



Campaign
for
Real Ale

CAMRA ANGLE WINTER 2023



ISSUE 65
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WELCOME TO THIS EDITION OF CAMRA ANGLE.

ON THE FRONT COVER.

The "Winter Scene" was actually used as the cover of CAMRA Angles eight years ago. (For avid collectors, it was Issue 42 !). This time though we have an image of the Stags Head in South Shields, which features inside. This reflects the going back in time heritage theme of this issue. We look at how two pubs became one in Washington, news of the rebirth of a former Sunderland pub, and, a pictorial history of The Gin & Ale House, Jarrow which sadly suffered from a major fire recently.

We report on a visit to The Avenue in Sunderland to celebrate a 10 year milestone. Further afield there is a visit to Stockton to experience some of the fine pubs in the town.

Very much up to date is a visit to underneath the historic Ship Isis in Sunderland, where the branch's newest brewery resides. We also have other brewery news and of course the usual pub news. Just as this issue was being finalised came the news that local pub company Wear Inns had gone into administration. This affects several pubs in the branch. See inside for more.

Campaign wise, we have the latest on the Pubs Code in England & Wales and the outcome of the Government's Autumn Statement.

Finally, this and previous issues along with CAMRA Angle Online can be found here :-

https://sst.camra.org.uk/wordpress/?page_id=47

Enjoy the read - Ken Paul

Contributors :- Terry Ford ; Ian Monteith Preston ; @morpethwolf ; Ken Paul ; Steve Thompson; Peter Tong ; Michael Wynne. All photographs are by the editor unless stated.

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CONTRIBUTIONS are welcome and can be sent to :- magazine01@sst.camra.org.uk

BRANCH CONTACTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 27

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DIARY DATES

DECEMBER 2023

Walk On The North Side	Saturday 9 th December. A visit to North Shields. Meet in The Steamboat, Mill Dam, South Shield NE33 1EQ at 12.30pm
Brewlab Brews Taproom Open Day	Friday 22 nd December 2pm - 8pm Unit 1 West Quay Court, Sunderland Enterprise Park, Sunderland SR5 2TE. https://brewlab.co.uk/about-us/brewlab-brews/brewlab-brews-taproom/

JANUARY 2024

Maxim Open Night	Friday 5 th January 5pm -10pm Maxim Brewery, Gladwell Rd, Rainton Bridge, Houghton, DH4 5NL
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February 2024

Maxim Open Night	Friday 2 nd February Details as per January
Great British Beer Festival Winter	Thursday 15 th February - Saturday 15 th December 2024 Burton Town Hall, King Edward Pl, Burton-on-Trent, DE14 2EB. https://winter.gbbf.org.uk/

Our Social Secretary is busy planning more activities for next year. Look out for announcements on social media or our online **FUTURE EVENTS** page https://sst.camra.org.uk/wordpress/?page_id=42

The Branch would like to thank The Gin & Ale House, Jarrow and The Ship Isis Sunderland for hosting our last two branch meetings, and The Stags Head, South Shields hosting our Beer & Cider Festival wash - up meeting.

Jarrow

As reported in the introduction to this issue, **The Gin & Ale House** near the town centre is closed due to a major fire. There is more on the next page along with a pictorial history of the pub.

South Shields

Real ale is proving popular again in **The Stags Head** in the town centre. There is a report on this historic pub on page 15.

Close by, the former real



ale pub **Kirkpatrick's (above)** is undergoing a major refit, with plans to reopen this Grade II listed building as a restaurant and cocktail bar in 2024. Sometimes spelt Kirkpatrick's, it was built between 1867 -1869, and is a former Marine School, recognised by a blue plaque. **The Voyager** reopened on November 21st as this issue was being finalised, so more news in our online edition later.



Sunderland

In the City Centre a new bar called **The Keel Tavern**, opened on November 16th. On the ground floor of the Holiday Inn in Keel Square there will be up to six real ales available. The former **Bridge Hotel (above)** in Sunderland, a Grade II listed building, is set to reopen after 23 years. Now called Lambton House, planning permission has been given to turn it back into a pub, with its original name. It is reported that Vaux Brewery will run the bar.

Washington

The Mill House (below), on the border of



Washington and Birtley, reopened at the beginning of November 2023. The pub suffered a major fire in 2018, reopened the following year but closed again in May 2023. At the time of writing there are plans to introduce real ale as soon as possible. **The Courtyard Bar** in The Washington Arts Centre now offers 10% discount to card carrying CAMRA members. Up to eight handpulls of constantly changing beers are available.

(See page 21 for a full list of branch pubs that offer discounts and take CAMRA vouchers).

Pub Company News

It was announced on 16th November that **Wear Inns** have gone into administration.

The pubs in our branch affected by this news are :-

- Black Bull, East Boldon
- Britannia, Houghton
- Cross Keys, Washington
- Greens, Sunderland
- Guide Post, Springwell Village
- Prior Doxford Park
- Ship & Royal, South Shields

If you have any pub news to share please contact Ken Paul :-

pubsofficer@sst.camra.org.uk

The Gin & Ale House, Jarrow

By Terry Ford and Ken Paul.

Photos by Ron Lawson, Sunderland Antiquarian Society, unless stated

On the morning on Tuesday October 31st 2023 came some awful news ; there had been devastating fire in **The Gin & Ale House**, Jarrow. Luckily, it was reported there was no one in the building at the time.

A popular pub, it has been a regular in CAMRA's Good Beer Guide since 2017. A branch meeting had been held there just a month before the fire. Of course it is to be hoped to see the pub reopen soon..

This is a stand alone pub but pictures here show this wasn't always the case. There used to be properties either side.

It was originally called **The Albion Inn** and opened in 1859. It later became **The Albion Hotel** and was owned by the Vaux Breweries. In the 1970's it was known as **The Albion** and then the name was changed again, this time to **The Jarrow Crusaders** (above) after the famous march from Jarrow in 1936.

It was taken over by Jess McConnell, founder of Jarrow Brewery, in 2014 and it became part of the now defunct brewery and was renamed **McConnell's Gin and Ale House**. An inscription above the downstairs front windows reads " *The last owned public house of the Jarrow Brewery era. 2002-2015*". The pub was then briefly called **The Jarrow Gin & Ale House** and then renamed **Albion Gin & Ale House** in 2020 and in July 2022 another name change, this time to the **Gin & Ale House**



Above , The Albion Hotel. Note the adjoining property on the right.



Above , now called The Albion. The right hand property now demolished.



Above The Jarrow Crusaders



Above image taken in 2022 by Ken Paul

More Information :-

Walter Street, Jarrow, NE32 3PQ
about five minutes walk from
Jarrow Town centre and the bus
and Metro station

<https://whatpub.com/pubs/SUN/6760/gin-ale-house-jarrow>

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Brewery News

Brewlab, Sunderland

continue to hold their taproom events. They are to be held fortnightly on Fridays between 2 - 8 pm, and on Saturdays between 11am - 8pm when Sunderland AFC have a home game. A Christmas opening will be held on Friday 22nd December.

At the time of writing there is no public transport close to Brewlab due to the ongoing Go Northeast (GNE) bus strike. Ironically, GNE had announced they were reinstating evening and Sunday buses on service 8 between Sunderland, Washington and Chester-le-Street. Stagecoach North East has services 10 minutes walk away in Southwick

At each taproom event, there are three cask beers and two keg lines. These are usually new beers, although cask BB Blonde and keg N- Spire Pale and BB Pilsner have been seen more than once. The range is complimented by a selection of bottled beers sold under the Pilot Series name.

Due to extreme summer weather, the yields from aroma hops from central Europe are down by a half. The yield from British bittering hops is also down, but by a smaller rate. Perhaps this can be an opportunity for brewers to produce more traditional British beers.

Lazy Lizard, Cleadon

continue their small batch brewing for the Stables Micro Pub where they are based.

Maxim Brewery, Rainton Bridge

are brewing to full capacity all the way until Christmas. Four seasonal beers will be available : Great Escape, Santa's Soot, Santastic and a new dark beer, Christmas Pudding Ale. Santastic is on Wetherspoons national listing for December

The brewery supplies The Stadium of Light, Sunderland with Samson keg and sales of the beer to other pubs are well up on last year.

Their call and collect drive thru continues with the addition of Saturday mornings in December for bottled beers. (0191 5848844) Popular open nights continue in 2024 - the first Friday of every month from 5pm-10pm.

Vaux Brewery, Sunderland have dropped Sunday opening and so are back to being open only on Friday and Saturday. A 4.7% pale ale called Swell has been brewed and was available for the opening of The Keel Tavern in the City Centre.

Meanwhile last year's 11% key keg imperial stout, Stormy Petrel, is available again and last year's key keg Gaelic coffee stout has been started and should be ready when you read this. 1899, the 7% bottle-conditioned stout might be brewed in the new year. In place of their regular pizza stall, Vaux now have Arigato, a van selling Japanese street food.

Wear Beer See next page.

If you wish to share any news, please contact the relevant Brewery Liaison Officer below

Terry Higgins - blockyardBLO@sst.camra.org.uk	Michael Wynne - brewlabBLO@sst.camra.org.uk
Neil Walters- lazylizardBLO@sst.camra.org.uk	Ken Paul - maximBLO@sst.camra.org.uk
Mo Moseley- vauxBLO@sst.camra.org.uk	Steve Thompson wearbeerBLO@sst.camra.org.uk

Wear Beer

Steve Thompson reports. (Photos by Steve unless stated)

In the cellar of The Ship Isis Sunderland, spread throughout a collection of varied and interconnected rooms, you will find Julio Romero, the head brewer of Wear Beer - working away on a compact 2.5BBL brew kit.

Julio is looking to establish a reputation for high quality brewing, selecting four staples as their core range: Pale (3.8%), Bitter (4.4%), Stout (4.8%) and what was planned to be an 'ever-changing' IPA (5.1%).

"I don't want to be seen



Brewery in the cellar

as too traditional or very modern", Julio says, "but something in between – no gimmicks, just great examples of established styles. The plan was to change the IPA for each brew, keeping things seasonal, but people seem



Ship Isis (Photo :Terry Ford)

to like the Mosaic/Azacca hop combination, so it may end up staying as it is".

Combining a background in Agricultural Sciences with his brewing experience, Julio has an



Pale Ale on the bar in The Ship Isis

innovative vision mapped out ahead. "Soon, we'll take delivery of some Saaz hops grown here in Sunderland and we've an unknown hop variety coming in from Barnard Castle. We'll use these to brew a small batch lager before the end of the year. It's possible in the future we'll actually sell hop plants, ask people to return any hops they grow, which they'll be able to exchange for beer brewed with them".

Beers are available on cask in various pubs in central Sunderland and up into Whitburn at Blue's Micro Pub. Plans to expand along Wearside are moving forward with The Victoria Inn in Durham City now onboard. Julio hasn't planned a seasonal Christmas beer for 2023, but all core Wear Beers will be available in bottles for the first time in December and looking further ahead, Julio is working on a plan to launch a subscription service.

More Information : -
Wear Beer , Ship Isis
26 Silksworth Row
Sunderland
SR1 3QJ

Find Wear Beer on
Instagram using
[@wearbeerltd](https://www.instagram.com/wearbeerltd)



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SUNDAY 12 NOON-10.30PM

The Avenue, Sunderland

Peter Tong pays a visit - and took the photos

As membership secretary and being responsible for advertising and sponsorship in this area, I've met the majority of pub owners and tenants in the many establishments which sell real ale and, due to this, many friendships have been formed.

Dave Graham along with wife Tracey and daughter Lianna have run The Avenue in Zetland Street, Roker for ten years along with long serving staff member Sharon Campbell, a fact Dave pointed out to me just a couple of months ago. He is proud of his achievement and rightly so, having won numerous CAMRA awards. CAMRA have used the pub for both local and regional meetings and the beer is always "spot on." There is always plenty of excellent cider to choose from too.

I've recently been lucky enough to receive the guided tour of the premises. The bar stands out as being clean, tidy and really colourful. Nothing is out of place. There are six hand pulls with the beer available neatly displayed on the blackboard on the wall along with the cider. There's a pool table, multiple TV's and a montage of the 1973 Sunderland FA Cup winning team. Upstairs you'll find a large kitchen and a lovely restaurant,



L-R Tracy Graham, Dave Graham, Sharon Campbell

sadly unused at the moment, along with some spotlessly clean toilets all awaiting a time in the future



when they will I hope be used again.

We chatted about the plot of land on which we were sitting as Dave had researched it. In the 18th century Ernst Lauterbach had owned a mineral works factory making mineral waters and I was shown two glass bottles as proof of that. This was followed by

The Zetland Arms, The Clipper and then the original Sunderland AFC Supporters club.

During the times of the Zetland Arms it was one of four pubs reported to the health committee Sunderland Act of 1885. This gave the power of any inn or public house to provide and maintain certain conveniences which hit licensees hard! No such worries these days at The Avenue!

I think that Dave his family and team have done an excellent job in The Avenue. He's a very humble guy but I can see how much the place means to him. It takes a massive effort behind the scenes before you even open the doors to the public, something Dave and his team do very well.

I'd personally like to thank Dave and the team for their support of CAMRA, for advertising and sponsorship over a long period of time and I hope that The Avenue continues to provide a great pint and atmosphere for years to come.

More Information :-
Avenue - Zetland Street
Sunderland SR6 0EQ
Two minutes walk from E1 bus stops and about 15 minute walk from The Stadium of Light Metro Station
<https://whatpub.com/pubs/SUN/6069/avenue-sunderland>

Campaigning - England & Wales Pubs Code

Adapted from a Press Release by CAMRA on 31st October 2023

Background :-

The Pubs Code came into force in July 2016 and regulates the relationship between all pub companies (Pubcos) owning 500 or more tied pubs in England and Wales and their tied pub tenants. Its based on two principles :-

- fair and lawful dealing by pub-owning businesses in their dealings with their tied tenants;
- tied tenants should be no worse off than if they were free of tie.

CAMRA condemns

Government over lack of action to support publicans and boost consumer choice at the bar

Laws governing the relationship between pub owning businesses and the tied tenants who run those pubs won't be changed or improved, the Government announced yesterday.

It comes as the Department for Business and Trade published its response to a statutory review of the Pubs Code for England and Wales – a set of rules governing the relationship between pub-owning businesses and their tied tenants.

CAMRA wanted to see changes to give tied pub tenants more choice over which beers they offer, including the right to a guest draught

beer or cider from local and independent producers instead of having to buy a restricted range of stock at set prices from the pub-owning company.

CAMRA also urged the Government to beef up the Pubs Code so that more publicans could benefit from protections and rights when it comes to the way they are treated by big pub-owning businesses.

Without changes to make sure tied pub tenants are treated fairly and are able to turn a profit under their contracts, it is feared that more pubs will be forced to close and be lost to their communities.

Instead of making improvements to the laws around pubs and tied tenants in response to changes to the industry in recent years, the Government decided not to act.

“The lack of action to improve protections for pub tenants and to improve choice for consumers at the bar is deeply disappointing,” said Nick Boley, CAMRA Campaigns Director.

“Changing these laws to allow a better range of beers on offer from small, local and independent breweries would have increased choice for consumers. It's not fair that large pub-owning

businesses can restrict landlords to buying certain beers often at above-market value and prevent them from supporting small, local breweries by offering these beers on tap.

“CAMRA is also worried that the existing Pubs Code isn't meeting its key principles – that tied tenants should be no worse off than other publicans and that they can expect fair and lawful dealing from pub owning-businesses. Research carried out by CAMRA last year found that less than a quarter of tied tenants who responded said that they were treated fairly and lawfully, or that they were no worse off.

“The Government needs to re-think this decision to do nothing and instead improve the Pubs Code so that we can see a thriving pub sector in England and Wales where the rights of pub tenants are protected, and consumers have a diversity of venues to choose from. Otherwise, the current corporate stranglehold will only tighten, and we risk seeing more pubs shutting their doors and being lost to our communities.”

For more go to :-

https://camra.org.uk/press_release/government-review-missed-opportunity-to-improve-choice-of-local-and-independent-beers-at-the-bar/

Alum Ale House



07720 207553



alumalehouse22@gmail.com

Sunderland & South Tyneside Heritage Pubs Website

[https://heritagepubs.sst.camra.org.uk/?page_id=11307%20\(Page%206](https://heritagepubs.sst.camra.org.uk/?page_id=11307%20(Page%206)

Ken Paul explains

In the last edition of CAMRA Angle there was a brief introduction to this branch initiative. The objective is to provide information about the history of our pubs in our branch, which covers the council areas of Sunderland and South Tyneside. This will take the form of articles about heritage pubs, grade II listed buildings, council conservation areas, pub walks and old photographs. Some articles in this issue may feature ; pages 6,15 and 19 have a heritage



The Dun Cow, Sunderland

Theme. Content is being added to the website all the

time ; here are some examples :-

- South Shields Heritage Pub Trails
- Sunderland Heritage Pub Trails
- Grade II listed pubs
- Pubs that have been awarded Council Blue Plaques
- Breweries can feature, such as the now defunct Bull Lane Brewery.

If you wish to contribute or make suggestions for subject matter, please email

admin.team@heritagepubs.sst.camra.org.uk

South Tyneside Council Local List

<https://www.southtyneside.gov.uk/article/17519/Overview>

Ian Monteith Preston writes

Several Councils maintain a "Local List". South Tyneside Council is one of them. A local list includes buildings and structures that don't meet the criteria for national listing by Historic England as a Grade I or II listed building but they are considered important locally. All entries are also recorded on the County (Tyne & Wear) Historic Environment Record maintained by the County Archaeology Officer.

Several Pubs in South Tyneside feature in the local list. They are as diverse as the Old Ship, a

former coaching inn and the oldest pub in South Shields, to CAMRA Good Beer Guide entry the Black Horse in West Boldon. Parts of it's building is believed to date back to the time of the nearby 1644 civil war "Battle of Boldon Hill"...All the way to the Fountain Inn, South Shields, only built in 1938 so positively modern but with an iconic Chinese pagoda look complete with a green tiled roof.

Currently thirty pubs feature on the South Tyneside "Local List" although one, the Whitburn Lodge, severely damaged

in a suspicious fire, currently faces a planning application to be demolished. Some of these thirty pubs already feature in articles on our Heritage Pubs Website with others due to be added at some point.

As branch Pub Protection Officer I find it useful to have this information available and in the public eye should any threat befall these pubs.

For more information go to **The Tyne & Wear Heritage Environment Record:**

<https://twsitelines.info/>

The Stag's Head, South Shields

Ken Paul and Terry Ford report - Photos by Terry Ford

In 1839 William Matthews opened the Albion Tavern at 2 Fowler Street, South Shields town centre. It occupied what would become The Stag's Head and Maynard's Sweet Shop. Matthews died in 1855 and two



Above - The downstairs bar back.

Covid lockdowns didn't help and real ale sales ceased in October 2022. The pub closed in December of that year; but eight days later it reopened on 23rd December with Norman Pippin and his partner Julie Sullivan as licensees. Real ale was reinstated in August 2023. Initially one handpull offered Wadsworth 6X which has been proving popular. The plan is to have one beer on with a new one ready just before the old one runs out.



Above - The Stags Head today. Note the stags head at the top of the building.

designated in 2010 and is included in **The National Inventory of Historic Pub Interiors** maintained by **CAMRA's Pub Heritage Group**.

Because of the narrowness of the pub, it has the unusual arrangement of two bars, one above the other. Both have their original counters and bar backs. The downstairs is a single room bar, while the upstairs can be used as a function room.

It was a former entry in **CAMRA's Good Beer Guide**, serving Draught Bass on a regular basis.

Years later the name was changed to **The Stag's Head**. In 1867

licensee Jane Jackson was accused of murdering her two week old child but was acquitted. In 1896 tenders were advertised to split the building in two, the left hand side to become the pub, the right would eventually be the sweet shop. This split took place in 1897.

The Stag's Head is now a Grade II listed building,



Above - Another stag's head looks down on drinkers in the main bar. A third can be found in the upstairs room.



The upstairs bar back and counter .

More information :-

South Shields local history group website :-

<https://southshieldslocalhistorygroup.co.uk/>

Grade II listed information on Historic England website :-

<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1393666>

CAMRA Pub Heritage Group.

<https://pubheritage.camra.org.uk/pubs/351>

45 Fowler Street, South Shields NE33 1NS About three minutes walk from Public Transport Interchange

<https://whatpub.com/pubs/SUN/6041/stags-head-south-shields>



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Campaigning - Autumn Statement

Adapted from a Press Release by CAMRA on 22nd November 2023

Commenting on what today's Autumn Statement means for pub-goers, pubs and breweries CAMRA Chairman Nik Antona said :

“Extending the 75% discount on business rates bills for pubs in England for another year beyond next April is very much welcome – and much needed for pubs facing rising prices and the impact of the cost-of-living crisis. The Chancellor admitted that temporary measures like

this couldn't go on forever, so it is vital that the Government urgently reforms the grossly unfair business rates system which penalises pubs and puts their future at risk.

“Freezing all alcohol duty until August 2024 is certainly to be welcomed. However, this is a missed opportunity to give targeted help to protect the nation's pubs, social clubs and taprooms by cutting tax on draught beer and cider

served in pubs instead of an across-the-board freeze in all alcohol duty.

“Reducing the tax burden specifically on pints in pubs must be extended in the future to keep pub-going affordable and to help keep pubs open and at the heart of both community life and local economies by giving them a fighting chance of competing against cheap supermarket alcohol.”

Branch Locale

CAMRA LOCALE promotes pubs stocking locally brewed ale in order to reduce the number of beer miles from brewery to cellar. Below is a list of those in our branch that sell beer brewed in Northumberland, Tyne & Wear and County Durham. If you have any updates please email the branch Pubs Officer, sst.pubsofficer@gmail.com.

Cleadon - Stables	South Shields	Sunderland Centre
East Boldon	Cask Lounge	Peacock
Boldon Cricket Club	Maltings	Sunderland North
Grey Horse	Marine	Avenue
Mid Boldon Club	Steamboat	Blue Bell
East Rainton & Houghton	Wouldhave	Brewlab
Copt Hill Inn	Sunderland Centre	Grannie Annies
Highfield Hotel (E. Rainton)	Chaplins	Lighthouse
Houghton Rugby Club	Chesters	Promenade
Maxim Brewery	Cooper Rose	Queen Vic
White Lion	Dun Cow	Vaux Brewery & Taphouse
Wild Boar	Fitzgeralds	Washington
Hebburn - Lord Nelson	Kings Arms	Courtyard
Herringtons & Doxford Pk	Ivy House	Sir William de Wessington
Board Inn	Mortal Hound	Steps
Prior (Doxford Park)	Museum Vaults	Washington Arms
Ryhope- Guide Post	Ship Isis	West Boldon- Black Horse



THE STATION HOUSE,
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- FRI: 2PM - 11PM • SAT: 12PM - 11PM,
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- SUN: 2PM - 9PM • TUES - THURS: 4PM - 10:30PM,



From Two Into One: A Brief History of a Washington Pub

Ken Paul visits Washington Village

The Steps pub in Washington Village has an interesting back story to tell. Just north of The Village Green on Spout Lane, it was originally called The Spout Lane and half the size it is now. The next premises but one was a pub called **The Miner's Rest**. Both date from 1894.



Above - The Spout Lane pub before it's renaming. Image from raggyspelk.co.uk

Spout Lane (the road) originally ran continuously north past the Miner's Rest up to New Washington, which is now called Concord after Washington was designated a New Town in 1964. Six years later a dual carriageway (The Sunderland Highway) was built that cut through Spout Lane, permanently, making the Village end a cul-de-sac. This resulted in the demolition of the Miners Rest pub.

The Spout Lane pub was renamed **The Steps** in 1986 and extended into

next door in 1991. Its former owners included S&N and John Fitzgerald and it is now a Greene King non tied house. The small, comfortable single room lounge bar is divided into two drinking areas; the walls are decorated with pictures of old Washington. Note the sign - "Nobody Gets Out Sober" which is on the wall that used to divide the two properties. Up to five handpulls offer changing real ales. The Steps is a regular in The Good Beer Guide and is in Sunderland City Council's **Washington Village Conservation Area. (CA)**.

There are two other pubs nearby in the CA. They are **The Cross Keys** and **The Washington Arms**.

They can be found looking out on the Village green and are older than The Steps (dating from 1820's) At the time of writing both sell real ale. All three have character that sits well with the conservation area.



The above image shows the former pub, The Miners Rest at the end of the terrace. On the extreme right is the Spout Lane Pub. Image from raggyspelk.co.uk

Below is The Steps now, showing the space where the Miners Rest used to be. Note the roof height difference above the entrance peak, which can also be seen in the black and white image.



Useful websites

Real Ale guides to Every Branch pub, club and taproom can be found in our archive depository :- <https://sst-arch.camra.org.uk/viewnode.php?id=65182>

This website raggyspelk.co.uk is dedicated to the history of Washington. Mostly in the form of old photographs and articles, subjects covered include coal mining, school photographs, buses and trains, and of course pubs!

CAMRA's PUB & CLUB of the YEAR 2023

CAMRA recently announced the best four pubs in the UK as part of its national Pub of the Year 2023 competition. These four were judged from a super-regional final of 16 pubs. They are listed opposite and the winner will become the National Pub of the Year title, one of the highest accolades afforded to the UK's pubs.

All the pubs in the competition are selected by CAMRA volunteers and judged on their atmosphere, decor, welcome, service, value for money, customer mix and most importantly – quality of beer. The overall winner

will be announced in January 2024

- **Nelson Arms, Tonbridge**
- **Tamworth Tap.**
- **Trafalgar Hotel, Ramsey, Isle of Man**
- **The Beer Engine Skipton**

The Tamworth Tap is the current CAMRA Pub of the Year.

The Tom Copley Tavern in Spreyton, Devon, has been crowned National Cider and Perry Pub of the Year 2023

Now, a reminder that the our Sunderland & South

Tyneside Branch Pub of the Year and Club of the Year **2024** voting website is still open up to the 6th January 2024. This is just for Branch members and we would very much like to get your votes as it's always a very close competition and they can make a big difference to final results.

Login here:

<https://evp.sst.camra.org.uk> and select up to three pubs and clubs you feel deserving of recognising as the best pub/club.

Thank you

THE AWARD WINNING MAXIM BREWERY

The home of Double Maxim

The advertisement features a central image of a beer bottle on the left. To the right, there are four circular award medals: 'MAXIM BREWERY 100% MALT & HOP DOUBLE MAXIM PREMIUM', 'MAXIM BREWERY Swedisch Blonde Craft Beer', 'MAXIM BREWERY MAXIMUS', and 'SIBA'. The background is a vibrant red with the text 'THE AWARD WINNING MAXIM BREWERY' in large, bold, yellow letters. At the bottom, there is a white banner with the text 'The home of Double Maxim' in a cursive font, and a small logo on the left.

CAMRA Discounts and Loyalty Cards

Branch pubs and clubs that offer either a discount scheme, loyalty card or accept CAMRA 50p vouchers. Loyalty cards are available to all regular customers, not just CAMRA members. If you have any updates please email:- [sst.pubsofficer@gmail.com](mailto:ssst.pubsofficer@gmail.com). For discounts, please show your Membership Card

East Boldon - Grey House - 50p off voucher & loyalty card	South Shields (contd)	Sunderland Centre (contd)
East Herrington - Board Inn 50p off voucher	Wouldhave - 50p off voucher	Cooper Rose - 50p off voucher
Hebburn - Longship - 10% discount & loyalty card.	Sunderland North	Dun Cow - 10 % off
Houghton le Spring - Wild Boar - 50p off voucher	Avenue - 10% discount	Peacock - 10% discount
Ryhope - Guide Post-loyalty card - buy 8 pints, get 1 free.	Blue Bell - 50p off voucher	Ship Isis - 20p off a pint.
South Shields	Harbour View 10% off Mon-Fri before 7pm.	William Jameson - 50p off voucher
Bamburgh - 10% discount	New Derby Ask about loyalty card	Washington
Fountain 10% discount	Sunderland Centre	The Courtyard 10% discount
Maltings - 10% discount	Chaplins - 10% disc & loyalty card	Sir William de Wessyngton - 50p off Voucher
Marine - loyalty card	Chesters - 50p off voucher & loyalty card	Washington Arms - 50p off voucher

TRADING STANDARDS

If you have any complaint about your beer or cider, such as poor quality, short measures or no price list displayed, you should mention it to the pub management in the first instance. If you need to pursue the complaint further, we recommend contacting the local Trading Standards Office. Contact details are given below :-

SOUTH TYNESIDE	https://www.southtyneside.gov.uk/article/68067/Make-a-complaint
SUNDERLAND	Citizens Advice consumer helpline: 0808 223 1133

PUBLIC TRANSPORT INFORMATION

Some useful contact details for Tyne & Wear Metro and local bus services.

Arriva - 0344 800 44 11	www.arrivabus.co.uk/north-east/
Go North East - 0191 420 5050	https://www.gonorth-east.co.uk/services
Nexus (Metro & Buses) - 0191 2020747	www.nexus.org.uk/
Stagecoach - 0191 566 0231	www.stagecoachbus.com/about/north-east
Traveline North East 0871 2002233	www.travelinenorth-east.info

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Pub Quiz (Answers on Page 27)

- 1 What was the name of Sebastian Flyte's teddy bear in Brideshead Revisited?
- 2 The Clifton Suspension Bridge spans which river gorge near Bristol?
- 3 What was Geri Halliwell's stage name?
- 4 Sir Bobby Charlton had a footballing brother, Jack plus a footballing uncle . Name him
- 5 What is the capital of the US state ; Hawaii?
- 6 Samuel Longhorn Clemens was the real name of which author , born in 1835?
- 7 Who wrote the novel Wolf Hall?/
- 8 Name the TV series based on the Shelby Family?
- 9 Americans call it Blood Sausage, what do we call it ?
- 10 On an Ordinance Survey Map, what does a red triangle signify?
- 11 Ironically, sesquipedalophobia is the fear of what ?
- 12 Name the creator of Star Trek.
- 13 Forest Whitaker played Idi Amin in which 2006 film?
- 14 Which iconic Australian landmark is also known as Uluru?
- 15 The Joan Collins Fan Club was the alter ego of which comedian and actor in the 1980's
- 16 What was the first alcoholic drink advertised on TV (1957)
- 17 Boddingtons Bitter was originally produced at the Strangeways Brewery in which city?
- 18 Which of these is not a hop? Target, Pilgrim, Victory or Bullion?
- 19 In which year was the first beer can produced ; 1925;1935;1945?
- 20 Which Tyneside brewer brews the dark beer Secret Kingdom ?

Wandering Wolf Visits Stockton

From @MorpethWolf - photos by the author

Stockton-on-Tees, or simply Stockton, is a market town in County Durham situated on the bank of the River Tees. It lies 3 miles west of the city of Middlesbrough and 10 miles east of Darlington. The town is famous for an event that changed the face of industry and travel forever, the opening of the world's first passenger railway. The first rail of the Stockton & Darlington Railway was laid near St. John's crossing on Bridge Road. Hauled by Locomotion No 1, the great engineer George Stephenson manned the engine on its first journey on 27 September 1825. This first railway lines connected collieries in Stockton with those near Shildon.

Arriving from Newcastle at a somewhat modest railway station, given the history of Stockton it is a 10 minute stroll into the town centre. This itself is very compact, bordered by the River Tees to the east and two main roads to the west and south. All the pubs I visited are within this area so there was little walking between pubs, a blessing on a rainy day.

Off West Row is the delightful Regency West Mall with its original grand front entrance built in the 1930's. Within are numerous bars and in



particular **The Topsy Turtle (above)**, a small single – roomed micropub opened in July 2020. An additional room, The Turtle Lounge, was added in November 2021 but is currently used only on Friday and Saturday evenings.

With a choice of three ales I chose locally brewed **Consett, Pale Ale 3.8% abv** which was deliciously light and refreshing. A 2024 Good Beer Guide listed outlet it offers card carrying CAMRA members a discount off pints and half pints of real ale. I sat on comfortable bench seating and admired the glass fronted refrigerators well stocked with UK craft ales, foreign beers and ciders.

Less than 5 minutes' walk away on Bridge Road is an impressive Grade II listed building (right) built in the 1860's in an Italianate style. This former County Court is now **The Thomas Sheraton**, a very spacious JD Wetherspoon's outlet and is 2024 Good Beer Guide listed. The pub is named after one of the

great furniture designers of the Georgian era, born in the town in 1751. Some of Wetherspoon's conversions are huge single-rooms but this pub is more appealing with having separate drinking rooms and a mezzanine level. The central area is overlooked by a very large ornate skylight.

On the day of my visit there was the usual range of ales on offer but disappointingly there was not much choice of guest ales. However I enjoyed a pint of **Evans Evans, Challenger 4.3% abv**, a malty ale from Carmarthenshire in Wales on offer at £1.99 with it being "Cask Ale Thursday"

The High Street in Stockton is said to be the widest in the UK and has numerous 'ginnels' off it on both sides. A ginnel is northern English dialect for a narrow passageway



between buildings and one of them is Hambletonian Yard, where you will find the '**Smog**' or the **Golden Smog**. Teesside's industrial history led to a former

reputation for poor air quality - so much so, that locals are sometimes known as "Smoggies". This welcoming single-roomed former Gothic clothing outlet was the towns' first



micropub (above) when opened in August 2014.

It is well worth seeking out with five real ales and a real cider on offer from which I opted for a deliciously full-bodied West Coast IPA in **Elusive Brewing, Oregon Trail 5.8% abv**. CAMRA branch magazines from far and wide are available to peruse in this Good Beer Guide listed multi-award winning micropub.

Returning to the High Street I headed north passing the 18th century Town Hall and the impressive modern fountains. On the right I reached the **Sun Inn**. This popular sports-orientated Craft Union pub is famous for its **Draught Bass 4.4% abv**. This locals' pub apparently serves eight pints of ale to every pint of lager and there was no doubting the quality as I sat at the bar and enjoyed a pint served in the style of a

"Banker". This is where the bar person pulls a half pint into a pint glass and then puts it in a fridge behind the bar. Another glass previously half-filled is taken out of the fridge and is filled to pull a full pint. The result is a thick foamy head below the glass rim and a mini-mountain of froth above it (below). Two handpulls both dispense this famous beer from



Staffordshire to be enjoyed in traditional surroundings.

Heading back to the fountains and turning right here into Dovecot Street you will find the family owned **Kopper Keg**. Formerly the **Go Between**, this single-roomed micropub opened in August 2020 with its refectory style tables and stools. It offers two real ales and is proud to support locally brewed ales and in particular new breweries. The comfortable cushioned window seats were very inviting and I couldn't resist a pint from a brewery in my CAMRA branch area ; **Two By Two, 9th Birthday Beer 4.7% abv**, another one of




Above - The Kopper Keg

their hazy delights. I thanked my host Phil for such a warm welcome and then headed across the High Street again to find Calvert Square which is in the towns' cultural area close to the Georgian Theatre.

Unfortunately the next pub on my list, **Wasp's or the Wasp's Nest**, was not open on a Thursday. But tucked away in nearby Silver Court is the Good Beer Guide listed **Hope & Union** a modern pub offering three real ales and a welcome CAMRA discount. Yorkshire brewed **Half Moon, Transition 3.8% abv** was enjoyed while I read that "Hope" (1825) was Stockton & Darlington Railways' 2nd locomotive and "Union" (1826) was a horse drawn coach used on the line to Yarm. An acknowledgement to this areas rich transport history.

For more pub info visit **Whatpub.Com**

Tara-a-bit !
@MorpethWolf



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Branch Heritage Pubs Website <https://heritagepubs.sst.camra.org.uk/> -

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<p>Twitter: @SST_CAMRA</p> <p>Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/SSTCAMRA</p> <p>Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/groups/SSTCAMRA/ (Discussion Group)</p> <p>Instagram: https://instagram.com/sst_camra</p>	<p>Michael Wynne, Ian Monteith-Preston, Stan Johnson, Ken Paul. press@sst.camra.org.uk</p> <p>For more details see https://sst.camra.org.uk/wordpress/?page_id=32</p>

Quiz Answers

1 Aloysius	11 Long words
2 Avon	12 Gene Roddenberry
3 Ginger Spice	13 The Last King of Scotland
4 Jackie Milburn	14 Ayers Rock
5 Honolulu	15 Julian Clary
6 Mark Twain	16 Babycham
7 Hilary Mantel	17 Manchester
8 Peaky Blinders	18 Victory
9 Black Pudding	19 1935 - Richmond Virginia
10 A Youth Hostel	20 Hadrian Border



10 great reasons to join CAMRA

1 CAMPAIGN
for great beer, cider and perry

2 Become a
BEER EXPERT

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

4 GET INVOLVED
and make new friends

5 Save
YOUR LOCAL

6 Find the
**BEST PUBS
IN BRITAIN**

Get great
**7 VALUE FOR
MONEY**

8 DISCOVER
pub heritage and the
great outdoors

Enjoy great
9 HEALTH BENEFITS
(really!)

10 HAVE YOUR SAY

What's yours?

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