

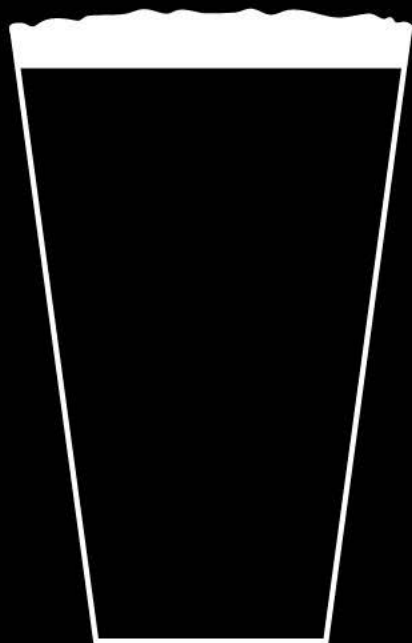
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Tyneside & Northumberland Branch

FREE

Issue 230 • Winter 2014

WELCOME TO THE



DARK SIDE



CAMPAIGN
FOR
REAL ALE

RADGIE GADGIE PULLOUT



nwaf.org.uk



**THE ROUNDHOUSE
DERBY**

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STOP PRESS

On 18th November CAMRA helped to win a landmark victory after 10 years of campaigning. MPs were backing a CAMRA supported amendment, at the Report Stage for the Small Business, Enterprise and Employment Bill. This allows tied pub tenants of large pub companies, to have their rent reviewed independently. It also gives them the option to buy beer at competitive prices in an open market. The Government was defeated by 284 votes to 259. Together we achieved the first Coalition Government defeat on one of their own Bills. I would like to thank all the members who lobbied their MPs and all the MPs who voted yes (aye). A full report will be in issue 231.

A special feature on local dark ales, stouts and porters brewed by breweries in the branch area, which will be available this winter (see pages 12 & 13). If you think you know a lot about beer, then test your knowledge on page 9. Finally, I hope you enjoy the Radgie Gadge 4 page Christmas special (pages 15-18).

From Canny Bevvy, the Branch and myself,
I wish you all a Merry Christmas and
a Happy New Year.

Cheers

Adrian Gray
Editor



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BRANCH DIARY

Wednesday 10th December 7.15pm

Merry Meander
Starts at Bridge Hotel, Newcastle

Tuesday 13th January 7.30pm

Branch Meeting
Newcastle Cricket Club, Jesmond
Metro to Jesmond

Monday 19th January 7.30pm

Good Beer Guide Selection Meeting
Gosforth Hotel, Gosforth
Metro to Regent Centre/
43 bus at 7.10pm, Haymarket

Wednesday 28th January 7.30pm

Wednesday Wander
Starts at Pub & Kitchen, North Shields
Metro to North Shields

Monday 9th February 7.30pm

Branch Meeting
Town Wall, Newcastle

Wednesday 11th February 7.30pm

Wednesday Wander
Starts at Old George, Newcastle

Wednesday 18th February 7.30pm

Final Good Beer Selection Guide Meeting
Millstone, South Gosforth
Metro to South Gosforth/
55 bus at 7.11pm, Haymarket

Saturday 21st February 1.00pm

Regional Meeting
Bridge Hotel, Newcastle

Wednesday 11th March 7.30pm

Wednesday Wander
Starts at Forth, Newcastle

Monday 16th March 7.30pm

Branch Annual General Meeting
Chillingham, Heaton
Metro to Chillingham Road/
63 bus at 7.01pm, Blackett Street

Wednesday 15th to Saturday 18th April

39th Newcastle Beer & Cider Festival
Northumbria University
Students Union, Newcastle

Further details on times, itineraries and other local festivals can be found on the Canny Bevy website www.cannybevy.co.uk, the branch Facebook page, www.facebook.com/tyncamra or in What's Brewing.

All the above events are for CAMRA members and non members. Everyone is welcome.

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CAMRA HAS GONE POTY AGAIN!



For all local branch members of CAMRA - VOTE NOW

**CAMPAIGN
FOR
REAL ALE**

It is that time of year again for voting for:

Pub of the Year- (POTY),
Club of the Year - (COTY),
Cider Pub of the Year - cider (POTY). Nominations by 31st January 2015.

Tyneside: Our branch includes Newcastle Gateshead and North Tyneside. As usual Northumberland is split into three areas for POTY and cider (POTY): North-Berwickshire and Alnwick, South West -Tynedale, South East - Castle Morpeth, Blyth Valley and Wansbeck.

If you are a branch CAMRA member please vote for a pub

that you feel worthy of inclusion in each of the four areas for Pub of the Year and Cider Pub of the Year.

Also vote for a club worthy of inclusion for the whole of Northumberland and one for Tyneside. If you feel you can only vote for one pub in one category or area please do so. Please include your membership number.

Vote online: www.cannybevvy.co.uk
Email: chairman@cannybevvy.co.uk
By post: CAMRA, c/o 7 Springfield Avenue, Gateshead, NE9 7HL.

Reminder: AGM at The Chillingham, Chillingham Road, Heaton, 7.30pm on Monday 18th March 2015.

Please bring membership cards to vote.

If you wish to stand for post of Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Secretary, Pubs Officer or Public Affairs officer please contact the Secretary: 23 Nunwick Way, Haydon Grange, Newcastle, NE7 7GB.

Nominations need to be in writing, signed by a proposer and seconder, both of whom shall be members of the Branch, and accompanied by evidence of the willingness of the nominee to stand by 18th February 2015.

Dr Ian Lee
Branch Chairman

THE VICTORIA COMET

38 NEVILLE STREET, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE, NE1 5DF

Opens 11th December

The Victoria Comet is one of the rare gems of the Nicholson's Pubs collection, and we've taken pride in restoring the pub that dates back to the 1800's. Here you'll find the best traditions of the great British pub: a superb range of cask ales, including our very own Nicholson's Pale Ale, freshly cooked pub food, warm and genuine service and authentic British atmosphere. Pop in for a pint and see how we've restored the pub... we'll tell you how we got our name and all about our pub history.

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PUB & BREWERY NEWS

VICTORIA COMET (formerly O'Neill's), 38 Neville Street, Newcastle

Is due to reopen on 11th December, after being restored to its former glory by the new owners, the Nicholson's Pub Company, established in 1873. The nationwide company has a portfolio of unique and historic real ale gems. This is their first pub in Newcastle. Originally it was two pubs, The Victoria and The Comet, which merged to become The Victoria and Comet Hotel in the 1800s. It closed 75 years later. The iconic pub's interior was used in the classic 1972 film *Get Carter*, starring Michael Caine and Alun Armstrong. This will be a fantastic addition to the Newcastle real ale scene.

THE OLD GEORGE, Old George Yard, Newcastle

The oldest pub in Newcastle, which dates from 1582, recently reopened after a \$200,000 revamp. It now has 8 handpumps serving local and national cask ales. Since reopening, Stephen Lamb, 29 year old general manager, has won The General Manager of the Year Award 2014. There were over 600 pub managers in the competition in the Stonegate Pub Company estate. Stephen's prize is a holiday in South Africa. Well done.

THE MARKET LANE (aka The Monkey Bar), 72-74 Pilgrim Street, Newcastle

Now has a new general manager, Jamie Logan, 25. Jamie was previously assistant manager at Osbornes, Jesmond. As well as selling real ales, a free juke box has now been installed. The Market Lane is owned by the Newcastle based leisure company, The Malhotra Group. They also own the Runhead Bar and Grill, Ryton and The Sandpiper, Cullercoats. Both held their first beer and cider festivals earlier this year, with great success. Both festivals will return in 2015. Also in 2015 the company plan to extend The Market Lane into an adjoining premises and add a terrace and restaurant.

ALLENDALE BREWERY, has now moved into an adjoining unit, which has doubled the size of the brewery. After making the new premises fit for purpose, 3 new 20 barrel fermenters have been installed. In the North East SIBA competition, Pennine Pale @ 4.0% ABV, won gold in the bottled bitters category and APA @ 5.5% ABV, won gold in the Strong Bitters category. APA went on to win overall bronze out of 250 beers from Yorkshire and the North East. At the Hong Kong International Beer Awards, Red Rye @ 7.0% ABV, was the winner for Rye beers.

ALMASTY BREWING Co, had it's official brewery launch day on 15th November. As well as meeting the brewer, there were brewery tours, 6 beers were brewed (which all sold out) to over 100 people who attended. Because of it's success, another open day is planned for next year.

HEXHAMSHIRE BREWERY, has recently created a new beer to celebrate the smelters and carriers who worked at the Dukesfield Smelt Mill, near Slaley, from 1600s to the 1800s. The cask ale is called Ore'some Ale, a dark beer which will be available in pubs from Nenthead to Blaydon.

MORDUE BREWERY, brewed a new beer exclusively for the recent Wetherspoon International Real Ale Festival. Americana @ 5.0% ABV in the style of an American brown ale. It was voted 1st in it's class and 2nd overall.

THREE KINGS BREWERY, a 5 barrel plant with 4 fermenters/conditioning tanks, has now invested in 10 wooden casks. The owner, Ewan McCann, supplies his beer to various pubs and beer festivals in the region. On 3rd December he supplied 6 different beers in wooden casks to 6 Newcastle city centre pubs on behalf of The Society for the Preservation of Beers from the Wood (SPBW). These were The Trent House, Bodega, Bridge Hotel, Fitzgeralds, Bacchus and Lady Grey's.

APOLOGIES, to High House Farm Brewery for not mentioning in the last issue that they had 4 barrels of Pullet Please @ 3.7% ABV, on sale at this year's Great British Beer Festival. They also supplied a free 9 gallon cask for the CAMRA volunteer's bar.

THE OFFICE, Castle Square, Morpeth

Opened on 25th November, it is the first micro pub in Morpeth. It is owned by local brewery, Acton Ales Ltd (formerly Gundog).

THE SUN, Market Lane, Swalwell

Has now increased it's number of handpumps to 6, serving cask ales. In addition they now also sell 2 real ciders. This little pub with a big heart has been in the CAMRA Good Beer Guide since 2009.

THE BOTANIST, Monument Mall, Newcastle

The new 8,000 sq ft bar/ restaurant is due to open on 15th December. The owners, New World Trading Company, also own 4 other Botanist Bar and restaurants in Leeds, Manchester, Chester and Alderley Edge. It will have 9 bar stations serving cask ales, ciders and over 50 different bottled beers. There is also a roof top terrace, with views over looking the city.

BIERREX, 82 Pilgrim Street, Newcastle

Is now open on the site formally occupied by Popolo's Italian Restaurant. The American styled bar/diner with a horseshoe shaped bar, serving 10 cask ales and 50 craft keg beers rotating through 31 taps. These are displayed on a large blackboard. The tap dispensers are on the wall behind the bar. Cask ales are served from the taps on a gravity system. The owners also own DatBar in the city centre. Joseph Harrop, manager, previously worked at the Cumberland Arms, Byker.

QUEEN VICTORIA, 206 High Street, Gosforth

Now has a new owner, local businessman, Mark Keith. The pub was formally part of the Leopard Leisure pub estate. Manager Paul Sinclair, previously manager of The Blackbird, Ponteland, has been retained. There are 6 handpumps serving real ale and 1 handpump serving real cider, increasing to 8 handpumps before Christmas. The kitchen reopened on 17th November after a full refurbishment. The pub has been in the CAMRA Good Beer Guide for the last 3 years.

BEER FESTIVALS 2015

CAMRA Festivals

Manchester:

21st - 24th January

National Winter Ales Festival:

11th - 14th February

Stockton:

19th - 21st February

Leeds:

12th - 14th March

Newcastle:

15th - 18th April

Great British Beer Festival (GBBF):

11th - 15th August

Non CAMRA Festivals

Beamish Hall (Stables):

23rd - 24th January

Morpeth RFC:

24th - 25th April

Gateshead RFC:

1st - 3rd May

Tynedale:

11th - 13th June

We recommend you confirm all dates before you travel.

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CAMRA members**

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TO USE YOUR
PUB OF THE
YEAR VOTE**

vote online

www.cannybevvy.co.uk
or at a branch meeting

20 FACTS ABOUT BEER

Before thermometers were invented, brewers would dip a thumb or finger into the mix, to find the right temperature for adding yeast. Too cold and the yeast wouldn't grow. Too hot and the yeast would die. This thumb in the beer is where we get the phrase "Rule of thumb".

The moon has a crater named Beer.

In English pubs ale was ordered in pints and quarts, so in England when customers got unruly, the publican would yell at them to mind their own pints and quarts and settle down. It's where we get the phrase "Mind your P's and Q's".

At 65 percent alcohol by volume, Armageddon from Brewmeister Brewery in Scotland, is the world's strongest beer.

Beer helped Joseph Priestly discover oxygen. He noticed gases rising from the big vats of beer at a brewery and asked to do some experiments.

Beer was the reason the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock. It's clear from the Mayflower's log that the crew didn't want to waste beer looking for a better site. The log goes on to state that the passengers "Were hassled ashore and made to drink water, that the seamen might have more beer".

Centuries ago in England, pub visitors used a novel innovation that enabled them to get their beer served quickly. They used mugs with a whistle baked into the rim, the whistle being used to summon the barmaid. It has been suggested this practice gave birth to the phrase "Wet your whistle".

After consuming a bucket or two of a vibrant brew they called aul, or ale, the Vikings would head fearlessly into battle, often without armour or even shirts. In fact the term "Berserk" means "Bare shirt" in Norse and eventually took on the meaning of their wild battles.

Beer is easiest on the kidneys among alcoholic beverages, because it has the highest water content.

During the European Middle Ages and Renaissance, beer was often a nutritional necessity and was sometimes used in a medical setting. It could be flavoured with almost anything, from the bark of fir trees to fresh eggs and thyme. Everyone drank beer, including children.

Nobel Prize winner Niels Bohr, was given a perpetual supply of beer piped into his house.

The Code of Hammurabi, decreed that publicans that watered down beer would be executed.

President Theodore Roosevelt took more than 500 gallons of beer with him on an African safari.

At the Wife Carrying World Championships, first prize is the wife's weight in beer.

A cloud near the constellation Aquila contains enough ethyl alcohol to fill 400 trillion, trillion pints of beer.

Fried beer won Most Creative Fried Food at the 2010 Texas State Fare.

Coined in the early 1900's, the word "Alcoholiday" means leisure time spent drinking.

The builders of the Great Pyramid of Giza were paid with a daily ration of beer.

In the 1980's, a beer drinking goat, named Clay Henry III, was elected mayor of Lajitas, Brewster County, Texas.

There is an Egyptian beer called "Bousa", that is brewed from millet and has been a favourite drink for over 3,000 years. Modern Ethiopia has a version made from wheat. It has been hypothesized that this might have been the origin of the word "Booze". Other spellings used are boza, bouza and booza.



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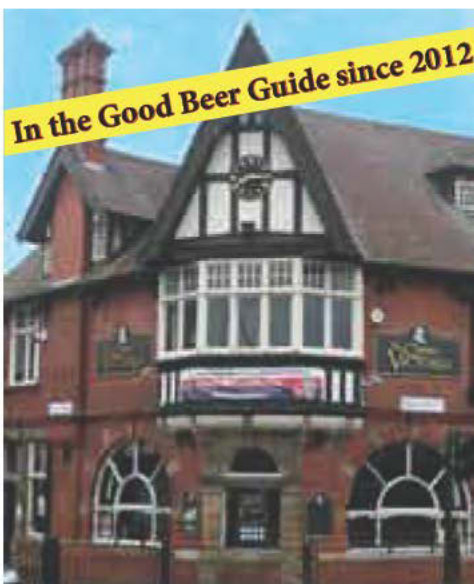
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Allendale

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Dark chocolate, smooth.

End 63 Black IPA (6.0%)

More than just an oxymoron...

Anarchy

Smoke Bomb (3.9%).

Dark, smoke malt, hoppy and a big mouthfeel. Natural and unfiltered.

Stout: Sublime Chaos (7.0%)

Dark and voluptuous; infused with Ethiopian Guji natural coffee beans.

Bear Claw

Pooka (6.2%)

Dark, malty, medium bodied stout.

Big Lamp

Summerhill Stout (4.4%)

Rich dark and tasty.

Cullercoats

Watch House Winter Warmer (5.0%).

Warming dark English ale with spicy/ berry flavours.

Firebrick

Coalface (3.9%).

Refreshing black beer.

George N Porter

Full Wood (5.2%)

Dark malty, smooth, chocolate ale.

Hadrian Border

Secret Kingdom (4.3%)

Dark, rich and full-bodied, slightly roasted with a malty palate.

Yule Fuel (5.0%)

Dark, full bodied and satisfying.

Hexhamshire

Old Humbug (5.5%).

Dark malty old fashioned beer.

Blackhall English Stout (4.0%)

Black with a roast aroma and sweet chocolatey taste.

High House Farm

Black Moss (4.3%)

Robust full bodied porter.

Ferocious Fred (4.8%)

An almost black "extra porter".

Mordue

Headmaster's Christmas Sermon (5.2%)

Dark and rich, just like a Christmas cake.

Northumberland

McCrory's Irish Stout 4.8%

Smooth creamy and black.

STOUTS & PORTERS

Ouseburn Valley

Brandling Porter (4.4%)

Dark with malty aroma and hints of coffee/liquorice in the taste.

Milk Stout (4.7%)

Dark with liquorice and slightly coffee taste.

Ship Inn

Sea Coal (4.0%)

Dark wheat beer.

Three Kings

Black Spartan (5.5%)

Porter that's name says it all!

Tyne Bank

Mocha Milk Stout (6.0%)

Sweet milk stout with chocolate, coffee, and vanilla.

Dark Brown Ale (4.2%).

Rich and malty.

Xmas beer between:

1. Chocolate Lime Stout would take inspiration from a "traditional boiled sweet" and be "a thick, rich and smooth 5.4% stout, brewed with real chocolate, dark malts, limes lime zest and citrussy hops".
2. Orange and Ginger Pale Ale would be "a 4.4% pale ale flavoured with warming ginger and fresh oranges for a wintery, Christmas themed brew".

VIP

Village Ghost (4.5%)

Black rich stout with strong bitterness.

Wylam

Haugh Porter (4.6%).

Dark and smooth with complex flavours.

NB: This was written before the brewer's plans for the winter season were published and therefore not all of these beers will be brewed this year, although some new ones may be. The beer descriptions are the author's own and not necessarily that of the brewery or CAMRA. In some cases one person's "darkish reddish" beer could be another's "brown" and therefore not listed here at all.

By John Holland



WELCOME
TO THE
DARK
SIDE



CAMRA Members' Weekend and AGM

17th - 19th April 2015

CAMRA Members' Weekend Nottingham, featuring the National AGM and Conference, is where our members discuss our future policy and direction. The weekend also offers the opportunity for members to socialise with friends, visit recommended pubs and go on organised trips. The Weekend is open to all CAMRA members and will be held at:

The Albert Hall, Nottingham, from 17th - 19th April 2015.

Pre-register today

You can pre-register online through the Members' Weekend website:

1. Please visit the Members' Weekend website: www.camraagm.org.uk
2. Select the "Register" tab that is located in the top right hand side of the menu and log in with your membership details.
3. You will then receive an online confirmation message that your pre-registration was successful.
4. You will now be pre-registered for the event.

Please note that joint members will need to login and pre-register individually. Closing date for pre-registration is Friday 20th March 2015.



I would like to pre-register (closing date for pre-registration is Friday 20th March 2015). Return form to 230 Hatfield Road, St Albans, Hertfordshire, AL1 4LW

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| Membership _____ | Joint Membership (if applicable) _____ |
| Full Name, First _____ | Surname _____ |
| First (joint member) _____ | Surname _____ |
| Email _____ | |

If you would like to volunteer, please circle below to indicate when you would like to work. Your details will be passed on to the staffing officer and you will be contacted closer to the event.

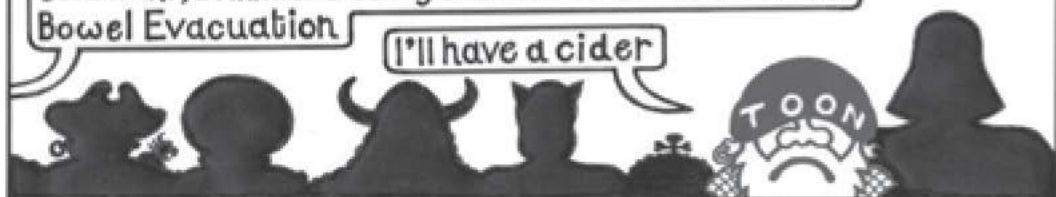
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| AM | PM | AM | PM | AM | PM | AM | PM | AM | PM | AM | PM |

RADGIE GADGIE

BY ADRIAN GRAY

Radgie, they've only got Thickhead's Decapitator, Hengine's Old Sump Oil, Fishead's Wobbly Newt, Wrestler's Betty Swallocks, Drinkwell's Leaky Bladder & Ramsbottom's Bowel Evacuation

I'll have a cider



Dad, there's just been a news flash
What's happened?

It said it's never happened
in living memory
What did it say?

You bought a round



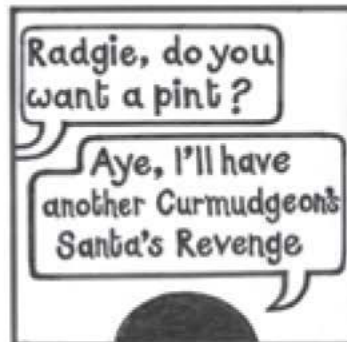
Radgie, do you want a pint?

Aye, I'll have another Curmudgeon's Santa's Revenge

That'll be your Fifth. You know it's 20% alcohol?

Divvnt worry, I've ordered...

an ambulance

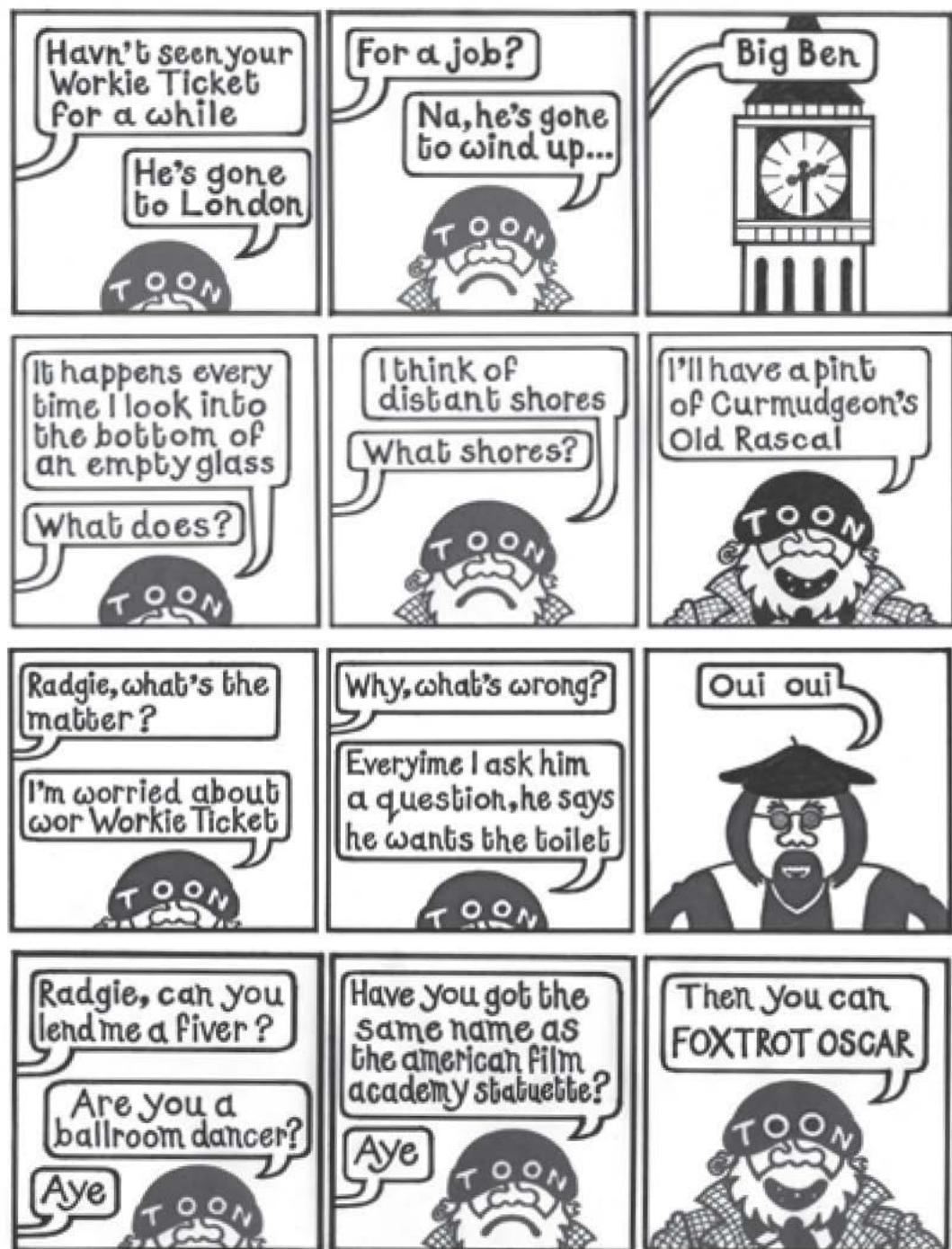


Wor lass loves the snow she's been looking through the window for days

I suppose I should let her in



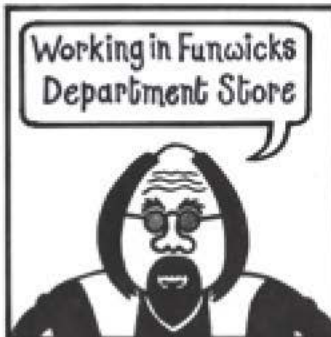
CHRISTMAS



SPECIAL



HAPPY NEW YEAR

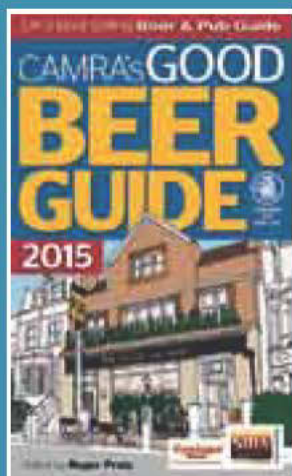


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The Wallow
Union Street
Blyth
Tel: 01670 356 830

Rohan Kanhai
Woodhorn Road
Ashington
Tel: 01670 857 692



ON THE TRAIL OF THE LONESOME PINT

NORTH VIRGINIA FALL BEER FESTIVAL OCTOBER 2014

I went with my son who lives in Virginia and 2 of his buddies but inevitably we met some other drinking friends. We arrived exactly at opening time, taking some photos before the crowds got in. The beer festival was held at a place called Old Bull Run and if you look up old Bull Run battles you will see 2 major civil war battles (called the 1st & 2nd Battles of Manassas by the Confederates) took place nearby. The Union was so sure of winning the first battle on 21 July 1861 that congressman and society men and ladies left Washington to watch from a nearby hill. Unfortunately the Union troops were routed and their withdrawal was hampered by all the civilians rushing back to Washington. The second battle on 28/30 August 1862 also was a Union defeat but at least this time the retreat was more orderly.

I picked up my quarter pint glass, a good idea I think, as it allows sampling of many many beers especially given that the average strength of the ones I chose was about 7.0%. Another major difference to a UK festival was that the event was held outdoors. Imagine being sure enough of the weather to schedule an outdoor festival in the middle of October! It was noticeable that the average age was late 30s, that there were nearly as many women

as guys and not a real beer belly anywhere. There were two concentric ovals of stalls (like market stalls). The inner oval consisted of 48 beer stalls (each stall had 2 or 3 different beers and sometimes 2 different breweries), 3 hard cider stalls (cider there is a soft drink so to get the drink we know you have to ask for hard cider) and 1 wine stall. Impressively after every 4 or 5 stalls there were tables with jerry cans of water that could be used for glass rinsing or if one really needed to, drinking. The outer oval had food stalls along one side and on the second side there were stalls selling jewellery and suchlike trinkets, promoting home improvements, a plumber, a tanning shop and the Virginia Tobacco Co. selling serious cigars – about ½- 5/8 inch diameter and up to 7 inches long.

The most common beers were local Virginian micros with a few from further afield in the US. There were a few imported Belgian and German beers as well as bizarrely Newcastle Brown and I am afraid Strongbow and Tennents lager. For a full list of breweries see: www.novabrewfest.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/BREWRIES-FALL-2014-as-of-10-13-14.pdf.

Just like here there are several small local breweries called nano breweries that can't get any distribution and it is only possible to buy direct from their premises. So finding them at a festival is a good opportunity to try their beers. An example is Crooked Run and one of their beers, Summer Night Dark Saison, is a dark raspberry beer where the raspberry complements the saison flavour, leading to very enjoyable mouthful.

Well I worked my way through over 20 beers - I lost count after a while – and sampled several others. I won't list any names as they will not be familiar.



My son with friends Laurel and Hardy

A feature was the high number of pumpkin beers. Some were a little sweet but others surprisingly pleasant, you can find some of them on sale at local specialist shops. The IPAs were fine but nowhere near as bitter as the West Coast IPAs I drank last year. Some porters and IPAs were brewed using Rye. In general the porters and stouts were excellent as were of course the Belgian and German beers. I particularly liked the Delirium Tremens, a very refreshing pale but bitter beer and Straffe Hendrik tripel, a good malty beer with apple/pear fruit and mild hop flavour. My son particularly liked the Troegs Hop Knife Harvest Ale, bright and clean but with some hoppy bitterness. I also have to mention the Founders Brewery (Michigan) Breakfast Stout because while there is intense chocolate it is not too sweet – it really hit the spot. Just before we left I just had to try the Newcastle Brown, on tap, in case it tasted different, and actually I thought it was sharper and much less bland, but that may have been because of all the other beers I had already drunk. We were told we seemed very relaxed on the drive back. Oh well we will have to wait a whole year and do it again.

Jonathan Bayliss



That's me



**CAMPAIGN
FOR
REAL ALE**

Campaigning for real ale, pubs & drinkers' rights since 1971

LATE NIGHT LEVY

The late night levy is not going away in Newcastle upon Tyne. On the contrary, the City of Newcastle has become the first local authority in the country to extend the levy into the second year of its existence. As was revealed at the meeting of the Newcastle City Council sub-committee on licensing when it met on 28 October this happened by vote. Newcastle first introduced the levy on 1 November 2013 for twelve months but it was rolled over automatically on 1 November 2014 for another year.

You may be forgiven for wondering what on earth is the late night levy. Legislation brought in in England and Wales in 2011 and specified in the Late Night Levy (Expenses, Exemptions and Reductions) Regulations 2012 gives English and Welsh councils the power to charge any venue that has a licence to sell alcohol between the hours of midnight and six o'clock in the morning to charge an extra levy. The law stipulates that 70% of the money raised goes straight to Northumbria Police and only the remaining 30% are at the disposal of the council.

You may have noticed that any Sir John Fitzgerald's pubs in Newcastle, such as Fitzgerald on Grey Street, the Bodega, the Bacchus, the Crown Posada, the Bridge Hotel or the New Bridge all close at midnight the latest. J.D Wetherspoon pubs in Newcastle paid the levy in its first year. Wetherspoon applied to the council to have its alcohol sale hours restricted until midnight for three of its pubs, the Union Rooms, the Five Swans and the High Main in Byker but to have it go back to its current hours (1am for the High Main and the Union Rooms and 2am for the Five Swans) once the levy no longer applies. Wetherspoon wanted the pubs to stay open with alcohol licence after midnight but offered a half an hour limit on alcohol drink up time.

Similar applications by Wetherspoon in other late night levy authorities such as the City of London and the London Borough of Islington were granted unopposed. In Nottingham the police objected but the council approved Wetherspoon's application. In Newcastle both the police and the licensing authority objected.

Their main objection was that a new application should be made in future at the time when the three Wetherspoon's pubs would apply for an extended alcohol licence. All agreed for now the situation was manageable as it is. It was claimed by the objectors that nobody knows what state the Newcastle night time economy would be like in future so that a return to current alcohol licence should not be assumed automatically. At the time of writing we are unsure if Wetherspoon has appealed against the refusal.

In the end, unlike Nottingham, Newcastle refused Wetherspoon's application to vary its licence in the way applied. Any pub wishing to avoid the levy is required to apply for a permanent change of hours licensed for the sale of alcohol.

While more and more councils are looking into the possibility of introducing the levy such as York and Southampton and even nearby Hartlepool new central government advice has come to light. The Department for Communities and Local Government has advised in early November 2014 to exempt business improvement districts (BID) from the levy. If applied it would effectively kill off the late night levy for Newcastle.

The NE1 postcode in Newcastle has such a BID. It was also introduced in 2012 after a vote by local businesses who would have to pay for its services. With the late night levy and the BID pubs are effectively paying twice.

Tyneside and Northumberland CAMRA branch has contacted Newcastle City Council to find out how they intend to respond to the revised government guidance. So far, no comments have been received. If you are wondering why this is an issue for CAMRA the answer is basically fairness. While we have no issue with the principle of polluter pays, it is clear that social disorder and vast amounts of litter in the streets do not come from pubs and venues selling real ale. Notwithstanding a 30% best practice reduction they just get hit with the same levy, effectively a local tax. The situation created by the late night levy in Newcastle's city centre is such that it has handed over the night time economy to bars and nightclubs with little interest in well-run real ale pubs.

The branch had a letter published against the late night levy on 29 October 2014 in The Journal.

As 2015 will see a general election as well as local elections in Newcastle CAMRA will give candidates the opportunity to come out clearly and unambiguously against the late night levy.

PUBS MATTER

The Victoria and Albert Inn in Seaton Delaval is still open. Even though Tesco won its appeal against refusal to give planning permission in February 2014 a condition was imposed to have a traffic Regulation Order in place. Local campaigners advise that the order as it stands would not prevent the risk of nasty accidents as there have been problems before.

It appears that Tesco is not planning to buy the building from punch Tavern to use as a Tesco Express but to rent it. Thereby they would be able to prevent local campaigners from declaring the pub an asset of community value (ACT). Watch this space.

The Lambton Arms on Eighton Banks in Gateshead is subject to an application by local campaign group to Gateshead Council. The plan is to have it declared an asset of community value and prevent a change of use to anything other than being a pub. The pub is owned by Hawthorn Leisure and is currently operating as a pub. A meeting held on 25 October 2014 attracted more than 25 local activists.

Once again all this shows a need to strengthen planning legislation. In England, unlike in Scotland, the change of use from pub to flats or supermarket is a permitted development and requires no planning approval.

Support CAMRA's campaign by lobbying your MP: www.pubsmatter.org.uk

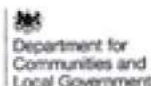
Members of the local branch continue to lobby MPs and ministers. (See page 23 for a response from the government)

Hubert Gieschen
publicaffairs@canbybevvy.co.uk



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Kris Hopkins MP
Minister for Local Government

Department for Communities and Local
Government
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London
SW1P 4DF

Tel: 020 3 448 3480
Fax: 020 7005 5016
E-Mail: kris.hopkins@communities.gov.uk

www.gov.uk

RECEIVED

Our Ref: 214646
Your Ref: 000311008

22 October 2014

Dear Catherine

Thank you for your letter of 30 September to Stephen Williams MP, on behalf of members of the Tyneside & Northumberland branch of CAMRA about Early Day Motion 208 and protections for community pubs. I have been asked to reply as the issues you raise fall within my area of Ministerial responsibility.

Permitted development rights are an important part of the planning system, providing flexibility and reducing bureaucracy. They allow the best use to be made of existing buildings, enabling businesses to adapt to changing market demands and avoiding premises being left empty or boarded up.

Current permitted development rights allow the change of use from A4 drinking establishments, which includes public houses, to shops including supermarkets, without the need for a planning application. Permitted development rights are set nationally, and seek to strike a balance between allowing individual freedom to carry out development while protecting the interests of neighbours and the wider environment.

If there are concerns about viable public houses being lost the answer is for communities and local authorities to work together to develop a clear, proactive strategy to protect those pubs which provide the most community benefit. Local planning authorities already have powers to remove national permitted development rights where it is felt that it is necessary to protect local amenity or the wellbeing of the area by making an Article 4 direction. This then requires that a planning application is submitted for the change of use, which the local planning authority can then determine in accordance with national policy and its local plan. A number of local planning authorities have put Article 4 directions in place in respect of the change of use or demolition. This power can be strengthened when it is informed by strategic local plan policy which identifies and protects pubs that provide the most community benefit.

The underlying role of the planning system is to regulate land use and the spatial effects of development, rather than seeking to regulate the economic viability of individual businesses. However, we recognise that public houses are important assets, making a significant contribution to the economy and providing local hubs that strengthen community relationships and encourage wider social interaction. We have introduced a broad range of measures to demonstrate this support including:

- scrapping the beer and alcohol duty escalators,
- cutting beer duty,
- funding business partners to help deliver more community-owned pubs and pubs which provide community-focused services,
- removing the licensing rules for small-scale live music,
- extending small business rate relief and introducing a new £1000 discount for two years on business rate bills,
- and giving pubicans tied to pub companies new rights under a new statutory Code of Practice.

In addition, through the Community Right to Bid we have given people the power to nominate local buildings, such as public houses, as Assets of Community Value. Where such Assets are listed the planning authority may take this into account as a material consideration when determining a planning application. So far over 480 pubs have been listed, and a number of those, where they have been put on the market, have been saved from closure.

I hope this illustrates the Government's strong support for community pubs.

KRIS HOPKINS MP



Britain's Beer Revolution

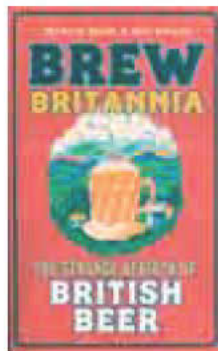
Roger Protz & Adrian Tierney-Jones
Paperback £14.99

CAMRA's latest book is a celebration of the transformation that has taken place in Britain's brewing industry over recent years.

The introduction is an appraisal of the contemporary beer scene in Britain, a useful primer on beer styles and a summary of traditional regional variations in taste for beer.

The main body of the book explores the world of British beer region by region. After an overview of each region's beer scene, notable breweries are highlighted and covered in depth. The people who have driven the explosion in new breweries and beers are central to the narrative that runs through the book.

It is the detailed celebration of Britain's most interesting and leading breweries, that makes Britain's Beer Revolution a must have book for everyone passionate about cask beer.



Brew Britannia: The Strange Rebirth of British Beer

Jessica Boak and Ray Bailey
Paperback £12.99

Today we have well over a thousand breweries in Britain. The range of beers available is a complete turnaround from the dire situation that Britain was facing in the 1960s, when breweries were closing and huge chemical works type breweries were seen as the future. In the 1960s the future looked weak, bland, sweet and fizzy – but you knew what you were getting.

Brew Britannia records the founding of the Society for the Preservation of Beers from the Wood and the birth of the Campaign for Real Ale. The start of micro-brewing and the emergence of 'craft beer' is explored in depth.

The book unearths details from history, the authors have done a thorough job researching material and speaking to people who were involved.

It isn't 'spoiling the story' by revealing that the book has a happy ending, people power saved British beer. It is a story that CAMRA members and beer fans will enjoy reading.

STOP PRESS: Winners of the Beer Writer of the Year at the British Guild of Beer Writers' Awards.



Brewers Brands and The Pub In Their Hands

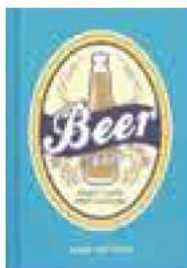
Tony Thornton

Paperback £13.99

It has been said many times that the pub is Britain's greatest institution. Tony Thornton's book is a multi-layered recent history of the pub, starting in the 1960s. On the back cover it is categorised as a 'business and economics' title, don't let this put you off it is a book that appeals to beer drinkers – the CAMRA bookshop at the Great British Beer Festival ran out of copies.

Marketing, development of brands and pub chains are issues covered in detail. Changes in legislation and how it has impacted on pubs, resulting in changes to the complete structure of the trade is recorded and explained.

Well researched and well written, essential reading for every campaigning CAMRA member.



Beer O'Clock: The Craft, The Cask and The Culture

Jane Peyton

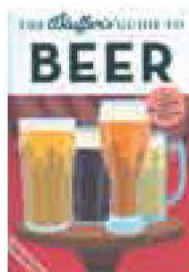
Hardback £9.99

At first glance this book appears to be light-hearted gift title for beer drinkers. In reality it is an accessible and well researched book, written by a beer sommelier who teaches beer appreciation.

Jane Peyton successfully weaves together precise definitions and data with helpful advice and tips. The book will have great appeal to people who are interested in beers from around the world. Many will find the book worth having for Jane Peyton's succinct descriptions and information on global beer styles.

The book concludes with a chapter on beer trivia, a glossary and a short section on 'swotting for the pub quiz'.

Jane Peyton's Beer O'Clock writing style is up-beat and conveys her view that beer brings joy to the world.



The Bluffer's Guide To Beer

Jonathan Goodall

Paperback £6.99

The Bluffer's Guides' are an institution, they have enabled people who know nothing about a subject to appear knowledgeable and wise. After reading a Bluffer's Guide, the reader should be able to impress others. However, most people read a Bluffer's Guide because they are fun, with their satirical attitude and accessible approach.

The book takes on beer from an international point of view, obviously British beer is biggest chapter (quite rightly so) and America gets more attention than it deserves (in my opinion).

If you are new to the joys of beer or if you have enthusiastically been enjoying beer for years, the Bluffer's Guide to Beer is a book you would be pleased to be given this Christmas. Beneath the frivolous prose is a serious introduction to the world of beer.



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whatpub.com

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Quiz!

6 Irving Berlin
7 1955
8 Tibet
9 Bohemian Rhapsody
10 Nicolae Ceaușescu
(Romania)

1 a) Samuel Smith's
b) Great Yorkshire Brewery
c) Rudgate
d) Hook Norton
2 Humphrey Bogart
3 Annie Lennox
4 Mulled wine
5 Vasco da Gama

Answers:

Festive Canny Bevy Quiz

by Baz Lite Beer

- 1 Which breweries are associated with the following seasonal ales:
a) Winter Welcome b) Santa's Tipple c) Rudolph's Ruin d) 12 Days
- 2 Which great actor was born on Christmas Day 1899 in New York City?
- 3 Which Scottish female singer-songwriter and activist was born on Christmas Day 1954 in Aberdeen?
- 4 Smoking Bishop was a Victorian recipe for which festive drink?
- 5 Which great navigator discovered Natal in South Africa on Christmas Day 1497?
- 6 Who wrote the song White Christmas?
- 7 In which year was the last full English Football League fixture list played on Christmas Day?
- 8 Which country did Chinese forces invade on Christmas Day 1950?
- 9 Which song became the first to be Christmas number one in the UK charts on two occasions; achieving this in 1975 & 1991?
- 10 Which notorious European dictator was executed, along with his wife, on Christmas Day 1989?



If you are a licensee and would like to join the scheme or would like some more information, or you are a customer and know of a pub which regularly sells local beers, please contact the Pubs Officer Colin Anderson via pubsofficer@cannybevvy.co.uk. All new additions shown in red.

| | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| Allendale Golden Lion Hotel | Earsdon Beehive Cannon Inn | Low Fell Black Horse Gateshead Rugby Club Tap @ Carters Well | North Shields Low Lights Tavern Magnesia Bank Oddfellows Pub & Kitchen |
| Allenheads Allenheads Inn | Eglingham Tankerville Arms | Low Newton-by-the-Sea Ship Inn | Old Hartley Delaval Arms |
| Alnmouth Hope & Anchor Red Lion Inn | Eighton Banks Waggon Inn | Maffin High House Farm Visitor Centre | Ovingham Bridge End Inn |
| Alnwick John Bull Inn Queens Head Tanners Arms | Embleton Greys Inn | Meldon Dyke Neuk | Ponteland Blackbird |
| Alwinton Rose & Thistle | Felling Wheatsheaf | Mickley Glenside | Rennington Horseshoes Inn |
| Bardon Mill Bowes Hotel | Gateshead Central Lindum Club Schooner Three Tuns | Morpeth Black Bull Joiners Arms Shambles | Slaely Rose & Crown |
| Bedlington Red Lion | Gosforth Border Minstrel Coppers 8 til 8 County Gosforth Hotel Job Bulman Queen Victoria | St Marys Inn Tap & Spile | Stamfordham Swinburne Arms |
| Birtley Bowes Incline Country Pub & Hotel | Greenhaugh Holly Bush Inn | Newcastle upon Tyne City Centre Bacchus Bodega Bridge Hotel Bridge Tavern Broad Chare Centurion Charles Grey Cluny Crown Posada Crows Nest Duke of Wellington Head of Steam Hotspur Lady Grey's | Stannington Anarchy Brew Co |
| Blaydon Michelangelo Ristorante & Bar | Haltwhistle Haltwhistle Comrades Club Milecastle Inn | Lola Jeans New Bridge Old George Inn Percy Arms Pleased to Meet You Redhouse Sausage Emporium Stand Comedy Club Strawberry Three Bulls Head Town Wall Trent House | Thropton Three Wheat Heads |
| Blyth Post Office Wallaw | Heaton Chillingham Northumberland Hussar | Newton Duke of Wellington | Tynemouth Barca Copperfields Cumberland Arms Dolphin Hugos at the Coast Lola Jeans Priory Salutation Tynemouth Lodge Hotel |
| Byker Cumberland Arms Free Trade | Hedley on the Hill Feathers | | Wardley The Green |
| Catton Crown Inn | Hexham Forum Tannery | | Wark Battlesteads Hotel |
| Choppington Swan | High Horton Three Horse Shoes | | West Jesmond Lonsdale |
| Coalburns Fox & Hounds | Kenton Bank Foot Twin Farms | | West Thirston Northumberland Arms |
| Corbridge Dyvels Inn | Langley Carts Bog Inn | | Whickham Crown |
| Cornhill on Tweed Collingwood Arms | Longhorsley Linden Tree | | Whitley Bay Briar Dene |
| Cramlington John the Clerk of Cramlington Plough | Low Eighton Angel View Inn | | Wylam Black Bull Boathouse Inn |
| Cullercoats Cullercoats Crescent Club | | | |
| Dipton Mill Dipton Mill Inn | | | |



CAMRA DISCOUNT SCHEME

All new additions shown in red

COPPERS 8 TILL 8, Gosforth

10% discount on all bottled beers totalling £20 or more

THE COUNTY, Gosforth

30p off a pint of all cask ales.

NORTHUMBERLAND HUSSAR, Heaton

30p off a pint, 20p off 2/3 of a pint and 10p off 1/3 of a pint of all cask ales and real cider.

THE CROW'S NEST HOTEL, Newcastle

10% off a pint of all cask ales.

JUNCTION, Newcastle

10% off a pint of all cask ales.

UNION ROOMS, Newcastle

20p off a pint and 10p off a half pint of all cask ales

TRENT HOUSE, Newcastle

20p off a pint and 10p off a half pint of all cask ales.

THE BLACKBIRD, Ponteland

20p off a pint and 10p off a half pint of all cask ales and real cider

COPPERFIELDS (GRAND HOTEL), Tynemouth

20p a pint off all cask ales.

TURKS HEAD, Tynemouth

10% off a pint and a half pint off all cask ales and real cider

THE ANSON, Wallsend

20p off a pint and 10p off a half pint of all cask ales.

THE LONSDALE, West Jesmond

10% off a pint of all cask ales.

THE BEACON, West Monkseaton

20p off a pint of all cask ales.

If you know of any pubs or clubs offering discounts to CAMRA members in Gateshead, Newcastle, North Tyneside and Northumberland, then please contact the Editor at editor@cannybevvy.co.uk

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LAST ORDERS

MEMBERSHIP FIGURES

The North East Region has 3,194 (3,071) members

Darlington Branch has 380 (369) members

Durham Branch has 668 (608) members

Sunderland & South Tyneside Branch has 528 (511) members

Tyneside & Northumberland Branch has 1,618 (1,583) members

CAMRA National Membership is now over 168,540 (166,017) members

(Figures correct at 30th November 2014. Previous figures from last issue shown in brackets).

FUTURE ARTICLES

Family Pubs

Dog Friendly Pubs

Seaside Pubs

Country Pubs

Heritage Pubs

Pub Walks

Pubs by Metro

Pubs by Bus

FUTURE SPECIAL ISSUES

Winter Beers

Beer Festivals

Summer Beers

Students

If you have any suggestions for either Future Articles and Future Special Issues, then contact the Editor, at editor@cannybevvy.co.uk

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 your local Trading Standards office. Contact details listed below.

City of Newcastle upon Tyne, Tel. 0191 211 6129. Gateshead, Tel. 0191 433 3987.

North Tyneside, Tel. 0345 200 0101. Northumberland, Tel. 01670 534 585.

If you have enjoyed reading this issue and you wish to become a member of CAMRA, then please complete the "Join CAMRA Today" form, which is on the back cover of this issue.

If you would like to receive a copy of Canny Bevvy, then contact the Branch Secretary at secretary@cannybevvy.co.uk. Send an A5 size stamped addressed envelope.



MERRY CHRISTMAS

&

A HAPPY NEW YEAR



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