


Inside:

- National Pub of the Year—the last sixteen includes Durham's Station House
- Champion Beer Of Britain competition
- Independent breweries— part one: Elgood's
- Ins and outs among the inns—Good, Bad, and Ugly



CHAMPION BEER OF BRITAIN

NOMINATIONS OPEN 1 SEPTEMBER



JOIN CAMRA TO CHOOSE
— BRITAIN'S CHAMPION BEER —

CBOB.CAMRA.ORG.UK

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.

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

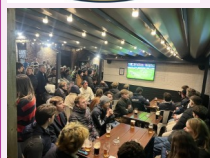
CAMRA discount!

Full sports package with 4 TVs inside and 6 outside. **Dog friendly** inside & out

New Elvet, Durham, DH1 3AQ

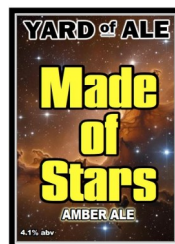
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Pease like our Facebook page and follow us on



Diary Dates:

- September 18th-28th National Cask Ale Week
- September 26th-28th Sedgefield CC & Rugby club beer festival, Cricket Club
- September 26th - 27th Fishburn Beer Festival, Community Centre
- September 27th Peterlee Beer Festival, the Pavilion
- October 1st-12th Wetherspoon Autumn Beer Festival across all venues
- October 9th-12th Tanfield Lea Club Beer Festival
- October 22nd-25th, Carlisle beer festival, Station Hotel
- Saturday November 15th, 1pm North East regional meeting, the Grey Horse, Consett



Hello and welcome to issue 148 of Durham Drinker.

Well, we've just put to bed the 43rd Durham Beer Festival, after which we've had a nice sit down (with a pint) and would like to thank our magnificent volunteers for manning the pumps, our generous sponsors, the Beer Gadgies for their equipment and expertise, Durham City Rugby Club for hosting us, and above all the lovely customers. Out of interest, the first beer to sell out was Egyptian Cream milk stout by Nene Valley. See you next year!

On the awards front, the **Station House** in Durham has been chosen as the North East's Regional Pub of the Year, and thus goes in to the last sixteen of the overall POTY competition. See p29 for the competitors.

Those of you who score your beers—and many thanks for that— on Whatpub will have seen the warnings that it's about to change to *CAMRA experience*. In fact, beer scoring has been available through that new channel for a while, but the Whatpub system will be transferred to the new page. Don't worry, it's more user friendly and contains more facilities.

A recent poll has revealed that 61% of people believe the Government should be doing more to protect the existence of community pubs. Just 17% believe it is doing enough, a damning verdict on years of underinvestment, inconsistent support, and a lack of long-term safeguarding for this cherished institution.

CAMRA Chairman, Ash Corbett-Collins, said at the Great British Beer Festival:

"This week we're celebrating everything that's brilliant about pubs, brewing and beer. We will see every kind of brewer and representatives from across the industry all sharing their quality products and love for their craft. Yet this polling shows that Brits understand the pressures they're under. It's now or never for pubs. The Budget is the last chance to ease the pressure and give them a fighting chance. We are calling on the Government to reverse the rise in Employer National Insurance contributions, cut duty on draught beer, and make sure independent brewers can get their beers on the bar."

You can help by enjoying the great pubs and real ale that County Durham offers, and letting us know what you think.

Cheers, Paul Dobson

CAMRA Durham committee

Chairman & Public Affairs Officer: Paul Dobson

Treasurer: John Baxter

Secretary : Tony Dent

Membership secretary: Garry Halliday

Durham Drinker, publications, & campaigns: Paul Dobson

Apple Rep (cider) Chris Mansfield

Pubs data co-ordinator: Dave Thornton

Website & Social Media: Neil Shaw

Social Secretary: **vacant**

Pubs Preservation: Peter Jones

Pub Promotions and Awards Coordinator: Ronnie McDonnell

Pub Protection Officer: Peter Lawson

GBG submissions: Peter Jones

Environment Officer: Garry Halliday

Brewery Liaison Officers

Durham: Peter Jones

Consett Ale Works: Sandra Wilkinson

Hill Island: **Vacant**

Yard of Ale: Arthur Corner

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

Castle Eden: Arthur Corner

Hopper House Farm: Peter Jones

Caps Off: Paul Dobson



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Durham Drinker's competi-
tive advertising rates***

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one year's worth (4 issues)***

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County Durham's pubs and
clubs, including Darlington,
and anywhere else our mem-
bers are visiting.***

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www.camradurham.org.uk

And Facebook, and Twitter /x



The Victoria Inn, Durham

- *Bed & Breakfast, all rooms en-suite*
- *Private car park*
- *Friendly, atmospheric bar*
- *Five cask ales*
- *Whiskey and Whisky galore!*
- *English Heritage Grade 2 listed*
- *Durham's only CAMRA national inventory pub*
- *Over a dozen CAMRA awards*
- *Dog friendly*



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That Crafty Brew Micropub & Bottle Shop



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www.craftybrew.co.uk



CAMRA Durham Targets for 2025 and 2026

We at CAMRA Durham like to enjoy a pint of real ale and a chat, but there's also a campaigning side to things, so we thought we had better explain our campaigning aims for the coming year...

1. Encourage younger people to attend CAMRA Durham events. We recognise that our membership is ageing, so we're aiming to emphasise the membership concession for 18-25 year olds (£25.50) and that there are £30 of vouchers included.
2. Raise the branch profile within local media by encouraging members to like, share, and comment on our social media posts, share Durham Drinker and other promotional material, and to suggest content for Durham Drinker.
3. Increase member engagement. We have nearly 700 members in our area, but only a couple of dozen are active. If you know a member who just needs a little encouragement to join in, give them that nudge. Spread the word about communication preferences—tick the correct boxes on your CAMRA account to ensure messages get through! There's always room for new faces amongst the active membership—check page 4 for committee vacancies. A social secretary would be nice! Also, check our online branch diary and Diary Dates in Durham Drinker (p2) for events that you'd enjoy.
4. Promote the availability of pins (small casks) to potential real ale outlets. Not every pub gets through enough of the real stuff to justify larger containers, so a 36 pint container would be more suitable than a 72. If you always ask for real ale, you can suggest this if it's not available.
5. Increase our membership. The more the merrier, and we got off to a great start with eleven recruited at the recent 43rd Durham Beer Festival.
6. Continue with the general promotion of real ale, and support any initiative that supports and protects our pubs and breweries.

Come on, join in!

FOR THE WORKERS



2026
DATES

THE GREY HORSE
~ BEER ~
FESTIVAL

Wed 18th Feb - Sun 22nd Feb
Wed 29th July - Sun 2nd Aug

The Grey Horse, 115 Sherburn Terrace, Consett, Co. Durham, DH8 6NE.

Telephone: 01207 502 585 www.consettaleworks.co.uk



follow us



32ND CARLISLE BEER AND CIDER FESTIVAL

STATION HOTEL, CARLISLE

23 - 25 October 2025

Thursday 12:00 - 10:00 pm

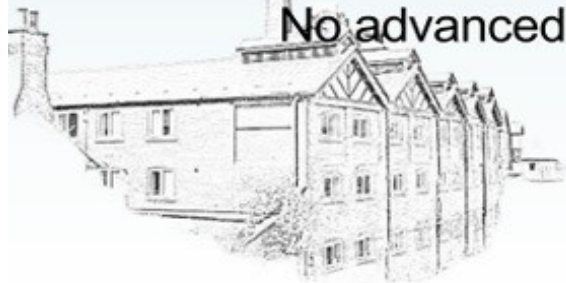
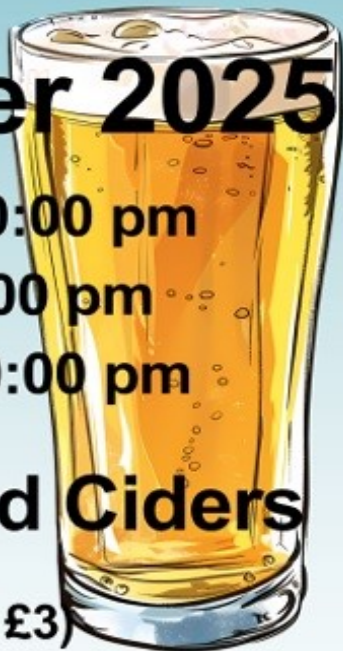
Friday 12:00 - 10:00 pm

Saturday 12:00 - 10:00 pm

Over 50 Beers and Ciders

£5 (CAMRA MEMBERS £3)

No advanced tickets



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



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GREAT VALUE BEERS AND ALES FROM LOCAL AND NATIONAL BREWERIES

FRIENDLY AIR CONDITIONED LOUNGE OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

LARGE CAPACITY EVENT SPACE AVAILABLE TO HIRE

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AVAILABLE 12-6 EVERY FRIDAY**



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DATE WITH EVENTS AND OFFERS**



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Picture Quiz

1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8



9



10



11

Answers inside back page



YE OLD ELM TREE



**Winner CAMRA
City Pub of the
Year 2023 & 2024**

**One of Durhams oldest traditional pubs,
popular with locals and visitors to the city
alike**

**5 Real Ales always available from our
favourite local and national breweries**

**2 Guest craft beer lines and one hand pull
guest cider**

**Large, sheltered, and sun filled beer
garden**

**Weekly folk music sessions and pub quiz,
as well as a monthly acoustic night**



**CAMRA members receive a discount
on all Real Ale!!!**

The Independent Family Breweries of Britain

There are about twenty seven of these, some very long standing like **Shepherd Neame**, the nation's oldest brewery, founded in Faversham, Kent in 1698, and some not so old, like **Hogs Back**, founded near Farnham in Hampshire in 1992. By "independent family breweries" we mainly mean breweries with a tied estate of pubs that stock beers brewed by the brewery in question - referred to as vertical brewing. There might be twenty seven now, but fifty years ago the 1975 GBG listed seventy three. However, some of those listed are not really family-owned pub owning companies - they've hived off the brewing to other breweries e.g. Brakspear and Fuller's.

The Independent Family Brewers of Britain association, hereinafter referred to as the **IFBB** were formed in 1992 in response to a threat from the EU (remember that?) to remove all pubs from a brewery tie. On their web site they list those twenty seven breweries, some famous like Adnam's and Timothy Taylors, but some relatively obscure, and it's these less well known which I will be writing about in the next few issues of Durham Drinker.

The first is **Elgood & Sons** of Wisbech in North Cambridgeshire, in the centre of the Fens.



Founded in 1795, the brewery was one of the first purpose-built breweries outside London. The beautiful Georgian brewery lies on the river Nene, only half a mile from the town centre and is a Grade II listed building. The current family took over the brewery in 1878 and the fifth generation of the family now run it.

I visited their tiny visitors centre hoping for a look around their famous hop garden and tap room only to find it was only open on Thursdays 12-5pm. But I did manage to buy a case of four of their beers – firstly, their standard beer **Cambridge Bitter** with an ABV of 3.8% and described in GBG as tasting of fruit and malt on the nose with increasing hops and balanced malt with a dry finish.

Secondly **Black Dog Mild** at 3.4% which in 1998 was runner-up in CAMRA's *beer of the year* mild category, just behind **Moorhouse's Black Cat Mild**. Cats v Dogs! The tasting notes say it's a black-red mild with liquorice and chocolate and a dry roasted finish.

Thirdly, there's **Plum Porter** with an ABV of 4.5% is a rich dark porter with juicy plum aroma, and a sweet fruity background complements the roast malt flavours.

Last but by no means least, is **Warrior**, a traditional, if hefty, English bitter which weighs in at a mighty 5.5%. It has a fruity malty flavour, and the generous portions of Challenger, Goldings and Fuggles hops give it a well-hopped character.

The ones I missed are **Cambridge Gold** (3.9%) and **Blackberry Porter** (4.5%)

They have thirty tied pubs, mainly in Wisbech but also in Norwich, St Ives, and Peterborough. I visited about seven in and around Wisbech – but two were permanently closed, two closed on that day (Monday lunch time), and of the three that were open none had their real ale for sale, making for a very disappointing visit to the Elgood pubs of Wisbech. A search for any of their pubs mentioned in the GBG reveals only one, The Blue Bell in Peterborough, so on this basis, I am unsure of the future of this 230 year old brewery.

P. Jones



..and speaking of independent family breweries...

Durham Drinker

spring 1999 issue 78

Free

Newsletter of the Durham Branch of Camra

Vaux: the end of an era?



The future of one of the largest regional brewers in the United Kingdom hangs in the balance. Swallow Hotels announced in September 1998 that it was going to exit brewing to concentrate on its leisure interests, and was therefore seeking to sell the two breweries which it owned: Vaux in Sunderland and Wards in Sheffield.

Initial hopes of a management buyout (MBO) were high when Frank Nicholson, current managing director at Vaux Breweries, headed a bid valued in the region of £65 million. This was for the purchase of both breweries, 350 tenanted pubs, as well as several other items

including the loan book for the Free Trade business. The bid was backed by a venture capital group and a large national bank. It seemed that the protracted negotiations would be successful, until the Swallow Group board announced that the bid was not acceptable and that unless serious obstacles could be overcome the breweries would be closed in July 1999.

This rejection of the MBO led to the resignation of Sir Paul Nicholson from the board, and to increased local and national media interest in the

story. The MBO team then tabled two further bids which were immediately dismissed by the Swallow Board. Redundancy notices were issued in early April and all discussions with the MBO team were stopped.

CAMRA has been campaigning actively to save the breweries in Sunderland and Sheffield. Vaux

and Wards each brew 6 cask ales, and closure would mean the ending of 160 years of brewing heritage on Wearside. It would also lead to the dismissal of 600 employees. This is perhaps the single most important issue facing CAMRA branches in northern England for several years, and it is vital that all members do something to save

the breweries from annihilation. We urge you to take action by writing to your local MP. Write to Sunderland Council expressing dismay at their lack of commitment to a local industry, and contact local newspapers with letters of protest. Durham CAMRA will support any bid which aims to preserve the brewing tradition of these viable sites, and views the proposed closure as nothing less than commercial vandalism. To lose Vaux would be to wrench the heart from North-Eastern beer culture, and must be avoided.



**20 REAL ALES
FREE ADMISSION
ALL WELCOME**



**OPEN MIDDAY
'TIL CLOSING**

**WOODMAN INN, DURHAM CITY
MAY 6-9 INCLUSIVE**

NEWSLETTER OF DARLINGTON CAMRA

DARLINGTON DRINKER

AUTUMN 2025



**NEW
PUB
NEWS**

**BIGGER
BETTER
BEER
FEST**

**EVENTS
COMING
SOON**



In pub news

Since the last edition, we welcome the Tap on Bondgate which opened in the centre of Darlington in the former Bondgate Tap building. They have 2 changing Real Ales with an emphasis on local breweries such as Richmond Brewery and Yard of Ale, plus a regular hand pulled Cider.

They are in the process of introducing the CAMRA Discount Scheme.



The bid to save The Bridge at Whorlton via a community buyout is still on track with financial pledges well on track to hit their target. Please check out their facebook page (search: The-Bridge-Inn-Whorlton-Community-Benefit-Society)

If you can offer support in any way
let them know.

Saving pubs is a primary aim of CAMRA
and here we have an opportunity within our branch to do just that.

EVENTS

GOOD BEER GUIDE LAUNCH

**DARLINGTON SNOOKER CLUB
BEER FESTIVAL - 25TH-28TH SEPT
PICK UP A DISCOUNTED GBG
AT THE RAILWAY THEMED BEER FEST**

NEXT BRANCH MEETING

**THE HALF MOON
TUE 21ST OCT - 7:30PM
ALL MEMBERS WELCOME
DISCUSS AND DRINK BEER**

Keep checking our website (www.darlo.camra.org.uk)
to see what Social trips,
Surveying Trips and other events are happening within our branch.
Follow us on Instagram and Facebook.

**"PLANNING CONTINUES TO BRING BACK OUR REVIVED
BEER FESTIVAL FOR A SECOND YEAR AT HOPETOWN.
WE PLAN TO GO BIGGER AND BETTER AFTER THE SUCCESS
OF 2025. KEEP YOUR EARS TO THE GROUND!!"**

IAN TAYLOR - CHAIRMAN

MORE INFO COMING SOON



A 4x6 grid of 24 beer labels from various brands, including Wherry, Unity, Kirikava, Sanku, Great River, Otter, Fort, Trade Winds, APA, Canyon, Yellow Hammer, Copper Cascade, Juicy Mango, Urban Dusk, Black & Tan, Valkyrie, Snake of Peace, Cofony, White Dwarf, Red Kite, Dog, Cow House, Innkeepers, Worley Bob, Daleside, Monkey Wrench, Black Adder, Saltaire, Thirstion XB, Tropical Madness, Dark Island, Forge IPA, Bateman's, Tod's Blonde, Citra, Classic Dark Mild, Dragonfly, Single Barrel, Adnam's, Mosaic, Golden, Raison, Bell, Saison, Raison, and Darkness.

Choose from over 150 drinks



CHAMPION BEER OF BRITAIN

NOMINATIONS OPEN 1 SEPTEMBER



JOIN CAMRA TO CHOOSE

— BRITAIN'S CHAMPION BEER —

CBOB.CAMRA.ORG.UK

It's that time of year again - time for local CAMRA members to choose the beers they would like to see go forward to the ***Champion Beer of Britain*** competition.

This represents the first part of a three-round contest, but it all starts with the members, who presumably like drinking real ale. It's your chance to nominate

your favourite local brews and help them get the recognition they deserve. There are some truly worthy ales produced in the CAMRA Durham area and across the North East as a whole, so please put your thinking/drinking caps on and suggest your favourites.

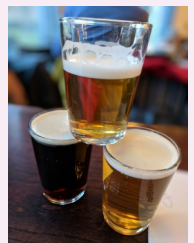
The process is open from 1st September and you have until 31st October to make your nominations at:

<https://cbob.camra.org.uk/>

There is plenty of information here, and an easy step by step guide on how to vote. Everyone is able to vote for any eligible beers and can nominate up to five beers in each of the categories, though there is no requirement to vote for all five beers— you can vote for fewer if you so wish.

Of course, you need to be CAMRA member to take part, but you can join at <https://join.camra.org.uk>.

Go on, you know it makes sense!



**THE
AWARD WINNING
MAXIM
BREWERY**

The home of Double Maxim

Many thanks to the generous sponsors of the 43rd Durham Beer Festival..

- **The Victoria, Hallgarth Street, Durham**
- **That Crafty Brew, North Burns, Chester le Street**
- **The Victoria, Witton le Wear**
- **The Grey Horse, Consett**
- **Chester le Street Masonic Centre**
- **Ye Old Elm Tree, Crossgate, Durham**
- **Mr Steve Kent**

Score your beer today at
WhatPub.com or use the
Good Beer Guide
web app by visiting
goodbeerguide.org.uk



CAMRA member?

Please score
your beer in
this pub

Scoring your beer helps to

- monitor beer quality in pubs
- identify pubs for the *Good Beer Guide*

- 
- An illustration depicting the beer scoring process. A large red barrel, labeled "WhatPub", has a spout where a man in a green shirt is pouring beer into a giant blue mug. The mug is overflowing with beer and a thick head of white foam. A man in a white shirt is holding the mug. In the background, a woman in an orange top and green pants stands with her arms crossed, and another woman in a blue top and yellow pants is looking at a smartphone. In the bottom right, a man and a woman are taking a selfie. The entire scene is set against a warm, orange-brown background.
- 0** No cask beer 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 but you drink the beer without really noticing.
 - 3 Good.** Good beer in good form. You may cancel plans to move to the next pub. You want to stay for another pint and may seek out the beer again.

- 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.

Pubs, Pints, People.



Death or Glory?

Just a pint please, actually.

CAMRA membership expands your choice of beer, pubs and festivals. Find the best pints, and the places you want to drink them.

Get £30 of beer vouchers, discounts on real ale, save on entry to 160+ beer festivals around the UK and more with membership.



Join and save on beer.
camra.org.uk/join



THE GOOD THE BAD AND THE UGLY



- Cask beer is available again at the **Royal Oak**, Cornsay Colliery.
- **Ox Inn**, Oxhill, Stanley is the latest pub to install Wainwright 'fresh ale' (keg beer dispensed by handpull), joining the **Old Mill**, Knitsley, Consett.
- Cask beer continues to be served at the **Crow's Nest**, Seaham and not fresh ale as previously reported.
- **Rose Tree**, Shincliffe closed for refurbishment 16 June and reopened 3 July.
- **The Victoria**, the **Colpitts** and **Ye Old Elm Tree** in Durham City, the **Butchers Arms** in Chester-le-Street, the **Grey Horse** in Consett and the **Three Horseshoes** in Leamside all featured in the Daily Telegraph's recently published '500 Best Pubs in England'.
- **The Station**, Langley Moor reopened on July 15th. New tenants appear to be making an effort to make it a pub for the community going by its social media posts.
- **The Peacock**, Tanfield Village have after many years of service decided to close its kitchen, but the pub remains open.
- **The Coalhouse** micropub in Seaham closed its doors for good on 14 July.
- **The Big Jug** in Durham has reopened again, initially Friday to Sunday only but longer openings are intended with a food option.
- **The Royal Oak**, Byers Green believed to have closed again.
- **The Royal George**, Old Shotton is due to reopen
- Planning application submitted to convert the closed **Wheatsheaf** in Leadgate into a 5 bedroom dwelling house. Planning reference **DM/25/01696/FPA**

- **The Fighting Cocks**, Durham announced it will no longer open on Sundays.
- **The Lambton Arms** in Chester-le-Street has had a major refurbishment refresh and is now known simply as **the Lambton** - and is serving cask beer again.
- **The Causey Arch Inn** at Marley Hill is closed but will be reopening as the Roadhouse (at Beamish!) but still with no cask beer - at least initially.
- **The Red Lion** at Plawsworth and the **Travellers Rest** at Witton Gilbert both welcomed new management.
- **The Dunelm Ridge** has been taken over by the 'Papas Group' and opened after a short closure but with no cask beer. There will be a further longer closure for rebranding later.
- **The Copper Mine** near Crook has retained its title of Pub of the Year in the Northern Echo competition
- **The Red Alligator** at South Church did try real ale but without success
- **The Surtees** in Crook has been bought by the tenants so is now a free house.
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- **Congratulations to Sarah-Jane Stobbs**, who, at the end of August, celebrated twenty years at **the Black Lion, Wolsingham** and marked the occasion with a beer festival



- At the **Pollard's** in Bishop Auckland, **Chris Shaw** also celebrated twenty years at the helm, and marked the occasion with a range of Theakston beers at 2005 prices

Grand Autumn Quiz



1. Why is the Paraguayan flag unique?
2. Which sweets were recently recalled in the Netherlands after cannabis was discovered in them?
3. How many albums did Taylor Swift recently buy back from private equity company Shamrock Capital?
4. Who won the summer's Polish presidential run-off election?
5. Who was the first Archbishop of Canterbury?
6. What was the original destination of the Orient Express?
7. Who is the latest Dr Who? (Perhaps.)
8. Of which group was Beyonce a member before going solo?
9. Vincent Van Gogh only sold one painting during his lifetime. What was it called?
10. Which country has the highest life expectancy?
11. Which company was originally called Blue Ribbon Sports?
12. How many dots appear on a pair of dice?
13. Acrophobia is a fear of what?
14. In which country is Mount Kilimanjaro?
15. In which country are the Angel Falls, the world's highest?
16. Which is the only seas with no coastlines?
17. How many bones are in the human ear?
18. What year was the United Nations established?
19. Who was the first woman to win a Nobel Prize?
20. Which country drinks the most coffee per capita?

Discount for CAMRA members!

- **The Green Tree**, Bishop Auckland: 10p off pint, 5p off half cask ale on production of valid CAMRA membership card
- **The Bay Horse**, Bishop Auckland 10% off real ale on production of a current CAMRA membership card
- **The Ship**, Middlestone Village, 10p a pint discount on production of current CAMRA card
- **The Half Moon**, Durham. 20p off a pint on production of current CAMRA card
- **The Red Lion**, North Bitchburn: 20p off pint cask ale for CAMRA members
- **The Pack Horse**, Burnopfield: 10% off real ale for card carrying CAMRA members
- **The Church Mouse**, Chester Moor: 20p off pint of cask ale to card carrying CAMRA members
- **The Grey Horse**, Consett: 20p off a pint on production of valid CAMRA card
- **The Duke of Wellington**, Durham: 20p off a pint of cask ale for CAMRA members.
- **Ye Old Elm Tree**, Durham: 20p off a pint of real ale on production of valid membership card
- **The Head of Steam**, Durham: 20p off a pint of cask ale for card carrying CAMRA members
- **The 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
- **Chester le Street Masonic Centre** accept the vouchers
- **The 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 all pubs operated by the Wetherspoon group and some by the Stonegate group. If you are aware of any offers that aren't listed, or have any problems with those that are, please let us know. You can find out more about these outlets by viewing their entries in CAMRA's national database [whatpub.com](#).

The Bay Horse, Bishop Auckland



- Since 1530
- Three real ales
- Cask Marque accredited
- Timothy Taylor Champion Club member
- Speed quizzing Thursday
- Live music Friday
- Karaoke Saturday
- Live TV sport
- 10% discount on real ale with CAMRA card, OR buy 8 get 9th free with loyalty card



38-40 Fore Bondgate
01388 609765



National Pub Of The Year

CAMRA has revealed the sixteen regional winners in its *Pub of the Year* 2025 competition—and Durham City's **Station House** is the North East representative, maintaining an impressive run in the competition for the CAMRA Durham area. The shortlisted pubs have beaten thousands of entries to be crowned the best in their region or nation (Wales and Scotland) and will now battle it out for the chance to be named CAMRA's overall Pub of the Year. The final four pubs in the running for the overall title will be announced in October with the winner revealed in January 2026.

CAMRA is encouraging people to get out and enjoy their local or seek out any of these great pubs for a quality pint in great surroundings. Judges are looking for great atmosphere, décor, welcome, service, inclusivity, overall impression and, most importantly, quality cask beer, and real cider and perry.

The sixteen pubs have been recognised as the best of the best in the UK and their shortlisting for the competition is testament to their quality and commitment to their communities and the hospitality industry.

This year's contest comes as many pubs across the UK face their toughest year yet. They face high costs, heavy tax burdens, and crippling business rates. Pubs need sector-specific support, including the reform of the business rates system, a reduction in the draught beer and cider duty and a reduction in Employer National Insurance to help with staffing costs.

Andrea Briers, CAMRA's Pub of the Year Co-ordinator said: *"It is a real pleasure to announce this year's top sixteen pubs, each of which has demonstrated exceptional quality, warmth, and dedication to their communities. These pubs are shining examples of what makes the Great British pub so special, from perfectly kept pints to a genuine welcome for all. Achieving this in the face of rising costs and other pressures is no small feat, and we want to see these pubs, and thousands of others like them, continue to thrive. That's why we're calling on the Chancellor to give pubs a fair deal in the Autumn Budget, so they can keep serving their communities for many years to come."*

How many have you visited on your travels? See the next page to check....

Here's the list of the sixteen...

East Anglia Blackfriars Tavern, Great Yarmouth



East Central Orange Tree, Baldock

East Midlands Burnt Pig, Ilkeston

Greater London Hope, Carshalton

Merseyside and Cheshire Cricketers, St Helens

North East Station House, Durham



North West Cumberland Inn, Alston

Northern Ireland Dog and Duck Inn, Lisbellaw

Scotland Volunteer Arms (Staggs), Musselburgh



South Central Bell Inn, Aldworth

South East Royston, Broadstairs

South West Hole in the Wall, Bodmin

Wales Rhos yr Hafod Inn, Llanon

West Central Pelican Inn, Gloucester



West Midlands Tamworth Tap, Tamworth

Yorkshire Beer Engine, Skipton



The Answers Bit

Grand Autumn Quiz 1. The front and back are different 2. Haribo Cola Fizz 3. Six 4. Karol Nawrocki 5. Augustine 6. Vienna 7. Billie Piper 8. Destiny's Child 9. Red Vineyard 10. Hong Kong 11. Nike 12. 42—the answer to everything. 13. Heights 14. Tanzania 15. Venezuela 16. Sargasso 17. Three 18. 1945 19. Marie Curie 20. Finland

Picture Quiz 1. Black Horse, Beamish Burn 2. Ye Old Elm Tree, Durham 3. Hare & Hounds, Westgate 4. Little Tap, Spennymoor 5. Half Moon, Durham 6. Dun Cow, Durham 7. Green Tree, Bishop Auckland 8. Duke of Wellington, Crossgate Moor, Durham 9. Colpitts, Durham 10. Three Horse, Shoes, Running Waters 11. Bay Horse, Wolsingham

CAMRA's new *TasteMatch* tool has been rolled out across the website, giving users personalised beer recommendations and helping them find the beers they'll love at the pub. If you haven't used **TasteMatch** yet, you can find out more and start building your profile by going to the site and clicking a few buttons to give your thoughts on the beers you drink. Please note, you will need to log into the website in order to use **TasteMatch**. The beer search on the website has been updated to show information across all container types, instead of only displaying cask. Basically, once you record your opinion of a beer, **TasteMatch** will remember that opinion and suggest others brews with similar characteristics.

Canny clever, eh? Give it a try, it might save you some time when choosing where and what to drink.





FRI: 2PM - 11PM

SAT: 12PM - 11PM

SUN: 4PM - 10.30PM

TUE - THU: 4PM - 10.30PM

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

VISIT OUR SISTER VENUE:

FRI: 2PM - 10.30PM

SAT: 12PM - 10.30PM

SUN: 2PM - 10.30PM

TUE - THU: 4PM - 10.30PM



FRAM FERMENT, 29B FRONT STREET, FRAMWELLGATE MOOR, DH1 5EE