



CAMPAIGN
FOR
REAL ALE

Issue 137

Autumn 2021

*Free! Please
take one*

Durham Drinker

Inside:

- *Pubs approach normality*
- *More awards for Durham Brewery*
- *We attempt to update pub news—an awful lot has happened*
- *Diary dates as we attempt a return to a social calendar*



The Pollards, Bishop Auckland

Hello and welcome to issue 137 of Durham Drinker.

After a year and a half of “virtual” magazines, we’re back in print and in pubs and clubs again. It’s been a strange period in which the resilience of the UK’s hospitality industry has been tested like never before. The pandemic has meant extended periods of closure which many predicted would sound the death-knell for pubs and clubs as we know them— yet the vast majority have come out of the other side and returned to something approaching normality. Never before has the social aspect of popping put for a pint been so emphatically forced into the spotlight—humans are a sociable animals, and while we all need the periods of solitude to contemplate the meaning of life, such subjects are almost always better discussed with others. It matters not whether those we discuss things with are old acquaintances or chance meetings with the person next to you at the bar. To be honest, it doesn’t even have to be a serious subject at all - three's nothing like talking nonsense with friends old and new for an hour or two to raise the spirits.

As we try to return to normal, CAMRA Durham have been trying some informal midweek get-togethers. So far we’ve had great afternoons at Shildon and Spennymoor, so watch out for future events. No agenda, no minutes, just trying some beer in pubs we don’t get to as often as we’d like.

There we have it—we may be back to somewhere approaching normal, and all being well we won’t suffer another lockdown. Enjoy your new-found freedom

Cheers, Paul Dobson

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Diary Dates:

- 8th—17th October CAMRA Celebration event watch social media for details
- Wednesday October 13th, 7:30pm, branch meeting, The Library, Sadler Street, Durham
- Wednesday October 20th to Sunday October 31st, Wetherspoon real ale festival, all Wetherspoon pubs across the country
- November 10th – 7:30pm branch meeting, The Surtees, Ferryhill Station
- December 21st (Tuesday) CAMRA Durham Christmas social, the Masonic Centre, Chester le Street.



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In Durham, the **Elvet Cider Company** has arrived.

Using windfall apples and others that would otherwise be wasted as well as straightforward donations, they are producing cider that will appear next year. If you have any apples you don't want, they can be dropped off at The **Weigh To Shop** at 24 Front Street, Framwellgate, or after hours at the nearby **Fram Ferment**.

A cider maker in Durham is something to look forward to, and 2021 a good vintage. See their Facebook page for more information

JD Wetherspoon will be holding their first **real ale festival** in a year, from October 20th to the 31st, featuring twenty special festival ales, including vegan and vegetarian options. To help you make the most of the range on offer, there will be the usual third of a pint glasses available—three for a the price of a pint.

CAMRA Durham committee

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Membership secretary: John McAninly

Durham Drinker, publications, & campaigns: Paul Dobson

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Pubs Preservation: Peter Jones

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Club Campaigns: Dave Thornton

Brewery Liaison Officers

Durham: Neil Shaw

Consett Ale Works: John Collinson

Hill Island: David Thornborrow

Yard of Ale: Arthur Corner

Weard'Ale: Paul Dobson

George Samuel: Paul Dobson

S43: Peter Jones

Castle Eden: Arthur Corner

McColl's: Paul Dobson

Hopper House Farm: Peter Jones

South Causey Richard Fletcher

Black Storm: pending

Caps Off: Paul Dobson

North Pier: Paul Dobson

Bishop Auckland: Paul Dobson



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tive advertising rates.***

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Coming Soon: CAKE!

A warm welcome awaits you on the East Sussex coast!

CAMRA's Members' Weekend, AGM & Conference will be hosted by our Sussex branches at the **Winter Garden in Eastbourne 8-10 April 2022.**

After two years without a physical event, hundreds of members have already registered to attend – to see what Sussex has to offer by way of great beer, cider and perry. The weekend is a chance to meet friends, make new ones, go on organised brewery trips and take part in activities.

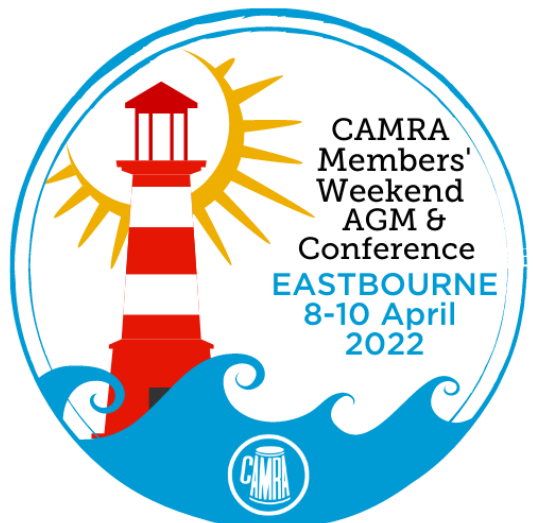
It's free to attend and open to all CAMRA members.

The weekend is staffed by volunteers – with a range of opportunities to help on offer.

All the information is on the event page – where you can register to attend / sign up to help - go to

www.camra.org.uk/members-weekend-agm-conference

Or email membersweekend@camra.org.uk



House of Commons Hospitality Debate 24th March 2021



We realise that this took place six months ago, but it's an example of how CAMRA Durham has been putting the C back in Campaigning. Read on....

*The House of Commons has held a much-needed backbench debate on the hospitality industry. The debate was lively, well attended and involved lots of MPs from the length and breadth of the UK. We were lucky to find four MPs from our branch area on the call paper. Grahame Morris, MP for Easington, Paul Howell, MP for Sedgefield, Richard Holden, MP for North West Durham and Mary Kelly Foy, MP for the City of Durham were due to speak. Sadly, **Richard Holden** was unable to speak due to time constraints, but on the same day he had authored a letter signed by many MPs to have reduced beer duty for ales sold on licensed premises.*



The Branch had a keen interest in this debate, having invested lots of time since Christmas meeting all six of our local representatives. We thank all members, committee members, publicans and brewers who have engaged in this effort, and are pleased to report that our MPs presented a united picture of the need to support pubs, clubs, and breweries now, and into the future.

Mary Foy was keen to highlight the need to make employment in pubs more sustainable and fairer, whilst recognising the importance of pubs to our region. 'Esh Winning needs the Stag's Head; Brandon, the Brawn's Den', before she stated that the current support for the whole hospitality industry is not enough, given the pain of the last year. Mary asked for long term change, on the back of 5500 pub closures since 2010, saying she wants the government to create 'a hospitality commission that can identify the needs of the sector while helping to move it



away from its reliance on low-paid, insecure work’.

Grahame Morris was unequivocal that a year of lock downs, the nature of government support and covid suppression measures have had a serious impact on the overall hospitality sector, costing 650,000 jobs already, which is the sharpest impact of any sector. He went on to state, ‘I want to place on record my thanks to those businesses, which could have traded and employed people, for doing all they could to cut covid transmissions.’. Grahame voiced support for the extension of the time period that 5% VAT on food sales will apply, as part of helping businesses survive.



It is worth repeating Grahame’s whole section on Small Brewers’ Relief. ‘I want to say a few words about the small brewing industry, which is under threat from Government policy. In my constituency, the Castle Eden brewery is not only suffering from lack of demand and a lack of grant support, its business has been put at risk by the Government’s proposed changes to small brewers relief. There is a simple solution: retain the relief at 5,000 hectolitres and stop the proposed cut to 2,100 hectolitres. It would be a scandal if small brewers survive covid only to be put out of business by ill-conceived reforms to the small brewers relief.’

Paul Howell spoke with passion about the place that hospitality venues, including pubs and clubs, have in people’s lives and communities. He mentioned individual pubs, that included the Surtees Arms/Yard of Ale Brewery, and its landlord, Alan Hogg, as being typical of the places he was lending support to. Paul said, ‘The actions taken to frustrate the pandemic could not have been more focused on this industry if they tried.’ He welcomed the support offered, but wants it to go further, in line with our Branch’s aims.



Paul said, ‘I would encourage another look at extending the 5% VAT rate to alcohol sales on licensed premises, as well as an extension in time.’ He also supported Richard Holden’s letter that supports lowering beer duty on sales on licensed premises, which is another way of achieving the same effect of enabling our pubs and clubs to compete on a more

equal footing with supermarkets. He went on to suggest that more support beyond the current deadlines of grants, the furlough scheme and business rates holidays will be needed, given that many pubs and clubs will likely only open in June/July.

Paul finished by placing in perspective the scale of the issues at hand. Pubs and clubs, the places that are the heart of our community and all of their supporting suppliers are at risk and put simply 'We need to go above and beyond for them to give them the opportunity to give us our good times back.'

From a branch perspective, having three of our MPs speak and all mention issues that are central to our campaigning was pleasing. We were particularly pleased to hear them supporting the idea of a 5% VAT rate for alcohol sales on licensed premises (or beer duty reduced to achieve the same effect), to hear they wanted further targeted support for pubs and clubs, that Small Brewers Relief changes should be halted and that they asked for the sheer scale of the problems facing pubs, small brewers, and clubs to be recognised and confronted. We thank our MPs for highlighting these issues and will continue to work with them as we all find a way through this time, hopefully into a brighter future of ale, cider, pubs, clubs, and vibrant brewers, all at the heart of our communities.

The MPs' full speeches are on Hansard: [Hansard, Hospitality Debate, 24th March 2021](#)

Over the months since this debate, we've continued our dialogue with MPs, and the council, via Zoom and other online facilities, with Paul Howell attending a branch meeting in person in the August. We will strive to keep this dialogue going, and involve our neighbouring CAMRA branches to provide a larger presence when it comes to putting big questions to the people who make the big decisions..

Watch this space for reports on progress.

Bully Boys

Just over the Pennines in neighbouring Lakeland, a popular holiday destination for many CAMRA Durham folks, Marston's appear to be employing some dodgy business tactics.

As the Keswick Reminder newspaper reported in July..... *anger is mounting after a national brewery called chucking out time for five North Lakeland pub families.*

Marston's, owner of Jennings Brewery, is not renewing the publicans' licences next year and the move is making them jobless and a number homeless.

Some of the publicans affected have invested heavily into their businesses.

The move has provoked a backlash from the Keswick community with calls for Marston's to reconsider and even threats of a local boycott if landlords are replaced with managers from out of the area.

The pubs are the Oddfellows Arms, Bank Tavern, George Hotel and Twa Dogs Inn at Keswick and the Royal Oak in Braithwaite.

Carl Maloney, of the Oddfellows Arms, has set up a petition calling for a change in the law to prevent pub companies from "evicting" business owners without proper cause.

The legislation – the Landlord and Tenants Act – which allows brewing companies to not renew licences providing the business takes over operations itself was created in 1954 and Mr Maloney says reform is needed.

One signatory, Ronnie McDonnell (a CAMRA Durham member), wrote: "This is grossly unfair on the tenants of these pubs who have spent a large amount of time, effort and money in building their businesses."

Prominent public figures have also voiced their concerns and leading the charge is Keswick mayor Alan Dunn, who organised Keswick Beer Festival and was chairman of the local CAMRA branch.

“It’s really good to see the petition going well,” he said. “I do feel as if Keswick is being picked on.

“The pubs here get big turnovers and so Marston’s are gutting the Keswick community just for profit.”

Keswick’s MP Trudy Harrison said she has been in touch with Marston’s following concerns voiced by a constituent.

Marston’s said talks with tenants are always confidential.

A month earlier, a similar situation arose in Bedale, where Lindsay and Mark Plumpton had spent over three years building up trade at the Green Dragon – after suffering the trials of lockdown and eventually reopening, they were called to a meeting in June and served with three months’ notice.

This “business” practice of allowing trade to be built up before either shipping in managers rather than tenants, or hiking rents to drive existing tenants out, has been spreading over recent years and it is very disappointing, if not surprising, that a company which was once regarded as one of the “nice” regional brewers is now resorting to such measures.

It seems only a matter of time before we see a pub in CAMRA Durham’s area suffering a similar fate. Let’s hope that the petitions and representations to MPs can reverse the situation and prevent it happening again in the future.

Bygone breweries of County Durham

Forsters Brewery

Forsters brewery (please note the 'R') was a small to medium sized brewery in the village of Bishop Middleham, about 2 miles to east of Ferryhill. Its origins are somewhat cloudy but in about



1820 an Anthony Reed started the brewery, his brother Robert took it over, he then sold it to the Hodgeson family. They married into the Forster Family in 1870, but the moderately extensive brewery was burnt down in 1899 and was rebuilt in 1901.

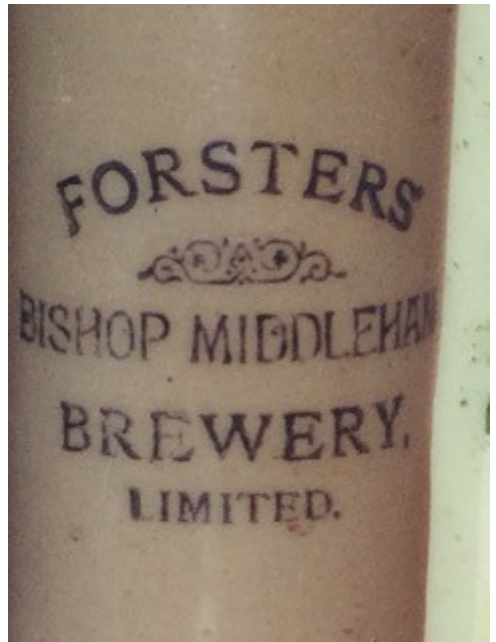
The new brewery was designed by a Stephen Wilkinson from Pelton it was a specular four story tower brewery with an oriental style cupola in the centre, three corner towers and a large tower like chimney on SW corner. This prestigious building, if around today, would be a listed building. (see photos)

The cost of the rebuild and the start of rationalisation in the brewing industry led to Forsters being bought out by Newcastle Breweries in 1909 and brewing ceased in 1930. Newcastle brewery maintained it



as a bottling and storage plant. During world war one when most of the brewery's workers where away on service, boys and girls where employed in the bottling process.

In the mid-thirties the brewery became a Government sponsored adult school for the retraining of the unemployed. It was later abandoned but during the second world war it became a prisoner of war camp for Italian and later German POWs. Newcastle breweries took it back again in 1950s as a distribution centre employing 20 men. It was finally abandoned in 1960 and demolished in 1964.



The site of the brewery opposite the Cross Keys pub, remains an open space grassed over and a children's play area, to the rear remains what may have been where the drays collected the barrels.

The brewery owned 36 pubs, situated mainly within 10 miles of Bishop Middleham but they had six in North Yorkshire. The furthest north being "The Oddfellows Arms" one of eight pubs that existed in Witton

Gilbert in 1894, and the furthest south The Royal Hotel in Thirsk, which still stands. The furthest east was the Stockton Hotel in Redcar and on the furthest west side in Willington, The Lion & Unicorn - both of which still stand.

Sadly, of the 36 listed a mere 15 are still open although it's possible some pubs may have changed their names. Oddly only one out of four pubs in Bishop Middleham was owned by the brewery, the Dun Cow which closed about 20 years ago, and the Cross keys opposite the brewery isn't on the list. There are no pubs listed in Sedgefield, which is only three miles away.

But what about the beers? Well this may be for another day. The Breweries archives are part of the huge S&N archives which are now in the Newcastle archives. I con-

tacted them, and they said the archives concerning Forsters brewery



have yet to be catalogued. This is further complicated by the current Covid pandemic, but one day I'll be able to find the pubs, so look out for them in future issues of Durham Drinker.



Grand Autumn Quiz

nee Googling, mind

Answers inside back page



- 1) Who was the first poet to be given the title of Poet Laureate?
- 2) In what year was the Black Sheep Brewery founded ?
- 3) What is the most common pub name in the country?
- 4) In which city was the composer Delius born ?
- 5) Where is the world's longest railway station seat ? *Clue –it's in Yorkshire*
- 6) Who first said “a week is a long time in politics” ?
- 7) From which fruit was marmalade originally made?
- 8) What is the correct name for the small hammer used to test reflexes?
- 9) Name the four Spanish Costas
- 10) What is the Star of Sierra Leone ?
- 11) Where does the trans Siberian railway finish ? Eastern end, of course.
- 12) What colour is the Tellytubby La La ?
- 13) If you do a Copperhead Road or a Cowboy Cha Cha, what on earth are you doing?
- 14) Where is fireman Sam's station ?
- 15) Outside which London building were the first traffic lights installed ?

Pub and brewery news...and there's a lot of it, so pay attention !

The last year or so might have seemed like a crazy time to be opening a brewery or a pub, but there's no stopping some people. Ali Wild of **Caps Off** in Bishop Auckland pushed ahead with plans to brew his own, and opened Caps Off Brewery in the town, a few minutes' walk from the pub. They currently brew three beers – Pale (4.3%), IPA (5.0%), and Brown (7.4%) – as well as doing collaborative work with other local brewers. **Hops and Dots** brewery have also relocated to the same premises from Cleveland.

The **North Pier Brewery** has relocated from Sunderland to become Tow Law's first brewery, with the first batches of cask Pale Ale landing at the **Victoria** in Witton le Wear in September after other ales were trialled at **Blues Micropub** in Whitburn.

Also imminent is the **Bishop Auckland Brewing Company**, which set its first brew, Betty's, away in late September, and it should be available in the **Sportsman** in the town by the time you read this.

George Samuel brewery, formerly of Spennymoor, has re-opened in Shildon with its own bar at the **Canteen Bar & Kitchen**. It's in the former BR wagon works canteen, and brewer Andrew Ferriman has brought back the popular. The bar opened on September 11th 2020, and provides a welcome drop of real ale in a town which suffered from a distinct lack of the stuff until recently. Harvey Porter, already a CAMRA award winner from the brewery's previous incarnation in Spennymoor, Travelling Light, and Locomotion No. 1 were the initial brews, and further ales have followed including Leaves On The Line, Terminus, and lockdown special Tiers For Fears

Just up the road, the **Railway Institute** (The Stute) now offers George Samuel's beers, and they've also featured across town at the **Red Lion** on Association Street. New owners have introduced real ale for the first time in living memory, with the emphasis on local brews. There are normally three on offer, and these are augmented by regular blues music sessions.

Another pub that has started offering real ale for the first time in living memory is the **Edge Hotel** in Woodland, the most southerly handpump in the CAMRA Durham area. New owners quickly installed that handpump and got Consett Pale on – with the cask beer proving very popular.

While it never closed, **Weard'Ale** brewery at the **Hare and Hounds** in Westgate ceased brewing temporarily for obvious reasons – the pub was shut. It was back up and running once the doors re-opened in July, providing refreshment for folks up the dale.

McColl's in Evenwood maintained their brewing through lockdown by doing home deliveries, and now have an extended bar area which is open most Fridays and Saturdays.

While the **Grey Horse** in Consett was closed, **Consett Aleworks** brewery continued to produce ale, with twice-weekly home deliveries, or pick-ups from the premises, keeping the thirsts of North West Durham slaked during lockdown. New beers have followed the arrival of a new brewer- Consett Pale and Foreman's IPA amongst them. The pub reopened in the summer and held a successful beer festival.

Completely new to the pub scene is the **Little Tap**, on King Street in Spennymoor, the town's first micro-pub, which has just celebrated its first anniversary, having opened its doors on September 13th 2020, offering a range of beers from the **Durham Brewery**. Ales from other local breweries have followed, and the place has already built up a strong following despite the restrictions on social activity.

The **Inn Between** in Seaham now offers real ale, with Skinner's Betty Stogs bitter all the way from Cornwall being the latest offering. Another new outlet is the **Coach and Horses** at Annfield Plain, and cask Sam Smiths has returned to Durham's **Swan and Three Cygnets** – but, at the time of writing, Sam Smiths was still seeking someone to run the **Colpitts**, and it remains closed.

The Lodge at Toronto, near Bishop Auckland, closed and reopened under the new name of **The Bishops Lodge** and offers real ale.

After a period of closure, the **Fighting Cocks** in Durham has recently reopened with two real ales on offer, and earlier in the year the **Tap and Spile** at Framwellgate also opened its doors after a period of closure following the departure of landlady Lesley, having been bought by the Craft Union Pub Co. Real ale is on here as well. **The City Hotel** reopened, with real ale and CAMRA discount, while nearby the **Half Moon** underwent a tasteful refurbishment and upgrade of the outside drinking area. Over the road, the **Court Inn** remains closed.

In Spennymoor, the **Railway** has reopened after a period of closure so we'll have to pop in to see if any ale is on offer. Also in Spennymoor, the football club decided against renewing their lease at the **Moors Tavern**, instead shifting their hospitality to the bar in the football ground. The pub remains closed.

In Crook the **Travellers Rest** has reopened after a lengthy, lockdown-induced closure, while in Sedgefield, the **Hopper House Brew Farm** is up and running again.

Following the lockdown refurbishment (something a number of pubs took the opportunity to carry out) of the rear of the **Pollards** in Bishop Auckland, landlord Chris will soon be restyling the bar area to optimise the seating arrangements – with the five handpumps remaining firmly in place.

Less encouraging, but perhaps understandable under the circumstances, is the fact that a number of pubs have closed their doors. The future of the **Glendenning Arms** in Witton Gilbert, after the sad passing of long-term landlord Tex, is as yet uncertain, with the rumour mill in full swing. Up the road in Lanchester, the **Kings** closed some months ago and remains so.

Up Gillesgate, the saga of the **Woodman** continues, as rumours of another change of ownership circulate. It's still closed for the foreseeable future, though. Over the river in Shincliffe, work on the **Seven Stars** progresses and it looks like reopening may not be too far away.

The **Travellers Rest** on Broomside Lane in Belmont tried real ale, but without success, while just down the road (Stirk's steakhouse at) the **Belmont**, formerly the Sportsman, has removed the real ale.

There'll be no real ale for the foreseeable future at the **Langley Park** pub in Langley Park.

All of this pub “news” is brought to you by a small but perfectly-formed band of volunteers – which we’re hoping to expand. If you’d like to help us out by being a pub contact, please let us know. All it involves is letting us know what you find in the pubs you visit. If you’d like to be a dedicated contact for a particular pub or place, all it involves is keeping up to date with that beers are on offer and passing that information to CAMRA Durham via our pubs officer, Dave Thornton at **pub-sofficer@camradurham.org.uk** The more the merrier!

Big congratulations to

DURHAM
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for their latest achievements



As part of CAMRA’s 50th birthday celebrations, Gold Awards were made to 50 people, groups of people, or businesses who have made a special and significant contribution to CAMRA’s aims, helping us get where we are to-day. Durham Brewery is one of those chosen.

In CAMRA’s Champion Beer of Britain awards, their bottled Temptation won silver, only being edged out of top spot by Hogsback A over T.

Unfortunately, there simply isn’t enough space in this magazine to list all of Durham Brewery’s awards—let’s just say these latest two join a very long list.

Many congratulations to all at the brewery!

					
Hogsback Brewery A Over T		Durham Brewery Temptation		Harvey's Brewery Imperial Extra Double Stout	
					
Crouch Vale Brewery Yakima Gold		Stubborn Mule Brewery Single Hop IPA		Mersea Island Brewery Island Oyster	



The Bishop Auckland Brewing Company is busy with its first brew, with Brian Yorston of Brewlab mentoring brewer Richard Burns at their South Church site near the town. The ten barrel plant will initially produce Betty's, a brown ale, and you should see that in the Sportsman in Bishop Auckland Market Place in the very near future. Other ales will follow.



Such has been the popularity of the real ale at the **Masonic Centre** in Chester le Street that they've increased the number of Handpumps to five.



CAMPAIGN
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Durham Drinker

New Moon on Elvet

A couple of years ago, CAMRA Durham was among a large number of people opposing some pretty thoughtless suggestions for renovations at the Half Moon on Elvet. Thankfully, these plans were rejected as being unsuitable – and a revised refurbishment took place this summer, with the bar getting some shiny new tiles and paintwork, and the outdoor area becoming partially covered, with a retractable roof over one section. If you've already visited, I think you'll agree that the work has been done in good taste and hasn't spoilt the general feel or appearance of the pub.



Inside, the bar's still the bar and the back room's still the back room, and the pictures of the Big Meeting and local characters still adorn the walls.

Most importantly, however, there's still Draught Bass and Taylor's Landlord on offer alongside another real ale.



Picture Quiz

can you name these local hostelries?

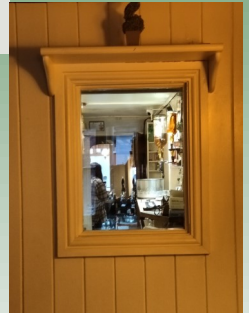
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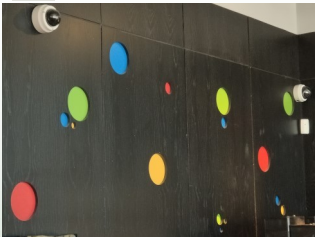
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10



Answers inside back page



Planning

One of the on-going features of lockdown has been the application to turn the **Smiths Arms** at **Castle Dene**, near Chester le Street, into a residential property. A group of locals formed the Save the Smiths campaign, and, with advise from CAMRA, worked very hard to gather local support and put together a strong case for the owners at least trying to keep what had been one of the area's most popular real ale pubs going as a pub.

The application was eventually rejected, but an appeal by the owner was launched against the rejection. This was also rejected after lengthy deliberation by the council, so there is a possibility that someone will be found to take on the Smiths as a viable business opportunity—and restore it to its former glory as one of the region's premier watering holes.

THE STAPYLTON ARMS

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Quiz Night - Sunday

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North East Parliamentary Pub of the Year Winner 2019

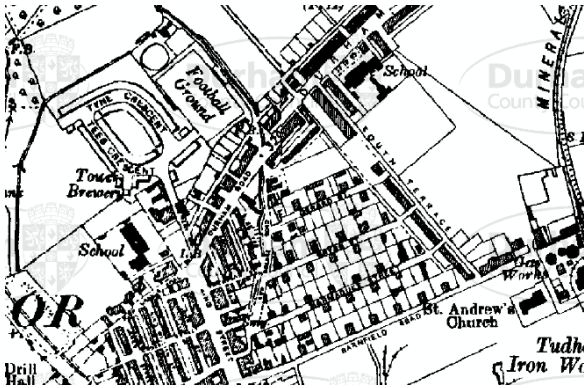
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Tower Brewery Tudhoe

This brewery was in Tudhoe Grange, to all intents part of Spennymoor, which in 1900 was a thriving town with population of 6,000, 850 of whom were employed at the Tudhoe Iron works. There were also four collieries, with the largest being Tudhoe colliery which employed 1,700 people.



All of this was heavy work which created some thirsts that needed quenching, so not surprisingly there was a brewery in town. The site of the Tower Brewery in Tudhoe Grange - which lay at the north end of King street (where you'll find ale at the Little Tap) just to the west of the playing fields known as Brewery

Field, today the home of Spennymoor Town FC of the Vanarama National League North, and winners (at Wembley Stadium) of the 2013 FA Vase.

The brewery was started by George H Ogleby on land leased from the Salvin estate of Croxdale Hall in 1871, although some records indicate that it was in operation from 1864. He wasn't there long, retiring six years later in 1877, when he put the brewery up for sale - although it did close for several years when its water, which was taken from a spring in the dene behind Wood Vue, became contaminated, probably because of local mine workings.

It was eventually purchased and re-opened in the mid-1880s by Patrick Bruce Junor, who had previously been involved with the West End Brewery in Durham. *(I cannot find much information on this brewery at present,*



but I live in hope) and one of his first acts was to change the name to Tudhoe Grange Brewery, although the buildings were still known by their original name.

GEORGE OGLEBY,
BREWER, WINE & SPIRIT MERCHANT,
Tower Brewery,
TUDHOE GRANGE,
SPENNYSMOOR.
—o—
MILD AND BITTER ALES AND STOUT.

It had an estate of twenty five pubs, but I cannot find the names of any of them – however, as Spennymoor and Tudhoe had forty pubs in 1900, I suspect a good proportion would be tied to this brewery.

Nor can I find anything about the beers they produced, but we do have an advert which reveals that they produced “Mild and Bitter Ales and Stout” in Mr Ogleby’s time, and the fact that this advert is dated 1870 adds credence to the claims of the earlier opening date.

The brewery covered 2,888 square yards, comprising of a brewhouse, malt store, tun room, wash house, engine room, pumping room, boiling room, cooling room, and malt mill.

In 1896 the brewery became part of the much larger North Eastern Breweries Ltd, which was based in Sunderland, and they closed the Tower Brewery in 1902, but continued to use it as a depot by until after the first world war. No evidence of the buildings survives today.

In 1927 North Eastern Breweries merged with C. Vaux and Sons to become Associated Breweries, which was renamed as Vaux & Associated breweries in 1940. This gives a clue as to which pubs belonged to the Tower Brewery/Tudhoe Grange Brewery, as there were a number of Vaux pubs in the town, such as the Half Moon, the Crown, the County, and the imposing North Eastern Hotel. The last three are today, respectively, a fast food takeaway, a private house, and sheltered accommodation – an unfortunate sign of the times, and fates typical of many former pubs across the country.



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~ **TO THE WORKERS** ~

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What?Pub

0. 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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Outstanding Conversions and Restorations

We all like drinking in interesting places, and those that have had new life breathed into them after periods incarnations are always a talking point.

For almost half a century, CAMRA has worked to identify, support, and protect the UK's most historic pubs through its national inventory: pubs that are wholly or mostly unchanged or retain important historic rooms or features from over fifty years ago.

Since then, hundreds of pubs have been restored or created in buildings previously used for something else. There have also been new-build pubs that are worthy of admiration and recognition. The **Outstanding Conversions and Restorations (OCR) Project** identifies and promotes such interiors of outstanding architectural and/or design quality, pubs which are great places to enjoy a drink in splendid surroundings.

The website ocrpubs.camra.org.uk highlights almost two hundred pubs from across the UK that are magnificent conversions or glorious restorations. There are also stunning new builds and a handful of pubs in museums.

As Project Manager, Gerry Hahlo, puts it; *'all these pubs are the work of dedicated individuals, and pub companies who know the value of excellent design and have created great spaces in which people want to drink and socialise. Some show off their architectural merit by sympathetically converting historic buildings such as banks and cinemas while others recreate painstaking replicas of the glories of yesteryear.'*

In Durham, look no further than the Waiting Room on the city's railway station. From a virtually derelict former waiting room to a comfortable pub with an impressive outdoor drinking area, it's a perfect example of what this project is all about.

Have a look at the project's website and see what you think.

CAMRA members get discount here....

We're currently reassessing who continues to give discount in the light of the prevailing condition in the hospitality industry over the last eighteen months. Please let us know if any of the following information is incorrect. All Greene King pubs now offer CAMRA discount

- Italian Farmhouse, Coxhoe: 20p off a pint of S43 beer 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.
- 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
- 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
- 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 off 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
- City Hotel, Durham

The Answers Bit

Grand Autumn Quiz

1) John Dryden 2) 1992 3. The Red Lion 4) Bradford 5) Scarborough 6) Harold Wilson 7) Quince 8) Plexor 9) del Sol, Dorada, Brava, Blanca 10) a diamond 11) Vladivostok 12) Yellow 13) Line dancing 14) Pontypandy 15) the Houses of Parliament

Picture Quiz

1. Ceddesfield Hall, Sedgfield 2) Grand Hotel, Bishop Auckland 3) Dun Cow, Durham 4) Grey Horse, Consett 5) Frog and Ferret, Spennymoor 6) Grand Electric Hall, Spennymoor 7) Golden Lion, St John's Chapel 8) Library, Durham 9) Edge Hotel, Woodland 10) Cross Keys, Hamsterley

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