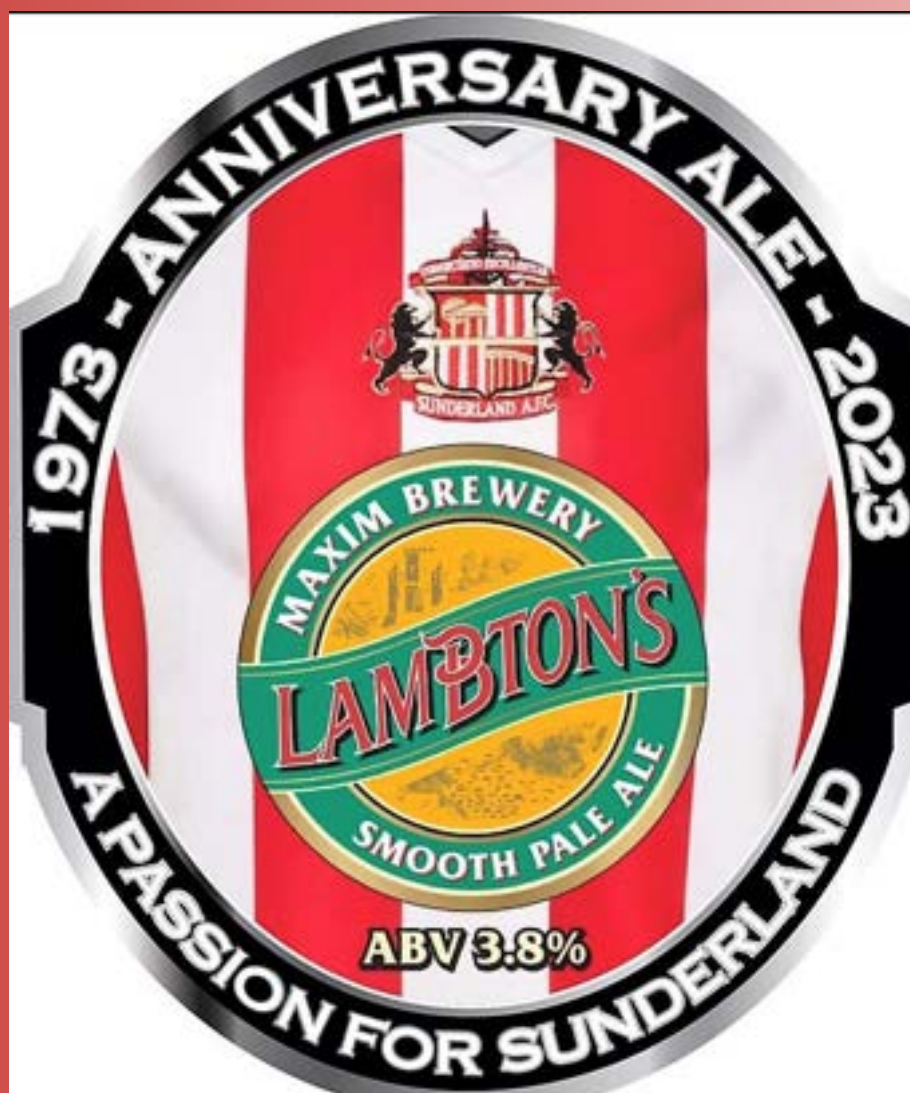


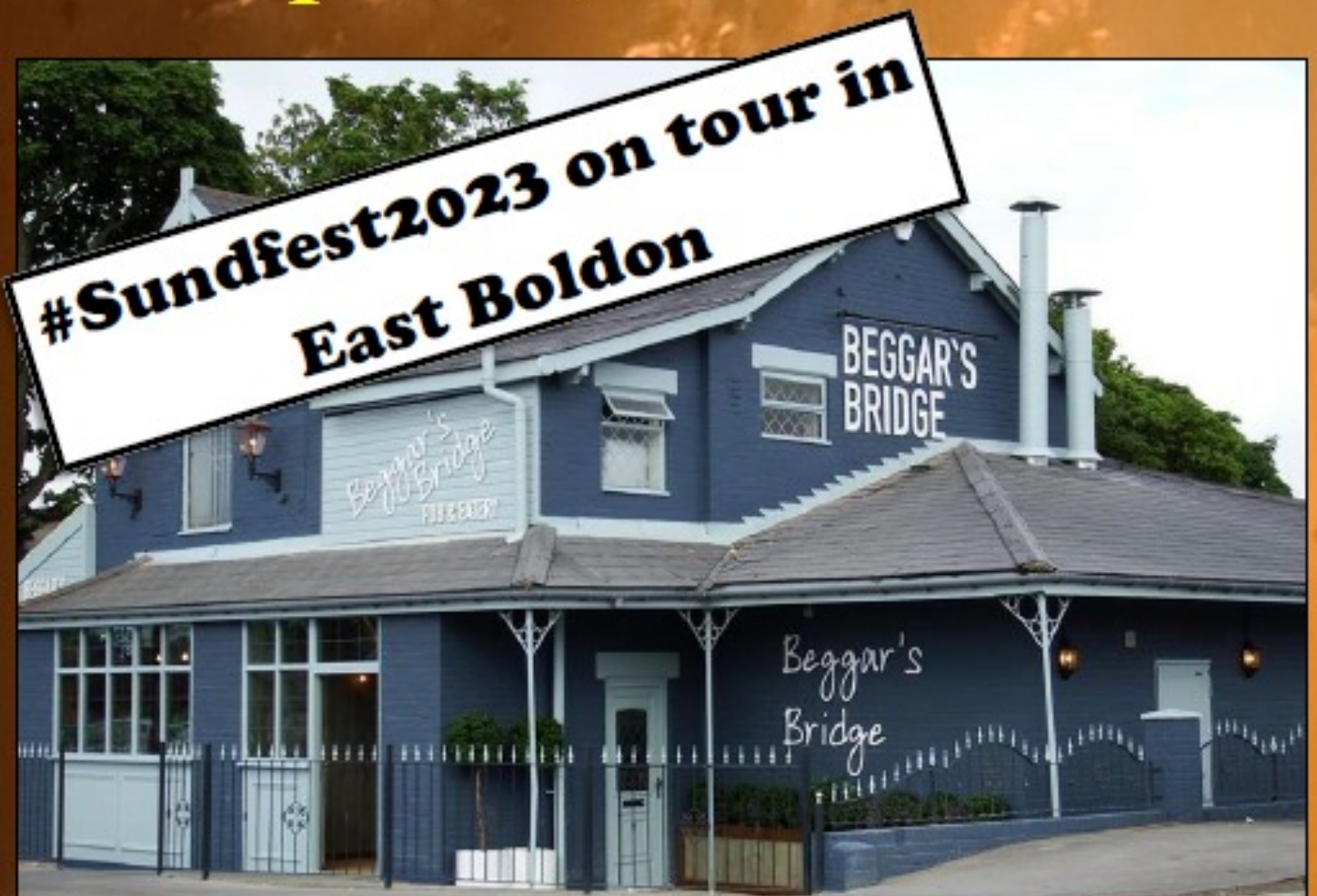
SUNDERLAND AND SOUTH TYNESIDE CAMRA



**CAMRA ANGLE ONLINE
EASTER 2023**

SST CAMRA Beer & Cider Festival 2023

**Beggar's Bridge -
Next to East Boldon Metro
Sept 14th, 15th & 16th.**



**Cask ales, keykeg &
real cider plus music**

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



Welcome to this Online edition of CAMRA Angle.

If you are wondering about the significance of the front cover, May 5th 1973 is the 50th Anniversary of Sunderland winning the FA Cup. To recognise this milestone Maxim Brewery have released a special pump clip for Lambton's beer. (See also Page 6). *Thanks to the brewery for permission to use it.*

And if you are wondering about Page 2, this is an advance notice of our next planned Beer & Cider Festival. More information will be made available when know ; meantime - a date for your diary.

Elsewhere in this edition, there is the usual pub and brewery news, awards and presentations, plus feature articles about Harton and Westoe, Micropubs, A Score of 5, Recycling, Public Affairs, Public Transport and the final article about Pubcos; and more !

The next printed issue of Camra Angle (Issue 63) is due around the beginning of June.

Enjoy the read.

Ken Paul Magazine Editor

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CAMRA ANGLE ONLINE is published by the Sunderland and South Tyneside Branch of CAMRA @ 2023. Views expressed in this publication may not be necessarily those of the Editor or of CAMRA.. All photographs by article authors or the editor unless stated .

DIARY DATES

https://sst.camra.org.uk/wordpress/?page_id=42

APR 2023

CAMRA AGM & Members Weekend	April 21st - 23rd - The Octagon Centre, Clarkson Street, Broomhall, Sheffield S10 2TQ,
Branch Pub of the Year Presentation	Thurs 27th April 8pm.- The Marine, 230 Ocean Road, South Shields, NE33 2JQ

May 2023

Maxim Open Night	Friday 5th May - Maxim Brewery, Gladwell Rd, Rainton Bridge, Houghton, DH4 5NL from 5pm.
Online Branch Committee Meeting	Thursday 11th May 7pm. All members welcome to observe, email contact@sst.camra.org.uk for logon details
Lord Nelson/ Darwin Beer Festival	Saturday 13th May from noon. Monkton Lane, Monkton Village, Jarrow, NE32 5NN
Branch Meeting	Wednesday 24th May 8pm. Beggars Bridge (adjacent to E. Boldon Metro)

June 2023

Maxim Open Night	Friday 2nd June from 5pm
North East Regional Meeting	Saturday 10th June 1pm. The Avenue, Zetland Street, Sunderland SR6 0EQ

LOOK OUT FOR MORE DATES IN THE NEXT ISSUE



INTERESTED in writing for the CAMRA ANGLE with real ale and cider related stories.

OR HELPING to distribute the magazine to branch pubs? If so please contact the editor :- magazine01@sst.camra.org.uk

ADVERTISING. Do you know of anyone who would be interested in advertising in a printed issue of CAMRA ANGLE. If so please email ads01@sst.camra.org.uk

PUB NEWS

The Broadway, Sunderland has been closed since July 2022. According to the Sunderland Echo, the owners, Greene King, have carried out an internal refurbishment and the pub is now trading under its previous name, **The Wavendon**. It is unknown if they sell cask ale.

The Wheatsheaf, in West Boldon has closed temporarily for structural repairs. Also in need of structural repairs is **The Traveller's Rest**, Shiney Row. There was a major fire on the evening of Saturday 25th March. The pub has been closed for some time.



A few miles south is the long closed **Lyons Tavern**, Sunderland City Council have approved plans for it to be turned into a convenience store.



If you have any updates you wish to share :-

pubsofficer@sst.camra.org.uk

Pubs protection :- ppo@sst.camra.org

NATIONAL BASS DAY

The second National Bass Day took place on Easter Saturday. The purpose is to promote one of the country's classic beers for it to gain a wider appreciation.

The good news is that Draught Bass is now a permanent beer in our pub of the year, the **Marine**, and seems to be fairly regular in the **Lambton Arms**.

A couple of weeks ago, we had an away day to Teeside, which didn't go to plan as many of the pubs in Middlesbrough no longer appear to open daytimes midweek. So, we went to the **Sun Inn** in Stockton to drink some excellent **'Banked' Draught Bass**. The Sun still sells this wonderful brew at £2.80 a pint.



BREWERY NEWS

BLOCKYARD
BREW CO

A new 4.4% stout has been released, called **Space Oddity**. This is part of the core range. See website for more

<https://www.blockyardbrew.co.uk/>

Brewlab are busy with their principal function; providing technical and analytical services to the trade and training courses. No new beers have been announced.

Darwin have two new beers available :- **Face Beer**, a 4.3% golden ale brewed with Citrus and Mosaic hops and, **Out of the**



Sun, 4.3% golden hoppy pale ale with citrus and floral aromas from Amarillo, Celeia and Sterling hops.

The categories at this year's Battle of the Beers competition at the recent Newcastle Beer and Cider Festival were red ales and chocolate stouts. Darwin's **Chocolate and Vanilla Stout** was awarded third place in a blind tasting by a panel of experts and beer enthusiasts.

This follows the bronze for **Extinction** in the barley wine category in the Champion Winter Beer of Britain competition held at Great British Beer Festival Winter in Burton on Trent.

For more on the Newcastle Beer and Cider Festival see page 12

The Lazy Lizard Brewing Co is a micro brewery that operates from **The Stables Micro Bar** in Cleadon. Check their Facebook page for updates.



Their latest new seasonal beer is available now is **Nectaron**. This is a pale, light golden ale brewed with New Zealand Nectaron hops, and is classed as a New World IPA.



The next seasonals for May are - **Nelson/Zappa**, a 4.8% pale blend of New Zea-

land Nelson Sauvignon hops and American Zappa hops, named after the Zappa family.:-

<https://yakimavalleyhops.com/products/zappa-hop-pellets>

May also sees the reappearance of their 4% single hop American Pale Ale, **Chinook**.

Maxim are taking on new **Samson** keg customers all the time and they are going to start rolling out keg **Lambtons** soon. On the subject of Lambtons, (see the cover) a new pump clip has been produced to celebrate Sunderland AFC winning the FA Cup on May 5th 1973, which happens to coincide with their next open night.

Managing Director Mark Anderson said "Its been manic - biggest week for sales ever !!!!"



The brewery have produced a trilogy of new beers in cans.

Human Cyborg Relations - a 3.8% Pale Ale, **This Is The Way**, a 3.5% Dark Mild, and **Order 66**, a 4.2% Black Lager.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT - APRIL 2023

It's taken a long time but CAMRA is almost at the point where new members outnumber lapsed members month on month. Nationally we are at 152,475 but figures are holding up well in the North East and our membership has risen again to 558.

I was away on holiday when the Newcastle Beer Festival took place but **Tyneside & Northumberland** branch figures are up by at least 61 on the same time last month. Of the other branches, **Durham** at 695, **Cleveland** 670 and **Darlington** 341 are certainly not showing massive losses.

Folk do lapse their membership for a variety of reasons but in this part of the world we do see plenty of new members coming along but this does mean a lot of work to keep pubs and clubs topped up with membership forms and CAMRA Angles. If you happen to be in a pub in our branch area and do not see either of these, please let me know and I'll arrange a delivery as quickly as possible.

Meanwhile, please continue to enjoy your membership and the nice sunny weather coming our way.

Peter Tong, Membership and Sponsorship (members@sst.camra.org.uk)

NB. Membership Subscriptions will increase from **1st July 2023 by £2**. Notices have already gone out in the CAMRA Newsletter and What's Brewing. There will be further notices in May and June 2023.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

CAMRA Angle 62 featured an article by Geoff Reid from Bradford CAMRA branch. Entitled "BEYOND THE BROON".

Branch member Grahame McDonald writes :-

"In the latest edition of CAMRA ANGLE, in his article about Brown Ales Geoff Reid referred to the advertising slogan "Not too heavy, not too light" as being for Newcastle Brown Ale, which is incorrect. The full slogan was "Not too heavy, not too light; Newcastle AMBER Ale, just right!"

Thanks for pointing that out Grahame. The article in question can be found on page 22 of Issue 62 here :-

<https://sst-arch.camra.org.uk/dl.php?id=191016>

CAMRA NORTH EAST BRANCH CLUBS AND PUBS OF THE YEAR

Below are the branch winners for the 2023 Club (COTY) and Pub of the Year (POTY). Each branch (unless stated) submits one for each category to go forward to the regional round. **However each branch are excluded from judging their own pubs and club.**

Club of the Year (COTY)

Cleveland - The Catholic Club, Billingham * NOTE not entered by branch into regional competition

Darlington - Darlington Snooker Club

Durham - Masonic Centre, Chester le Street

Sunderland & South Tyneside - Mid Boldon Club, East Boldon

Tyneside & Northumberland - Heaton Stannington Football Club

The club judging will be organised by the regional club coordinator, Steve Drummond.

Pub of the Year (POTY)

Cleveland - Golden Smog, Stockton

Darlington - Quakerhouse, Darlington

Durham- Grey Horse, Consett

Sunderland & South Tyneside - The Marine, South Shields

Tyneside & Northumberland - Microbus, Gateshead

Look out for the opportunity to join in an organised visit to the four POTYs. The deadline for this judging is July 31st .

Cider Pub of the Year

Cleveland & Darlington - No entries

Durham - Station House, Durham

Sunderland & South Tyneside - Sunderland - The Avenue, South Tyneside - Blues Micropub, Whitburn

Tyneside & Northumberland - Tyneside - Free Trade, Byker ; Northumberland - Wor Local, Prudhoe

The cider pub judging will be organised by the Regional Cider Coordinator- Bill Wilkinson.

See the next 2 pages for presentation photographs and previous judging trips.

PRESENTATIONS and AWARDS

Mid Boldon Club is the Branch Club of the Year 2023. Steve Drummond is presented with their award by Branch Chair Ian Monteith Preston

Photo - Stan Anderson



The Presentation for the **Branch Pub of the Year 2023** will take place at **The Marine** on Thursday 27th April at 8pm. See Diary Dates on page 4.

This will feature in **CAMRA Angle 63**

The Avenue, Roker is the **Sunderland Cider Pub of the Year 2023.** This is their certificate next to the beer and cider board. Note the number of cider's

Photo - Steve Clough



Runner up is **The Steamboat, South Shields.** The Presentation for this has yet to be confirmed, but it will also feature in CAMRA Angle 63.



Blues Micro Pub in Whitburn is **South Tyneside Cider Pub of the Year 2023.** Branch Cider Rep Steve Clough presents owners Callum and Alice Watson (and their dog it would seem)

Photo - David Brazier



The Tyneside & Northumberland Pub of the Year 2023 is **The Microbus, Gateshead.**

Here they are being presented with their award at the **Newcastle Beer Festival.**

PUB OF THE YEAR ON TOUR

These are the pubs we will be visiting in the next round of judging for **Pub of The Year 2023**. All but one we have judged before. If anyone is interested in being on the 2023 Regional POTY judging trip, email Keith Lakeman now on social@sst.camra.org.uk



The Golden Smog, Cleveland Branch POTY, in Stockton was last visited in June 2019

Photo by the pub barman who I believe stood on a chair.

The Quakerhouse, Darlington Branch POTY was our first port of call on the judging tour in 2022.



The Grey Horse, Durham Branch POTY, in Consett was judged on the same day.

Photo :- Terry Ford

This is **The Microbus**, Tyneside & Northumberland POTY, in Gateshead, near the end of the High Level Bridge.

Photo :- from Whatpub, thanks to Tyne & Northumb. Branch.

NEW!



CAMRA COMMUNITY AWARD SCHEME

The branch has again launched a **CAMRA Community Pub scheme**, running until October 2023. The aim is to recognise any pub, club or brewery that support their community.

If you know of any in our branch area that fulfils the criteria opposite please go to this link and nominate them:

<https://forms.gle/dmzCwZKtNFV59Rdy7>

This includes support of community groups and charities and is not just limited to those that sell real ale.

In 2022 **The Steamboat**, South Shields (below) received an award for :-

“the use of room for a number of musical events and for fundraising events for a number of charities”.

Type of thing we're looking for:

- * Allowing a local group or club free use of the pub for meetings or social gatherings.
- * Hosting a fund raising event (for a charity or community group)
- * Use of the venue building to provide community facilities needed but not available locally.

Type of things not included:

- * Groups or teams linked to the pub/club (ie a pool, darts or football team)
- * An event held just for the pubs/clubs benefit or promotion (ie a pub quiz or music night)
- * Hosting any CAMRA meeting or event.

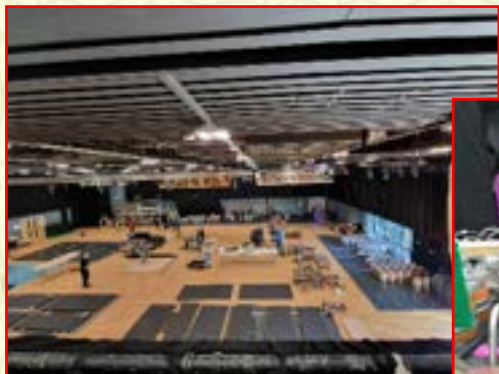
All nominations will be reviewed by a “panel” of branch members.



Photo :- Digi Hippy Media

NEWCASTLE BEER AND CIDER FESTIVAL 2023

Tyneside & Northumberland CAMRA Branch's 45th Newcastle Beer & Cider Festival was held again in the Northumbrian Students Union. Here are some photos of the event :-



Photos by Steve Cough, Robin Sanderson & Ken Paul

THE BATTLE OF THE BEERS

Every year hosts Tyneside and Northumberland CAMRA hold a "Battle of the Beers" competition. Branch area brewers are asked to brew a new beer to be available for the festival before it goes on sale to the trade. This year there were two categories ; Reds and Chocolate Stouts. I was press ganged into the blind tasting judging this year.



There were 10 Reds to sample and 11 Chocolate Stouts . The results were announced as follows :-

Reds

- 1st - Hadrian & Border Rise of the Reds**
- 2nd - Rigg & Furrow Red Barn
- 3rd - Allendale Stock Ale

Chocolate Stouts

- 1st - Out There Liquidity**
- 2nd - Almasty- Chocolate Stout
- 3rd - Darwin- Chocolate Vanilla

Ken Paul

PUBLIC AFFAIRS UPDATE

Spring Budget 2023

On 15 March, the chancellor delivered his Spring Budget, and it was mixed news for the licensed trade. Against a backdrop of high inflation and energy costs, CAMRA members and concerned consumers had been busy lobbying their MP's by email about CAMRA's three-point plan for the Budget:

- setting the draught duty rate at 20 per cent lower than the general level
- restoring energy bill support to pubs, clubs and brewers
- action to address the unfair burden of business rates, such as introducing a lower multiplier for pubs, social clubs and their supply chain based on the social and community value that they provide for communities .

The big Budget announcement for brewers and cider makers was an increase in the draught duty discount for beer and cider, which is coming into force with the new alcohol tax system in August. This will mean that draught duty will be 9.2 per cent lower than the general duty rate.

CAMRA campaigned for years for the draught duty rate to be introduced, to incentivise drinking in pubs and social clubs, and recognise the social and community value that you don't get from buying alcohol in supermarkets. The chancellor also announced general duty rates would be frozen until August, when they are then due to rise with inflation. That's good news in the interim, which might help minimise price increases at the bar for consumers.

Unfortunately, there was no additional support announced for energy costs, business rates or help in other areas such as a reduction in VAT.

Support with energy bills is due to end in April, so pub and brewers are facing imminent hikes in their costs. We believe pubs and social clubs will close because of this so, as consumers, we have to support them where we can at this make-or-break time for the licensed trade.

Business rate relief schemes currently in place in England are due to end in 2024, so the government needs to act soon. Pubs pay a grossly unfair portion of the total business rates bill, and proper reform is the only permanent fix to the issue. This will be a main focus for us when we launch our campaigning ahead of an expected autumn fiscal event.

We are also calling on the devolved administrations to do the same in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

New draught duty rate for beer and cider

CAMRA has campaigned for many years to secure the draught duty rate, and following our successful campaigning to increase the scope of container sizes that the new rate will apply to (20L and above rather than 40L and above), we particularly welcome the confirmation that traditional gravity dispense will be captured within the new, lower, duty rate.

With the chancellor extending the differential between the general and draught duty rates to 9.2 per cent in the

Continued

PUBLIC AFFAIRS UPDATE continued

Budget, we now look forward to campaigning to further increase that differential to the benefit of pubs, social clubs, and consumers.

Small Producer Relief Scheme

Small brewers and cider makers will be pleased to see the details of the new Small Producer Relief Scheme, so they can start planning. Once implemented, this completes the transition from the Small Brewers' Relief (SBR) scheme, and most importantly we've won some key concessions to ensure the smallest brewers will not lose levels of relief they had under SBR.

However, with stubbornly high inflation and the impending cliff-edge drop-off in energy bill support, small producers still need more help than ever to compete with the purchasing power and economies of scale enjoyed by the global producers that dominate the UK beer and cider market.

Small cider makers will also benefit from a progressive duty system for the first time ever, supporting them to grow and increase choice of artisanal ciders for consumers.

Takeaway beer

Unfortunately, the Treasury is still pushing ahead with plans to ban licensees from decanting beer from draught duty-paid containers for off sales – which in plain language means takeaway draught beer – whether in pints or takeaway containers (eg flagons).

Despite our formal representations and extensive engagement with the Treasury since it was first raised, a workable solution to allow pubs and social clubs to make incidental takeaway draught sales has not been found.

It's good that specialist bottle shops will now be able to buy casks and kegs with the general duty rate paid on them to make takeaway sales, but most publicans – who the new duty rate is designed to benefit - won't be able to afford or accommodate extra draught containers just to make takeaway sales.

This, if implemented, will equate to a stealth ban on takeaway pints and is extremely disappointing for licensees and consumers, and especially designated drivers that like to take away a pint or two to enjoy at home. We will continue to campaign for a workable solution.

Pub Protection Officer Would you like to protect pubs in your area and campaign to keep them from change or closure? You can help our branch as our Pub Protection Officer. Ideally this could be two positions, covering South Tyneside and Sunderland Council Areas. <https://www1-camra.s3.eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/13143714/Pub-Protection-Officer-summary.pdf>

The purpose of the role is to protect pubs and significant pub heritage within the branch area in line with CAMRA's national aims and policies and lead campaigns to save or protect threatened pubs. <https://www1-camra.s3.eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/10163810/Pub-Protection-Officer-role-guidance.pdf>

HARTON AND WESTOE

The little villages of Harton and Westoe played host to the Wandering Bear over a few days between October 2021 and January 2022. Westoe has been around for approx. 1000 years according to Google, Harton not quite so long but both areas have a rich history of coal mining. The Westoe Brewery operated between the late 1800's until the 1960's or beyond, under various guises.

My first pub, **The Ship Inn**, is one of the oldest pubs in the area, dating from the very early 1800's. Once a coaching inn to service travellers between South Shields and Sunderland, it has retained much of its character. An old mounting stone once used by horsemen to make it easier to get into the saddle remains outside the front entrance.



A thoroughly enjoyable place to visit, this was the first time that I had set foot in the place.

I confess it did take me a little while to find the front entrance (maybe I just wasn't concentrating!), but once in I bought a pint of Timothy Taylor's Landlord for £3.70 at the very attractive bar and sat myself down to enjoy the peace and quiet.

There is ample seating, which is all very comfortable, with service on three sides of the bar. I visited on a Monday afternoon and it was, in my opinion, very busy. Camra leaflets were available on the bar, and nautical memorabilia adorned the walls, shelves and ceiling.

A few televisions were on but weren't obtrusive and didn't spoil the ambience. There were also some South Shields FC posters up, great to see pubs supporting the local community.

As well as my Landlord, the other ale option was Wainwright's and the choice of other alcohol options was many and varied. There was lots of space to suit any drinking occasion, whether solo like me, as a couple or in a group.



Literally a 60 second walk up the street took me to **The Vigilant Inn**. I couldn't find much about the history of the pub but I'm confident in saying that it is named after a ship. One thing I can say for certain though is that the building is big and imposing, situated on the cross-roads in a commanding position.

As with the Ship, there is outdoor seating available, but I stayed indoors and enjoyed a pint of Black Sheep for £3.80. Two other handpulls were on the bar but were sadly not in use. This was my first visit to 'the Vig' and during my visit I found myself in two very different rooms... one a sort of Bar area and the other a larger Lounge area. I got served in the bar which was quite small but very busy, then I took myself off to the Lounge to sit in the sun and enjoy the quiet. Quizzes and Karaoke and Live Music are advertised, and there is a dartboard.

CONTINUED

HARTON AND WESTOE (Continued)

I was particularly impressed with the wood floor in the Lounge, designed in a sort of herringbone effect. Very attractive! Cocktail menus were on the tables, as were Camra leaflets and the low hum of the radio in the background provided a very pleasant backdrop to a lovely half hour.

I am of course aware of the Harton Hop House, again just up the street, however it was closed at the time so I will include it on another wander,

perhaps a 'Nook to Marsden' wander up Prince Edward Road.

So there ended Part A of my Harton and Westoe wander, Part B will follow in another issue soon.

The Wandering Bear

Getting there :-

Buses 4, 24 and 30 from South Shields-
Bus 24 from Sunderland

<https://www.nexus.org.uk/>

NEW!

PUBLIC TRANSPORT NEWS



Real Ale Guides are available covering every real ale pub/club and taproom in this branch. Now to complement these is a new guide to **the Tyne and Wear Metro** within our branch. All guides can be found here :-

<https://sst.aarch.camra.org.uk/viewnode.php?id=65182>

Bus to the Pub?

The promotion to encourage bus use by capping single fares at £2 has been extended until 30 June. It had been due to run out at on 31st March. Both pubs and public transport are facing an existential threat, so why not help both and get the bus to the Pub? We have three public holidays during the pro-moion period, so this seems a good time to get out and about.

However, as with everything else it would seem at this time of year, there have been some ticket price rises. From Saturday 1st April prices were revised (ie increased). Examples are :-

Day Rover – now £9.10. This ticket allows unlimited travel on buses, Metro, Shields Ferry and Northern Rail within Tyne & Wear.

North East Explorer – now £12.70
This allows travel using one ticket in an area from Berwick down to Scarborough.

What has escaped the price increases is **the Metro Gold Card**. If you have a concessionary bus pass you can buy a Gold Card, giving unlimited travel on the Metro, Shields Ferry and Northern Rail Services between Sunderland and Newcastle from 0930 during the week, unlimited at weekends, public holidays and throughout July and August. This still costs £12 per year.

Michael Wynne & Ken Paul

THE PERFECT FIVE

CAMRA'S Whatpub , provides online information for over 35000 real ale venues. It also allows CAMRA members to record the quality of their beer with a score, and which beers they have drunk during a pub/club visit. This scoring information is used to assist in selection of entries in The Good Beer Guide.



Beer is scored in the range 0 to 5. 0 means “No Real Ale” at time of the visit. The median score, and the most used when scoring is 3, indicating a “Good”. The top score - 5- is rarely used and is described in Whatpub as :-

“Perfect

Probably the best you are ever likely to find. A seasoned drinker will award this score very rarely”.

A friend of mine, Roker born but now living near Bury St Edmunds, makes occasional visits back to the North East. He usually drags me out kicking and screaming on a tour of local pubs; usually Sunderland but occasionally South Shields and Durham.

So it was one Monday afternoon in February found us meeting for lunch in The Bishops Mill in Durham. A route was planned which took in **The Half Moon** (

Draught Bass!), **The City Hotel** next door then up an endless steep hill to a new Good Beer Guide entry, **The Holy Grail**. After getting our breath back, it was a short walk to our last pub – **Ye Old Elm Tree**.

This popular pub, one of the oldest in the city, has up to five handpulls. To my delight, one of them was Theakston's Old Peculier. Delighted because this is my favourite British beer and has been since drinking it in The Crown in Hawes in 1973. Yes, 50 years ago !

Now throughout the day I had not had a bad pint and had been regularly scoring 3 or 3.5 as we went from pub to pub. But drinking the Old Peculier just blew everything out of the water. With its deep dark ruby colour and rich fruity flavour , with for me a hint of liquorice, I enthused about it to my mate and the barman, and quickly decided - this is it, it has to be a 5.

After entering my score, for good measure I filled in the Feedback Form on Whatpub to back this unique event up.

Finally, I'm pleased to say that just recently Ye Old Elm Tree was awarded **2023 City Pub of the Year** by Durham CAMRA.



WhatPub

Like I did, please remember to score your beers when you visit a pub. It doesn't take long; it can be done in the pub, or on the bus or train back home.

<https://whatpub.com/>

MICROPUBS : THE NEW LOCAL

On a recent trip to see the Outlaws in Herne Bay I noticed that the local cinema was showing the premiere of a new documentary about Micropubs called *"Micropubs The New Local"* with a question and answer session with the film makers and guest of honour Martyn Hillier, the founder of the micropub movement.



The film was made by Syd Heather, Daniel Eycott (pictured centre with Martyn Hillier and James Coyne over

several years. There are interviews with Martyn Hillier, various micropub owners, CAMRA members and activists. The film principally follows three Londoners who decide to open their own micropubs.

Our first micropub newbie is Lucy Do, a woman from a marketing background who opens **The Dodo** micropub in Hanwell West London. Lucy has a very close relationship with the local microbreweries, spending time with them and providing feedback on their



The Dodo : Middlesex
CAMRA

beers. As she says she can put a keg on from the local micro-brewery send out a tweet and the beer is gone in a few hours.

The film crew revisit Lucy after several months and she tells them that "within the first quarter we were making a profit, which is bloody amazing!"

We follow Richard Reeves a keen cyclist who really did his research by cycling 2,000 mile around 100

micropubs! Richard decides to name his Enfield pub **The Little Green Dragon** after a recently closed local pub called the Green Dragon which has just become a supermarket and luxury flats. We see Richard and all his family finally opening the pub with a ceremony which naturally includes Morris dancers.

We follow Trevor's journey to open **River Ale House** in East Greenwich



River Ale House; SE London
CAMRA

from the early planning stage, the initial building stage and finally opening day where all his family are helping out. We see the queue outside on

opening day and one of his customers exclaims *"Its made a lot of beer drinkers very happy!!!"* It was 2022 CAMRA SE London Branch Pub of the Year.

We have a brief interlude at the Great British Beer Festival, visits to local micro-breweries and micropub owners regale us with some of the bureaucratic nonsense the local Council's inflict on their journey to opening the micropub, like charging £900 to do a sound level check on a beer cooler you can't even hear!

At just over one hour long these are heart warming tales of how central to the community pubs can be and what a wonderful contribution a good micropub can make to the area! Available on Amazon Prime and possibly on YouTube.

I think I might just have decided which three pubs I am going to visit for my next article!

Terry Ford

PLASTIC PINTS ARE RUBBISH!

As beer, cider, and perry lovers we're all passionate about quality and there's little that's more disappointing than an otherwise delicious pint being served in plastic. In fact, research by NGO *A Plastic Planet*, found that 75% of consumers say that plastic ruins the taste of beer, with 89% going further and saying that they'd like to see plastic pints banned for good.

You might think that in the face of overwhelming consumer agreement, plastic pints would be heading the way of the plastic straw, with pubs, social clubs, and other venues choosing to move to better alternatives. However, the on-trade doesn't currently have much of a say in the matter, with Licensing Authorities across the UK mandating the use of plastic or polycarbonate as a condition of a venue's premises license.

The reasoning, is that plastic pints are needed for public safety. In venues where pints might be dropped or broken no one wants to see consumers hurt by broken glass, but this doesn't mean that plastic is the answer. Licensing Authorities could make a simple change in wording to the licensing conditions they apply to venues where using glass wouldn't be in the interests of public safety. Rather than specifying plastic, licensing could include a wider range of materials or simply give the criteria a material should meet – for requiring that beer is served using shatterproof pints.

As it stands, almost 70% of plastic pint cups will end up in landfill or as litter.

Plastic cups are the 6th most littered item in UK rivers and 8th most commonly found item on our beaches, so with innovative alternatives being developed all the time, CAMRA is asking why licensees are still being shackled to single-use plastic.

Some high-profile venues and events, including the Oval cricket ground, Live Nation festivals such as Reading and Leeds have all already pledged to go plastic free and have found alternatives using everything from paper to compostable corn starch. As might be expected from a consumer organisation, CAMRA beer



festivals have always served beer in glass too. But while these occasional venues are able to lead the way, pubs and social clubs – the undisputed homes of the proper pint – are being left behind.

CAMRA's Campaigns Director, Nick Boley said: "CAMRA's members voted to add environmental campaigning to the areas we lobby on at our 2021 Conference and we want to support the innovators who are creating solutions for a plastic free pint but can't currently market their products to the on-trade. Longer-term, CAMRA will be calling for plastic pints to be included in the bans on single use plastic being rolled out by governments across the UK, to ensure that our nation isn't clogged with littered plastic pints and that we can always enjoy real ale, cider and perry without the taste of plastic.

Continued

PLASTIC PINTS ARE RUBBISH! *Continued*

“For one area of government to be mandating the use of plastic, while other areas of government look at banning it is ridiculous, and we want to see a more joined-up approach to this issue.”

Sian Sutherland, co-founder of A Plastic Planet says: “It is an outdated and irrational position of Licensing Authorities to mandate the use of damaging single-use plastic when the sustainable alternatives are readily available. The British public is eager to see change. Venues are being bound by the narrow specifications handed down from above. The pubs and bars of the UK should be able to drive forward their shared agenda of making sustainable alternatives to plastic the norm.”

CAMRA members can get involved by asking Licensing Authorities to give pubs the choice about the materials they use. Resources for lobbying your local Licensing Authority are available for



members in the **CAMRA Campaigns Hub**, so together we can make sure all levels of government know that we think plastic pints are rubbish!

<https://camra.org.uk/volunteers-area/branch-resources/campaigns-hub/branch-campaigning-toolkits/drink-greener/>

By following the above link you can find a tab called Plastic Pints Are Rubbish ; and the source of this article.

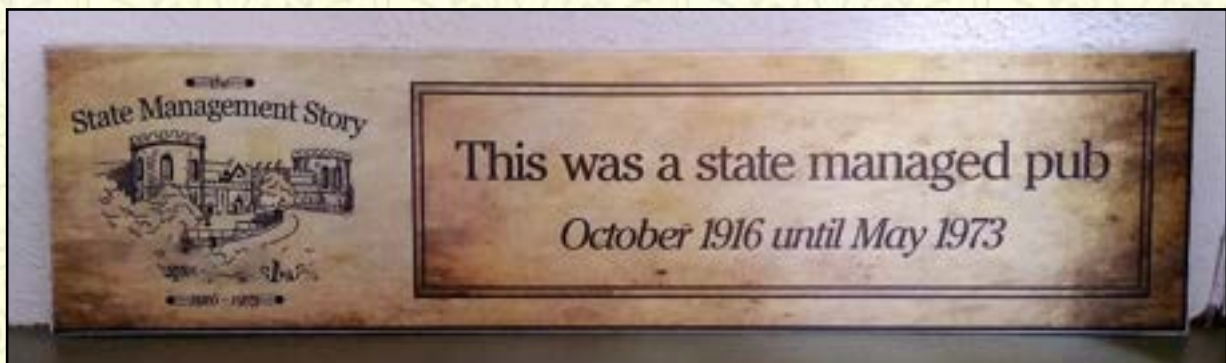
This contains information on how to contact your local authority. Read carefully the text in red at the bottom , which also includes a link to a list of local authorities (our two are South Tyneside and Sunderland) showing which have plans in place to combat climate change.

Assistant Pubs Officer (Pub Data Co-Ordinator) Do you have an eye for detail and would you like to use your abilities to provide good information for users of WhatPub for the pubs and clubs in our branch? As assistant, you'd help collect up-to-date information on pubs and clubs and maintain it within CAMRA's information database (SPILE). <https://www1-camra.s3.eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/13135800/Pub-Data-Co-ordinator-summary-CHECKED.pdf>

The purpose of the role is to assist in co-ordinating data collection and maintaining details of all pubs and clubs in the branch area, working as a team. The data feeds into WhatPub and provides information for pub guides such as the Good Beer Guide and for national surveys. <https://www1-camra.s3.eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/10163317/Pub-Data-Co-ordinator-role-guidance.pdf>

PUB QUIZ (answers on page 25)

- 1 Name Pink Floyd's only no 1 hit single.
- 2 What does the N stand for in T.N.T.?
- 3 Name the bush kangaroo in the TV series of the same name (late 60's if your wondering)
- 4 Name the Irish Singer who had a hit with Orinoco Flow
- 5 What was the name of NASA's first space station?
- 6 Name the dog in Blue Peter and Go With Noakes.
- 7 Surfs Up was a 1971 album for which group?
- 8 In which county is Stansted Airport?
- 9 Carson City is the capital city of which US state?
- 10 Which city hosted the 2004 Summer Olympics
- 11 Which English football club are known as The Mariners?
- 12 Who succeeded F.W. Clerk as president of South Africa
- 13 Which daily BBC programme celebrated its 40th birthday in January 2023?
- 14 Name the football club that Eric Morecambe was a supporter and director of
- 15 For cider drinkers : Who was the Goddess of fruit trees, gardens, and orchards?
- 16 Name the brewery that brews Steeltown, White Hot and Red Dust.
- 17 What does the B stand for in ABV?
- 18 Which beer won the Newcastle Beer Festival Battle of the Beers (Reds)?
- 19 And which beer won the Battle of the Beers (Chocolate Stouts) ?
- 20 In which city was this photograph taken?



PUB COMPANIES - WHO THEY ARE AND WHAT THEY DO :-

Part 9 Associated Bodies.

This is the final part of a series of articles by **Paul Ainsworth** that give more information about the companies that control many of our pubs.

<https://sst-arch.camra.org.uk/viewnode.php?id=65188>

The aim is to let the facts speak for themselves so that readers can make up their own minds about the positive or negative effects of these practices on our pubs and the folk who run them.

A number of bodies exist to represent the interests of pub companies or their licensees, whilst other groups (such as CAMRA) champion pubs on behalf of their customers and therefore have a strong interest in the way pub companies operate.

British Beer & Pub Association Formed in 1904 as the Brewers' Society but renamed in 2000 to reflect its growing pub company membership. Its members are responsible for 90% of the beer brewed in Britain and own around 20,000 of the country's pubs; interestingly, the biggest pub company, Stonegate, is not a member. The Chief Executive is Emma McClarkin who succeeded the long-serving Brigid Simmonds in 2019.

The BBPA positions itself as 'the voice of the beer and pub industry' and campaigns for lower taxes and less regulation to 'enable growth and investment' in the trade. It provides members with guidance, specialist insight, research and statistics, including a 'licensee forum' offering free advice on matters such as cellar management, property & planning, licensing & regulation and health & safety.

British Institute of Innkeeping This is a membership organisation with charitable status whose remit is 'to raise

professional standards across the sector'. Its 9000 members are drawn from all areas of the trade – tenants, managers, free-traders, pub chefs, bar-staff etc. Helplines cover issues like human resources, legal, licensing, tax, environmental health and market knowledge. It also sells services to tenants through their pub companies and in several regards can be seen as a commercial partner of these companies, some of whom offer free BII membership to their tenants/lessees. Several companies are corporate BII members.

Federation of Licensed Victuallers Association Another membership organisation, this one aims to look after the interests of self-employed licensees and was formed in 1992. The advice, help and guidance it offers includes matters like contracts of employment, health & safety, staff induction and working time regulations. It has a direct financial/commercial link with Stonegate who offer free membership to all their tenants/lessees. When the Pubs Code came in, the FLVA notably did not support the Market Rent Only option.

Continued

UK Hospitality The organisation sees itself as the 'single, authoritative voice representing the broad hospitality sector' – so not just the licensed trade but also the likes of visitor attractions, nightclubs and bowling alleys. It resulted from a 2018 merger of the British Hospitality Association and the Association of Licensed Multiple Retailers and membership is offered to operator and supplier companies plus affiliates like educational establishments. Kate Nicholls is the Chief Executive. Its current campaigning priorities are 'the future workforce of the sector, tackling the excessive tax burden the sector faces and ensuring regulation on business is proportionate'. Members can access a variety of advice services, including cost savings, employee retention and legislative compliance.

Forum of British Pubs The FBP was founded in June 2020 by redoubtable tenants' rights campaigner Dave Mountford (the Pub Defender) and Ian Cass, Managing Director of the Forum of Private Business, primarily to protect British pubs and the people who run them. They aim to support all publicans, and tied tenants in particular, as well as being a strong campaigning voice with government and the industry. In their

view, there is much bad business practice and unfair behaviour in the latter and the absence of a fair, level playing field keeps many licensees in a state of perpetual jeopardy. There has also been, they say, no true representation until they came along for pub tenants at government level.

To help address the imbalance, FBP gives its members access to expert advice and guidance on general and legal issues and, especially, on using (or trying to use) rights under the Pubs Code.

Scottish Licensed Trade Association Founded in 1880, this is the leading licensed trade body in Scotland. It is consulted by governments, national boards and the media and members are also represented at local level through a series of local and regional trade associations. Membership is open to all Scottish licensed trade outlets.

Pubs Advisory Service PAS was set up to help tenants obtain high-quality independent advice and support to grow their business. Areas on which it can advise include rent reviews, business rates, unworkable business plans mis-selling of agreements and the Market Rent Only option. It also pro-

PUB QUIZ ANSWERS

1	Another Brick in the Wall Part 2.
2	Nitro (as in Trinitrotoluene)
3	Skippy
4	Enya
5	Skylab
6	Shep
7	Beach Boys
8	Essex
9	Nevada
10	Athens
11	Grimsby
12	Nelson Mandela
13	Breakfast
14	Luton Town
15	Ponoma (Ponoma Cider Awards)
16	Consett Aleworks
17	By (as in Alcohol By Volume)
18	Hadrian & Border Rise of the Reds (see page 12)
19	Out There Liquidity (see page 12)
20	Carlisle

CAMRA ANGLE ONLINE is published by the Sunderland and South Tyneside Branch of CAMRA @ 2023. Views expressed in this publications may not be necessarily those of the Editor or of CAMRA

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Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/SSTCAMRA/> (Discussion Group)

Instagram: https://instagram.com/sst_camra