



CAMRA ANGLE

ISSUE 75 - SUMMER 2026



INSIDE

Pub & Club Winners

**The Iona Club & The
Cyprus**

Pub & Brewery news

Plus much much more !!

FREE !

THE STEAMBOAT



A Friendly Welcome Guaranteed!

CAMRA 50TH ANNIVERSARY

GOLD AWARD 2021

CAMRA'S Sunderland & South Tyneside

**Pub of the Year 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2015,
2016, 2017, 2018 Runner Up 2022, 2023, 2024**

Community Pub 2022

**Regional Pub of the Year 2015 & 2016 Society
for the Preservation of Beers from the Wood**

North East Pub of the Year 2023

Nine ever changing Cask Ales and Ciders

30 Whiskies, 120 Rums & 30 Gins

27 Mill Dam South Shields

NE33 1EQ Tel: 0191 4540134



Welcome to the 75th edition of CAMRA ANGLE (Or to put it another way, the three quarter century edition)

In this issue our pub and club winners are pictured with their respective awards. We have articles about The Iona Club in Hebburn, The Cyprus in South Shields, the return of Boddingtons Bitter and a look at British Beer in Belgium.

For those CAMRA members who score their beers, a new system has been launched ; with the aim of making it more straightforward and hence attract more scorers. There is a review of beer/pub stories on You Tube. We have the usual pub and brewery news and if you are wondering about the front cover, it's a photograph looking down on a pint of Landlord !

I would like to thank our advertisers and contributors, without whom this magazine would not be possible.

Enjoy the read *Ken Paul*

ADVERTISING IN CAMRA ANGLE

Our competitive rates are :-

£100 per full page,

£55 for a half page

£35 for a quarter page.

Discounts are available for taking out consecutive prepaid issues over a year.

A free design service is available. Please contact

ads01@sst.camra.org.uk

Contributors :- Peter Jones, Ken Paul, Peter Tong, Michael Wynne, All photographs are by our branch members unless stated.

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

The Branch would like to thank The Avenue and The Cask Lounge for hosting our last two branch meetings and Mid Boldon Club for Beer Festival Committee meeting. Branch Contacts can be found on the inside back page

A complete collection of CAMRA ANGLES and CAMRA ANGLE ONLINE , going back to 2002, is available to download from <https://sst-arch.camra.org.uk/magazine>

CAMRA ANGLE is produced in house and published by the Sunderland & South Tyneside Branch of the Campaign for Real Ale, (CAMRA), an independent, voluntary organisation, campaigning for real ale and cider, heritage and community pubs, clubs and consumer rights. Views or comments expressed in this publication may not be necessarily those of the Editor, contributors or CAMRA.

All content © 2026 Sunderland & South Tyneside CAMRA, unless where stated. Copies are distributed across the branch and beyond.

Printed by Pblprint of Drum Industrial Estate, Chester le Street

Dairy Dates

July 2026 - Look out for news of our next Branch Meeting.

22nd August 2026 North East Regional Meeting ; Billingham Catholic Club, TS22 5AH.

27th August - 1st Sept 2026 Courtyard Beer Festival, Arts Centre, Washington NE38 8AB.

3rd - 6th September 2026 (provisional) - Durham CAMRA Beer Festival. Venue TBA.

Thursday November 5th - 7th 2026 Branch Beer Festival - a return to Beggars Bridge, East Boldon.

Look out for other events on our online **FUTURE EVENTS** page

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



THE 47TH PETERBOROUGH BEER FESTIVAL

CAMRA
PETERBOROUGH & DISTRICT

47th PETERBOROUGH BEER FESTIVAL
25th - 29th AUGUST 2026

THE EMBANKMENT TUESDAY, AUGUST 25 - SATURDAY, AUGUST 29, 2026

FEATURING

HUNDREDS OF REAL ALES

GIN, RUM, WINE, CIDER AND WORLD BEER BARS

PLUS LIVE MUSIC, FOOD AND TRADITIONAL GAMES

NEW FOR 2026!
US CASK & UK LAGER BARS!

FREE ENTRY FOR ALL CAMRA MEMBERS!

TUESDAY
TRADE SESSION 3PM
5.30PM TO 11PM £7

WEDNESDAY TO SATURDAY
NOON TO 3PM £3
3PM TO 11PM £7

SCAN TO BUY TICKETS & BEAT THE QUEUES

W WETHERSPAIN

SMALL BEER

THE SHED

VISIT [PBOROBEERFEST.CAMRA.ORG.UK](https://pborobeerfest.camra.org.uk) FOR MORE INFORMATION



SERVING
TRADITIONAL PUB FOOD

MONDAY - SATURDAY 12 NOON - 8.00PM • SUNDAY 12 NOON - 4PM

LOCAL CASK ALES
LAGERS & CIDERS

VAST SPIRIT SELECTION
PUB QUIZ EVERY TUESDAY 7.30PM

FUNCTION ROOM AVAILABLE • DOG FRIENDLY
POOL TABLE • DARTS • PUB GAMES
5 MINUTES WALK FROM THE BEACH



THE MARINE
230 OCEAN ROAD, SOUTH SHIELDS
TYNE & WEAR, NE33 2JQ
0191 455 0280
CIVILIZEDPOISON@GMAIL.COM
f THE MARINE x THEMARINE33
∞ THE MARINE



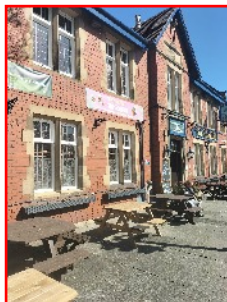
North Sea

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

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

South Shields

The Vigilant (below) has real ale back on in the form of Landlord and London Pride



Good news from **The Cyprus** which also has two handpulls. Doom Bar plus a changing beer...at a recent visit White Rat was being served. The owner of **The Address** died suddenly at the beginning of May 2026. It was initially thought that a family member would keep the pub going. However the pub sadly closed on Friday 8th May

Elsewhere, **The Voyager** closed down on Sunday 24th May 2026. It had become a music venue opening at weekends. It's future is unknown. The above two pubs are former real ale establishments.

Finally, there are plans to reinstate real ale at **The Trimmers Arms**, but at the

time of going to the printers, this has not yet happened.

Sunderland

Whitbread have announced that all Beefeater and Brewers Fayre 'restaurants' will be closed. This affects **The Wessington Brewers Fayre** on Wessington Way in Sunderland. The pub is collocated with a Premier Inn. Note this happened to **The Cinder Path** in Tyne Dock in 2024.

The former Wetherspools (**William Jameson**) closed briefly but has reopened as a Just Pubs establishment. They appear to have retained the



Spoons model.

If you have ever been in the **Maxim Brewery** bar you must have noticed the memorabilia displays. With the brewing now taking place in Castle Eden, these have been moved to **The Lighthouse** in Fulwell. It has been reported via the CAMRA website feedback form that **The Engine**

Room, Sunderland now has two handpulls ; in the form of Allendale Pennine Pale and Anarchy Blonde Star

Ryhope Working Men's Club closed in October last year. A change of use to mixed use was granted in April 2026 by Sunderland City Council.

Washington

The Biddick Inn on The Riverside is now called La Familia. The layout



appears to have been retained ; the bar is on the left with the Italian themed restaurant to the right.

Congratulations to **Gary McClelland of the Steps** for celebrating 20 years in charge. The pub was recently came third in our **Pub of The Year 2026**.

Welcome Back To The Cyprus ; page 12

Note This pub news section cannot mention every real ale pub in every issue, so please use the link above to post any feedback. Search for the pub or club, scroll down to **Help keep our information accurate!** Then share any corrections or updates please.

Brewery News

Brewlab (Michael Wynne)

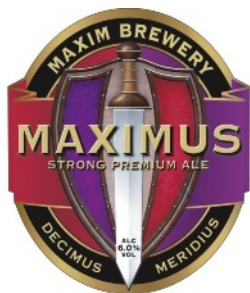
The latest collaboration with Microbus is a 6% New Zealand IPA brewed with Nelson Sauvign and Motueka hops.

The programme of taproom openings, beer and cheese pairing and brewday experiences continues.

The third Super Saturday event is on Saturday 4 July from 11 to 4pm. In addition to the usual taproom, there will be live music and street food.

You can keep up to date by visiting their website at

<https://brewlab.co.uk/about-us>



Maxim - (Ken Paul)

The brewery has completed their move to Castle Eden Brewery. Their new address is :- 8 East Cliff Road, Spectrum Business Park, Seaham, SR7 7PS. (0191 5848844)

Current beers doing the rounds are :- Samson,

Double Maxim, Eclipse, Maximus and Sorachi, **Maximus** is on the Wetherspoons seasonal guest list for April - June 2026.

The Rainton site still has to be decommissioned. It is hoped to have another update in the next issue.

North Pier Brewing Co (Stan Johnson)

Josh Atkinson at North Pier says he is delighted to have won a bronze for their **Northern Best Bitter** in the Cask British Bitter (4.4%) at the SIBA North East cask indie awards recently at Gateshead Rugby Club.

Meanwhile in Liverpool, **Midas** achieved a gold in the Cask Session Pale Ale (4%) category. at the SIBA National Indie awards at BeerX in March.



They will also had their Dark Mild available for the duration of CAMRA's mild month.

The taproom (above) may not be open this year as production has reached a level where they simply

don't have the space. There will be updates if there is any change.

Wear Beer - (Ken Paul)

Wear Beer is offering brewing experiences where you design your recipe, learn about the ingredients and the brewing process whilst you brew your own beer. At the end you take 60 x 330ml bottles home

<https://wearbeer.sumupstore.com/products?category=87a10189-366b-445d-b72f-0697dcfb6d3d>

In May they attended Blackfriars beer festival in Newcastle from the 22nd to 24th, with a range of cask and keg beers

In June: they set up a bar at Sunderland Food Festival from the 5th till the 7th of June. There featured cask and keg beers plus bottles for takeaway.

New beers coming out include a new edition of Summer Blonde 4.2% for June in cask Also looking to launch a 4.7% lager.

SIBA Winners - page 18

**Sunderland and South
Tyneside
CAMRA
Pub of the Year 2026
Cider Pub of the Year 2026**



OPENING TIMES

WEDNESDAY 4-10

THURSDAY 4-10

FRIDAY 3-10:30

SATURDAY 12:30-10:30

SUNDAY 12:30-9

1A PERCY TERRACE, WHITBURN, SR6 7EW

**WHISKY CLUB - FIRST WEDNESDAY OF EVERY MONTH, A
COST PRICE DRAM!**

EVERY WEDNESDAY AT 7PM - UKULELE CLUB UPSTAIRS

EVERY THURSDAY - PIE AND PINT NIGHT & RUN CLUB

SUNDAY - LIVE MUSIC AT 5:30PM

8 KEG LINES, INCLUDING 4 ROTATING GUEST BEERS

4 ROTATING CASK ALE LINES

EVER-CHANGING WHISKY SELECTION, FROM CLASSIC

DRAMS TO INTERESTING NEW BOTTLES

DOG FRIENDLY — WELL-BEHAVED HUMANS ALSO

WELCOME

New Ratings for Cask Beer Scoring

In 2025 CAMRA's Beer Scoring Advisory Group (BSAG) was asked to review improving scoring and descriptions for cask beer. Then subsequently to come up with recommendations to improve the scoring system. The group exists to promote, support and monitor CAMRA's **National Beer Scoring System (NBSS)**. This includes encouraging branch members to carry out beer scoring and provide training where necessary. The attached premise outlines the initial results of the review, which we propose to implement first from the 1st June 2026. (There may be a secondary set of recommendations with their own implementation proposals later).

Premise

These proposed improvements have been put forward with the aim of:

- Simplifying the beer scoring process.
- Developing a greater, and shared, understanding of the scoring system and when each score should be used.
- Increasing the number of scores being submitted, and the number of members submitting scores.
- Separating 'no cask beer available' from the scoring scale.

New ratings and descriptions

(see table below)

The ratings replace the score scale and **remove the use of half points**. The ratings will still have the numerical value (0-5)

attached to them to allow for calculation of and analysis of scores for pubs.

Using features from the current descriptions, a set of 'reactions' have been added to help members choose the rating most aligned to the beer they are drinking.

There will be a new tick box, separate from the ratings, for 'no cask beer available'. We will also add automated pub update messages where someone submits a rating in a pub with no cask beer, or for a pub marked as serving cask is rated as 'none available'.

Please try to score your beers every time you visit a pub or club. It actually helps the branch in selecting entries for the **Good Beer Guide**. It also helps us monitor beer quality

New ratings for cask beer scoring

Rating	Description	Your Reaction
Excellent	Exceptional and clear (if intended to be) with fantastic aromas, flavours and ideal carbonation.	Superb! You tell your friends and compliment the cellar manager.
Very Good	Satisfying and well-kept with a great appearance, good carbonation and enticing aromas and flavours.	You consider having another and may cancel plans to move to another pub.
Good	Nice appearance, good carbonation, aromas and flavour.	Pleasant but not memorable. You're happy to have another but might consider something else.
Acceptable	Unremarkable and ordinary, with no noteworthy characteristics.	You're unlikely to have another unless it is all there is and there isn't another pub to go to.
Poor	Noticeably imperfect	Drinkable with resentment, but you politely ask for a replacement.
Undrinkable	Unpleasant to drink, likely with a disgusting taste, incorrect appearance and off/foul aroma	You politely ask for it to be replaced and consider asking the publican to take it off.

The Iona Club Hebburn by Peter Tong

I've always had an interest in clubs. My family's go to place for any celebrations was always the South Leeds Conservative Club, otherwise known as "The Connie Club" in Beeston, near Leeds United's Elland Road. A friendly place where everybody knows everybody else. In fact, my cousin David has been a member for over 50 years and we still enjoy a beer there!

Clubs have had a hard time since my move to the North East in 1995 and only the best survive these days. Relatively few in our CAMRA branch sell real ale. We had three for ages until one day, a CAMRA member reported real ale in The Iona Club in Hebburn when he was attending a



birthday party and we found it had been there for years and that, sadly, we'd never picked it up.



Anyway I hope this article goes some way to making amends.

I'm pleased to announce the club is thriving. It's a great place and the single hand pull is at the end of the bar as you enter. They go for "light" beers as that is what the members enjoy. Today I was served a pint of Daleside Blonde brewed in Harrogate and in very good fettle too at £3.80.

The club is clean and tidy, a friendly place, nice staff and very comfortable. The cleanest toilets I'd seen for a long time. It's run by a hard working committee, Amy the stewardess and Billy the steward, who always work opposite shifts and a multitude of bar staff,

I met Wendy and Gloria (left) who just seemed happy to be there. Ian the doorman (right), is the first person you see, a very pleasant chap who was happy to tell me about the club. He'd found some old photographs of the Iona when it was based in Argyle Street before it's move to it's present home,

According to the board in the corridor, its been serving ale since the early 1970's and was opened by Rev. Fr James Walsh on 10th October 1972. The photos are now in a glass case in the corridor.

Amy kindly gave me the tour. Very impressive including an excellent function room complete with stage. And there is so much to see and do. Bingo, Play Your Cards Right, Live Music, Sky Sports and TNT for all the footie, Thursday Quiz Night, Fireside Music in the lounge every other Tuesday where you are encouraged to bring your own instruments, A Band Night



monthly (small cover charge applies) and a Happy Monday's Disco for those with learning disabilities where carers aren't charged to come in. Definitely very community orientated.

THE STEPS

Real Ale, Real Pub, Real People.



UP TO 4 CHANGING REAL ALES
★ SUNDERLAND & STH ★
TYNESIDE PUB OF THE YEAR
2026 - SECOND RUNNER UP.
20 YEARS IN THE GOOD BEER
GUIDE

QUIZ NIGHT:- TUESDAY
8.30 PM WITH FREE HOT SUPPER.
DOMINOES HANDICAP
2.30 PM EVERY SUNDAY.
ALL SPORTS SHOWN
Functions catered for.
47 Spout Lane, Washington NE38 7HP
0191 4150733. 2 Minutes walk from
Washington Village Green

Opening Hours : Mon-Thu 3pm-11pm, Fri 2pm - 11pm, Sat
Noon-11pm, Sun Noon-10.30pm the47steps@gmail.com

The Iona is predominantly a catholic men's club. Ladies are very welcome of course and can be signed in. Membership currently stands at 1,500 with new members joining all the time. I was genuinely impressed and I'd like to thank Brian the Secretary for his time, Amy the Stewardess, Ian on the Door and everybody else for making me feel so welcome.



Contact the club for further details of everything that's going on and for membership enquiries. Gentlemen who are not catholic may apply for Special Membership. Buses stop outside and Hebburn Metro is a few minutes walk away.
[https://camra.org.uk/pubs/ionasocialclubhebburn-198310](https://camra.org.uk/pubs/ionasocialclubhebburn198310)

Welcome Back To The Cyprus Public House

By Peter Tong. Photos by Graham Cram and Peter Tong

And so another chapter in the history of **The Cyprus pub** in South Shields is now being written, that I hope will be a long and interesting one. It's a great pub and it's now very much a safe place to be and in the very capable hands of Graham Cram. He sells real ale and just about everything else you could wish to purchase from behind a bar!



The original Cyprus public house was on the corner of George Potts Street and Chichester Road until 1885 with plans for the current building being approved on 2nd August 1900. These plans included a cellar, a bar and a "bottle of jug" room, which would be better known today as an off licence. The first floor was to contain a buffet and a billiard room as well as a sitting room and news room. The third floor was



given over to living accommodation.

The site was owned by the executors of a Mr John Turnbull who had been in the brewing business for over 30 years and his initials can still be seen in the fascia of the pub.

(See photo, left)

Completed in 1901 the building includes the fascia which is made up of ornate bottle green tiles, highlighted in red and yellow. It is a luscious example of late Victorian architectural extravagance.



Back to the present, and following a period of closure, the pub looks in extremely good order. Inside it has been carefully renovated and, although it has a modern feel with the large TV screens and music system, it has that wonderful look about it and is a great place to enjoy a few pints. It feels a safe place and a very friendly place too. Look, it's had a bit of a past, haven't we all, but right now, it's open. There are two real ales on and they are ready for you to try.

There is live music, all the sport you can think of on the big screens, a quiz night, karaoke, pool, darts and food will make a return at some point. Please pay



The Cyprus a visit and have a look for yourself. It's just around the corner from Chichester Metro and there are many buses that either stop outside, or across the other side of the roundabout near the Stagecoach bus depot.

Books inspired by
*Horner's
Toffee Factory*
& Dainty Dinah
toffee of Chester-le-Street



★ Bestselling local author **Glenda Young** ★

Beer and Pubs on You Tube - *Michael Wynne*

There are lots of beer themed channels on You Tube. Once you start looking, many will pop up, but a lot are badly researched and have terrible AI generated soundtracks.

However there are two that I have discovered and would recommend.

Wandojames

James is a paramedic based in York but is also one of the owners of the Big Six in Halifax. This is an excellent pub nestling in a street of terraced houses and was one of Tetley's Heritage pubs.

Every Tuesday, the latest edition of Pubs, Pints and Places is released. The title gives a good idea of what to expect. Recent themes include taprooms, children in pubs, the cost of running

a pub, and queuing at the bar. There is an excellent three-part on CAMRA ; he tells us what he thinks it does great, and it has lost its way. As someone who obviously loves pubs and real ale, these are positive on the whole.

Friday sees the release of the Friday Pint, which focuses on the brewing and pub industry

These are complemented by occasional pub tours around Yorkshire and sometimes further afield.

<https://www.youtube.com/@wandojames>

Real Ales Real Pubs

A guy involved in the West Riding Branch of The Society for The Preservation of Beers from the Wood (SPBW) embarks on a series of pub crawls

around towns mostly in the north and midlands. He usually visits at least six pubs, shows his route, the beers available and footage of the interior of the pubs. Many of the places he has visited are towns I am familiar with and he has been to many pubs I know, but there are some new discoveries.

He has done two films on Tyneside; the first in Ouseburn and the second in central Newcastle and across the Tyne to Gateshead. Recently he has been to Middlesbrough, but ended up going to Stockton. The most recent offering is Blackpool which has many interesting micropubs. Very enjoyable

<https://www.youtube.com/@RealAlesRealPubs>

STAGS HEAD

SOUTH SHIELDS



A historic pub dating back to 1897 in the heart of South Shields town centre.
A grade II listed building recognised by CAMRA as having an
"Outstanding National Historic Pub Interior"

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

The Stags Head on Fowler Street is open seven days a week from 11am daily, offering a warm welcome in one of South Shields' most historic and characterful pubs. Combining traditional pub heritage with a friendly local atmosphere, the Stags Head has become a popular destination for both regulars and visitors looking for quality drinks and a relaxed social setting.

Behind the bar you'll find a wide selection of draught beers and lagers, alongside rotating real ales that regularly change to give customers something new to enjoy. The pub is also well known for serving an excellent draught Guinness, poured with care and popular with locals who appreciate a proper pint.

For those looking for something different, the Stags Head stocks a varied range of spirits as well as Lilley's Cider, offering refreshing flavours that appeal to both traditional cider drinkers and newcomers alike. Whether you're stopping in for a quiet afternoon drink, meeting friends in the evening, or enjoying the pub's regular entertainment and community atmosphere, the Stags Head continues to offer a classic pub experience in the heart of South Shields.

WE SERVE

Lilley's
Cider



FIND US:



45 Fowler Street, South Shields, NE33 1NS.



Public Affairs

This article was put together by CAMRA's Campaigns and Communications Team and appeared in CAMRA online newsletter (What's Brewing), It gives the latest campaigning updates across Westminster. The article also features the devolved nation so the full piece (members only) can be read here:-

<https://wb.camra.org.uk/2026/05/22/public-affairs-round-up-may-2>

Alcohol duty

In 2023, the government made changes to the alcohol duty system while setting objectives, which CAMRA campaigned for.

His Majesty's Revenue & Customs (HMRC)

has now launched an evaluation, by calling for evidence and data, to make sure these objectives have been met :- .

The objectives are:

1. greater consumer choice, particularly of low-strength products
2. reduced alcohol-related harm
3. support for on-trade business via draught relief, which was designed to reduce the tax burden on draught alcoholic products under 8.5 per cent ABV sold in on-trade venues, such as pubs
4. support for small producers via Small Producer Relief, which extended the duty relief previously only available to small brewers to all small producers of alcoholic products under 8.5 per cent and addressed barriers to growth by smoothing the withdrawal of relief as production increases

4. reduced administrative burden and a simplified process for users.

CAMRA will be making a submission to the call for evidence and will continue to engage with the Treasury ahead of the Autumn Budget 2026, when announcements relating to the alcohol duty system are made.

Cask beer and Fresh Ale

The team worked with Bagby Shanker MP (for Derby South) to secure a parliamentary debate on "Protecting consumers and promoting cask ale by recognising its production and serving as Intangible Cultural Heritage". A date for the debate is still to be set.

English Devolution and Community Empowerment Act

The English Devolution and Community Empowerment Act was published in April and is now law. This means groups which want to purchase a community asset, like pubs, will have a legal right to buy if they can get the funding needed within 12 months, building on the existing right to bid entitlement.

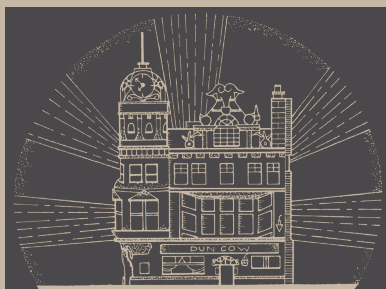
The team is keeping in touch with officials at the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government as the new law is carried out, and continue to campaign for dedicated money, after the government closed the Community Ownership Fund last year, so communities can save their locals.

Planning (England)

The government is proposing changes to its National Planning Policy Framework which means only the last pub in an area in England will be protected for conversion or demolition, instead of all pubs, which are legally protected right now. Planning minister Matthew Pennycook MP is reviewing the consultation responses before a final decision is made.

CAMRA is continuing its e-lobby so members can write to their MP asking them to convince the government to rethink. Email your MP here.

<https://camra.org.uk/campaigns/say-no-to-planning-changes-that-will-threaten-pubs-11>



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.

10%
discount for
CAMRA
members



9 High Street West, Sunderland SR1 3HA

A CULTURE QUARTER PUB

NEWS IN BRIEF

Old Speckled Hen is on the move ...again !

Greene King's Old Speckled Hen beer range has been sold to Damm UK.

The beer dates from 1979 when it first brewed by Morland Brewery in Abingdon, Oxfordshire. It took its name from an old paint spattered MG car (a Featherlight Saloon) that was made in the town and used as a run around. It was named after the paint flecks and nicknamed **The Owld Speckl'd Un** Greene King took over Morland in 2000 , where it became a family of Hens such as **Old Golden Hen** and **Old Crafty Hen**. These have been brewed in the Westgate Brewery, Bury St Edmonds since then...till now!

The beer will eventually be made at the Damm Eagle brewery in Bedford.

Old Speckled Hen is not a bad beer, The CAMRA Good Beer Guide describes it as *"light-bodied ruby-brown premium bitter with caramel, fruit and malt, touches of background hops and s developing gentle dryness"*. I can testify to this, I had a couple of really well kept pints in The Steps, Washington in May ; they went down very well...

News from South East Essex CAMRA:-

CAMRA's have produced a TV advert which has been broadcast on Sky throughout the East of England and can be watched online now:-

<https://www.see.camra.org.uk/viewnode.php?id=282204>



Beer Day Britain is the UK's national beer day, held annually on June 15th. Join the national Cheers To Beer at 7pm.

Find out more about Beer Day Britain here , included why that particular date and it's connection to the Magna Carta.
<https://www.beerdaybritain.co.uk/what-is-beer-day-britain/>

The most recent **CAMRA AGM and Members Weekend** was held in St Albans in May. Next year's has already been decided ; it will be at Chester Racecourse



Winners Page 1

First a reminder of the Pub & Club of the Year Winners

Pub of the Year & Cider Pub of the Year	Blue's Micro Pub, Whitburn	https://camra.org.uk/pubs/blues-micro-pub-whitburn-192802
Runner Up	Dun Cow Sunderland	https://camra.org.uk/pubs/dun-cow-sunderland-192670
Club of the Year	Boldon Cricket Club	https://camra.org.uk/pubs/boldon-cricket-club-east-boldon-192620
Runner Up	Ryhope Catholic Club	https://camra.org.uk/pubs/ryhope-catholic-club-sunderland-192730
Cider Pub Runner Up	The Avenue, Sunderland	https://camra.org.uk/pubs/avenue-sunderland-192683



The Sunderland & Sth Tyneside Branch Pub of the Year, Cider Pub of the Year and North East Regional Cider and Perry Runner Up. . Steve Drummond (below right), presented Alice and Callum Watson with their certificates and trophy.



Pub of the Year, Cider Pub of the Year and Runner Up Cider & Perry Pub of the Year.

Winners Page 2



Branch Club of the Year Award. - Regional Club Co ordinator Steve Drummond (on the left) presents Sam and George Ellison of **The Boldon Cricket Club** with their winners certificate. *Photo by Sid Dobson*

Branch Club of the Year Runner Up was **Ryhope Catholic Club** . Steve Drummond (now on the right) presents Kevin Littlemore and Angela Lonsdale with their award.

Photo by Peter Tong



Runner Up Branch Pub of the Year is **The Dun Cow** in Sunderland. Editor Ken Paul presents Josh Fletcher with their award. *Photo by Peter Tong*

Branch Cider Pub of the Year Runner Up is **The Avenue** in Sunderland. Dave Graham (centre) is presented with the award by Peter Tong. *Photo by Rae MacInnes*

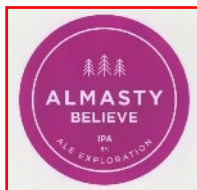


Winners Page 3

Every year the **Society of Independent Brewers and Associates (SIBA)** hold their annual BeerEx event in Liverpool to celebrate the best of UK beers. Congratulations to Josh Atkinson of **North Pier Brewery** of Roker winning Gold in the Cask Session Pale Ale for their 4% Midas.

The overall champion was also a North East Beer - Almasty for their 6% Cask IPA called Believe.

Brewery	Beer	Award`
Firebrick, Blaydon	Propa Belta - 4.6%	GOLD
Abbeysdale, Sheffield	Deception - 4.1%	SILVER
Twice Brewed	Steel Rigg 4.9%	BRONZE



Thanks to Almasty Brewery

This annual BeerEx event showcases beers judged from all regions of the UK. The North East (including Yorkshire) judging event for 2026-27 was held at the beginning of May at **Gateshead Rugby Club**.

There was an ever present band of CAMRA members to support the event.

Several categories of cask beers were judged, ranging from bitters to IPAs to Stouts and Porters. There were too many awards to list here so follow this link of you need to know more;- <https://siba.co.uk/ibawinners/> scroll down to **Indie Beer Awards North East, 1st May 2026**



Each year at the CAMRA AGM and Members Weekend the Best Branch Website and Best Magazine are announced.

The Branch Website of the Year 2026 is Norwich and District CAMRA <https://norwich.camra.org.uk/2026/04/website-wins-gold/>

The Branch Magazine of the Year 2026 is Beer Matters, Sheffield & District CAMRA . <https://sheffield.camra.org.uk/2026/05/camra-branch-magazine-of-the-year/>

(There's always next year)

Boddies Arises from the Ashes

By Peter Jones, who also provided the photos

Last year brewing of cask Boddingtons Bitter was recommenced at JW lees brewery in Middleton, Manchester, after a break of 13 years. It was once one of great beers of Britain. The Brewery in Manchester was founded in 1778 and closed by Interbrew (now ABInbev) in 2004.

Situated just outside Manchester city centre Strangeways brewery was family owned but in 1888 became a public company. By 1900 had about 200 pubs most within 20-mile radius of the brewery. In WW2 the brewery was severely damaged by German bombs and production was moved to Hyde's brewery in nearby Moss side. It was rebuilt after the war and was the first brewery in Europe to install stainless steel fermenters.

Even by the time of CAMRA's creation in 1971 Manchester had 10 breweries but Boddingtons had a cult status. The first Good Beer Guide (GBG) in 1974 described Boddingtons as "one of the best". Production was almost entirely cask. In the 50's the bitter took over from the mild in production and by 1980 accounted for 90% of brewing. It had an ABV of 3.5% and was described as a pale ale with a hoppy



malty flavour and a dry bitter finish.

The 1960's was a time for many mergers and take overs ; Boddingtons (Boddies) took over Richard Clark & Co of Reddish near Stockport in 1963 together with 63 pubs



This is a keg dispenser in Sedgefield Social club.

but Allied breweries took a 35% share in 1969 ; luckily many small local share holders refused to sell but Allied persisted. Then in 1971 the CAMRA villain of

breweries - Whitbread came to the rescue and bought 25% of shares and that saved it. The 70's and 80's were good times for Boddies.

In 1981 the Observer newspaper wrote "*what has good Boddingtons in good stead is the highly distinctive flavour of its brews, especially its bitters. In fact, in the North-West, Boddies is increasingly becoming a sort of cult brew.*"

It was time for Boddies to play the takeover game. In 1982 they bought Oldham brewery for £23m and with it 100 pubs and in 1985 Higson's brewery in Liverpool for £23m together with 160 pubs. This introduced Boddies to the fine people of Merseyside So by 1987 they were brewing 200K barrels PA and had 520 pubs .

In the late 80's were a time when traditional vertical brewing was under review. Breweries started to morph into pub owning companies and then sell of the brewing side. Boddies was no different. In 1989 Ewart Boddington sold Strangeways Brewery to Whitbread for £50m.

The Whitbread era was in some respects a golden age for Boddies. They launched it as a national brand and it was soon one

Continued



of the three best-selling ales in the UK. Production increased from 200k barrels to 850k barrels. This was driven by a very affective national advertising campaign, the cream of Manchester.

The canned version used a widge (like Guinness) to produce a head and was the best-selling canned beer from 1992 to 2000. Sales were now world-wide. The above is an advert I saw in Tasmania in 2018 showing its worldwide distribution. It was said Manchester was famous for three things, Man United, Coronation St and Boddingtons brewery

But doom was on the horizon. In 2000 Whitbread was taken over by Interbrew, a Belgium brewing colossus. The brewery was making a profit and employed over 100 people. However in 2004 Interbrew announced the closure of Strangeways brewery, despite the profits. The site in the now booming city of Manchester was worth £12m. So the brewery was demolished and sold for redevelopment. Keg and can production was transferred to Magor in South Wales and Sarncliffe in Lancashire. Cask production to Hydes but this ceased in 2012. The keg version is still available.

The good news is that last year ABInbev who own the brand ask another Manchester Brewery JW Lees of Middleton to brew cask Boddies. It's quite different than in the past, it has an ABV 4.0 as opposed to 3.5. The JW Lees recipe makes for a slightly darker, golden hue. The very subtle hints of banana and caramel are more complex.

The bitterness is a little more 'soft'.

I managed to track down Boddingtons bitter in the Founders pub on Albert Square in Manchester opposite the Town hall.



Its notoriously difficult to remember tastes but I don't think it is as bitter as the original nor is the head as creamy. In some respects it could be described as BINO, Boddingtons In Name Only . But I welcome Boddies back from the ashes.

This article first appeared in Durham Drinker

ARCHIVE ON FOUR :-

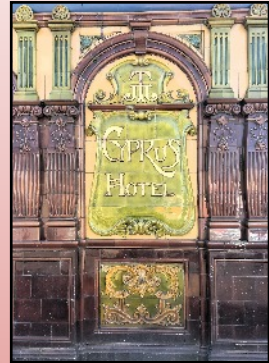
The Life and Many Deaths of the Local

This is a 57 minute BBC archive about pubs dying out , and worth a listen.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m002wj2q>

THE CYPRUS

**One of South Shields
oldest traditional pubs.
Family friendly ; feel safe
and enjoy yourselves.**



We serve two real ales (Doom Bar is our regular) in addition to an extensive bar selection.

We offer a full sports coverage from Sky and TNT.

There is a pool table, dartboard and live music which is well advertised.

Wednesday Night Is Buskers Night From 7pm ; Thursday night is quiz night at 7pm ; Karaoke Every Sunday from 6pm.

Food is coming soon.

48 Chichester Road, South Shields NE33 4AF

Tel :- 0191 6767111

We are open every day from 11.00 till 00.30

Buses stop outside ; Chi Metro is 3 minutes walk.

Pub Quiz (answers on Page 27)

1. Which motor cycle manufacturer do you associate with Milwaukee, USA
2. The Night Riviera sleeper runs between London and which town in Cornwall?
3. Which minister did Stephen Twigg defeat in Enfield Southgate in 1997?
4. Which sport features in the 1989 comedy film Caddyshack?
5. Which Labour PM preceded and succeeded Edward Heath ?
6. Timmy Tiptoes the Beatrix Potter character is what type of creature?
7. Which US author wrote Jurassic Park and wrote and directed the film Westworld?
8. Which two dances feature in the phonetic alphabet?
9. Which European capital city is first alphabetically?
10. And which one is last alphabetically?
11. What have Stan Laurel, Winston Churchill, Ronald Reagan and Eddie Redmayne all kissed?
12. Name the US state with the largest population
13. In a pack of cards, who is the only King without a moustache?
14. Cricket: name the country England played in the very first Test match
15. In which year was home brewing allowed in the UK ? 1963, 1953, 1973?
16. Eve Muirhead was a skip in which sport?
17. Which long running TV programme has the postcode M10 9KC
18. In which country is the Frederic Chopin airport (extra point for the city) ?
19. Who wrote the novels Toffee Factory Girls, Secrets of The Toffee Factory Girls and Celebrations at the Toffee Factory?
20. Finally , onto culture :- what is the nationality of The Chef in The Muppets?



Another night time photo, this one of the historic **Cross Keys** on Washington Village Green. At nearly 200 years old, it is one of the oldest pubs in the branch - although it is now much altered inside.

If anyone has any night time pub or club photos you would like to share, please email

magazine01@sst.camra.org.uk

Thank you

Great British Belgium Beers *By Peter Jones*

Belgium has over 408 breweries producing over 2000 beers. They have a complex variety of styles, the most famous being the Trappist styles but there are many obscure styles including two with distinct British roots.

In WW1 by 1914 most of Belgium was occupied by the Germans but about 10% on western extreme. In a line running from Ostend on the North sea to Ypres on the French border remained occupied by the Belgium army supplied by the British, arms, food and beer.

The strong tradition of beer drinking amongst the 137,000 Belgium soldiers on the western front required to be met, but by British brewers.

Edinburgh in 1914 had 35 breweries producing the now increasingly rare Scotch ales. They were dark and sweet and could be strong up to 7% alcohol. The Belge took to these ales that weren't dissimilar to their Trappist and abbey beers. So once the war was over, they took to importing Scotch ales but also started to brew their own initially under licence but then to their own recipe. Belgic Scotch ales are traditionally drunk out of a thistle shaped glass.

When I first started visiting Belgium in 1990's scotch was freely available as it was in Brussels in 2019 but in a visit to

Antwerp in 2023, I couldn't find it and 2 large beer outlets I visited thought it had died out. Luckily my son found the above bottle in Brussels earlier this year.



The only one I can find now is Gordon Scotch ale at 8%, it's a dark Ruby ale and brewed by Martins in Belgium. I recall other Belgium Scotch ales on visits including McEwan's, and as you can see on the thistle glass (below) there must have been a Douglas Scotch ale at sometime.



The Belgium army was also

watered with English beer as well. They very much took to our pale ales, there would of course be hundreds of breweries supplying our gallant allies but to my knowledge only two are brewed in Belgium today Bass Pale ale and Whitbread pale ale

Belgium brewed bass pale ale has an ABV of 5.5 % compared to British Bass's 4.4%. Its brewed by AB InBev, the world's largest brewery. The bass served in 1914 would be 5.5 % but over the years has become lighter in alcohol. I got this through www.beersofeurope.co.uk having failed to find it in Belgium.



Previous visits to Belgium revealed other Pale ales including Whitbread pale ale (this is still available on line and also brewed by ABInbev) and Martins pale ale. I suspect both beer styles are in decline and represent an historical anarchism. The size and

Continued

complexity of Belgium brewing is drowning these Great British Belgium beers

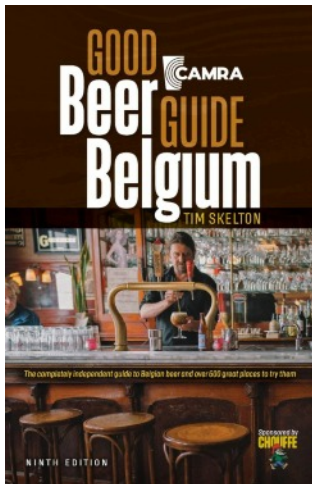
Whitbread pale ale also brewed by Ab InBev has an ABV of 5.7 % which again is what it was 110 years ago but since Whitbread has long ceased gone there is no British brewed one. But when last brewed had an ABV of 3.7%. On past visits to Belgium, I came across Martins pale ale,



which was a Belgium beer brewed in the style of a 1914 British Pale ale. On my last visit to Belgium in September 2023, I couldn't find any of the above beers.

This was not the case in 2018 on a visit to Brussels so I suspect they are in decline. And as in some respects it's an historical anachronism to be brewing a beer that is essentially a left over from the first world war it's not surprising. But I see they are currently still available on line via Beers of Europe.

Explore Belgian beers, breweries and bars with CAMRA's new guidebook



CAMRA have just published the ninth edition of the Good Beer Guide Belgium. Described as an independent guide to Belgian beer and over 600 places to try them.

This is an extract from a CAMRA press release:-

The fully revised and updated edition of CAMRA's Good Beer Guide Belgium by Tim Skelton showcases over 1,500 beers and the 400 brewers and lambic blenders who make them, plus, most importantly, 650 of the very best places to enjoy them.

The book explores all regions of Belgium, including Brussels, Antwerp, Flanders, Brabant (Flemish and Wallonian), Luxembourg and Liege, with useful travel tips and recommendations on what to eat and where to stay. The full press release can be found here :-

<https://camra.org.uk/media-centre/press-releases/explore-belgian-beers-breweries-and-bars-with-camras-new-guidebook-93823>

I visited Bruges in Belgium 2015, along with the eighth edition of the guide. One highlight for me was visiting the **Half Moon Brewery** (Halve Mann) and having a tour which including climbing on the roof with a panoramic view if the city below. At the time they were laying a 2.5 km underground pipeline from their city centre location to

their bottling plant on the outskirts. Another highlight, which emphasised how many beers are available in Belgium, was lunch in **Cambrinus**, a pub with a, incredible choice of beers, the majority being bottled. A quick count of the inch thick menu reveals over 500! Of the beers I tried each had its own matching glass.



<https://camraangle.sst.camra.org.uk/documents/Issue40.pdf>

THE
AWARD WINNING
MAXIM
BREWERY

DOUBLE
MAXIM
PREMIUM BROWN ALE
4.6% ABV

MAXIM
BREWERY
SINCE 1991

MAXIMUS

Part of
Powder
Monkey
Group

MAXIM BREWERY
MAXIMUS
PREMIUM PALE ALE
4.6% ABV

SIBA
★★★★
PALE PALE BEER
CONTEST
2016
Gold

SIBA
★★★★
PALE PALE BEER
CONTEST
2016
Gold

BBF
2016

The home of Double Maxim

4.6% ABV | GLUTEN FREE

INDEPENDENCE

U.S. PALE
CITRA | MOSAIC | AMARILLO

BRISTOL BEER FACTORY

Every year **The Champion Beer of Britain** is awarded at **The Great British Beer Festival (GBBF)**. Because GBBF is not happening this year, the honour fell to the Cambridge Beer Festival, which took place from May 18th to 23rd. The winner of the Champion Beer of Britain 2026 was **Independence** (ABV 4.6%), a premium pale ale by Bristol Beer Factory.

The CAMRA press release can be found here :-

<https://camra.org.uk/media-centre/press-releases/camra-names-the-champion-beer-of-britain-2026-and-its-fiercely-independent-93825>

I've gone through the various category winners and can only find one North East award ; a silver for **Two by Two Snake Eyes Pale** (4.6%) - coincidentally in the same category (*Premium Pale, Blond and Golden Ales*).as the overall winner.

Ale Trail in North Yorks

Harrogate & Ripon CAMRA have sent this poster advertising their forthcoming **Ale Trail** in August. There will be more details later on their website but its worth pointing out some pubs in the branch area. I have never been drinking in Ripon but have visited the other two towns

We had a trip to **Harrogate** in 2018 and four pubs caught my eye. Fortunately , eight years later, all are still open.



including one of my “Desert Island Discs”, The Free Electric Band by Albert Hammond. A happy memory.



Hales Bar (above) wasn't in the Good Beer Guide then but it is now. As one of the town's oldest pubs, it features in CAMRA's National Inventory of Historic Pub Interiors; rating two stars. A feature of the bar is a pair of gas lights over the bar.



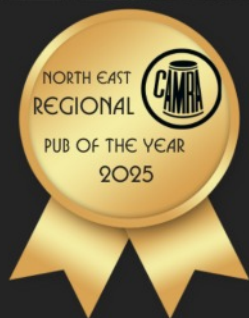
Next was **The Little Ale House**. This micropub had only been open two years and, according to the current Good Beer Guide, was extended into property next door in 2025. A dark beer always features and at the time this was the much lamented **Elland 1872 Porter**. The “cellar” is unusual as it is located behind sliding panels.(Below left)

In Harrogate Station is **The Harrogate Tap**. The long bar is next to platform one and from a small snug near the entrance trains could be seen arriving and departing.

Last is **Major Tom's Social**. This quirky cafe bar is housed up two flights of stairs above an antique shop. Seating is on wobbly wooden benches. There was a real family atmosphere with kids games and,a good range of background music ;

Space for one more; this time in **Knaresborough**. **Blind Jacks**, in the Market Place, has been in the Good Beer Guide for more than 30 years. It is a Grade II listed building, dating from 1741. It has bare brick walls and wooden floorboards., There are two small rooms downstairs and two similar rooms up a steep staircase. The walls adorned with an interesting selection of old pub mirrors and pictures. The pub has been awarded Outstanding Conversion and Restoration (OCR) status by CAMRA.





FRI: 2PM - 10.30PM
SAT: 12PM - 10.30PM
SUN: 4PM - 10.30PM
TUE - THU: 4PM - 10.30PM

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

VISIT OUR SISTER VENUE:

FRI: 2PM - 10.30PM
SAT: 12PM - 10.30PM
SUN: 2PM - 10.30PM
TUE - THU: 4PM - 10.30PM



FRAM FERMENT, 29B FRONT STREET, FRAMWELLGATE MOOR, DH1 5EE

Quiz Answers

1 Harley Davidson	11 The Blarney Stone in Cork
2 Penzance	12 California
3 Michael Portillo	13 King of Hearts
4 Golf	14 Australia in 1877
5 Harold Wilson	15 1963
6 A squirrel	16 Curling
7 Michael Crichton	17 Coronation Street
8 Tango & Foxtrot	18 Poland & Warsaw
9 Amsterdam (Netherlands)	19 Glenda Young
10 Zagreb (Croatia)	20 Swedish

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

Branch Contact Information

General Contact		contact@sst.camra.org.uk
Chairman	Alan Harrison	chair@sst.camra.org.uk
Secretary	Lynn Dobson	secretary@sst.camra.org.uk
Treasurer	Steve Drummond	treasurer@sst.camra.org.uk
Membership	Steve Drummond	members@sst.camra.org.uk
Magazine Editor	Ken Paul	magazine01@sst.camra.org.uk
Advertising	Peter Tong	ad01@sst.camra.org.uk
Webmaster	Ian Monteith-Preston	webmin@sst.camra.org.uk
Social Media	Stan Johnson	Socialmedia@sst.camra.org.uk
Public Affairs	Michael Wynne	publicaffairs@sst.camra.org.uk
Pubs	Ken Paul	pubsofficer@sst.camra.org.uk
Clubs	Sid Dobson	clubs@sst.camra.org.uk
Pubs Protection	Peter Wright	ppo@sst.camra.org.uk
Cider Rep.	Steve Clough	cider@sst.camra.org.uk
Social Secretary	Sid Dobson	social@sst.camra.org.uk

Brewery Liaison Officers	Branch.allBLO@sst.camra.org.uk
---------------------------------	--

Branch Heritage Pubs	admin.team@heritagepubs.sst.camra.org.uk
Website	https://heritagepubs.sst.camra.org.uk/ -

BRANCH SOCIAL MEDIA DETAILS	PRESS & MEDIA CONTACTS
<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>

Membership subscription rates will increase by £1 from 24 June 2026. This increase is below the RPI increase for 2025. There is a notice in What's Brewing (login needed) and all Direct Debit payers will be sent notices in early June.

<https://wb.camra.org.uk/2026/04/21/below-inflation-rates-rise>

Pubs, Pints, People.

**FREE
ENTRY**
to all 100+
CAMRA-run
beer
festivals

Death or Glory?

Just a pint please, actually.

CAMRA membership expands your choice of beer, pubs and festivals. Find the best pints, and the places you want to drink them.

Get £30 of beer vouchers, discounts on real ale, free entry to 100+ beer festivals around the UK and more with membership.



Join and save on beer.
camra.org.uk/join

