



CAMRA ANGLE

ISSUE 72 - AUTUMN 2025

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2025 Beer and Cider Festival

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WELCOME TO THIS EDITION OF CAMRA ANGLE.

We start with some sad news; the passing of branch member **Miranda Ashitey**.

Now, as you can tell from the front cover, our beer, cider and music festival will once more be taking place at the **Beggars Bridge Pub** next to East Boldon Metro Station. More information about the pub can be found here :- <https://camra.org.uk/pubs/beggars-bridge-pub-kitchen-east-boldon-192623>

This again is a packed magazines, with two brewery articles, a trip to the Great British Beer Festival, a visit to Holy Island, and one of Peter Tong's pub articles ; this time The Ivy House in Sunderland. A new CAMRA project, Historic Pubs Project, is introduced plus all the usual pubs and breweries news, and of course the pub quiz.

Finally , a welcome to our guest contributor, Mark Nesbitt from the Kingdom of Fife Branch, who reminisces about his early years in Sunderland.

Finally, thanks to our advertisers and contributors, without whom this magazine would not be possible.

Enjoy the read - Ken Paul

Contributors :- Brewery Liaison Officers, Ian Monteith Preston, Mark Nesbitt, Ken Paul, Mark Taylor, Peter Tong, and Michael Wynne. All photographs are by the editor unless stated. Uncredited pieces are by the editor.

The Branch would like to thank North Pier Brewery for hosting our last branch meeting and Mid Boldon Club for hosting beer festival meetings.

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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

September 2025	
Brewlab Taproom Open days	Friday 5 th and 19 th , 2pm-8pm Unit 1, West Quay Court, Sunderland Enterprise Park SR5 2TE
NE Regional Pub of the Year Presentation	Saturday 6 th , 2pm, Station House, North Road, Durham DH1 4SE
Maxim Open Night	Friday 5 th pm -10pm Maxim Brewery, Gladwell Rd, Rainton Bridge, Houghton, DH4 5NL
North Pier Open days	Friday 5 th (5pm - 8pm), Saturday 6 th (Noon - 8pm), Sunday 7 th (Noon - 6pm). Harbour View North, Sunderland, SR6 0PQ
Branch Meeting	Tuesday 23 rd 8pm - 10pm. The Lighthouse, 7 Sea Road, Fulwell, Sunderland SR6 9BP
October 2025	
Brewlab Taproom Open days	Friday 3 rd , 17 th and 31 st . Details as per September
Maxim Open Night	Friday 3 rd Details as per September
North Pier Open days	3 rd - 5 th October Details as per September
November 2025	
Maxim Open Night	Friday 7 th November - Details as per September
Branch Meeting & AGM	TBA
North East Regional Meeting	TBA
Look out for announcements on social media or our online FUTURE EVENTS page	

Whatever happened to CAMRA Discounts and Locale ?

Some readers may have noticed that the **CAMRA Discounts and Loyalty Cards** page did not feature in the last CAMRA Angle. This is because it became too unwieldy to update and, being three monthly, was often out of date. The good news is it has moved online and incorporates **Locale pubs** as well.

https://sst.camra.org.uk/wordpress/?page_id=2209

We welcome feedback so if you spot anything that needs updating let us know. Thanks

Obituary: Miranda Ashitey

With great sadness I inform you of the death on 26th June 2025 of branch member **Miranda (Mizzie) Ashitey**, age 43. Miranda originally moved to the Sunderland area as a student. She joined CAMRA in 2007, was a familiar figure on the local pub scene, and an active member of our branch. Part of our beer festival organising team for several years and one of the key people behind setting up and adopting social media for the branch. Miranda returned to live in her native South London in 2011 but maintained links in



Photo thanks to Mizzie's brother Cecil

Sunderland and the North East. She continued helping run our Twitter (X) account from afar and was often seen at our beer

festivals or running the Great North Run as a charity fundraiser. For the last decade, Miranda has bravely battled cancer and became a very active, respected and effective cancer campaigner and lobbyist.

(Link to an Echo photo from 2009 of Miranda campaigning with other branch members)

<https://tinyurl.com/muswswa3>

Ian Monteith Preston,
Branch Chair

CAMRA NEWS

CAMRA'S WHATPUB website closed down on 25th August 2025. It was created in 2013 as a mechanism whereby members could contribute to the gathering and sharing of information about the real ale served in pubs and clubs. It was also a method by which members could measure beer quality through scoring their beers. Also the scores are used as an aid to putting together our Good Beer Guide entries.

This website has now been superseded by a new website, initially called CAMRA Experience. This

has brought all our data and pub going tools together in one convenient place. This includes the Historic Pub Interiors website, Outstanding Conversions and Refurbishment (OCR) pubs, Community Pubs, Good Beer Guide content, brewery information and more. The link is below :-

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

NEW ICONS

Those pubs that used to be either Heritage Interior Pubs, OCR pubs or Community Pubs used to be recognised on the

website with a roundel. The size of the text in the roundels was often difficult to read. These have all been replaced by a simple text statement

FREE ENTRY TO CAMRA BEER FESTIVALS

From next year, members will get free entry to CAMRA-run festivals as a new membership benefit and recruitment tool.



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North Sea

OPENING HOURS

MONDAY - THURSDAY 11AM-11PM • FRIDAY - SATURDAY 11AM-MIDNIGHT
SUNDAY 12 NOON-10.30PM

Pub News (<https://www1.camra.org.uk/pubs>)

Cleadon

Mentioned in Issue 71, **The New Ship** has since reopened. No real ale has been reported. Meanwhile, further south, **The Raven** has opened on the centre of the village. It is a converted school room. Again, no real ale but has several keg fonts to chose from.



Sunderland

The Engine Room (above) has successfully been added to CAMRA's **Outstanding Conversion and Restoration (OCR)** website.

A full description of the pub's merits can be found here :-

<https://camra.org.uk/pubs/engine-room-sunderland-192787>

For the record our other OCR pubs are The Ship Isis, Bridge Hotel Vaults (both Sunderland) and the Maltings in South Shields.



In March 2025 came the worrying announcement that **The Mountain Daisy** In Millfield, Sunderland had been sold by Trust Inns , and would not be a pub Since then a campaign was launched, which included a news item on BBC Look North. Thankfully, the pub has recently reopened and following a visit on July 22nd I can report that, although



there is still no real ale, not much has changed in the pub. Bottles of Double Maxim are available, as well as Asian food. The unique buffet bar (below) is now used for meals and remains intact.

Due to poor sales, real ale has been discontinued in **The Saltgrass** in Deptford. Further up the bank, **The King's Arms** has announced it will be closed every Monday.

Finally, Wetherspoons issued a list of pubs they wish to dispose of. **The William Jameson** was on that list, leaving The Cooper Rose the sole Spoons outlet in Sunderland. It is understood the pub will stay open till a buyer is found.

Washington

The Biddick Inn briefly closed then reopened with the restaurant half still closed. Although the two handpulls are still in evidence, real ale has not yet made an appearance..

Brewery News

Reports by Branch Brewery Liaison Officers (BLO's)

Brewlab.

July and August have been a busy period for Brewlab as they have been involved in delivering a range of training courses away from Sunderland. In addition owners Phil and Alison judged the Champion Beer of Britain (CBOB) finals at the Great British Beer Festival in Birmingham NEC.

The team from Microbus in Gateshead attended a recent brewing experience day and produced a bespoke beer for the pub.

See the Diary Page 4 for future Taproom dates.

Maxim Brewery.

Several of their seasonal beers are available, including Medusa, Chinook, Raspberry Porter and Double Take (below) .



The brewery will be supplying beer to the forthcoming Wetherspoons Autumn Beer Festival and to their Xmas offering. Which beers will be announced in due course.

Their open nights continue to be successful, the next one being Friday 5th September. See the diary page for more forthcoming open nights

North Pier Brewery

Capacity is being increased ; North Pier have taken delivery of a new brew house which will see output go from a 2bbl (ish) brewery to a 5bbl allowing more than double. XPA is officially core now, so available pretty much every week. Also available is Helter Skelter, 5% Rye Pale Ale. For Taproom opening times see Diary Dates on page 4. Potentially October will be the last one of the year.

Vaux Brewery.

There has been no further definite news at the time of "going to press" about their new bar on Roker Beach. A date of August 2025 has been mentioned.

Meanwhile the brewery's social media pages mention their Brewery and Taproom is open daily at

their Charles Street Brewery (near St Peters). There are regular updates:- suggest following this link <https://www.facebook.com/vauxbrewery> .

Wear Beer

The brewery will be celebrating two years in business on September 27th at the Ship Isis. Sunderland. Look out for posts on their social media pages.

Fermentation capacity has been increased which will increase production and allow more bottled beer to be available. Look out for their 9% Imperial Stout (amongst others) at the following markets :-
Hebburn: 2nd Saturday of the month
Sheepfolds: 2nd Sunday of the month
Sunnyside: 4th Saturday of the month
<https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=wear%20beer>

Regional News

The following breweries featured at the Great British Beer Festival in Birmingham recently:-
George Samuel, Alnwick, Hadrian Border and Allendale, The latter won the Speciality - Differently Produced category for Adder Lager (see also next page)

Great British Beer Festival 2025 by Ken Paul



There were pub games, a Pub Heritage stand, Home Brewing (right) and various outlets and merchandise stalls. Also, making a regular appearance, was the Viking Drinking Horn stand (below).



I have been visiting the **CAMRA Great British Beer Festival (GBBF)** on and off (mostly on) for the last 20 years. Until this year all have been in London, either Earls Court or Olympia. The latest took place for the first time at The National Exhibition Centre (NEC) in Birmingham.



In conclusion the halls used for the festival were quite spacious with plenty of seating and lots of space between the bars. It is believed the next two festivals will take place at the NEC. I for one will be back!

First some statistics in the two halls of the NEC there were 21 bars, nearly 350 British beers, 70 ciders, over 200 foreign beers - mostly European and from the USA. There was, for the first time, a low alcohol bar with 30 to try. Regional beers were in short supply but included award winner Allendale Adder lager.

There was a small stage but we had left before any performances started. We were there on the third day; on the opening day the winner of the **Champion Beer of Britain** was announced. The Gold, Silver and Bronze winners are shown in the table below



CHAMPION BEER OF BRITAIN 2025	
SUPREME CHAMPION	Penzance Mild 3.6% Dark Mild
SILVER	Sarah Hughes, Dudley Snowflake - 8% Barley Wild
BRONZE	Church End nr Nuneaton Fallen Angel - 5% Pale Bitter
For a full breakdown of CAMRA Category Winners go to https://camra.org.uk/media-centre/press-releases/and-the-champion-beer-of-britain-2025-is-93767	

Where's The Ivy? By Peter Tong

It's a fact, that when you walk into any pub, you get either good or bad vibes. Well, here is a place where the vibes have always been good as far as I'm concerned, but I wonder, how many have never been to the Ivy House in Sunderland or actually know where it is?

Is it in the city centre of Sunderland? Well almost. Just five minutes walk from Sunderland Interchange and when you turn the corner and see it at the bottom of the lane, it really does look the part from the outside and it's just as impressive inside.

Owned independently by Magnus Wilson, who also runs the Northumberland Hussars just off Chillingham Road in Newcastle and the Robin Hood Inn up on the Military Road near Corbridge, the Ivy House has so much to offer that you really do need to go and see for yourself.

Newly appointed General Manager Claire Cowie, ably assisted by Rich Burnell, the Deputy Manager, CAMRA member and he of encyclopedic knowledge as far as beer is concerned, run the pub and you couldn't wish for it to be in safer hands. Claire from a family with the hospitality industry in



their veins and Rich, 15 years at The Ivy House, having previously worked for English Heritage at Belsay Castle and Gardens are, in my opinion, the dream team.

There is a fantastic selection of beer. Cask, Keg, loads of cans and bottles of beer I'd never heard of all served in one or two third measures along with the usual pint glass, which gives you the



opportunity to try lots of different styles before deciding on your favourite.

Food wise, you've got home made pizza's and burgers and lots more besides, including meal deals, cooked in an open kitchen at the end of the bar. There's a new children's menu where kids can eat for £1 (until 7pm) and in addition to all that, there is Sunday lunch. The Ivy is big on vegan food,

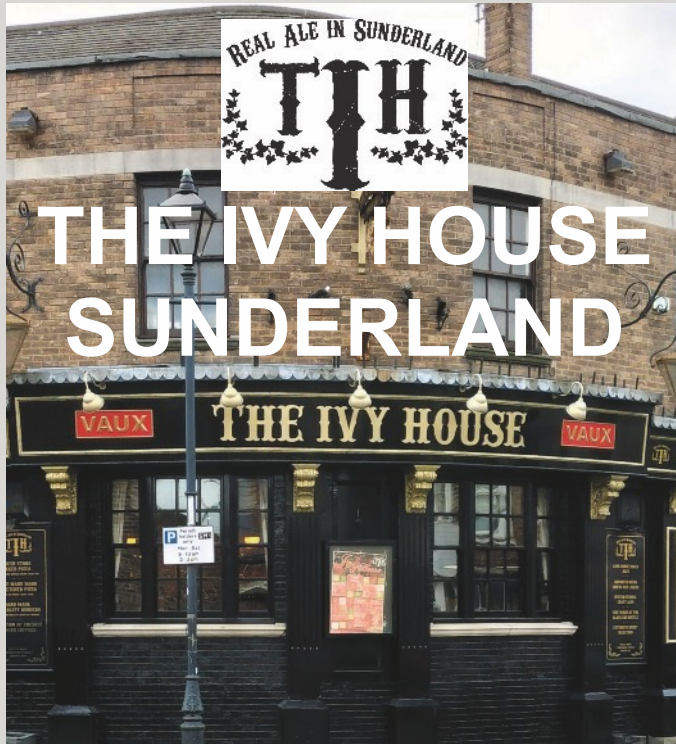
50% of Sunday lunches are vegan and the place has built up a big following for it.

Live music is presented by local artists, Rockabilly, Blues, Scar and Punk being very popular.

CAMRA members can take advantage of a 10% discount on beer on production of your card, it's dog friendly, there's a garden, parking, sports TV, beautifully painted ceilings, some pretty snazzy stag

horn lights at either end of the bar and it's open from noon every day with food served until 9pm and drinks until 11pm (10pm Monday and Tuesday)

So, what are you waiting for? It's a cracking pub. If you've never been you have got to go try it, if you have, why not pay the Ivy House another visit. You won't be disappointed.



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<https://www.facebook.com/TheIvyHousePubSunderland>**



Winners & Awards

At the beginning of June 2025 a group of branch volunteers, in a mini bus, toured the North East judging beers in four pubs (we couldn't judge our own) for **the Regional Pub of the Year award**. Around about the same time, the other North East branches carried out their own judging. The outcome of this fine collective effort is as follows :-

- 1st - The Station House, Durham.
- 2nd - Dipton Mill Inn (near Hexham).
- 3rd - Ship Isis Sunderland,
- 4th - Topsy Turtle Stockton
- 5th - House of Hop, Darlington.

The Regional Club of the Year 2025 has also been announced :-

- 1st - Billingham Catholic Club,
- 2nd - Mid Boldon Club,
- 3rd - Chester le Street Masonic Centre

Cider pub presentations. The Branch Cider Pub of the Year 2025 is **Blues Micro Pub**, Whitburn, and featured in the last issue. The Runner Up is **The Avenue**, Sunderland. Since the last issue, the **2025 Regional Cider pub and Runner Up** have been awarded. The winner was **Blues**, with **The Station House** a close second.



Left :- Ian Monteith Preston presents Dave Graham of The Avenue with Branch Cider Pub runner up award. Also pictured are Kayleigh McManus and Christian Goldsmith. Photo by Robin Sanderson

Right :- Steve Clough (Regional Cider Co Ordinator), presents Callum and Alice Watson, owners of Blues, with the North East Regional Cider award for 2025. The pub now goes forward to the next round. Photo by A. Non .



Steve then popped up again in Durham, this time to The Station House to present owner Susie Mansfield with the North East Cider Pub Runner Up award. Photo by Tom Petty ...No , not that one !

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DOUBLE MAXIM
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2014-2015
SIBA
2014-2015

Gold Gold

Return to Fyne Ales Brewery by Ken Paul

In July this year the family and I had an overnight stay booked in Oban. We travelled there from our daughter's house in Glasgow and a quick look at the map revealed we would be passing close to Fyne Ales Farm Brewery near the village of Cairndow in Argyll.

It opened in 2001 and the visitor centre in 2012. My first, and last visit, was in 2016 so it seemed sensible to call in again for a break from the driving. Nothing much had changed, externally anyway. The quarter mile single track road was still full of potholes but the visitor centre was just as welcoming as the last time.

We brought our own food and had a picnic outside in the large courtyard. Scottish drinking laws being the way they are I could only have a half. The choice was the usual familiar beers ; namely Jarl, Hurricane Jack, Avalanche and Highlander.



I opted for a new one to me, Float Mode.

Outside was a line of large wooden casks with the sign saying :- *“Resting Barrels – These barrels are full of beer that will one day will be part of an origins brewing blend. Please do not touch”*



The bar incorporated an extensive bottle and can shop which seemed to have more offerings than last time. Their most available beer is Jarl and as I have some at home, opted for a couple of unusual 9.5 % Imperial Stout and

a bottle of Highlander. The mini casks tempted me, which they have been selling for several years, but I'm trying to cut down (honest!). Besides, I've still got several bottles of Jennings' Sneck Lifter to enjoy. (See previous page)



The brewery is quite remote, at the head of Loch Fyne and a 90 minute drive from Glasgow. Despite that, they do their own deliveries as far south as Durham. Having said that, Jarl and Hurricane Jack made it to GBBF this year.

I know a few members have been to the brewery and I would recommend it if in that part of the world but note, you will need a car and a designated driver.

**Fyne Ales Brewery,
Cairndow, PA26 8BJ**

IT'S BACK YAM ! The Revitalisation of Jennings Brewery

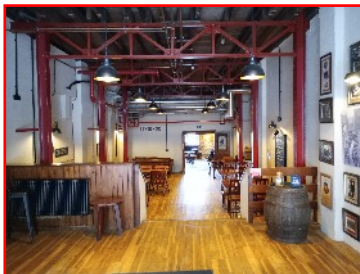
Michael Wynne paid a visit on the 12th of July. Ken Paul followed soon after on July 20th and took the photos

Marstons, now called Carlsberg - Britvic closed their Cumbrian brewing outpost in 2022, and has since become a pubco. It appeared that brewing in Cocker mouth was dead. Earlier this year, it was announced that the brewery and brands had been sold to a local businessman and that the brewing would resume.

The new owners revealed ambitious plans for the brewery and appointed Buster Grant, formerly of Batemans and a SIBA chair, as head brewer.

The taproom and visitor centre opened on 5 July 2025 and, a week later, I paid my first visit to Cocker mouth for around 10 years. West Cumbria CAMRA used to hold a beer festival in the old maltings as part of the Taste Cumbria food festival.

The journey to Cocker mouth involved a train to Carlisle, the Stagecoach Cumbria bus 600 from Carlisle bus station. The journey takes around an hour and drops you on Main Street near the war memorial. Turn right onto High Sands Lane and a sign on a wall directs you to Brewery Shop and Tour. At the end of the lane, the



Victorian tower brewery sits at the confluence of the rivers Cocker and Derwent. The first close up view of the site shows signs of neglect and there are still traces of the old owners. On the right near the brewery gates, opposite the old maltings is the taproom visitor centre.

The bar has six handpumps and on my visit, five Jennings Beers were available: Castle



Bitter, Cumberland Ale, Cocker Hoop, Sneck Lifter and new beer Back Yam. I started with the latter, a 4% golden ale (£4.50). A nice one to start with. Next

up Castle Bitter, a 3.4% malty session bitter (£4.30). A good session bitter. Finally, Sneck Lifter, a 5.1% old ale (£4.80). This was always one of my favourite Jennings beer. The revived beers are very good and do remind me of the old versions.

There is a good terrace at the rear overlooking the River Cocker and was much appreciated on a hot day.



The relaunch has been very well received and there are already plans to expand and take on additional staff. The beers are becoming more widely available in Cumbria and bottles are available from the brewery shop and from Booths supermarkets in Cumbria and Lancashire.

The taproom is open daily from noon and brewery tours are expected to start in autumn.



32ND CARLISLE BEER AND CIDER FESTIVAL

STATION HOTEL, CARLISLE

23 - 25 October 2025

Thursday 12:00 - 10:00 pm

Friday 12:00 - 10:00 pm

Saturday 12:00 - 10:00 pm

Over 50 Beers and Ciders

£5 (CAMRA MEMBERS £3)

No advanced tickets



Desert Island Drinks by Mark Taylor

Just 70 miles up the Northumberland coast is Holy Island or as the village , monastery , castle and abbey are known: Lindisfarne ! Popular with day trippers across the region. Linked by a road causeway to the 'mainland' across the 3 miles of tidal Holy Island Sands. Once the tide rapidly flows in it really becomes a cut off , remote island . Unless you have a boat - there is no way of leaving.

We were lucky enough to spend 2 nights on Lindisfarne this summer. Once the tide surrounded the island ; the atmosphere is transformed as the busy buzz of holiday makers and day trippers gives way to a peaceful calm. The only omnipresent sounds are the breeze and wildlife. Blissful , quiet and so relaxing. The limited accommodation available means there is only a



Lindisfarne at high tide reverts its to the isolated haven before mass tourism.

This vibe is reflected in the three hostilities on the island . The day time queues vanish and competition for room at the bar is not an issue.

I fully recommend a high tide pub crawl. The three pubs all have something in

common- excellent quality real ales, accommodation and great food to suit different budgets and taste. However they all have their own differences and

characters.

The Crown & Anchor (above) for me is the 'jewel' in the, well ..crown!

We dined there on the first night ; seafood platter fresh from the sea surrounding the island, washed down with a quality pint of Hadrian & Border's Grainger Ale. We saw the rest of the night out quaffing the artisans Bellingham based First & Last Brewery Equinox. Top class. The reputation for food and drink in the Crown & Anchor is so good ; a minimum 24 hours notice is usually required to book a table . We saw a few disappointed wannabe diners turned away on the night we were there.



On day two we visited **The Ship Inn** (above) located centrally in the village. The pub boasts a real sun trap large beer garden that is bursting at the seams at low tide but more relaxed once the sea has covered the causeway. Again food is offered and the fish n chips was the most popular and plentiful option when we were there.

Continued



handful of tourists present overnight . Its living like a local as you adopt 'temporary' islander status.

Once again Hadrian & Border supplied the ale options. Northumbrian Gold which was my favourite and Grainger Ale as an alternative.

For our 2nd night meal we booked at the **Manor House Hotel**. Which backs onto the ruins of Lindisfarne Abbey with a beer garden running along side its perimeter. We thought the Manor would be a hard act to follow after the C&A the night before. No need for any concerns though. Absolutely great food and beer standards to match. A larger range of cask ales on offer than the previous establishments too.

On the night we visited the offerings were: Caught between the Tides under the Manor House Blonde badge . This is actually brewed by Alnwick Ales as their own Blonde beer . There was also a Manor House Bitter weighing in 3.8% . Again



This is brewed by Alnwick Ales as their own Bitter elsewhere. Randomly, on island full of local 'Northumberland' ales , the Manor offered a Sharp's Twin Coast Pale Ale . A beer from Cornwall? Which as English beer miles go is as extreme as you get.

So that's the circuit. An island paradise is nearer to home than you think. If you can, get the best of Holy Island and stay over and make the most of three excellent pubs before the tide turns back and the crowds come in.

Coach trips and car are the obvious ways to reach Holy Island but parking is limited

. If you wish to get there by bus - its very limited but quite unique to other UK bus services. . It's the only service in England that runs to a 'tide table ' to fit in with access to the causeway. Border Buses run a 477 service from Berwick Railway Station daily in school holidays and Wednesday and Saturday only the rest of the time.

Details of websites to stay, tide tables and travel below.

Holy Island Safe Crossing

[Timeshttps://holyislandcrossingtimes.northumberland.gov.uk](https://holyislandcrossingtimes.northumberland.gov.uk)**Holy Island Safe Crossing Times**

Visit

[Lindisfarnehttps://visitlindisfarne.com](https://visitlindisfarne.com)**Accommodation List – Holy Island**

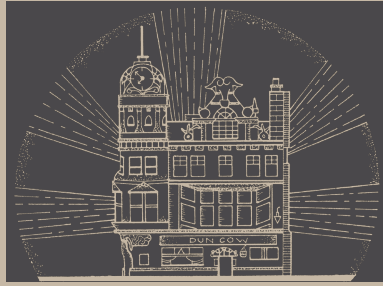
477 bus

www.bordersbuses.co.uk/services/PERY/477

Did You Know ?

There used to be a pub adjacent to the now closed **Vaux Brewery** called the Neptune. The awkward thing is, it was owned by Whitbread. This state of affairs was resolved in 1974 when Vaux and Whitbread exchanged pubs. The former's Clousden Hill public house in Forest Hall, Newcastle was swapped for the Neptune. This arrangement resulted in a name change to **The Brewery Tap**. The Tap didn't survive the brewery closure in 1999.

See also pages 22-23



THE DUN COW

Warm, cosy and stylish, The Dun Cow delivers the ultimate British public house experience in the heart of Sunderland's cultural quarter.

The Dun Cow specialises in cask conditioned ales and craft beers. A house range provides a consistent base and includes some local favourites, whilst a calendar of guest ales ensures there is always something new to sample.

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discount for
CAMRA
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A CULTURE QUARTER PUB

Historic Pubs Project with thanks to Paul Ainsworth

Context

For many years, CAMRA has actively promoted and protected our most important historic pub interiors by way of the National Inventory (NI) project. More recently, we've developed listings of Outstanding Conversions and Restorations (OCR) to highlight recent examples of excellent pub design, whether through conversion from other uses, renovations/redesigns of existing pubs or new pubs altogether.

However, this leaves unrecognised many pubs with important stories to tell, whether because of what happened at them, or because of their age and history, or because they occupy notable buildings. This project aims to identify and celebrate this cohort of pubs and thereby encourage more people to visit and enjoy them.

Inclusion Criteria

Historic Events Many pubs have been the scene of notable, even notorious, historic events. Examples would include being:

- the setting for an important meeting;
- the scene of a notorious event;
- where a particular group of people regularly got together;
- the 'local' of a famous person;
- where a now-renowned band or artist played in their early days (or even first played)
- somewhere with a murky past e.g. connections with smuggling, thieves or other illicit activity.

Historic Interest Some pubs are undeniably old but have been too much altered inside to qualify for NI inclusion. They can, nonetheless, often provide

much of interest to the visitor.

A Memorable Building Not all pubs were purpose-built, many occupying buildings formerly used for another purpose. Our OCR project captures recent examples such as The Ship Isis and The Engine Room, both in Sunderland. Older ones would belong here. There are also purpose-built pubs whose exteriors remain distinctive and attractive even though they've been too much changed inside for NI consideration. Their importance also needs recognition.

Examples could include Marsden Grotto, The Peacock and The Clarendon. (Both Sunderland),

This project is its early stages and I hope to report back in the next issue.

Pub Gallery - A guide to Classic British Pubs.

(<https://pubgallery.co.uk/>)

This website is worth a look.

You can search for pubs by type, region, or towns and villages. All the photographs appear to be high quality. The Dun Cow, Mountain Daisy and The Ship Isis get a mention.

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My Early Memories of Beer and CAMRA from growing up in North East England

Mark Nesbitt, Kingdom of Fife CAMRA Branch writes
Photos on this page from Maxim Brewery.

My Introduction to Draught Beer.

Many people started visiting pubs and clubs at an early age back in the seventies. I can still recall my first visit to a pub (without an accompanying adult). I was only 14! I had some older friends (17/18) who had left school and were at college. I was off school, and they had a half day, I had arranged to meet them at lunch time outside the college. They told me they were going to a local pub. We ended up in The Alexandra in Grangetown, Sunderland, for a lunch time drink.

The Alex was owned by the local brewery, Vaux (it's a "Steakhouse" now). I didn't know much about beer so thought I would get a whisky. I asked for a glass of scotch, the barman asked if I wanted a pint or a half! I garbled that a half would be fine, luckily, he gave me a half pint of beer. Scottish beer was very popular in Northeast England. The Scottish Vaux beer, brewed at Slatford, Edinburgh, was called Lorimer's Best Scotch, the Scottish and Newcastle (S&N) rival was McEwan's Scotch. I don't think Lorimer's was widely available in



Scotland, but McEwan's Scotch would have been a 70/-, dark and malty as I recall. Lorimer's was also malty, fruity and slightly reddish in colour. Both were often served from cellar tanks so were not fizzy like keg beers. We didn't stay in the pub long, just another drink or two. I spent the afternoon tipsy, sobering up before going home for tea.

CAMRA's Roger Protz recently wrote a good article about the Slatford



Brewery : *Heineken flops as its Silver lager falters - What's Brewing*

Sneaking in pubs or working men's clubs was a regular, weekly, thing. Draught beer was cheap, I can recall paying as little as 12p for a pint. Soon I discovered other draught beers. Vaux had a "bitter" called Gold Tankard and a "best bitter" called Samson, both brewed in Sunderland. Samson was another lightly hopped malty drink equivalent to an 80/-.

Some S & N pubs sold a beer called Export that was their 80/- in Scotland. The common and popular S&N best bitter was called Exhibition. This was brewed in Newcastle, I recall it being straw coloured and moderately hopped, it could pass for a golden ale these days!

There were some pubs in Sunderland that sold Camerons from Hartlepool. They had an "imported" Scottish ordinary beer that I think was Tartan Keg.

Their main beer was a best bitter called Strongarm, which was not popular with Sunderland drinkers, I was a bit different as I thought it could be ok, but it was a bit inconsistent.

Bass beers could also

be found in some pubs, beers such as Pipers Scotch (brewed at Tennent) and Brew 11. Some working men's clubs in Sunderland sold the famous Federation beers, the Tyneside brewery owned by the clubs. I recall the beers being relatively good, Fed Special was similar to Exhibition. In general, older people drank draught keg or tank beer. Many younger people drank the heavily advertised pretend lagers (Norseman, Harp, Carling etc.). I never liked these "lagers" and nor did most of my friends. These pseudo lagers were low in gravity, and we liked to go home merry.

My Introduction to cask beer.

When I was at school in Sunderland in the sixties and early seventies there was a pub next door to the Vaux brewery complex. Vaux Brewery dominated the northern part of the town centre, adjacent the banks of the Wear. Bizarrely this pub was not owned by Vaux! At some point, in my late teens, when I started drinking in the town centre Vaux took the pub over and called it "The Brewery Tap". Vaux made it a showcase pub (it was next to the brewery after all) and installed a couple of hand pumps! This



Sunderland Antiquarian Soc

happened in the mid-seventies when there was virtually no real ale in the area. The Brewery Tap (above) occasionally served a cask version of Lorimer's Scotch and less occasionally a cask version of Vaux Samson. Plenty of people tried the cask beer but it was not a regular drink for most. I suggest that this was partly because that unless you asked for cask, they would always give you the keg/tank version. Some people thought the cask versions were stronger, and this undoubtedly helped the cask beer's sales. It was common in those days to have to ask for cask, specifically, in pubs that sold both versions. I enjoyed the more complex fuller flavours of the cask versions, particularly as we often finished off at the Brewery Tap having drank



From Durham CAMRA

bland keg all night elsewhere. Despite the quality being a bit unreliable I was hooked and started to explore the Wearside area to find more cask ales.

There was some real ale around if you searched, CAMRA was evolving in the North-East, so information was becoming available. In those days cask ale was synonymous with "beer from the wood". Searching for this sort of information before the Internet was not easy, methods included pub fliers, local press and word of mouth. I discovered a pub in the remote village of Seaton Lane in Co Durham, near a bus route from Sunderland. The Seaton Lane Inn (below) was serving, by gravity, an amazing beer from a wooden barrel on the bar. This was Theakston's Old Peculier from Masham in North Yorkshire, a dark and incredibly complex old ale, I had never tasted anything like it. Going to this historic Inn (originally a blacksmiths forge) drinking this old ale was like going back in time. It added a new romanticized dimension to my love of real ale.

The Brewery Tap was closed as part of the collapse of the Vaux Empire and the building eventually demolished. It is fondly remembered by a generation of Sunderland pub goers. The Seaton Lane Inn is still trading and still sells real ale.

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



FRI: 2PM - 11PM

SAT: 12PM - 11PM

SUN: 4PM - 10.30PM

TUE - THUR: 4PM - 10.30PM

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CASK ALE

REAL CIDER



CRAFT KEG

WINES & SPIRITS

FRI: 2PM - 10.30PM

SAT: 12PM - 10.30PM

SUN: 2PM - 10.30PM

TUE - THUR: 4PM - 10.30PM

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Pub Quiz (Answers on Page 26)

- 1 Who is known as the first professional nurse?
- 2 What does a symbol of a sandcastle mean on a brown road sign?
- 3 Who succeeded Kenneth Clarke as Chancellor of the Exchequer in 1997?
- 4 Which Irish group had a hit with "Like Clockwork" in 1978?
- 5 Also the name the Ray Bradbury novel, at what temperature does paper burn?
- 6 The Kelham Island Museum celebrates the industrial heritage of which South Yorkshire city?
- 7 In 1974 Mama Cass (of The Mamas & The Papas) died in a flat in London owned by Harry Nilsson. Four years later which UK rock musician died in the same flat?
- 8 Who wrote the detective novel The Body In The Library in 1942?
- 9 Cockermouth in Cumberland is at the confluence of the River Derwent and which other river ?
- 10 Meanwhile, which is further north, Whitehaven or Workington?
- 11 Who played Jordan Belfort in The Wolf of Wall Street?
- 12 Who was MP for South West Norfolk from 2010-2024?
- 13 Who had a top 10 hit with Lady D'Arbanville in 1970?
- 14 Who , in 1974, was the first female weather forecaster on the BBC?
- 15 Who was the only English monarch also known as Great?
- 16 In which county is Goonhilly Earth Station, built in 1962, next to Goonhilly Downs?
- 17 In 1998 Opal Fruits , in the UK, changed their name to?
- 18 Belfast City Airport is named after who?
- 19 The UK has three native snakes, the smooth snake, the grass snake and which other?
- 20 Woolley Edge, Trowell and Skelton Lake Service Stations can be found on which motorway?

Quiz Answers

1	Florence Nightingale	11	Leonardo de Caprio
2	A beach	12	Liz Truss
3	Gordon Brown	13	Cat Stevens
4	Boomtown Rats	14	Barbara Edwards
5	451 deg F (as in Fahrenheit 451)	15	Alfred
6	Sheffield	16	Cornwall
7	Keith Moon (The Who drummer)	17	Starburst
8	Agatha Christie	18	George Best
9	River Cocker	19	Adder
10	Workington	20	M1

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.gonortheast.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.travelinenortheast.info

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Branch Brewery Liaison Officers (BLO's).		
Each of the five breweries in our branch has a dedicated BLO'S Please contact them with any news.		
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Maxim	Ken Paul	maximBLO@sst.camra.org.uk
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Wear Beer	Steve Thompson	wearbeerBLO@sst.camra.org.uk

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