

Danny Bevvvy

Tyneside & Northumberland CAMRA

FREE

Issue 269 • Autumn 2026



A Tour of Heaton Pubs

Local Pub and
Brewery News

Gateshead Pub Month

REGIONAL PUB OF THE YEAR

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Editorial	3
Advertising	3
Branch Diary	4
Pub and Brewery News	5-7
Campaigning	9-10
Queen's Head, Great Whittington	11
A Tour of Heaton Pubs	13-15
CAMRAmble - Kenton Bank Foot to Newburn Linear Walk	16-18
Gateshead Pub Month	19-21
Donzoko Brewery	23
North East Public Transport/ Bus Consultation	23
Regional Pub of the Year: Ye Olde Cross, Ryton	25
Book Reviews	29
Quiz	30
Last Orders	30
Join CAMRA	32

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In the latest issue of *Canny Bevy* we are pleased to celebrate the success of **Ye Olde Cross** in Ryton and Newcastle's **Bodega** at regional level. **Ye Olde Cross** was voted regional Pub of the Year with the **Bodega** taking the regional cider Pub of the Year title. Both now go forward to super-regional judging and *Canny Bevy* wishes them every success.

We update on the latest campaigning issues, including news received close to print that it is looking likely that Newcastle City Council will scrap the Late-night Levy.

Alongside key issues such as those above, *Canny Bevy* also recognizes that sometimes it's just about going for a pint or two. So, we have a full update on the latest pub, club and brewery news.

Talking of going for a pint, Tyneside and Northumberland Branch has a busy social calendar. If you're already a member, keep an eye out for our regular email updates with details of forthcoming events. If not, why not think about joining as we'd love to see you on one of our wanders or rambles.

Canny Bevy Production Team

Front cover: *Ye Olde Cross, Ryton* (Paul Hillhouse)

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Branch Diary

8 September

Branch meeting - Brandling Arms,
Gosforth High Street, 7.30pm

16 September

Wylam cask launch and wander,
starts at the Bridge Tavern, 7.00pm

24 September

Good Beer Guide launch, Fitzgeralds, 7.00pm

13 October

"Fell in the Fall" - a wander to the pubs
in Low Fell

14 October

Branch meeting - Black Bull,
Blaydon, 7.30pm

17 October

CAMRAMble - route TBC, 12.00pm start

29 October

Carlisle Beer Festival branch visit, times TBC

9 November

Branch meeting - The Chillingham Arms,
Heaton, 7.30pm

All events are subject to change.

Please check the *Canny Bevvy* website
www.cannybevvy.co.uk for up to date details.

Readers Pubs

We are looking for photographs
of pubs that our readers love.

Please send a photo, with your
details to: editor@cannybevvy.co.uk



Three Kings Brewery, North Shields

Three Kings have called in the administrators after describing trading conditions as brutal.

The brewery, based near the Fish Quay in North Shields, has been trading since 2012, with Ewan McCann brewing some excellent beers and was nominated for a SIBA business innovation award as recently as 2024. But with soaring overheads making trading challenging, Ewan was quoted as saying "he could no longer gamble with his family's financial security".

He said: "We've been trying to find a way to save the brewery, but the economic situation, the constant rise in overheads, and a load of other factors have finally caught up with us. There's only so much you can absorb in costs, and there's only so much you can expect people to pay for a pint."

The branch sends its deepest sympathy to Ewan and everyone associated with

Three Kings.

Darwin has continued producing some of the **Three Kings** beers.

In the UK almost three breweries are closing per week; the branch is currently actively campaigning on access to market for smaller breweries. We met with members of parliament at this year's Newcastle Beer and Cider Festival, we have remained in contact with MPs from across the branch and hope to have more on this very soon.

The Fishers Arms, Horncliffe

A community group that raised over £300,000 to save the village pub is celebrating having found a tenant to run the pub after a three-year search. A team of volunteers has kept the pub open since the first tenants left after only three months. William Ndeme, who has been a chef for 23 years, and Mary Ndeme have become the new tenants, and the community group has described them as having

been "Brilliant so far". The village had previously lost its post office and shop so keeping the pub as the hub of the community was very important.

Some of the volunteers have been working 14-hour shifts to keep the pub open and have offered a month of free volunteering to help the tenants settle in.

The Fishers Arms can be reached by the 67 bus from Berwick.

Oldgate Tavern, Morpeth opened in July, situated on Oldgate Street (formerly Micah's tearooms), the exposed brick micropub has 16 taps of Real ale and craft beer. Steven Murray and Victoria Arnott bought the premises at auction last September and, after months of hard work and restoration, now serve an ever-changing line-up of beer alongside locally produced pub snacks.

Lion and Lamb, Horsley reopened in July after a six-month closure. The Grade 2-listed historic pub, originally built as a farmhouse in 1718 using stones from Hadrian's Wall, is owned by Stonegate Pub Partners and is the only pub in the village of Horsley.

The new tenants, Paul Lynn, Katie Lynn and Mat Geldard, were already living in the village, with Mat Geldard knowing the venue through ad-hoc holiday cover for the previous tenants, alongside being employed in a full-time Head Chef position, so they know what a loss to the village the pub's closure was. Mat has had success in running a Northumberland village pub with rooms, that specialised in well kept cask ales for a number of years. The trio are now joint tenants.

Star Inn, Harbottle has been placed on the market by owner Karen Wilkinson, who took over in 2019 and developed The Star into a community pub

Pub and Brewery News

with a restaurant, shop and B&B. The transformation took place during Covid and fits the village well as a hub for the community. Karen is looking to step back and retire; however, she has vowed to stay open and give it her all until new owners are found.

The Star was named local pub of the year at the My Local Awards 2026 and was described as "far more than a place to eat and drink".

Wallace Arms, Featherstone is under new ownership. Hayley and Jon Howells have taken over from Hayley's mother, Gail, who steps down after over a decade of running the pub. The couple has taken to Facebook to reassure everyone that they are determined to keep it the warm and welcoming place so loved by everyone who finds it.

There have been some small changes, with a refreshed interior and a card machine. But by keeping the pub in the family, they are hoping to keep the heart and soul of the pub still intact.

Hayley had previously organised charity events for the Air Ambulance at the pub, and community events look set to remain a feature, with a pub triathlon of Quoits, Darts and Bagatelle arranged for September, with the winners' names to be engraved onto pub trophies.

The Blue Bell, Mickley could be adapted into a house as a planning application has been sought. The pub's owners, Trust Inns have tried to change the pub into three houses in 2021, but the branch helped as the Friends of the Blue Bell community group was formed and successfully applied to list the pub as an Asset of Community Value; the planning permission was then refused.

Since then, there have been three tenants, with the 200-year-old pub being closed since April. There have been many objections from local residents to the application and a follow-up application to build two further homes in the pub's car park.

Head of Steam in Tynemouth looks set to become the sister site to **Angel's Share**, a self-serve wine bar in Jesmond. Applications to alter the front of the pub and change signage show the **Angel's Share** branding and name in the same green and cream colouring as the Jesmond site.

The application was filed and went public on North Tyneside's planning portal before some staff working at The **Head of Steam** pub had been notified. **Head of Steam** first opened in Tynemouth in May 2014 and sold a large range of beers from across Europe alongside local Real Ale options

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Pub and Brewery News

News roundup

The Northumberland Hussar, Heaton, has reopened following a £250,000 investment from Punch Pubs & Co, including new carpets, flooring, lighting and a refreshed colour scheme designed to blend traditional charm and a more contemporary atmosphere.

Tom, Dick and Harry, Heaton

A new micropub is set to open in Heaton (84-86 Heaton Road) with an aim to open by mid September, from the team behind **The Hairy Lemon** in Alnwick and **The Cock and Bull** in Amble. The pub will serve four rotating cask and 10 keg lines featuring mostly local and independent breweries

The Joiners Arms, Morpeth, has been purchased by Punch Pubs Co. The announcement from Punch also indicates that Natalie Grenfell will continue to run the pub as it transitions into its managed partnerships estate. Natalie has been running the pub since 2024, having previously worked at the **Tap and Spile** in Morpeth.

The pub, which includes a terrace overlooking the River Wansbeck, was established in 1871 and was listed in the *Good Beer Guide* by CAMRA last year.

The Balloon, Fenham, is still standing as plans to replace it with a Starbucks drive-through have been rejected by Newcastle council planning officers, with the developers' claims that it would operate as a new community hub dismissed, as only a small percentage of patrons would sit inside and, if they were so inclined, could currently choose to sit at the drive-through Costa around 500 yards away.

One Hop, Morpeth is a new craft beer and smash burger bar coming to Newgate Street, a collaboration between **The Hoptimist**

micropub in Bedlington and **One Burgers** will feature a bespoke bar made from old church pews and is set to open this summer.

Take A Seat, Blyth is a new micropub on Plessey Road, set in a quiet corner near the harbour side. The community-focused and dog-friendly bar opens Thursday to Sunday and serves a changing selection of local real ales including **Darwin, Firebrick, First and Last**.

The North Terrace, Newcastle has reopened with a new pizza menu, currently open Wednesday to Sunday with a view to opening 7 days once the new team has settled in.

The World Beer Awards 2026 winners have been revealed, with **Twice Brewed Brewing Company** winning two awards. The world's best mid-strength stout or porter went to Pitch Black (3% ABV session stout), and Number of the Yeast (Weizenbock, 6.66% ABV) finished as the third-best strong wheat beer in the world.

Thirsty Moose Brewery and **The Tyne Valley Tap Room** joined forces recently for a 'meet the brewer' and tasting session. Max and Sam from the brewery talked attendees through six of the brewery's beers whilst also providing the background and history of Thirsty Moose. In addition to the company's core beers, the brewery's latest seasonal special 'Peach to their Own' pale ale was on the bar for tasting. Max explained that he was currently working on following this up later in the year with a raspberry pale ale. One to watch out for.

If you have any pub or brewery news to share with the branch then please contact chairman@cannybevy.co.uk

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Campaigning



Beer in the UK – CAMRA Report

Campaigning on the misleading labelling of beer stepped up a gear recently with the issue by CAMRA of its 'Beer in the UK' report which you can read by visiting the CAMRA website.

Alongside the labelling issue, the report highlights the dominance of the market by four foreign-owned brewing corporations. Around 80 percent of beer brewed in the UK is produced by those corporations with the consequence that small, independent breweries face significant difficulty in getting their beers on the bar.

We highlighted in our summer issue that whilst a beer may appear to hail from a particular area of the UK or from another country this is very often not the case. A world-famous beer such as Newcastle Brown Ale is now brewed many miles from its city of origin. Similarly, apparently imported 'continental' beers are being brewed

in places such as Northampton and Hartlepool, often to UK-only recipes that are significantly different to the beers produced abroad. And it doesn't end there. Drinkers are also being misled in that seven of the UK's best-selling 'craft beers' are produced by the big four.

Turning to the difficulties in access to market, there are around 1,600 small independent breweries in the UK. However, only 7 percent of the market is supplied by them. Increasingly those breweries are being squeezed out of the market by the big four's use of pub company contracts, line maintenance deals and supermarket listings. When added to the other pressures facing the industry, it is unsurprising that the number of breweries closing is so high. We've seen this play out in the North-East with over 20 losses in the last ten years. Most recently, North Shields based Three Kings announced it would be closing. As reported in the Newcastle Chronicle online, owner Ewan McCann cited the impact of rising costs and bigger competitors as some of the reasons behind the decision.

If the above makes you angry or depressed and you are not currently a CAMRA member then please consider joining. The organisation has campaigned for the rights of beer drinkers and pub-goers since 1971 but can only do that if it has members.

'VAT's The Problem'

Although not a CAMRA campaign, readers may be interested in a recent initiative headed up by celebrity chef Tom Kerridge. 'VAT's the Problem' seeks to persuade the government to reduce the VAT burden on the hospitality industry by reducing the current 20 percent rate to 10 percent.

Campaigning

Launching at the beginning of July, the campaign highlights that the 20 percent paid by the industry in the UK, is one of the highest rates in Europe. Elsewhere the average rate is 12.8 percent and as low as 7 percent in Germany.

Reporting on the launch, the Guardian newspaper quoted Tom Kerridge as saying, *"Our hospitality culture in the UK is the best in the world, but we continue to be hit with unfair levels of tax"* with him going on to say, *"Almost every other country recognises the need to support hospitality with a lower rate of VAT"*. However, the Guardian also reported that support for the campaign was not universal. In its coverage the paper cited the view of the independent think tank 'Tax Policy Associates' that the VAT cut would mainly benefit big businesses and that the potential cost of the cut (estimated at between £10.5bn and £12.5bn) could be better spent to spur growth.

More information can be found on the campaign's website, where you can make up your own mind on its merits.

Business Rates

Prime Minister Andy Burnham recently announced a planned 20 percent business rates cut for pubs, clubs and live music venues. CAMRA has welcomed the move although in the interest of balance, *Canny Bevy* should record that the wider hospitality industry has expressed dismay at the restrictive nature of the concession with cafes and restaurants excluded.

What's Brewing online reported chairman Ash Corbett-Collins as saying:

"This is a brilliant start to the new Prime Minister's tenure, living up to the statements that he's made before about pubs, pints and people."

Our business rates system is grossly

unfair to pubs and social clubs, bricks-and-mortar businesses that are also vital social institutions for their communities and desperately needs reform.

As always, we need to see the details at the Budget, but another year of rate relief will provide vital breathing space to publicans in England, while the work to review the rating system for hospitality businesses presumably continues".

Late-night Levy

Branch Chair, Paul Hillhouse and Public Affairs Officer, Mike Allaway met with the consultant working on the review of the Late-night Levy and were able to expand on and discuss the points set out in our letter to Newcastle City Council earlier this year. See *Canny Bevy* issue 267. A final report and conclusions were issued at the end of August. As *Canny Bevy* was going to print, we learnt that Council Leader Colin Ferguson was backing abolition of the levy. Councillor Ferguson stressed that initiatives introduced under the levy ought to continue. However, these should be paid for via an alternative funding mechanism that would not place the burden on hospitality venues. A decision to scrap the levy will need the support of the Council's Licensing Committee and agreement of the full Council. We will publish an update in the next issue of *Canny Bevy*. In the meantime, readers can view the report by visiting Newcastle City Council's 'Democracy' web page and accessing documentation for the 24 August Licensing Committee meeting.

Proposed Planning Law Changes

We learned since the last issue of *Canny Bevy* that the parliamentary debate on proposed planning law changes has been deferred until after the recess and should now take place on 2 September.



David Russell visits the Queen's Head in Great Whittington, Northumberland

I caught the X74 Hexham bus and headed from Newcastle out into the countryside. In the village of Great Whittington I've found a great pub. The **Queen's Head** is a former coaching inn, built 325 years ago. It was a pub for years, however, in modern times it's had a spell as a Chinese restaurant and was closed for a few years. In 2022 Dave Finn acquired the pub and is now running a very good operation on simple principles. It's a pub, pure and simple, not a bistro or a restaurant or whatever, it's a traditional pub.

Originally from West Cork in Ireland, Dave wanted to recreate a proper Irish pub, no leprechauns, no shamrocks, no big hats, none of the nonsense you find in the new breed of Anglo-Irish pubs, but a pub like you would find in Ireland.

Dark wood panelling, a pleasant, peaceful atmosphere where people can enjoy a pint. He firmly believes in the third-place principle, home, work and a place to relax.

Dave had previously worked in the hospitality industry at the **Ridley Arms** in Stanington and at **Twice Brewed**. He has a passion for real ale and today the pub has two ales, always Landlord and usually a local guest ale, often from **First and Last** or **Thirsty Moose**, with

nice traditional pump clips and branding. **Guinness** and a selection of regular keg beers are also available.

The food offering is kept simple, order burger you get a burger, if you want chips that's an extra, it gives people a choice, Dave's traditional Irish stew is usually available. On Sundays a proper Sunday lunch is served.

The pub has three joined rooms and a drinking area out front, it's very popular with the villagers, and a regular stream of designated driver groups from far and wide.

The pub is open every Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and other days for events, in summer the Queen's Head Quoits Club play in the local league and in winter it turns to pool and darts, a monthly quiz and occasional BBQ music nights are also arranged.

At the **Queen's Head** you know exactly what you're getting, a great welcome, good service, excellent ales, and no nonsense. The bus is only every three hours so a designated driver might be the best option.



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A Tour of Heaton Pubs by David Russell



Corner House, Heaton

Heaton is a suburb in the east of Newcastle. Over recent years it has become gentrified, which has led to an explosion in bars, cafes and pubs.

Corner House

Starting at the north end of Heaton, the **Corner House** pub is a well known landmark on the Coast Road (A1058). It was built by James Deuchar in 1934 and officially opened in 1936. Its construction faced notable opposition at the time, particularly from a local Methodist church that branded the establishment as "immoral". Despite this rocky start, it became a beloved local institution in Heaton and famously hosted early performances for entertainers including

Sarah Millican. Unfortunately, this **Greene King** pub only has Level Head session IPA on keg. Cask was removed from the bar a few months ago.

St. Theresa's Catholic Club

Continuing along Heaton Road away from the Coast Road, half a mile away is **St. Theresa's Catholic Club** which traces its origins back to the 1920's.

Today, the club which is open to all, serves as a popular community space and sports bar. You will find **Two by Two** Snake Eyes Pale, Byker Pale and Salt Apocalypse on keg here.

House Bar

Walking on a few yards brings you to **House Bar**. Another keg only pub, this micro pub opened in September 2023 and features pink and green Aureole lighting, bespoke seating and

A Tour of Heaton Pubs

reclaimed flooring. The neighbourhood wine and craft beer bar was launched as a sister venue to **The Town Mouse** pub. It has 10 keg lines including beers from **Duration** brewery, **Donzoko** and **Rig and Furrow**.

Flight Bar and Menagerie

A few steps down Heaton Road is **Flight Bar and Menagerie**. This is one of the larger bars on Heaton Road with outside seating. Table service is offered and live music can occasionally feature. Regular keg beers include **Full Circle** Repeater and Looper and **Stone Wood** Pacific Ale.

Last Resort

Next on the route is the **Last Resort**. Bohemian themes abound in this cosy micro pub serving three constantly

rotating cask ales and a plethora of keg and canned beer to boot. Owners Ben and Emily have recently extended into their basement room to serve more customers and host regular events, live music and quizzes. The future looks bright for this real ale haven.

Tipsy Toad

The last pub on Heaton Road about two hundred metres further on from the **Last Resort** is the **Tipsy Toad**. This two roomed micro pub has 11 keg on offer and one cask. A weekly 'cask' night is put on which sees the cask offered at only £3 per pint. The pub has regular events ranging from open mic and karaoke to quiz nights.



33rd Carlisle Beer and Cider Festival

Station Hotel, Carlisle

29th to 31st October 2026

Thursday 12:00 - 10:00 pm
Friday 12:00 - 10:00 pm
Saturday 12:00 - 10:00 pm

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A Tour of Heaton Pubs



Last Resort, Heaton

The Chillingham

Moving on to Chillingham Road, furthest away from the Coast Road is Heaton's oldest pub, **The Chillingham**. Opened in 1892 as the East End Hotel it is now part of the Sir John Fitzgerald chain of pubs, serving 7 cask beers, and two keg. Large screen TVs showing live sport and a bar menu food offering make **The Chillingham** a pub of choice for many in the Heaton vicinity.

The Barn Door

About two hundred metres towards the Coast Road brings us to our next clutch of drinking establishments, starting with **The Barn Door**, Heaton's first Country and Western themed bar! Serving **Camden** Eazy IPA as the keg beer option, the venue has quickly become popular, with live music and karaoke featuring as well as a cracking Sunday lunch.

237 East

Cross Chillingham Road and you will find **237 East** which has **Camden** Stout, **Wylam** State of Mind and **Almasty** Green on keg. This classy outfit is an offshoot from the **Tanners Arms** on Byker Bridge.

Elder Beer

Carrying on towards the Coast Road, **Elder Beer** was founded in late 2020 by Ed Sharp, a former bartender at Newcastle's famous **Free Trade Inn**. Sharp opened the craft beer café and bottle shop to bring a cosy, continental-style Belgian bar vibe to Heaton and there is a curated selection of kegs

and guest cask beers. Today, the venue offers national shipping, operates an outdoor heated beer garden and hosts community-focused events.

Northumberland Hussar

Purpose built in 1955 and named after a local regiment, a major investment in 2013 transformed the pub into a stylish horseshoe bar with many interesting artefacts on display and a further recent refurbishment has only improved the ambience. Food is made from scratch in the visible kitchen. A bank of five handpulls serve a range of cask-conditioned ales from both local and national microbreweries; a sixth handpull is dedicated to real cider. Quiz night on Thursday. Children welcome until 9pm, but dogs at any time!

CAMRAmble - Kenton Bank



Distance	6.0 – 6.5 total approx.
Terrain	Mostly tarmacked paths, pavements, footpaths can be muddy. Good strong walking shoes or boots recommended.
Grade	Easy to Moderate
Starting Point	The Twin Farms, 22 Main Road, Kenton Bank Foot, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE13 8AB
How to Get There	Bank Top Metro station is 5 minutes' walk from The Twin Farms. See: https://nexus.org.uk/
Description	Starting at The Twin Farms the walk continues to three other pubs mainly in a southerly direction and finishes at The Tyne Amateur Rowing Club, Newburn, NE15 8NL
After The Walk	Regular buses depart from Newburn to Newcastle City Centre. See: https://www.stagecoachbus.com/

The Morpeth Wolf enjoys a six mile linear walk from Kenton Bank Foot to Newburn

Not all of our CAMRA rambles (CAMRAmbles) are out in the countryside and our latest adventure started in

the suburb of Kenton Bank Foot in Newcastle. It finished by the River Tyne at Newburn.

On a glorious Saturday morning 17 of us gathered at the benches outside the **Twin Farms** pub enjoying the sunshine before setting off on a 6½ mile ramble to include four other pubs.

Foot to Newburn Linear Walk

The **Twin Farms** is a large stone-built building in the form of a farm house standing in its own grounds. It is very comfortable with various areas inside and out to sit and enjoy the extensive well-kept selection of beers on offer. I enjoyed a very light and refreshing pint of *Jarl* (3.8% ABV) from Scottish brewers *Fyne Ales*. I would like to give a special mention to Laura and her team at the **Twin Farms** for their superb

hospitality during our visit. The first part of our ramble was a 45-minute 2¼ mile walk which crossed the A696 traffic island, skirted a housing estate and continued through Westerhope Golf Club. Upon reaching the end of the driveway at the main road we turned right and continued to reach our lunch venue the Greene King operated **Jingling Gate**.

The **Jingling Gate** pub restaurant stands on the leafy outskirts of Newcastle and provides a good selection of cask ales from the Greene King portfolio. The food menu is brimming with choice from which my wife and I tucked into a “Butchers Board” sharing platter consisting of Scotch egg, glazed pigs in blankets, sticky pickle sausage rolls and toasted ciabatta, piccalilli and caramelised onion brown sauce. The platter was so filling that we didn't quite finish it all and saved the sausage rolls till later in the day. Our group chose to sit in the pub's very spacious patio area which offered some shade from the hot sun. The *Greene King – Abbot Ale* (5.0%) was delicious.

After our luncheon we continued to along the main road, wound our way around St. John's Church to join the North Walbottle Road. We soon left this to walk



The Jingling Gate

on a former waggonway established by The North Walbottle Waggonway Group in 2017. This area was previously the site of North Walbottle Colliery which opened in 1893. It produced excellent quality coal before eventually closing in 1968.

Leaving the former waggonway we wound our way through the edge of Chapel House estate to arrive at Chapel Park Shops, the location of **The Bear & Barrel** micropub.

This former pharmacy has been converted into single roomed micropub and our numbers filled the micropub to almost capacity. But all of us managed to find seating to sample a choice of three cask ales on offer.



The Bear & Barrel

CAMRAmble

Locally brewed *Tyneside Blonde* (3.9%) by *Hadrian Border Brewery* was very pleasant and refreshing.

It was now late afternoon and the weather was still beautiful as we headed down a pathway adjacent to Knop Law Primary School, crossed Barbondale Park to reach a subway with the A69 traffic rumbling above us. Crossing the path of Hadrian's Wall we again used a southern section of the North Walbottle Waggonway. At a junction we headed south-west to descend a path towards the village of Newburn. This beautiful country path passes the site of the former Walbottle Brick Works, now a nature reserve.

Walbottle Brick Works was owned by Kirtons and produced very good quality "Newburn" red bricks and "Walbottle" white bricks. Originally named Walbottle firebrick works it was owned by the Walbottle Coal and Firebrick Company from 1869 to 1906. Newburn bricks were mainly used for industrial building work including sewers, tunnels and arches.

Eventually we were walking alongside New Burn and, upon reaching and crossing Walbottle Road, we entered Winnings Courtyard Business Centre the site of another micropub, **PAC Newburn**. A 60th birthday party was in full flow but we were grateful that management had kindly left us enough outside seating to accommodate our group. Unfortunately, no cask ales were available so I enjoyed a very cool and refreshing hazy draft ale from Ouseburn-based *Two By Two Brewery*, *Nelson Idaho* (4.3%).

The last 1-mile leg of our CAMRAmble, which in some parts was on very uneven cobbled paths, descended through the village of Newburn to reach the north bank of the River Tyne.



Tyne Amateur Rowing Club

Standing proudly there is the **Tyne Amateur Rowing Club**, a modern rowing club building with a balcony overlooking the river and the bridge at Newburn. The club was founded in 1852 and is one of the oldest sporting clubs in the country.

We were aware that birthday celebrations were also taking place but again we were made very welcome with tables being set aside for some of us while other members of our group chose the glorious view from the spacious balcony area. Unfortunately, I wasn't on the balcony to witness a seal putting on a show which delighted onlookers as it enjoyed a tasty meal of fresh salmon.

From a perfect range of ales available I chose *Pagan Queen* (4.0%) from *Firebrick Brewery* based across the river in Blaydon.

We were delighted that the days event had been successful. We even had some non-CAMRA members who enjoyed the day out with us and hopefully they will join us again for future walks.

Please check out our website and social media for the details of our walk in October where we will be visiting pubs who are taking part of the Tyneside & Northumberland CAMRA's Gateshead Beer Month.

Tara-a-bit!
@MorpethWolf

Gateshead Pub Month 2026



Gateshead Pub Month returns for its third year this October, looking to build on the success of the previous two years and champion some of the great pubs across Gateshead.

For anyone new to Pub Month, the idea is simple: pick up a map leaflet at any participating pub, collect stickers from 7 different pubs and email them to us to enter a competition and win a bar tab at the participating pub of your choice. It is about celebrating and supporting a wide range of pubs and venturing beyond the city centre.

Ryton

It's only 40 mins from Eldon Square (or 20 from the Metro Centre) on the Tyne Valley 10 service.

Ryton is a charming area that has seen a pub scene develop very rapidly over the past few years.

In 2019, Ryton was down to two pubs (with a bit of a walk between them) following the closures of the **Jolly Fellows** and **Ryton Hotel**, and with **Ye Olde Cross**



Lane Head, Ryton. Photo: Doug Mousgrove

closed and looking likely to be converted into a dress shop.

It was at this low point that The **Lane Head** - Ryton's only micropub opened, set just off the main road in a converted former hairdressers, with Doug Musgrove taking the plunge and wanting to bring back something for the village to enjoy and turn the tide of closures that most villages in Britain seem to be facing. But it is perhaps a love of music that sets this pub apart; with Doug having a musical background, he wanted the pub to reflect that with live music on Tuesdays and Sundays featuring a regular line-up of very talented musicians.

Ryton's pub scene is now flourishing with **Ye Olde Cross** that was previously rescued and now owned by members of the community recently being named both Branch and Regional Pub of the



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Gateshead Pub Month 2026

Year by CAMRA (putting it in the top 16 pubs in the UK) and **The Half Moon** has recently seen cult pizza restaurant Nates take up residence in their kitchen and boasts one of the best beer gardens in Gateshead.

Low Fell

*Low Fell is less than 20 mins from Newcastle, or only 10 from Gateshead interchange on the 21 Angel service, and along with the **Black Horse**, **The Coach House** on Durham Road is also taking part.*

Not many pubs can boast a range of activities as diverse as a music quiz, Brazilian street food and flower arranging, The **Black Horse** has held all three in the same week (there was also a World Cup final on TV that week too, but who's counting).

The Robinson family have run the **Black Horse** for nearly fifty years, with Pat and Tim passing the pub down to Chris and Lisa, and they take pride in the fact that it is a real pub with a sense of community around it.



'Starry night over the Black Horse' by Jim Harker

Felling

Felling may be the easiest to reach, being only two stops on the Metro from Gateshead Interchange and two wonderful pubs only yards from the Metro station.

The Wheatsheaf is a welcoming corner pub that is like stepping back in time in the best way possible. Rebuilt in Edwardian style in 1907, the green and yellow ceramic facing is a sight to behold, as are the historic interior elements. Listed in CAMRA's National Inventory of Historic Pub Interiors.

The quality of the beer matches the decor, with the pub being regularly listed in the *Good Beer Guide*.

Only a few doors up the road is **The Old Fox**, a pub with music in its veins, with bands playing regularly across the weekend. The music inspires the decor with a sign overlooking the bar stating "when words fail, music speaks". Like **The Wheatsheaf**, the beer is also on point, with the pub also being a regular in the *Good Beer Guide* and an ever-changing line-up of beers from across the country.

Gateshead Pub Month runs from Friday, September 26th to Sunday, November 1st.

The full list of pubs taking part:-

The Black Bull, Blaydon, NE21 4JJ
Black Bull, Central Gateshead, NE8 1PQ
Black Horse, Low Fell, NE9 5HY
The Coach House, Low Fell, NE9 6JA
Firebrick Brewery, Blaydon, NE21 5TW
Lane Head, Ryton, NE40 3NA
Microbus, Central Gateshead, NE8 2AJ
The Old Fox, Felling, NE10 0HQ
The One Eyed Stag, Whickham NE16 4JB
The Schooner, South Shore Road, NE8 3AF
Station East, Central Gateshead, NE8 2AS
The Sun Inn, Swalwell, NE16 3AL
The Three Tuns, Low Fell, NE9 5SD
The Wheatsheaf, Felling, NE10 0HQ
Ye Olde Cross, Ryton, NE40 3QP



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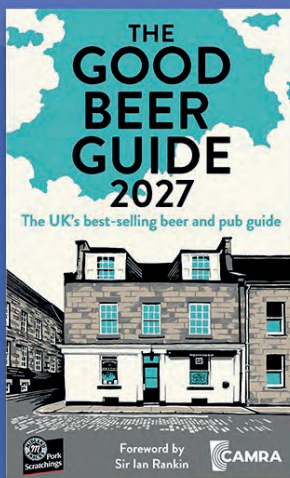
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Donzoko Brewery



It may seem odd to some Canny Bevy readers to have a feature on a brewery specialising in lager. However, it very much fits in with CAMRA's ethos, natural production using natural ingredients, based on traditional brewing.

Donzoko Brewery was founded in Hartlepool nine years ago, moved to Edinburgh and relocated three years ago to the Ouseburn in Newcastle. Founder Reece Hugill studied Chemistry at Newcastle University and in Germany.

Newcastle University gave him a business start-up grant, which he used to set up **Donzoko Brewery**. A tap room was opened a couple of years ago at **Donzoko's** brewery on Stepney Bank in Newcastle's Ouseburn.

In the main, they brew Franconian, German style lagers which are malty, hoppy and robust. They are distributed around the UK and internationally.

Their beer portfolio includes one cask lager, Keller, brewed once a month using the same recipe but a different single hop. The hops for all of **Donzoko's** beers come from a German family farm which Reece visits annually to select hops for the next year's brewing.

Reece says, "most lager is brewed by multinationals, but we are tiny. All our beers are naturally made and carbonated, they are an alternative to large breweries."

The brewery tap opens on Thursday evening and over the weekend.

North East Public Transport/Bus Consultation

CAMRA is associated with campaigning related to beer. Our campaigning centres on beer, breweries and pubs. However for many years we have also campaigned to support public transport. CAMRA appreciates that public transport is of key importance to both rural and urban pubs.

Regionally in the North East there is a consultation taking place relating to buses and public transport by the North East Regional Mayor's office. The consultation closes at 9.00am on Monday 28th September. Improving public transport will benefit pubs and beer drinkers.

Hubert Gieschen, National Chair of CAMRA Public Transport Advisory Group says, 'this is an opportunity to have your say on improving bus services to and from your favourite pub.'

For more information on how to have your say, ring **0191 277 4223**, email haveyoursay@northeast-ca.gov.uk or alternatively go to the website: northeast-ca.gov.uk/haveyoursay



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Regional Pub of the Year: Ye Olde Cross, Ryton



Mick Rolfe and Ian Monteith-Preston receiving their award. Photo: Peter Duncan

Just before the August bank holiday, the branch visited Ryton to celebrate Ye Olde Cross winning the Regional Pub of the Year Award and moving forward into the national competition.

By Paul Hillhouse

The National Pub of the Year competition is judged on 8 criteria: the quality and condition of its cask ale; promotion and knowledge of its cask ale; cleanliness and staff hygiene; community focus; service and welcome; style, decor, and atmosphere; sympathy with CAMRA aims; and overall impression and value.

Back in January, the branch judged it to be the best of our finalists based on these criteria, and the other branches in the North East region agreed as it went on to win the regional heat.

Competition coordinator Andrea Briers said: *"we have a formidable top 16 this year with both familiar faces and some first-time winners in the mix. Behind each one is a deserving and hard-working team, running an amazing pub for their local community, and serving brilliant cask beer."*

The Cross now finds itself amongst the 16 best pubs in Britain and goes forward into a semi-final against three other regional champions: **The Northumberland Arms, Marple Bridge** (North West), **The Countryman's Inn**, Hunton (Yorkshire), and **The Railway Inn**, Ketton (East Midlands).

The winner moving forward into the final four will be announced in October, before an overall winner is announced at the end of the year.

Mick Rolfe who has been running the pub for five years commented: *"we're absolutely chuffed to have been named North East Pub Of The Year and it's really nice to know that all of the hard work that has gone into making the pub what it is (an inclusive and welcoming space filled with great vibes and great beer!) is appreciated! Huge thanks to our amazing staff and customers! Thanks also to all of the wonderful volunteers who enable our various community-focused events to go ahead!"*

Ye Olde Cross is also part of **Gateshead Pub Month** this October.

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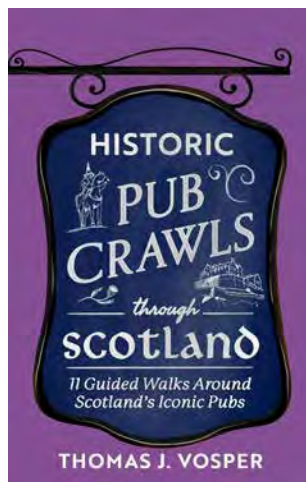
The Good Beer Guide
Paperback
£15.99

Foreword
by Sir Ian Rankin

For many beer drinkers the *Good Beer Guide* is essential reading. The latest edition (published September 2026) pay more than a nod to literature. The foreword has been written by Sir Ian Rankin and Adrian Tierney-Jones has written a feature titled Pints, Plots and Prose where he claims that English literature started in a pub - he references Chaucer. Tierney-Jones also highlights Shakespeare, Dickens, Stevenson, J.R.R. Tolkien and C.S. Lewis and Orwell amongst others.

The main reason why the *Good Beer Guide* is considered to be the real ale drinkers bible is that it has the UK's best real ale pubs, selected by local CAMRA members. It also has information on the UK's many breweries, the section on breweries is a sizeable part of the book.

If you are travelling anywhere in the UK, the *Good Beer Guide* will enable you to find the best pubs.



Historic Pub Crawls Through Scotland
Thomas J. Vosper
Hardback
£16.99

This book, as the title suggests, features pub crawls in Scotland. However, the carefully selected walking routes are much more than an itinerary of pubs, the routes weave in local landmarks, history and local interest information.

Each route starts at a mainline railway station. There are two crawls for Edinburgh (easily reached from the north east), Glasgow also has two crawls. The Highlands are included with crawls in Inverness and Perth. Other crawls are spread across Scotland.

Author Thomas Vosper has an appropriate balance of history to inform and entertain. Walking directions are clearly written so the reader doesn't get lost.

Quiz!

- Answers:
1. Soap Opera Breweries.
 2. Shires, brewed by
• Luxford & Copley
• Ephraim Monk
• Newton & Ridley
 3. The Nags Head.
Stourhampston.
 4. The Slaughterted Lamb.
 5. The Moon Under Water.
 6. The Garrison Tavern.
 7. The Black Horse.
 8. Admiral Benbow Inn.
 9. The Simpsons, Moe's Tavern.
 10. The Aldensfield Arms.

Canny Bevvv Quiz

Fictional Pubs and Ales

- 1 Name the breweries supplying ale to the following soap opera pubs:
 - Coronation Street's Rover's Return?
 - Emmerdale's The Woolpack?
 - Eastenders The Queen Victoria?
- 2 What ale is the preferred pint in long running radio soap The Archers village pub the Bull? (Award yourself an extra point if you also know the brewery).
- 3 Name the pub in the comedy Only Fools and Horses.
- 4 Which pub features in the cult film American Werewolf in London?
- 5 George Orwells imagined ideal pub.
- 6 The Peaky Blinders drank here.
- 7 Where did the Likely Lads most often meet for a pint?
- 8 Treasure Island local.
- 9 Where Homer calls in for a Duff Beer.
- 10 Heartbeat hostelry.

LAST ORDERS

If you have a complaint about any unfair trading practices, such as short measures, beer quality, overcharging, service or misleading product promotions, you should firstly inform the publican. If however you do not get a satisfactory response, then CAMRA recommends that you contact Citizens Advice. Contact details listed below.

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