, 20p a pint on production of valid CAMRA membership card
- Packhorse, Burnopfield, 10% off real ale on production of valid CAMRA card

Please let us know if you find anywhere else being nice to us, as we might have missed some

Gone to the dogs....literally. CAMRA Durham enjoyed an afternoon at Pelaw Grange track in November, where ales from Three Brothers (Shield Maiden) and Working Hand (More Choke Jackie) were on offer—from the wood. Somehow, Nick Young managed to win something while the rest looked on in disbelief.

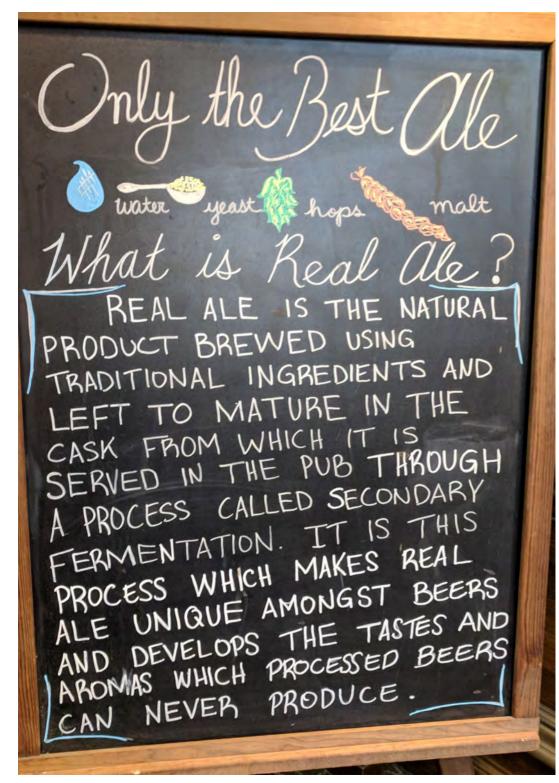












The Good—Real Ale now available

 Hobgoblin at the Station, Newgate Street, Bishop Auckland



- Whitechurch, formerly the New Inn, Durham, has reopened with four ales on offer
- The William Hedley , Durham, has reopened as the Three Bridges with four real ales
- The Daleside, Croxdale, has got real ale back on, starting with Daleside Old Legover
- Elliot's Bar and Restaurant has opened in Crook, offering three ales from the Marston range

The Bad—real ale removed



Newmarket, Tow Law



The Ugly—closures

- Dun Cow, Bournmoor—but it will reopen in the New Year
- George Samuel brewery is closing





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THE MURTON CLUB (OFFICIALS) itd

22 A WOODS TERRACE EAST

MURTON / SEAHAM

SR79AA 0191 5261226

themurtonclub@hotmail.co.uk



New hosts at the **Grey Horse, Consett** are Sandra and Dave Wilkinson, formerly of the Grand and the Bay Horse in Bishop Auckland. One of their firsts acts was to remove the contentious Autovac system. Also known as economisers, they were commonly used in Yorkshire, but what are they and how do they work? Well, they enable beer which overspills during dispense to be re-introduced into the dispensing pump where it is mixed with beer freshly drawn from the cask. In some cases the beer is filtered before it is re-introduced, in other devices no filtering takes place. In some cases the device re-introduces beer which has been

deliberately spilt during the process of achieving a light creamy head, in other cases, beer which has been overspilled unintentionally is collected and re-syphoned back into the next glass of beer. The prime aim of such devices is to prevent wastage of the beer by overspill.

Glad you asked? Probably not.

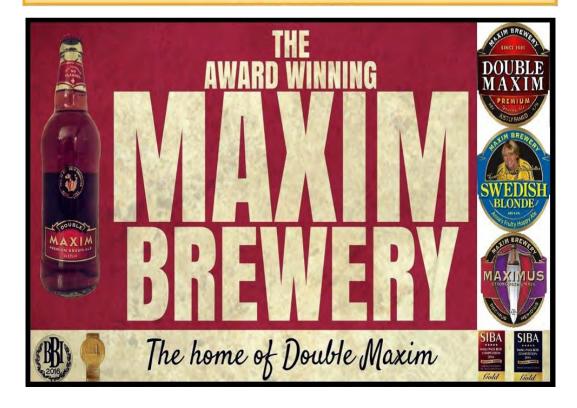
Anyway, they're gone, and the pub continues to offer a range of Consett and guest ales.



The Stapylton Arms, Hawthorn



Village Green, Hawthorn, Seaham SR7 8SD 0191 5270778



Market Tavern, Durham



Cask ales and traditional food

The Market Place's only pub, and the birthplace of the Durham Miners'

Association

10% discount for CAMRA members

0191 3862069



Whatpub is CAMRA's online database of pubs and one thing the branch has to do is keep the information on pubs in our area as up to date as possible.

The link below gives the 234 (yes, 234)) pubs in the Durham branch area that we believe serve real ale, and shows the facilities they offer. Any missing, anything wrong? We would really appreciate help from you when you visit (or run) a pub in keeping this correct. We try but we can't get to them all as often as we would like.

You can easily search for pubs anywhere in the country and there is a 'submit updates' button on every entry so that you can add any information you feel is inaccurate or missing.

It also gives you the chance to rate the beer— log in by entering your membership number and password, which will be your postcode until you change it.

Thanks in advance for your help—it's really appreciated.

Submit Beer Scores

The National Beer Scoring System has been upgraded and is now fully integrated with whatpub.com, making finding a pub and scoring your beers much easier.

Beer scoring is only available to CAMRA members. To start scoring please login below or join CAMRA on the national website.

Join CAMRA | Member Login

YE OLD ELM TREE



Follow us on Facebook

Regular beer festivals

Dogs welcome



- Six Cask Ales
- Two CraftKegs
- Real Cider
- Real Food
- Real Fire



Ye Old Elm Tree

12 Crossgate

Durham City

DH1 4PS



Join up, join in, join the campaign



Join us, and together we can protect the traditions of great British pubs and everything that goes with them.

Become part of the CAMRA community today - enjoy discounted entry to beer festivals and exclusive member offers. Learn about brewing and beer and join like-minded people supporting our campaigns to save pubs, clubs, your pint and more.

Join the campaign today at www.camra.org.uk/joinup

*Price for paying by Direct Debit and correct at April 2017. Concessionary rates available. Please visit camra.org.uk/membership-rates



NOW OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK



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THE STATION HOUSE, NORTH ROAD, DURHAM, DH1 4SE







The Answers Bit...

Picture Quiz. 1 = Whitechurch, Durham 2 = Woodman, Durham 3 = Green Tree, Bishop Auckland 4 = Black Lion, Wolsingham 5 = Coal House, Seaham 6 = Three Bridges, Durham 7 = Grey Bull, Stanhope 8 = Hare & Hounds, Westgate 9 = Dun Cow, Durham 10 = Blue Bell, St John's Chapel

Grand Autumn Quiz.

1. Thomas Stearns, 2. Asparagus, 3. Philadelphia, 4. Helium, 5. Argentina and Chile, 6. Perth, 7. The A68, 8. Opossum, 9. Sweden, 10. Michael Caine





THERE ARE STILL SOME FIRES **BURNING BRIGHT IN CONSETT**

THE GREY HORSE

HOMEOF



The Grey Horse, 115 Sherburn Terrace, Consett, Co. Durham, DHB 6NE. Telephone: 01207 591 540 www.consettaleworks.co.uk



