Issue 134

Autumn 2019

Free! Please

take one

Durham Drinker

- Regional Pub of the Year goes to the Grey Horse, Consett
- Regional Club of the Year runner-up is Tanfield Lea club
- Pubs Code how, Boris, man dee summat!
- Weardale Wander in Wolsingham
- New pub for Bishop Auckland
- Durham Beer Festival number 39— a bit of a write-up
- Diary dates

FOR

- Durham Drinker sources decent beer across the world
- Champion Beer of Britain voting underway
- Judging days—why you should attend







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
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on offers?

The Half Moon Inn

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



Diary Dates:

- Wednesday September 11th, 7:30pm
 Branch Meeting, Colpitts, Durham
- 13th-15th September, Sedgefield Cricket Club beer festival
- Friday 13th September, 4pm Regional GBG 2020 launch, Head of Steam, Newcastle
- Sunday September 15th, 2pm, Regional Cider POTY presentation at the Avenue, Sunderland
- October 2nd– 6th Station House beer festival
- October 3rd-5th Sunderland beer festival, the Point, Park Lane
- October 3rd-5th Snods Edge beer festival
- October 9th (Wednesday) Branch meeting, Black Bull, Trimdon 7:30pm
- October 11th-12th Chuffed to Bits beer festival, Shildon Railway Institute
- October 11th-12th Thought Foundation craft festival, Birtley
- October 30th-November 3rd, Surtees Arms beer festival, Ferryhill Station
- Saturday November 2nd, 2pm. Regional POTY presentation, the Grey Horse,
 Consett
- November 11th (Monday) Branch meeting, Bishops' Mill, Durham

THE STATION HOUSE, DURHAM



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MON-THUR: 4PM-10.30PM / FRI-SAT: 12PM-11PM / SUN: 2PM-10.30PM

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DOGS WELCOME



Vouchers!

The scheme under which CAMRA members were sent £20 of vouchers each year which could be redeemed at Wetherspoons has now ended. Instead, upon joining, or renewing, - you receive £30 of vouchers in a scheme operated directly by CAMRA, which can be redeemed not only at Wetherspoons but in some other pubs. Initially the only pubs accepting them in the Durham branch area are



Stonegate managed pubs. These are Three Bridges and the Library in Durham and Whitehills in Chester-le-Street, while a couple of other pubs are considering joining the scheme as individuals. Anyone with "old-style" in-date Wetherspoons vouchers can still use them at Wetherspoon pubs.

The separate real ale (RADS) discount scheme where pubs offer discount to members without a voucher continues unchanged. The easiest way to identify pubs participating in either scheme is by using the Whatpub system to check, although we provide a summary list in Durham Drinker. Please let us know if you find a pub or club giving discount to CAMRA members, so that we can keep our list up to date.

DD Top Tip—the new vouchers are about half the size of the previous version, so a 14g mint tin makes a handy holder for them

Hello and welcome to issue 134 of Durham Drinker, which takes us from the summer into the season of mists and mellow fruitfulness. Of course, during the recently-ended summer, CAMRA ran a Summer of Pubs initiative, designed to encourage people to visit pubs by promoting the special charms of pubs as suggested by CAMRA members. Durham fared well, as in the ten categories several of our pubs were promoted. The Woodman in Durham was suggested for its garden, the Surtees Arms at Ferryhill Station for its on-site brewery, the Victoria in Durham for its historical interest, and the Station House in Durham as a city pub to visit. Let's hope a new licensee has been found for the Woodman by the time you read this.

Between Sept 1st and Nov 1st, CAMRA members can vote for the Champion Beer Of Great Britain in eleven different categories/styles of beer. Visit https://cbob.camra.org.uk/ for more info and vote.

The 2020 CAMRA Good Beer Guide is published on September 12th, and we are able to supply Branch members a copy at the reduced price of £11. If you are interested in this offer, please contact our Pubs Officer by email to pubsofficer@camradurham.org .uk.

Congratulations to the Grey Horse in Consett, chosen as North East Regional Pub of the Year, and to Tanfield Lea Club, selected as runner-up in the regional Club of the Year competition.

The departure of the Quiltys from the Woodman shows the precarious nature of the licensed trade. Nobody could have worked harder to make a go of it, so good luck from CAMRA Durham for the future. *Pheers*, *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. City Pub of the Year 2019. North East Regional Pub of the Year runner-up 2018

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

Caught out!

Joe Davison's brief history of pub names elicited some positive feedback, but also a correction from Jim Farms of Durham Moor, who points out that, surprisingly, the name Dun Cow is not peculiar to the North East. Outside of Durham, he first came across it in a village called Salthouse on the North Norfolk coast, just inland from the coast road along Cley Marshes – one of the great birdwatching locations in the UK—but, a few years ago, even the landlord had no idea why the pub was so named. Coincidentally, while in Suffolk recently he noticed that the latest G.B.G. section for Suffolk has a Dun Cow as its second listing. Could there be some long forgotten link between Durham and East Anglia or are these two pub names merely curious coincidences? Research also shows Dun Cows in Knutsford, and Dunchurch, near Rugby—so what is the link, if any?

Any ideas, folks?



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Hill Island: David Thornborrow

Yard of Ale: Arthur Corner

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

Working Hand: Peter Lawson

\$43: Peter Jones

Castle Eden: Arthur Corner McColl's: Graeme Wade

Hopper House Farm: Peter Jones

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tive advertising rates.

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Acoustic Music Session

CAMPAIGN

REAL ALE

on Saturday Afternoon #music@sundfest

Wolsingham Pub Walk

A perfect way to spend a Saturday is to take the 101 bus up Weardale from Crook or Bishop Auckland. This is a circular walk which stays within the boundary of the town and is taken from the 'Walkabout' series published many years ago by Durham County. It's a short walk, and at a casual pace should only take you about 40 minutes, but it passes many interesting features on route—including three pubs—so it should take you a little longer.



Start in the Market place where at one time a weekly market was held. It also used to have stocks for the punishment of minor offences. The Black Bull offers a chance for refreshment while you ponder for what offence the last person (Tom Bell, the clock cleaner of the Grey Bull Yard) was placed in the stocks. From the Market place you can see the Doctor's surgery, formally

the Golden Lion Inn, where, in the mid 19th century, the Durham coach departed at 8-00am and the Stanhope coach at 7-00pm. Also from the Market place can be seen the Working Men's Club, built on the site of The Cross Keys public house in 1896.

Leave the Market place on the Tow Law road and turn right into Meadhope Street. Some of the houses here date from 1720 -1740. Behind the houses on the

left there was a tannery 100 years ago-, which would have kept the town's **22** boot and shoe makers in leather. The **Black Lion** is worth a visit, but perhaps that should wait until the walk has been completed.



Go into Angate Square where the Wear Valley Iron Foundry used to be.

In 1864 Charles Attwood, who, together with Bessemer, invented a revolutionary steelmaking process and set up the Wolsingham Steel Works on the eastern side of the town. Earlier he had built a large foundry at Tow Law. The six lime trees in

Angate Square are protected because of the Conservation Area status bestowed on large parts of the town. At the far side of Angate square is a new housing development where St Anne's Roman Catholic convent used to be.

The church of St Thomas of Canterbury to the left is the only Catholic church in Weardale.

Cross the road towards the Demesne Mill picnic area, named after the corn mill that used to be here. Demesne means land on a medieval manor which was retained by the lord. In the corner straight ahead are the remaining walls of the mill. Now it's decision time - either enter the picnic area, or carry on a few hun-

dred yards up the Tow Law road and enjoy a pint in Uppertown, in the **Bay Horse**, before heading back downhill. Once in the picnic are, on the other side of the stream in the



field is a mound that was probably the Bishop's hunting lodge, destroyed by the Scots in 1316. Also around here, in a cave, lived a hermit called Alric, allegedly surrounded by wolves. Alric shared his cave with his disciple Goderic, who in his youth had been a pirate, proving that Weardale welcomes all sorts. On a trip to Lindisfarne he heard of the exploits of St Cuthbert and decided to follow his example. He went on pilgrimages to Rome and Jerusalem, served his hermit apprenticeship at Penrith and Eskdale before settling at Finchale near Durham. There he lived a very painful life, praying for hours up to his chin in water. He had a stone for a pillow, wore sackcloth and ate bread half made of ashes. However, he lived to 105 and became a saint.

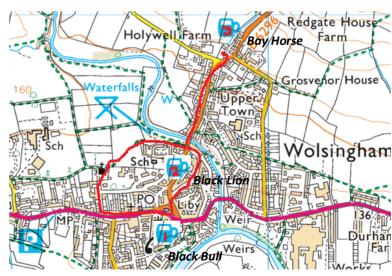
From the field go through the kissing gate and head towards the Church of St. Mary and St. Stephen. Enter the churchyard which is partly maintained by graz-

ing sheep. The church tower is mainly Norman but the rest of the church was rebuilt in 1848 at a cost of £1500.

Leave the church by the main gate. The building on your right is now the Masonic Hall but used to be the Grammar school. It was founded in 1612 by the Bishop for the free education of 18 boys, and even in the late 1800's thumb screws were still used as a form of punishment when any of the boys stepped out of line. The lane you are now on is Church Lane, and at the end Lane is Old Bank House; where an upper room was once used as a bank. 60 yards to the west of Church Lane on the main road is a 19th century cast iron mile stone. Designs such as this are now quite rare.

Go back towards the Market Place. The third house beyond Church Lane used to be the Post Office. When the postal service started the postwoman walked 16 miles to Durham with the mail, stayed the night and walked back the next morning. Opposite are Whitfield Cottages, dated MDCLXXVII—that's 1677 in today's money. Once they were the Pack Horse Inn, where Bonnie Prince Charlie is said to have ridden his horse up the stairs, presumable just before being barred. Next to the cottages is Whitfield house, built around 1700 when it was fashionable to have a large parapet hiding the roof and exaggerating the height. The trees in front of the house are evergreen Holm Oaks, a species imported from the Mediterranean and very rare in the North East.

Continue along the front street to return to your starting point. From here you pop into the Black Lion or Black Bull to quench your thirst, but don't forget the last bus leaves at 19:50!





Joe's Beer Quiz

Answers inside back page

- 1. How many gallons of water are needed to make one gallon of beer?

 7 gallons, 12 gallons, or 15 gallons
- 2. Which is the oldest working brewery in England?

 Samuel Smith, Shepherd Neame, or Camerons
- 3. When were hops first used in beer?

6th century, 9th century or 12th century

4. Which brewing giant recently took over Fullers brewery?

Asahi, ABinBev, or SAB Miller

- 5. What is the difference between a stout an a porter?

 Porters are stronger, the type of malt used, or stouts use less hops
- 6. Once tapped how long should real ale last?

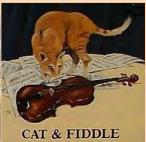
2-5 days, 3-7 days, or 7-14 days

7. What is the recommended dispense temperature for Real Ale? 11-13C, 7-10C, or 12-14C

- 8. Which beer has won CAMRA champion beer the most often?
 Fullers London Pride, Adnam's Ghost Ship, or Tim Taylors Landlord
- 9. What is the strongest beer in the world?
 Brewdog Sink the Bismarck, Schorschbrau 43, or Bemeistere Armageddon
- 10. What is the highest pub in England?

 Tan Hill Inn, Kirkstone Pass Inn, or Cat and Fiddle (Peak District)





It's one of our own!

The **Regional Pub of the Year** results are in, and the **Grey Horse**



at Consett is the winner for the North East! Massive congratulations to Sandra, Dave, and the team, who, after a relatively short time at the helm, have taken what was already a great pub and raised the bar (figuratively speaking). With a lot of boxes to tick regarding what makes a pub a regional winner, the **Grey Horse** came up trumps. Dating from 1848, the pub features unique décor in the form of murals depicting the inside of a pub in days gone by, open fires, a great choice of ales from the Consett Aleworks (conveniently located out the back) and beyond, regular beer festivals and community events.....the list goes on.

Suffice to say the Wilkinsons are chuffed to bits with the award and look forward to going to the national vote along with the other fifteen regional winners, which (in no particular order) are: The Bell Inn - in Aldworth, Berkshire, The Red Lion - Preston, Hertfordshire, The Smithfield - Derby, Derbyshire Flying Horse Hotel - Rochdale, Greater Manchester, Admiral's Arm - Queenborough, Kent, The Hope - Carshalton - London, Cricketers Arms - St Helens, Merseyside, Bridge Inn - Peebles, Scotland, Tom Cobley Tavern - Spreyton, Devon, The Hornet - Chichester, Sussex, Mansel Arms - Porthyrhyd, Carmarthenshire, The Firkin Shed - Bournemouth, The Prince Of Wales - Shrewsbury, Swan with Two Necks - Pendleton. Lancashire, The George & Dragon - Hudswell, Yorkshire. Exalted company indeed.

The national winner will be announced in February, so good luck to the Grey Horse, but in the meantime, why not come to the Regional presentation on November 2nd at 2pm?



Club of the Year runner-up

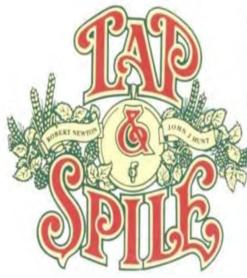
You'll have seen on the previous page that the Grey Horse in Consett has been recognised at the North East Regional Pub of the Year...well, **Tanfield Lea Club** finished in the runner-up spot in the North East Regional **Club of the Year** competition, narrowly behind Haltwhistle Comrades Club.

This is great recognition for Kay Drummond and the team up at Tanfield, who've provided a constant supply of varied—and top quality—real ale from all over the country over the years, while maintaining the community spirit of the club. With the typical club facilities of bar, concert room, and snooker room, Tanfield

Club has been recognised as catering for a wide range of needs, and ticking all the right boxes in the Club of the Year competition.



Congratulations!



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(AND ALL THEIR MATES)

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All Abroad!

CAMRA member Duncan Rippon, originally from South Shields but long in the Midlands, recently took a trip to Canada, and on his quest for interesting beer, discovered numbers 9 & 10 on the list pictured left. County Durham ESB and Black Katt Stout caught his attention, and soon after his taste-buds. The brewery is based in Pickering, Ontario, and Duncan found their wares in the Wenona Lodge, 1069 Blood Street West, in Toronto.

CAMRA Durham—
finding the decent
beer so you don't
have to—anywhere
in the world.



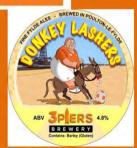


Happy belated 25th birthday!

CAMRA Durham's Neil Shaw presents a certificate of appreciation to Christine and Steve Gibbs to mark Durham Brewery's quarter century

3P ERS





All the way from Blackpool!

Find them at: Working Men's Club, Tanfield Lea Snooker Club and Half Moon, Darlington, Three Horse Shoes, Leamside, Green Hops Bar, Billingham

Monthly deliveries to the North East

Full beer list at www.3piersbrewery.com 07977 469326 info@3piersbrewery.com

So you don't have to (again)

Just when you thought it couldn't be done, we found Real Ale in Turkey.

Nestled in the "old village" in Icmeler, the next village south of Marmaris, is a small Turkish-owned and run bar called Tipsi beer and burger house. Cem (pronounced Chem) the owner runs a family-friendly bar decked out in American burger bar style, with trestle tables and benches, and large screen TV for sports.





Like the majority of Turks, Cem and his staff were very friendly and helpful. The menu was mainly burgers, hot dogs, pizzas and chips, so quite a good crowd of English families use the bar, hence it does get busy at lunch time and tea time. Check out the XXL Burger, which is a 1 kilo

burger with all the trimmings and chips (Adi had to have one). At £50 a go it sounds expensive but it's advertised for a family of 8 to "share".

The usual Efes, Tuborg, wines and spirits are available with

the addition of bottled ales made by a Turkish micro brewery called "Gara guzu" which directly translates to "Black sheep." (www.garaguzu.com.tr)





Among the selection was Red ale, 7%, Mayhos ale,

5.5%, Summer ale, 6%, India pale lager, 5%, and our favourite, Porter, at 6%.

As it happens, we had a copy of DD with us so Adi presented it to Cem. A place worthy of not just one but many visits.

Cheers, Davey



Pub and Club of the Year 2020 Nominations

For the competition a town is defined as any of Bishop Auckland, Chester-le-Street, Consett, Crook, Ferryhill, Peterlee, Seaham, Sedgefield, Spennymoor, Stanley and Tow Law

Please return form to box at Festival Entry Desk or Membership Desk
or email nominations to pubsofficer@camradurham.org.uk
or nominate online at https://camradurham.org.uk/potyvote
(Only 1 nomination per Durham Branch Member will be accepted. Membership number MUST be quoted.
Online nomination will take highest priority followed by email nomination)

Name:		
Membership Number:		

City Pub of the Year	_
Colpitts, Durham City	
Half Moon, Durham City	
Old Elm Tree, Durham City	
Station House, Durham City	
Victoria, Durham City	
Waiting Room, Durham City	1
Other (please specify)	1 1

Town Pub of the Year	
Bay Horse, Bishop Auckland	Ī
Butchers Arms, Chester-le-Street	
Coal House, Seaham	
Dun Cow, Sedgefield	
Frog & Ferret, Spennymoor	
Grey Horse, Consett	
Other (please specify)	

Country Pub of the Year	
Baa, Edmundbyers	
Black Bull, Frosterley	
Joiners Arms, Hunwick	-
Stapylton Arms, Hawthorn	
Surtees Arms, Ferryhill Station	
Three Horseshoes, Leamside	
Other (please specify)	

Club of the Year	Ξ
Durham City Rugby Club, Durham City	T
Masonic Centre, Chester-le-Street	T
Sedgefield Cricket Club, Sedgefield	T
Tanfield Lea WMC, Tanfield Lea	T
Other (please specify)	

These are only suggestions—if you have a favourite pub or club that's not on this page, please nominate it in the "other" section. We'd love to hear about people's favourite watering holes! Whatever your choice, please let us have your votes by

November 8th

City Cider Pub of the Year	
Bishops Mill, Durham City	T
Head of Steam, Durham City	T
John Duck, Durham City	T
Station House, Durham City	T
Water House, Durham City	Ť
Other (please specify)	Ť

A AV	_
Town Cider Pub of the Year	
Bay Horse, Bishop Auckland	
Caps Off, Bishop Auckland	
Grand Electric Hall, Spennymoor	
Horseshoe, Crook	
Wicket Gate, Chester-le-Street	
Other (please specify)	

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Smiley happy people having fun



We finally got the certificate to the Country Pub of the Year, the **Three Horse Shoes** at Leamside, taking the opportunity to visit their beer festival. Here's landlord Darryl Franklin, Andrew Giles of CAMRA, and brewer Matthew Booth of the Working Hand brewery. We love to make people happy!

North East Regional Pub and Club of the Year awards the full results

Pub of the Year

- 1. The Grey Horse, Consett
- 2. The Orb, Darlington
- 3. The Golden Smog, Stockton

Club of the Year



1. Halwhistle Comrades Club



2. Tanfield Lea WMC



3. Darlington Snooker Club



Brave New World

While the current trend seems to be the conversion of former retail units (that's shops to you and me) into micropubs, Amber Taverns have gone the other way.



The former Marks and Spencer supermarket in

Bishop Auckland, most recently a discount store, has been the subject of a most impressive conversion into a large pub. At 23 Newgate Street (the main shopping street) it provides the only pub between the Market Place and the

Mitre (if you're local, you'll appreciate the distance) and gives shoppers at that end of the town some where new to refresh themselves. Plenty were doing just that after the doors opened to the public for the first time on September 2nd.



Four real ales are available at a competitive

price—initially **Courage Best, Bombardier, Wainwright**, and **Pedigree.** There's sport TV in the spacious bar, and a fairly big roof terrace, or "sundeck" for the

optimistic, and it opens at ten AM. Manager Janice Shields is aiming to provide a modern community pub to the Bishop Auckland social scene.

Best of luck from CAMRA Durham on this new venture.



The Pubs Code (or, a lesson in inefficiency)

If you've read Durham Drinker over the last year or so you'll know we're no fans of the Pubs Code and its Adjudicator, who has proved to be as much use as (insert your own wisecrack here). The Government must have read DD as well, as they've recently announced a public consultation on the Pubs Code. CAMRA believes this legislation should be reformed in order to help safeguard pubs across England and Wales

The Pubs Code was established in 2016 and regulates the tenancies of large estates of tied pubs in England and Wales. It is enforced by a Pubs Code Adjudicator. Information on the Code and the Adjudicator can be found here: <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pubs-code-and-adjudicator/pu

In summary, CAMRA believes that when Parliament brought in the Pubs Code, its intention was for "Market Rent Only" arrangements to be a realistic option for publicans — but in reality, the number of pubs which have been able to adopt such an arrangement and break free of supply ties has been very small. The Government is required to review the Pubs Code and the Adjudicator's performance regularly and the first review, covering the period to 31 March 2019, has just been announced. A survey of over 400 tied pub tenants in England and Wales has revealed significant failures in the Pubs Code, which governs the relationship between tenants and large pub-owning companies.

CAMRA campaigned for nearly a decade for a Pubs Code to be put in place, but the survey has revealed it is currently failing tenants, sparking CAMRA to call on the Government to act to protect tied licensees across England and Wales—the Pubs Code does is not in place in Scotland. 75% of tenants reported that they don't think they are treated fairly and lawfully by their parent pub companies, whilst 73% felt that they were worse off than a free of tie tenant. Furthermore,

one in five tenants who have legal rights under the Code was completely unaware of the Market Rent Only option - an important component of the legislation that allows them to buy beer on the open market at the point of their contract renewal. Nik Antona, CAMRA National Chairman said: "We wanted to gain an accurate picture of the views of tied licensees in England and Wales. The Pubs Code Adjudicator currently relies on pub companies to audit licensees opinions, which we believe has skewed responses. It's clear from our survey that there are significant failures with the current Pubs Code. With a new Prime Minister and Cabinet, the on-going Review is the first chance for the new Government to show that they will be taking positive action to support tied pub tenants and consumer choice."

The results of the CAMRA survey have been submitted to the Government to feed into the much anticipated review of the Pubs Code. Any interested parties can read the full submission on the CAMRA website at www.camra.org.uk/campaign-resources.

If you support CAMRA's position on this, why not write to your MP drawing their attention to CAMRA's consultation submission?

More essential pub and club visits

Every year, the pubs and clubs submitted for entry into the Good Beer Guide need to be checked—just like those in the Regional Pub and Club of the Year competition. So CAMRA Durham arrange survey trips to allow our members to have a look at the various pubs and clubs.

To this end, in mid August, we took a little trip out east, where we visited premises in Seaham, Hawthorn, and beyond. As is usual for most of these



trips, the weather held up, and important assessments were made—such as at the Stapylton Arms, Hawthorn, pictured left.

There will be more trips in the future, so please keep and eye on our online diary, and get yourselves along.

Picture Quiz

can you name these local hostelries?







11



If you pass by and thirsty be
The fault's on you and not on me
For here we stand, hinder none
Refresh, pay up and journey on.







Answers inside back page

CAMRA members get discount here....

- Italian Farmhouse, Coxhoe: 20p off a pint of S43 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: CAMRA Vouchers
- Chilton Country Pub & Hotel, Fencehouses: 15% off real ale and food 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 CAM-RA 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, CAMRA vouchers
- The Waiting Room, Durham 5% discount on cask ales (not keg) on production of valid CAMRA membership card
- Packhorse, Burnopfield, 10% off real ale on production of valid CAMRA card
- Grey Horse, Consett, 10p a pint on production of valid CAMRA card
- Whitehills, Chester le Street, CAMRA vouchers
- Sticky Wicket, Riverside cricket ground, 10% off cask ales, but not on County matchdays



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







Festival update...

The 39th Durham Beer Festival came and went from August 28th-31st, with Durham City Rugby Club once again proving to a cracking venue. After the festival was officially opened by Steve Gibbs in recognition of his Durham Brewery's 25th birthday, exactly 1,000 entry packages were sold, and 282 CAMRA members attended. Of these, 135 were from CAMRA Durham, 8 from Darlington, 14 from Cleveland, 54 from Sunderland and South Tyneside, 24 from Tyneside and Northumberland, 4 from York, and 43 from assorted other branches. There were also 13 Rugby Club members, and 704 who weren't members of anything that we could count! All those good people supped 3,300 pints of cask, 350 pints of KeyKeg, and 330 pints of cider, which made for a very successful and, more importantly, enjoyable festival.

Thankfully, only three beers didn't turn up—but the respective breweries did send replacements, and no-one seemed to mind too much. Festival-goers had the chance to watch Lonely Tower's Vaux documentary in the company of Mark Anderson of Maxim Brewery

while they enjoyed their beers. On the souvenir front, Derek Hall

brought a Presto carrier bag to take his festival glass home in. As the last Presto closed in 1998, this has to be the oldest carrier bag to visit a beer festival—unless you know better.



Signed up—one of the good people who joined up at the festival



First brew from the South

Causey brewery



John Collinson and Sean Quilty - "put your spare pounds in the bucket"

Beer of the Festival was a draw! Coach House Blueberry Classic and Brinkburn Little House of the Rising Sun tied for first place, while Cider was Venton's Sweet

Maid of Devon.



Ready to go



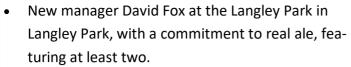
All the way from Northampton



Steve Gibbs pulls the first pint, his own Edge of Twenty Five, before he and Christine chatted with Maxim's Mark Anderson



The Good—Real Ale now available, and other nice things



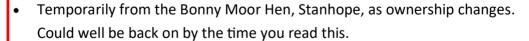


- The Blacksmiths Arms at West Auckland has reopened, but no real ale.
- The South Causey brewery has started up at the South Causey Inn.
- The Tap and Tun has opened on Newgate Street in Bishop Auckland, featuring four real ales.
- Oddfellows, Seaham has one ale and one cider on handpump.
- Stag's Head at Esh Winning reopened after refurbishment, but we don't know if ale will be available. Let us know if you find out!
- The Sticky Wicket at the Riverside cricket ground now has real cider
- The Bridge Hotel, Durham, has increased its beer options to offer ales from further afield



The Bad—real ale removed

- The Merry Monk, Bishop Auckland.
- Kings Head, Cockfield.



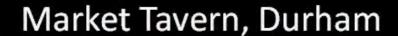


The Ugly—closures & stuff

• The Woodman, Durham, after new tenants pulled out on the eve of taking over. Hopefully a temporary situation



• The Big Jug, Claypath, but this should be open soon





Cask ales and traditional food

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

Association

10% discount for CAMRA members

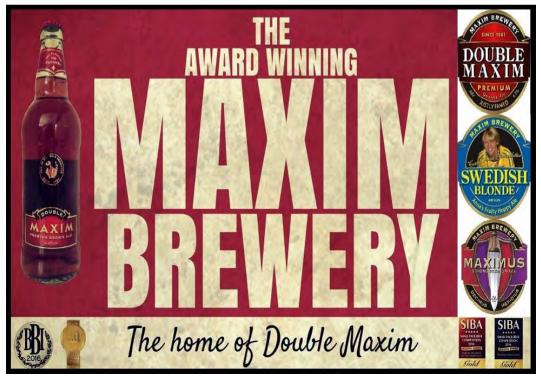
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DID YOU KNOW?

Beer Duty is a tax paid when producing and selling beer, and is a calculation based on the ABV (alcohol by volume) of the beer. UK beer duty is already three times the EU average and the government plans to increase it, in line with RPI, every year for the foreseeable future. Pubs are under a range of tax pressures, including Beer Duty, business rates and VAT. Today 1 in 3 pounds spent in pubs goes to the taxman and latest research predicts almost 20,000 people will lose their jobs if Beer Duty increases go ahead as planned, not to mention the devastating impact on the communities local pubs serve and support. By writing to your local MP and signing the petition to cut the tax on beer, we can keep our local pubs communities, jobs and industries thriving.

THE STAPYLTON ARMS HAWTHORN VILLAGE – SR7 8SD





Lucky thirteen go mad in North East Region

Pub and Club of the Year judging trip, that is. Thirteen CAMRA Durham members travelled across the region in June to assess the nominees in neighbouring CAMRA areas, and to have a general look at interesting pubs around the North East. As is tradition al for such events, a **Water House** breakfast was the start of the day, before heading off to the **Fox Hole, Piercebridge**. The vagaries of

satnav chose the strangest route taking us down miles of country lanes it seemed, but at least it was a nice day and the scenery matched the weather. Formerly the Wheatsheaf and the Carlbury Arms) The Fox Hole had three beers on offer, including one from **Mithril**, which is a bit of a novelty for us Durham folk.



Darlington Snooker Club was next, where six beers, and some snooker, were available. Some of the party were reliably informed that it was a short walk from there to the **Orb**, but they'd obviously not been on our last trip. Having made their way across town in the rain, the rest of the party arrived - in the bus. Same as last time, if I remember correctly. The **Orb** was very bright and comfortable, offered CAMRA discount and unprompted tasters, and proved popular with our party. Much discussion was had over whether the strong flavour in the **Three Brothers Big Brew** was coconut or peach, but the ladies all thought it was lovely. While one member of the party got very possessive of their beermat, another nipped along Skinnergate for a bagful of **Taylor's Pies**

(just like last time.)

From there it was a quick hop along the A66 to the **Golden Smog** in **Stockton**, one of the area's first micropubs, then after missing out on the **Ship** in **High Hesleden** due to holidays, found ourselves at the **Castle Eden Inn**, as bladders were near bursting point.



and **Hadrian Border** beers, before heading back into Durham. As ever, the "final stop" meant only the final stop before we left the bus, so other drinks were had in town. It's compulsory, you know.

Once relieved we were able to sample the tree ales - including **Taylor's Golden Best,** which you don't see often in Durham— available in a very busy pub, and sit in the sun to compare notes.

Our final stop was **Three Horseshoes** at **Running Waters**, where there were beers from **Durham**



Many thanks to Paul of DH1 travel for



adapting the bus journey to accommodate his satnav and our requests for alternative stop-offs. Only one hat was left on the bus—just like last time.

We run similar

trips to judge nominees each year, or whenever deemed necessary, so keep an eye on our online diary, or **Durham Drinker**, for the next dates and get yourselves along.











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Please

What score your beers!

- No cask ale available.
- 1. Poor. Beer that is anything from barely drinkable to drinkable with considerable resentment.
- 2. Average. Competently kept, drinkable pint but doesn't inspire in any way, not worth moving to another pub
- 3. Good. Good beer in good form. You may cancel plans to move to the next pub.
- 4. Very Good. Excellent beer in excellent condition.
- 5. Perfect. Probably the best you are ever likely to find. A seasoned drinker will award this score very rarely. data.beerscoring.org.uk.

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RACING UK

The Answers Bit...

Picture Quiz 1 = 1815 bar, Royal County Hotel, Durham. 2 = Frog & Ferret, Spennymoor. 3 = Caps Off, Bishop Auckland 4 = Winning Post, Spennymoor. 5 = Grand, Bishop Auckland. 6 = Langley Park, Langley Park. 7 = Travellers' Rest, Crook. 8 = Green Tree, Tudhoe Village. 9 = Court Inn, Durham. 10 = Swan & Three Cygnets, Durham. 11 = Cross Keys, Eastgate

Joe's Beer Quiz 1 = 7 gallons. 2 = Shepherd Neame. 3 = 9th. 4 = Asahi. 5 = Type of malt. 6 = 3-7 days. 7 = 11-13C. 8 = Timothy Taylor Landlord. 9 = Bemeistere Armageddon (65%aby!!). 10 = Tan Hill Inn (1732ft)

TOLD YOU SO!

A recent YouGov survey conducted for CAMRA has shown real ale drinkers are reaping the personal and social wellbeing benefits of pub-going. The survey found, excluding those who don't know, 56 per cent of regular real ale drinkers who go to pubs have made one friend or more there, compared to 35 per cent of the general pub-going population. Furthermore, 30 per cent of real ale drinkers report making five or more mates from their pub visits (pictured), compared to just 16 per cent of all pub-goers, when excluding those who don't know. Research conducted in 2016 with Oxford University shows people who have a local pub are happier, more trusting and better-connected to their community. Given the pivotal role pubs play, CAMRA is calling for substantial reforms to better support the industry and keep pubs open and thriving. This includes a preferential rate of duty for beer sold in the on-trade, greater support for publicans tied to large pubcos and a significant cut in pubs business rates.

CAMRA's national chairman Nik Antona said: "Pubs play a significant role in communities across the country. It's vital the government continues to reduce closures so pubs remain at the heart of communities.

"In addition, it is imperative that beer drinkers continue to support pubs by visiting them. Our Summer of Pub campaign aims to show what they have to offer and remind people how important they are to communities."

CAMRA's North East Regional Pub of the Year





THERE ARE STILL SOME FIRES BURNING BRIGHT IN CONSETT

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