



CAMPAIGN
FOR
REAL ALE

Issue 141

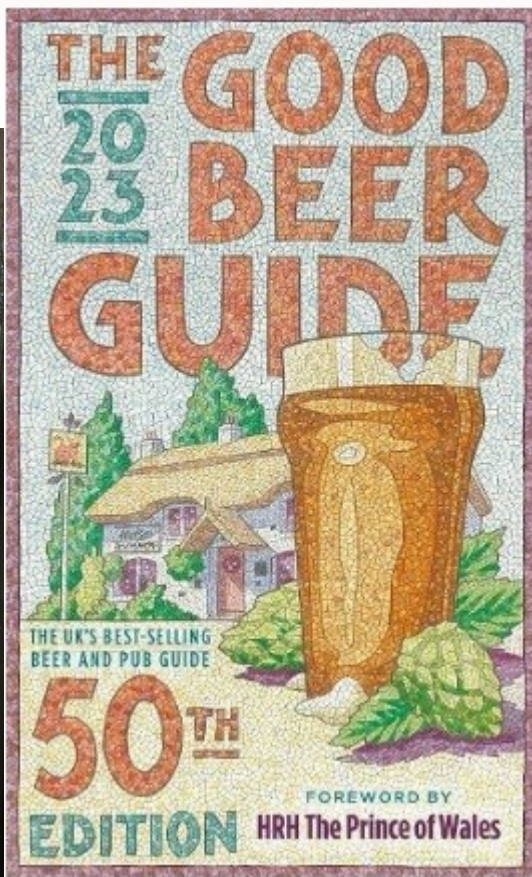
Winter 2022

*Free! Please
take one*

Durham Drinker

Inside:

- *The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly returns*
- *More brewery sell-offs and closures*
- *National Brewing Museum to close*
- *The Castle Eden story, part one*
- *National final for Durham pub*
- *City Ale Trail revised*



The Half Moon, Durham

Award winning traditional British pub in the heart of Durham city, with listed features including the back bar and fireplace, fitted in 1905.

A large riverside courtyard partially covered with a retractable roof down by the river Wear.

Cask Marque approved real ales, including Bass & Landlord, a member of the Timothy Taylors champion club, and included in the GBG for many years

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Diary Dates:

- **Tuesday December 20th**, Christmas party at Chester le Street Masonic Centre 7-10pm. Details via email.
- **Wednesday January 11th**, branch meeting at the Shakespere, Saddler Street, Durham 7:30pm
- **Wednesday January 25th**, 1pm start, at the Wicket Gate, Chester le Street Wander south to Chester Moor and Plawsworth
- **February 16th-18th** Great British Beer Festival Winter, Burton on Trent. See p 27
- **Wednesday March 8th**— Sunday 12th. Station House beer festival. 16+ beers and ciders
- **Thursday March 23rd**-Sunday 26th, Coxhoe Beer Festival, 11am opening, Village Hall
- **April 21st –23rd** CAMRA AGM and members' weekend, Sheffield University. See p 30

Hello and welcome to issue 141 of Durham Drinker.

We continue to live in turbulent times, with the cost of living crisis hitting all walks of life and all manner of industry—all of which means that the person on the street (that's you and me) has less and less disposable income. Disposable income is what the hospitality industry relies on to survive, in hard times money is spent on necessities, and however much we may disagree, beer isn't a necessity. Heineken have announced a new year 15% wholesale price increase, and that will of necessity be passed on to the customer. Tough times indeed.

On the bright side, Durham's **Station House** has made it to the final four in CAMRA's national Pub of the Year competition, Seaham's **Coal House** isn't closing, and the **Durham City Ale Trail** has been updated and is available via the CAMRA Durham website. **Coxhoe Beer Festival** will be held in the village hall on March 23rd –26th, featuring sixteen ales and four ciders, running from 11am to 22:30 each day. To top things off, pie and peas will be available.

Nationally, a worrying trend is continuing. With Carlsberg Marston and Asahi closing acquired breweries across the country (Jennings, Charles Wells, and Dark Star being among the latest), we appear to be going back half a century to the time of CAMRA's formation. Then, we were battling against the domestic Big Six dominating the beer scene with their generic keg products. For those too young to remember, they were Allied Breweries (Tetley, Ansells, and Ind Coope), Bass Charrington, Courage, Scottish & Newcastle, Whitbread, and Watney Mann. None are still in brewing, having either eaten themselves, sold out to overseas monsters, or morphed into Pubcos.

Now it appears we're battling against the world's giants taking over the vast majority of our pubs, making it more important than ever to fight for the survival of local and national beers and breweries. Use your local pub, drink local beer, and in doing so you're helping them survive as well as buying beer with a much smaller carbon footprint.

As we move into the season of dark evenings and cold weather, why not save on heating bills by having a pint in the pub with friends. The conversation will be good for you, the beer will be nice, and the fire might be blazing.

Cheers, *Paul Dobson*

CAMRA Durham committee

Chairman & Public Affairs Officer: Paul Dobson

Vice Chairman: John Collinson

Treasurer: Neil Shaw

Secretary : Steven Spencer

Membership secretary: Vacant

Durham Drinker, publications, & campaigns: Paul Dobson

Apple Rep (cider) Chris Mansfield

Pubs officer: Dave Thornton

Website & Social Media: Neil Shaw

Social Secretary: Gary Halliday

Pubs Preservation: Peter Jones

Pub Promotions and Awards Coordinator: Neil Cleall

Pub Protection Officer: Peter Lawson

GBG submissions: Peter Jones

Environment Officer: Vacant

Brewery Liaison Officers

Durham: Neil Shaw

Consett Ale Works: John Collinson

Hill Island: David Thornborrow

Yard of Ale: Arthur Corner

Weard'Ale, George Samuel, North Pier, McColl's: Paul Dobson

Castle Eden: Arthur Corner

Hopper House Farm: Peter Jones

South Causey Richard Fletcher

Caps Off: Paul Dobson

S43: P. Jones



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The Victoria Inn



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En-suite B&B**



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Quiz Night - Thursday

Full menu served Wed-Sat

Fantastic Sunday Lunches



**Durham CAMRA Country Pub
of the Year Runner-up, 2022**
0191 527 0778



One thing after another...

Scarcely had we had time to celebrate the news that Durham's **Station House** had been voted CAMRA's North East Regional Pub of the Year—an area covering Northumberland, Tyneside, Sunderland, Cleveland, part of North Yorkshire, and of course County Durham—than it went one step further and came out on top of the “Super Regional” competition. Without getting too geographical, that means that they join three other pubs—the Tamworth Tap, the Horse & Jockey in Stapleford, Notts, and Norwich's King's Head - in the national final.



Being placed in the final four of the national competition is fitting acknowledgement of their sterling work—particularly given the effects of lockdown and the current economic climate—and a great honour for the Durham Branch of CAMRA.

The results of the National competition will be known in early 2023, and we naturally wish the Station House team well.



CAMRA regional director Hubert Gieschen presents the regional award to Susie, Gideon, and Chris in October



Susie, Chris, and Gideon receive the super regional certificate from CAMRA Durham chair Paul Dobson in November

Saved by the Bailes

Seaham micropub the Coalhouse has been a favourite of real ale drinkers since it opened in 2018, so when owner John McMahon announced his imminent retirement a new owner was needed.

For a while it looked as if the pub might close, as nobody was showing an interest—then along came local lady Tracey Corkhill and her son Alex Bailes. Tracey had been a long-term fan of the pub, especially Sundays, and recognised the gap in the local pub scene that closure would leave.

The aim is to maintain the focus on local ales, and to keep the community spirit alive. It's very much a family affair, as Tracey's eldest son Anthony is working behind the bar as well, while the new team learn the ropes from John, who has stayed on to help get things going again after a very brief closure.

CAMRA Durham wishes Tracey, Alex, and everyone involved the best of luck.



Caps Off brewery of Bishop

Auckland have recently put some of their Imperial Milk stout into casks to mature. The wooden casks previously contained whisky and rum, so the beer will take on some lovely characteristics. It should be ready in about a year—put the date in your diary.



The Victoria Inn, Witton le Wear

- Three cask ales, two rotating to include local and national ales
- Dogs welcome
- South facing beer garden
- B&B available
- Over fifty gins and whiskies
- Open 6 nights (not Monday)
- DL14 0AS



Alternative Pub Of The Year Competition

Earlier this year, MP for North West Durham Richard Holden launched at Pub of the Year competition for his constituency, asking all of his constituents to vote for their favourite pub. Once the votes were counted, the **Grey Bull** at Stanhope was a clear winner.

Mr Holden is one of the MPs that CAMRA Durham has had discussions with regarding the importance of pubs and clubs to society and their local communities, especially in these trying times. It's nice to see a politician making an effort to reward those establishments. Many congratulations to the **Grey Bull**.



Real Ale at **WETHERSPOON**



The Stanley Jefferson
5 Market Place,
Bishop Auckland,
DL14 7NJ
01388 452830



The Grand Electric
Hall
2 Cheapside,
Spennymoor. DL16 6DJ
01388 825470



The Horse Shoe Inn
4 Church Street,
Crook, DL15 9BG
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CITY HOTEL, Durham

84 New Elvet,

DH1 3AQ

THE CITY BAR & HOTEL

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real ale and rooms

sky **SPORTS**

BT Sport

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10

Value for money in a very comfortable, clean & cosy room. The owners & staff really care about you

Wed, Mar 2, 2022 2:16 PM

Cleanliness	10	Comfort	10
Location	10	Facilities	10
Staff	10	Value for money	10



10 great reasons to join CAMRA

1 CAMPAIGN
for great beer, cider and perry

2 Become a
BEER EXPERT

3 Enjoy CAMRA
BEER FESTIVALS
in front of or behind the bar

4 GET INVOLVED
and make new friends

5 Save
YOUR LOCAL

6 Find the
**BEST PUBS
IN BRITAIN**

Get great
**7 VALUE FOR
MONEY**

8 DISCOVER
pub heritage and the
great outdoors

9 Enjoy great
HEALTH BENEFITS
(really!)

10 HAVE YOUR SAY

What's yours?

Discover your reason
and join the campaign today:
www.camra.org.uk/10reasons



Campaign
for
Real Ale

Castle Eden brewery Part I

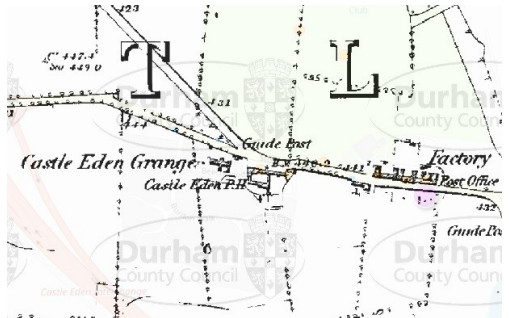
The Nimmo's years

The original brewery was founded by John Nimmo in the early 19th century - the precise date is vague but a retrospective claim has been made of 1826. John Nimmo is recorded as a brewer and farmer in 1837 and the brewery may well have been attached to "a large and Commodious Inn and posting house" which was where the future brewery would lie.

The first mention of Castle Eden Brewery is in 1856 and it appears the pub moved to its present location next to Castle Eden Railway station around then. The Nimmos were part time brewers, farmers, and grocers, and one was a road surveyor.

John Nimmo died in 1867 and his son William took over, after which the brewery started to expand.

Gas was installed in 1869, new maltings in 1870, and a warehouse in 1872. Kelly's directory of 1873 referred to it as "an extensive brewery and maltings".



They were brewing stout, mild and pale ales and had their own railway sidings built in 1880. The fortunes of the brewery were inextricably linked to the fortunes of the coal industry - for example, the closure of Hutton Henry colliery (which lay between Station Town and Wingate) affected the six local pubs in and around Wingate, but by 1897 brewing capacity increased with the help three new fermenting tuns.

Further development in 1910 included replacing the steam engine plant with an electric one and expanding the estate with hotels in Easington Colliery, Horden, and Dawdon. The takeover of a 12 -pub brewery Thomas Chilton's of Seaham in 1912 helped the production to double between 1906 and 1914.

World war 1 proved very difficult, with a squadron of Imperial Yeomanry hussars stationed at the brewery – that's 142 men and their horses! A new beer tax , and workers being away in the army, plus a rise in the cost of raw materials, made brewing a difficult industry to be in. War taxation & rising costs? Sounds familiar. Forty brewery workers fought in the war with six being killed, one, 2nd lieutenant William Leslie Nimmo, being the only son of the chairman William John Nimmo.

The brief post war boom saw production rise to 42,000 barrels, and 1926 was celebrated as their centenary year with lots of parties and donations to charities, especially Hartlepool hospitals. But

1922 had been a grim year with pit strikes and things only got worse with the year long strike of 1926. Things remained dire until 1933 when they purchased a pub company, the Durham and North Yorkshire Public House trust. Slum clearance and new developments meant more pubs and an increase in sales of bottled beer.

World War II was also difficult, with 23 workers in the forces but this time, fortunately, only one was killed. The immediate post-war period showed a fall in sales and production, but from 1948 onwards the brewery went from strength to strength, and production grew from 32,000 barrels to 72,000 a year. The pub estate was expanded by buying up small pub estates in Sunderland and Tyneside and they built a new pub every year. They were one of the first breweries to introduce canned beer, in 1957, and in 1962 the first cellar tank was introduced allowing beer to be delivered by tanker.

However, in an increasingly competitive market the future of the brewery as an independent entity became increasingly in doubt. Various mergers or takeovers of smaller breweries were considered but to no avail. The bottom line in any negotiations was that the brewery should continue to remain open, but in 1963 they sold the brewery to Whitbread for just under £2 million. Far from being a disaster it was the start of a period of expansion for the brewery.

But that's another story. So let's look at their pubs and beers. Listed below are the 45 tied houses they had in 1892.

Anchor Inn, Coxhoe	Liberality Tavern, Easington
Black Boy, Moorsley	Masons Arms, Easington *
Boyne Inn, Langley Moor *	New Inn, Hetton Lane Ends
Bradyll Arms, Kelloe	Nimmo Hotel, Wheatley Hill
Caradoc Arms, Wingate	Plough Inn, Hutton Henry.*
Colliery Inn, Castle Eden Colliery	Queens Head, Ryhope*
Colliery Inn, Ludworth	Roadside Inn, Hartbushes
Colliery Inn, Sacriston	Royal Hotel, Hartlepool
Colliery Inn, Trimdon Colliery	Salvin Arms, Spennymoor*
Commercial Inn, West Cornforth	Screenmans Arms, South Hetton
Davy Lamp, Easington Lane	Station Hotel, Castle Eden Colliery
Edinburgh Inn, Thornley	Stonebridge Inn, Stonebridge
Foresters Arms, Rainton	Sunderland Bridge Inn, C. Eden Colliery
George, Haswell	Thinford Inn, Thinford
Golden Lion, Hetton	Three Horse Shoes, Haswell
Grey Horse, Trimdon Colliery	Three Tuns, Coxhoe
Greyhound, Kelloe	Trimdon Grange Inn, Trimdon Grange
Haswell Tavern, Haswell	Victoria inn, Wingate
Jolly Potter, Newbottle	White Hart, Hart*

Kings Head, Easington

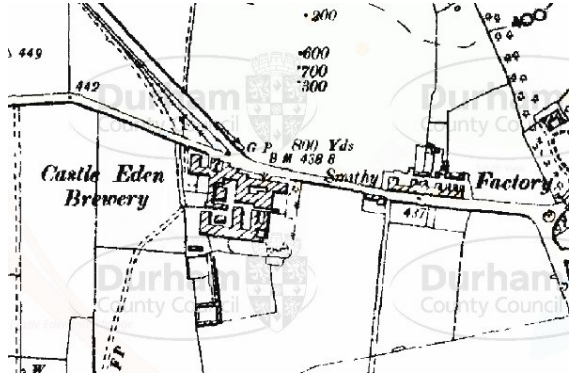
Lambton Arms, Houghton-le-Spring

...and in the North Riding of Yorkshire there were

Talbot Hotel, South Eston

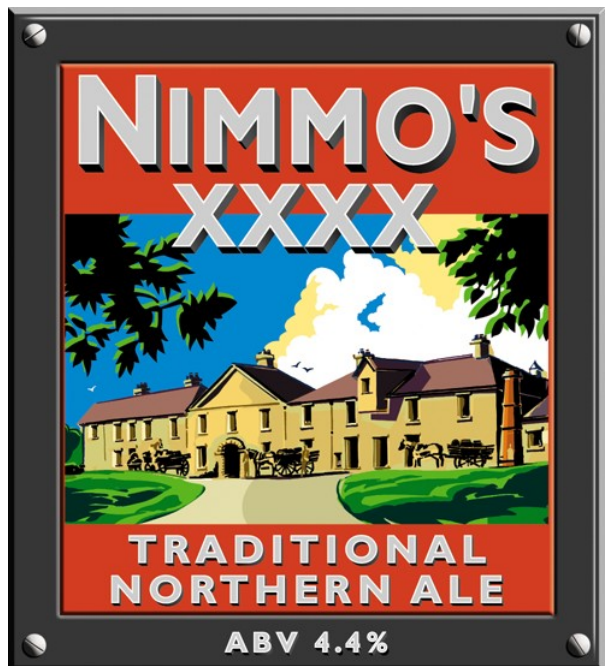
Wellington Hotel, South Eston

What I find very depressing is that out of the 45, only 7 (asterisked above) remain as pubs today, a mere 16%. I have checked the list with our pubs officer and he agrees, but it's possible some pubs may have changed names. So, for example, in my 1894 Durham directory I have a Trimdon Grange Inn but no Dovecot Inn so they could be the same.



Of the beers, they brewed an export, a brown, a stout, a mild, a bitter and Nimmo's Star -but their most famous beer was Nimmos XXXX.

Nimmos XXXX was re-launched earlier in this century - but that's another story, which will be covered in a later article



Giants Strike Again

CAMRA has criticised Carlsberg Marston's Brewing Company's (CMBC) decision to sell the former Charles Wells Eagle brewery in Bedford to Spanish brewer S A Damm, which already packages its Estrella beer on the site. The Campaign believes the move highlights the dominant role international brewers play in the UK's beer market. CAMRA says CMBC disposing of yet another historic brewery site further squeezes small and independent brewers. In recent weeks CMBC closed Jennings brewery in Cockermouth, Cumbria. The changes at Carlsberg are a sign of the difficulty UK-owned breweries have in competing against a few huge global brewing giants, which now produce around 70 per cent of the beer made in the country. CAMRA national chairman Nik Antona said: "This latest news highlights a global brewing market which is massively unbalanced, grants too much power to the international brewing giants and increasingly makes it impossible for independent, British brewers to compete."

"We believe the UK beer market, and particularly the on-trade, needs constant monitoring by competition authorities, as a result of the continual consolidations that have taken place in the last five or so years. It's small comfort, but at least the Eagle brewery is being sold as a going concern and the brands which were born and brewed there will find new homes at other Carlsberg-Marston's breweries. We're also optimistic that maximising production at Carlsberg-Marston's remaining breweries will maintain profitability and dissuade the company from further site closures and job losses."

The Eagle brewery will become Damm's first outside mainland Europe and only the second not in Spain. As part of the agreement the Eagle brewery's beers including Hobgoblin, Youngs, and Wainwright will remain part of CMBC's portfolio. All 67 Eagle production staff will transfer to Damm's workforce. CMBC's logistics operation in Bedford will continue on the site for around the next 12 months before moving to a new location. CMBC owns and operates a brewery and distribution network across the UK, including the Carlsberg brewery in Northampton; Marston's in Burton upon Trent; Banks's in Wolverhampton; Wychwood in Oxfordshire; Ringwood in Hampshire, and a national distribution centre in Northampton plus 15 regional depots.

CMBC's mantra seems to be to take over a brewery which has respected and recognised "brands", instantly rebrand them so they're barely recognisable (Cumberland Cask, anyone?), thus killing off the identity, reduce the quality of the beer, wonder why sales are suffering, then sell or close the brewery.

The Letters Page

It's not often that we print letters (or emails) in DD, but we couldn't resist this one from Colin Dixon, written in response to Steven Spencer's DD140 article about why we love pubs and why they're so important to society

I agree with everything said about pubs, paragraph four, and all the reasons why we visit these drinking establishments.

I can walk into any pub and feel a sense of escape from outside, and all the troubles and problems going on in the world, and get excited about the various ales on offer, and also enjoy the tasting of a few before making that final decision on the pint to be consumed.

I also enjoy meeting new people, finding out where they are from, what football team they support and just having a good laugh. If they are from another part of the country, I will offer them a drink, some people I may never meet again, but I won't forget.

Another reason I love going into a pub is my hobby, Tegestology, or beermat collecting as it is more commonly known, a cheap, but very interesting hobby with many mats to collect, and they are there on the tables for any keen collector.

I have decent collection of approximately 5,000 different mats, each one could tell a story of a pub an occasion or a holiday, or even when I first started as 14 year old, sneaking into a pub and grabbing a few from the tables.

If there are any old beer mats in the cellars of the pubs in the North East, or if anyone out there has any that they would care to pass on to me, I would be delighted to add them to my collection. Maybe you could also help with any advice on a collection of real ale mats.

Anyway, I love the ales on offer, just being out socialising, and always on the lookout for NEW beer mats.

Cheers, everyone at CAMRA.

So there you have it—if you have any beer mats you've accumulated over the years and need a bit of de-cluttering, contact us and we'll let Colin know.

Find us at publications@CAMRADurham.org.uk

~ TO THE WORKERS ~

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

THE GREY HORSE

HOME OF



The Grey Horse, 115 Sherburn Terrace, Consett, Co. Durham, DH8 6NE.
Telephone: 01207 591 540 www.consettaleworks.co.uk



PCA News

If you've been reading Durham Drinker for any length of time, you'll probably have gathered that Durham CAMRA's opinion of the **Pubs Code Adjudicator (PCA)** isn't particularly high. In these challenging times, with 400+ pubs closing last year in the wake of the pandemic and licensed premises which were just beginning to recover trade now dreading the winter energy bills, intervention by that person is needed more than ever to ensure licensees are not put under any added financial pressure.

Large Pubcos own more than half of our pubs, and some have gained a reputation for not always treating their tenants fairly, so we might as well tell you who they are.

Stonegate (4,470 pubs), Punch Taverns (1,282), Admiral Taverns (1,500), Star Pubs & Bars (2,500), Greene King (3,100), Marston's (1,400), Mitchell and Butlers (1,650), JD Wetherspoon (925, all managed), and Wellington (850, all free of tie).

Tenants of large Pubcos should, in theory, be able to rely on the statutory protection of the Pubs Code which has been enforced since 2016 by the Adjudicator. It was introduced to combat bad business practices and pressure put on tenants by the Pubcos. Standard practice for Pubco tenants is that those who are "tied" are obliged to buy stock from their Pubcos at prices way above what they would pay if seeking beer themselves. Under certain circumstances, tenants could buy beer at the normal market price, in effect going free of tie, and pay market rent for the pub. So what has Fiona Dickie, the PCA, been doing to ensure this is actually happening when it should?

Not a lot, according to Commons select committee review in July. Dickie told MPs that she meets with a range of stakeholders and doesn't look to have favourites, but that the industry has a lot of tensions and perspectives. The British Pub Confederation, however, told the select committee that bad practices were worse than ever, and in September wrote to the MPs accusing the PCA of only talking to tenant groups affiliated to Pubcos. Apparently, all three of the "tenant representative groups" the PCA was talking to receive funding from, or have links to, the regulated Pubcos. No tenant organisation independent of the Pubcos has been consulted, which hardly seems unbiased and thus can't possibly work in favour of tenants in general.

The PCA claimed that her office is "open to tied tenants to enquire about their rights", and that she meets them at trade events which have been organised by code compliance officers. This seems to be another bias, as these officers are employed by the Pubcos, which would imply that the tenants present had been specifically selected by the Pubcos. The PCA also told the select committee that she couldn't remember when she'd met with the independent tenant associations, which led the committee to request that she arrange to meet them and inform the committee, by the end of September, when the date for that meeting was agreed. We'll have to wait and see when that meeting is, as the request from the PCA wasn't sent until just before the end of September.

THE GOOD THE BAD AND THE UGLY



Good

The Coalhouse in Seaham has **not** closed, as a new owner was found and only a brief hiatus preceded their taking over – see page 8 for more details.

Kelham Island, of Sheffield and the home of the famous Pale Rider (formerly a Champion Beer of Britain), was due to close but a consortium which includes Thornbridge brewery of Derbyshire has ridden into town (presumably on a white horse) to save the day.

Real Ale is back at the **New Board Inn** at Hill Top, Esh

The **Red Lion** at Ouston closed on November 17th, but will reopen soon.



Tenants for the **Royal Oak** at Byers Green, currently closed, are being sought now that upgrade has been completed

The **Gate** at Framwellgate and the **Davey Lamp** at Kelloe have reopened. No real ale yet, but we can hope.

Bad and Ugly



The **Old England** in Great Lumley has also closed indefinitely, as has the **Belmont** in Belmont

Planning permission for the conversion of the **Smiths Arms** at Castle Dene to residential use has been granted. The pub closed some time ago, and a Save The Smiths group campaigned to keep it as a pub, but to no avail.

Jennings brewery has finally gone, with their sole ale “Cumberland Cask” to be brewed in Burton on Trent...where the water is much different to Cockermouth.

Skinner's Brewery of Truro, Cornwall - whose Betty Stoggs bitter occasionally crops up in our area - has gone into administration.

S43 (formerly Sonnet 43) has ceased operations and sold their equipment to **Vaux** of Sunderland.

Artisan Ales, of Minchinhampton in Gloucestershire, will be closing at the end of January.

Here we go again....Dark Star brewery, acquired by Japanese giants Asahi via Fullers in 2019, is set to close. Dark Star sold out to Fullers in 2018, who in turn sold 100% of their beer business to Asahi a year later. At this rate, there'll be no beer left that's not a product of a massive international corporation.

Unsure (new category)

Camerons Brewery of Hartlepool have put 31 of their 43 leased and tenanted pubs up for sale. Let's hope they find a good owner soon.

The application to turn the long-closed **Chelmsford** at Ebchester to residential has been withdrawn.

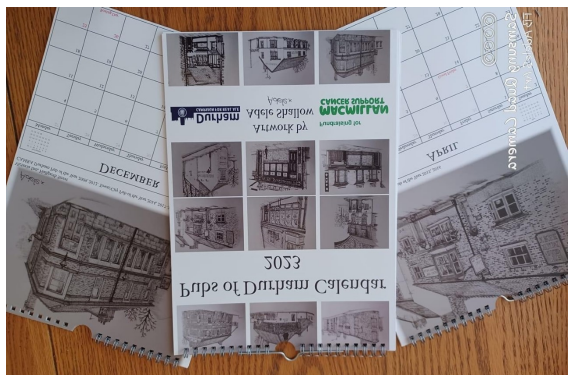


Wetherspoon are looking to sell 32 pubs, including the **Water House** in Durham.

Calendar Update

Adele Shallow's calendar, featuring her wonderful pencil sketches of pub in and around Durham city, have proved a real success. At the time of writing, sales had brought in over £800, for which MacMillan Cancer Support are most grateful.

There are very few left, but you might still get hold of a copy at **Ye Old Elm Tree** in Durham, or if they've run out give us a shout and we'll see what we can do.



The National Brewing Museum, in Burton on Trent (widely regarded as the capital of English brewing), has been closed by owners Molson Coors – certainly not two names associated with British brewing. A mere five weeks' notice was given of the closure, meaning that previously-booked events, such as tours and weddings, had to be cancelled.

The museum was originally set up by Bass, and was closed by Molson Coors in 2008, only to reopen due to public demand two years later as the UK's only museum dedicated specifically to brewing. It contains thousands of brewery and beer-related items as well as a huge archive of records from breweries from across the country. The immediate plan is to use the building as offices, as the current high street location of their 500 office workers will be affected by the council's waterfront regeneration project, and both the council and Molson Coors have said that the contents of the museum will be stored until the waterfront development is complete. It will then be moved to a new heritage centre, which is being built as part of the development.

It's to be hoped that the heritage centre, which the council have appealed to local historians to ensure celebrates other local history interests and not just brewing, has enough space created to house all the artefacts, including a fleet of old vehicles, that were part of the National Brewing Museum.

Meanwhile, a petition has been raised in an effort to save the museum in its current location. Find it at <https://change.org/p/save-burton-s-national-brewery-centre>



Grand Autumn Quiz

nee Googling, mind



Answers inside back page

1. In 1998, Tony Blair made a plea for the release from prison of which soap opera character?
2. Which area of London did Jack the Ripper terrorise in 1888?
3. What two months are covered by the star sign Gemini?
4. Who had a hit with Stay Another Day?
5. Which European city does the word “denim” derive from?
6. What are the forenames of the Maxwell brothers who were tried for fraud in 1996?
7. Which fabric is the “cord of the king”?
8. What are the three colours of the Italian flag?
9. Who metes out justice in Mega-City One?
10. On TV, who played Colombo?
11. What was Lucy Clayton’s school famous for?
12. Oleg Cassini became famous when he designed clothes for who?
13. What nationality was Max Factor?
14. Which Supermodel was known as The Body?
15. Who was the first Englishman man bon after England’s 1966 football World Cup win to play for the men’s national side ?

Picture Quiz

can you name these local hostelries?

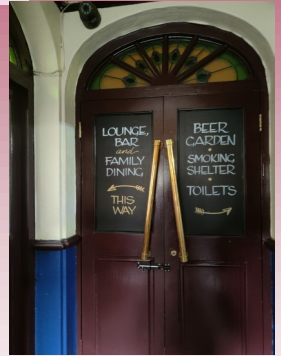
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Answers inside back page

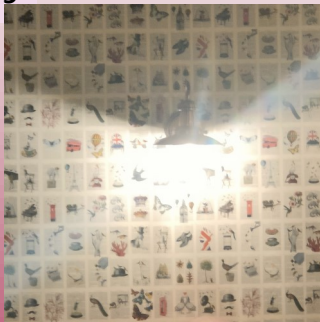
6



7



9



8



10



Extra 10 points if you can identify the CAMRA member

Discount

Various pubs across the county offer discounts to CAMRA members (make sure you take your membership card). The offers available, as known to us in November 2022, are:

- Green Tree, Bishop Auckland: 10p off pint, 5p off half cask ale on production of valid CAMRA membership card
- Red Lion, North Bitchburn: 20p off pint cask ale for CAMRA members
- Pack Horse, Burnopfield: 10% off real ale for card carrying CAMRA members
- Church Mouse, Chester Moor: 20p off pint of cask ale to card carrying CAMRA members
- Grey Horse, Consett: 10p off a pint on production of valid CAMRA card
- Duke of Wellington, Durham: 20p off a pint of cask ale for CAMRA members.
- Elm Tree, Durham: 10% off real ale on production of valid membership card
- Head of Steam, Durham: 20p off a pint of cask ale for card carrying CAMRA members
- Market Tavern, Durham: 10% off real ale for CAMRA members.
- The Waiting Room, Durham 5% discount on cask ales (not keg) on production of valid CAMRA membership card
- Crow's Nest, Seaham: 10% off cask ale on production of valid CAMRA membership card
- 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.

In addition, all CAMRA members currently receive £30 of CAMRA vouchers redeemable in the form of 50p off a pint of any cask ale nationally in many pubs. Full details of the scheme can be found on [CAMRA's website](#). In the Durham Branch area these are pubs operated by the Wetherspoon, Stonegate and Amber Taverns pub companies.

Stonegate pubs in our area are the Library, Durham, The Three Bridges, Durham, the Whitehills, Chester-le-Street, and the Chester Moor. Amber Taverns in our area unfortunately don't sell real ale.



If you are aware of any offers that aren't listed, or have any problems with the above offers, please let us know. You can find out more about these outlets by viewing their entries in CAMRA's national database whatpub.com.

It's the most
WONDERFUL
TIME FOR
A BEER
with
CAMRA



Treat your beer-loving
relative to a year's
CAMRA Gift Membership



The Campaign for Real Ale's Great British Beer Festival Winter

will take place for the first time in **Burton-on-Trent** from 16th-18th February 2023.

As the winter counterpart to CAMRA's Great British Beer Festival, visitors will find a fantastic range of not only dark and winter brews but a great selection of light and hoppy ales to sample over the period. It will also host the prestigious Champion Winter Beer of Britain competition, the winners of which will feature at the Great British Beer Festival in London next summer.



The festival will feature hundreds of cask and craft beers, ciders, perries and gin at Burton Town Hall, where visitors can also enjoy a range of entertainment and food throughout the weekend.

It marks the return of the festival following a two-year hiatus due to COVID-19 restrictions. The festival was last hosted in Birmingham and moves around the country every three years to give beer lovers across the UK the chance to sample a wide range of fantastic cask conditioned ales and craft beers.

Nik Antona, CAMRA National Chairman said: "We are absolutely delighted to bring the Great British Beer Festival Winter to Burton-on-Trent, the home of so much brewing and beer history. The return of the festival is a strong signal to the industry that CAMRA is back in business post-pandemic, and fully committed to delivering its huge portfolio of beer festivals – bringing great beer to every corner of the UK."



Tickets for the event are now available for purchase at

<https://winter.gbbf.org.uk/>

Beer Scoring... Why It Matters

Back in 2020 the Branch ran a survey, part of which asked if people score their beers in CAMRA's WhatPub website. Out of 133 responses, only 26 score their beers on WhatPub. Reading the comments on why people don't score their beers, the answers seem to fall into three general categories: those who didn't know they could, those who just want to drink the beer and socialise, and those who don't think they know enough about beer to comment.

For the first group, hopefully this article means you're now aware! For the 2nd group, we understand that. But at the same time, to score a beer takes a matter of seconds and can be part of your socialising as you talk to those you're with about the beer. But it's also important to think about why we want you to score beers. Given the size of the Branch area, it is impossible for us to visit every pub regularly. This means that beer scores and your comments are our best way of finding out what is happening. There may be a pub that has stopped selling real ale, or hopefully one that has started. There may also be cases where beer quality is falling and we may wish to help a pub improve. But most importantly beer scores are a big factor in determining which pubs make it into the Good Beer Guide.



In an ideal world, for a pub to be considered it needs an average score of 3 or more across at least 3 different scorers. The GBG list is also what we use for shortlisting the Branch Pub of the Year award. Unfortunately, you may be sitting in the country's best pub, but if we don't know how good it is, it is in danger of being overlooked. For the last group, we want to keep beer scoring as simple as possible. While CAMRA does compile detailed notes and scores on beers, these are done by trained Tasting Panels (of which more in the next issue) and concen-

trates on the beer rather than the pub. For everyday scoring, the system is a lot simpler than you might think. All we want is a score from 0 to 5 (half points are allowed).

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

It really is as simple as that! So why don't you give it a try now? All you need to do is visit **[https:// whatpub.com/](https://whatpub.com/)** and search for the pub you're in. On mobile, there is an icon at the top right to search for pubs based on your location. Then tap Submit Beer Scores and fill in the details (you will be prompted to log in with your National Website username, which is your membership number, and password—visit **<https://account.camra.org.uk/forgot-password>** to reset if needed). In the advanced options it would also help us if you can tell us how much the beer was and any other comments. You can also use WhatPub to let us know of any changes to a pub. There may be facilities that have been added or removed, or changes in opening hours.

Again, we can't check every pub all the time so any help you can give us while visiting a pub is greatly appreciated. If you do need any more help please get in touch with us either on our Facebook Group which can be found at **<https://www.facebook.com/groups/camradurham/>** or you can email our Pubs Officer at **pubsofficer@camradurham.org.uk** who will also happily receive any other feedback you may have on pubs. Thanks in advance.

Neil Shaw



Campaign for Real Ale

Over 500 CAMRA members have already registered to attend next year's Members' Weekend, AGM & Conference. They're looking forward to sampling what the "World's Best Beer City" has to offer, along with meeting up with friends old and new. It'

It's on 21st-23rd April at the Octagon Centre (University of Sheffield).

What happens at Members' Weekend, AGM & Conference?

It's a social event, with brewery trips, activities and drinks in the dedicated Members' Bar on site. Saturday morning is the formal part when CAMRA holds its AGM* and in the afternoon members discuss and vote on motions at Conference. You'll also have the chance to hear from guest speakers, and take part in fringe events and talks throughout the weekend.

A full schedule will be available nearer the time and we encourage all members to register in advance to attend - so you don't miss out on important emails about booking onto the trips and activities.

"World's Best Beer City"

In his 2016 report, beer writer Pete Brown described Sheffield as "The World's Best Beer City". To test that claim, a group visiting from Essex confirmed with the local branch that they *"visited 18 pubs, and tried 20 different beers which we'd not had before. All were in immaculate condition. Everyone was friendly. We thoroughly enjoyed our trip. The claim was well and truly founded. Definitely the best place any of us have been for a beer."*

Our dedicated team of CAMRA volunteers will be helping ensure the weekend runs smoothly - but we always need more help. This could be leading up to the event (set up), pulling pints, helping at registration and around the venue or being a Conference Teller. There are opportunities for new and experienced volunteers, so have a look at the CAMRA main website for the relevant link to offer your services.

We look forward to seeing you in Sheffield next April.



The Answers Bit

Grand Spring Quiz 1. Dierdre Rachid 2. Whitechapel 3. May and June 4. E17 5. Nimes 6. Kevin & Ian 7. Corduroy 8. Green, White, and Red 9. Judge Dredd 10. Peter Falk 11. Training fashion models 12. Jacqueline Kennedy 13. Russian 14. The Body 15. Tony Adams (10/10/66, debut 18/2/87)

Picture Quiz 1 Black Lion, Wolsingham. 2 Black Bull, Wolsingham 3 Bonny Moor Hen, Stanhope 4 Pack Horse, Stanhope and Steve Kent 5 Cross Keys, Eastgate 6 Blue Bell, St John's Chapel 7 Hare & Hounds, Westgate 8 Hamsterley Social Club 9 Stapylton Arms, Hawthorn 10 Pollards,. Bishop Auckland

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MAXIMUS
STRONG PREMIUM LAGER
ABV 4.2%
DECEMBER

BBI 2016

SIBA
SMALL PACK BEER COMPETITION 2016
Gold

SIBA
SMALL PACK BEER COMPETITION 2016
Gold



OPENING TIMES:
TUESDAY - THURSDAY, 4PM - 10.30PM
FRIDAY, 2PM - 11PM
SATURDAY, 12PM - 11PM
SUNDAY, 4PM - 10.30PM

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Pub of the
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CRAFT KEG**



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NOW WITH
SQUISHY
SEATS!**



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TUESDAY - THURSDAY, 3PM - 10.30PM
FRIDAY - SATURDAY, 11.30AM - 10.30PM
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