

## DARWIN BREWERY WIN NATIONAL TESCO CHALLENGE AWARD

Sunderland's Darwin Brewery has seen it's ltest bottled beer, named 'Hop Drop' scoop the **Tesco Beer Challenge** award, resulting in a national listing in 270 Tesco stores and supplying up to 150,000 bottles to the retail giant in the first year.

Steven Proudfoot, marketing manager for the Darwin Brewery said "This win has been great news and just goes to show that size isn't everything in the world of brewing. Our only frustration is that although we're in 270 stores the Sunderland branch isn't one of them, although Tesco are trying to remedy that as soon as possible.

The name 'Hop Drop' is taken from a unique brewing process by traditional 19<sup>th</sup> century brewers on the Wear who would 'drop' their spent hops into the river to be taken away by the tide. The Hop Drop beer is strongly influenced by traditional north eastern ale recipes and includes hops similar to those used by lost Wearside breweries. The bottle also features a picture of the old Wearmouth bridge and Sunderland's famous motto of '*Nil Desperandum Auspice Deo*'.

Dr St.John Usher, Director and Head Brewer for Darwin was also delighted with the win. He said "We've already had to install extra fermentation vessels just to meet demand from this Tesco win - and are still looking at ways to increase the capacity of the brewery. Darwin Brewery is a 12 Barrel brewery based in Hendon, Sunderland with a total brewing capacity of almost 10,000 pints per week.



Issue

8

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2005

# CAMRA ANGLE

The **FREE** quarterly newsletter from the Sunderland & South Tyneside branch of CAMRA



### **More awards for local brewery!**

The Jarrow Brewery has collected another award to their rapidly growing collection when Rivet Catcher became North East Beer of the Year for 2005. The competition took place at the recent 29<sup>th</sup> Newcastle Beer Festival. It was selected as the best after a blind tasting by a panel of North East CAMRA members.

The 4% ABV pale hoppy beer was first brewed for the 2003 Darlington Rhythm' n Brews festival under the name Fenwick's Special and was based on a recipe by keen home brewer and Darlington CAMRA member Peter Fenwick. The beer also won an award at the 2004 Dudley Winter Ales Festival.

CAMRA is not the only organisation heaping praise on the Jarrow Brewery. Owners Jess and Alison McConnell were recently lauded by the All Party Parliamentary Beer Group for the quality of their beers. Jarrow MP Stephen Hepburn recently presented the couple with a certificate, the breweries beers have been available in the House of Commons and have proven to be very popular with MPs from all parties. These 2 awards come at a time of expansion for the Jarrow Brewery as their third pub; the Maltings in Claypath Lane, South Shields opened its doors on April 27. A new brewery is being added to the pub to cope with the rising demand for their beers.

Sunderland based Darwin Brewery won joint second for Ghost Ale, a previous winner of the competition in 2003. The other beers in the competition were Hexhamshire Devil's Water, Durham Magus and Cameron's Strongarm.

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# Beer Flavours

## An A To Z Of Tasting

Ever wondered why your beer tastes the way it does? Then read on...

In this continuing series of articles by Dr. Keith Thomas of Brewlab and Darwin Brewery, we are introduced to the art of beer flavourings and tasting.

### EGGY

Ever smelt the bottom of a drain at the top of your pint? Drains smells are not common in beer but a few classic beers have a drainy or eggy smell, particularly Burton bitters.

These smells can be natural results of yeast fermentation although not every strain will produce them. If present they will be of a fresh boiled version not an ugly or rotten egg. In other cases drainy smells can result from contamination with bacteria and so indicate that a pint is past its best and only worth returning to the bar.

Acceptable eggy smells tend to be subtle and not overpowering. The beer may be slightly harsher and more bitter than normal and this may enhance the overall character. They are best in a light to medium gravity beer rather than stronger types.

Check your eggy flavours by holding your hand over your glass and swirling the beer. Breathe deeply in short breaths to get the full impact. Look for a simple egg aroma, a more pungent drainy character or a deep fetid smell more indicative of rotting meat or farts

Very undesirable eggy flavours may be produced by bacterial infection and are often pungent enough to be smelt at a distance. Look also for off flavours such as sourness from acid. A vinegar taste accompanied by bad eggs indicates an undesirable infection. Certainly cause to return a pint.

The former simple egg aroma is that of hydrogen sulphide and although unusual does have a long term benefit of softening your pint and increasing drinkability.

### De Koninck in Wetherspoons

Wetherspoons pubs across the UK are now exclusively serving a Belgian ale on draught. It means it is the only UK pub company to list a cask Belgian ale among its beer portfolio.

The beer, De Koninck Ambree, has been brewed in Antwerp since 1833, and has an ABV (alcohol by volume) of five per cent. It is described as “a full-bodied, top-fermenting ale, with velvety-smooth flavours.”

Beer writer and editor of the Campaign for Real Ale Good Beer Guide, Roger Protz, Said: “De Koninck Ambree is the stand-out beer brewed in Belgium and it is great news that it is now available to people across the UK.

“The beer has a lovely peppery hop character, with a nice biscuity malt flavour.” Wetherspoons Commercial Director Suzanne Baker said: “We are committed to offering our customers the widest range of beers and we are delighted that De Koninck Ambree is now available in our pubs.”

### Second Brewery for Sunderland

Sunderland's oldest pub, the **Clarendon** on High Street East re-opened to the public on Thursday 18 May. Local pub group the Beer Factory, whose other outlets are the Beamish Mary at No Place, the Grey Horse at Consett and the Sun Inn at Beamish Museum, acquired the pub. The city's second brewery Bull Lane Brewery is located in the pubs cellar. The brewery takes its name from the covered lane that is to the side of the pub. The brewery came on stream in June and so far 3 beers have been produced. Bull Lane Bitter (3.9%), Atta Matta (3.7%) and most recently, Ryhope Tug (3.9%). The beers are currently only available at the Clarendon and the Sun Inn. Other beers are planned and the names will have a strong Wearside connection. The single room pub has been refurbished and the bar has 6 handpumps and an old Watney's Red Barrel keg font. There is no fruit machine or pool table and there is unobtrusive background music. The large rear window offers a spectacular view across the Wear. The pub is open from 4 Monday to Thursday and all day at weekends and is a ten-minute walk down High Street East from the City Centre. Stagecoach Sunderland bus 14A from Fawcett Street will drop you off at the door.



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### CAMRA Champion Winter Ale

The winner of this competition was announced at recent Winter Ales Festival in Manchester. The winner was **Robinson's Old Tom**, runner-up was **Bath Festivity**, and **Woodeforde's Headcracker** was third. Local brewers were represented by **Big Lamp** whose Summerhill Stout came second in the stout and porter category.

### Club Update

Due to poor sales, real ale is no longer on sale at Steels Club. On the plus side, the **Farmer's Club** in Ryhope is taking Darwin Beers. We also have reports that **Silksworth Comrades Club** is also selling the real stuff, in this case, Banks's Original.

### THANK YOU FOR PUTTING UP WITH US!

We would like to extend our thanks to the following pubs for allowing us to hold Branch meetings and for allowing us to drink their excellent cask beers:

**The Trimmers Arms**, South Shields

**The Robin Hood**, Jarrow

**The Kings Arms**, Deptford

**The Steamboat**, South Shields

**The Lord Ahsley**, South Shields

**Mid Boldon Club**. East Boldon for allowing us to hold our monthly committee meetings.

### Forthcoming events

The next Branch meeting will be on September 13th at 8pm see website for location.

Next Issue of **CAMRA Angle**:

November 2005

### Contact Us!

We welcome comments & submissions from fellow drinkers which can be sent to our branch e-mail address which is: [sunderlandsouthtyneside.camra@btconnect.com](mailto:sunderlandsouthtyneside.camra@btconnect.com) or posted to the Editor.

### Advertising Rates

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## DOUBLE BLOW FOR CONSUMERS!

This budget is a double blow for beer drinkers following beer price increases last month by several national brewers and pub companies, said Mike Benner, Chief Executive of CAMRA, "This is a disappointing Budget for beer drinkers. This increase is a blow which will hit pubs, and consumers hard." "A penny may not sound like much, but today's tax rise follows recent wholesale beer price rises by some brewers. Some pubs will now be charging as much as 10 pence a pint more than they were only a month ago. At a time when beer consumption is falling and pub-going is in decline this is a potentially devastating outcome for consumers and hard-working licensees." Mr. Benner added, "A tax rise is a flawed strategy which will cost jobs, increase smuggling and uncontrolled drinking and leave responsible beer drinkers out of pocket." CAMRA also criticised Coors brewers and Carlsberg brewers for sending the wrong message to the Chancellor by increasing beer prices only last month. (2.5% by Coors brewery, 4% by Carlsberg brewery and between 2.9% and 3.8% by Enterprise Inns) "Why should Gordon Brown cut his share of the price of a pint when big brewers keep on increasing theirs?" Mike Benner said CAMRA asked the Chancellor to freeze or cut beer duty by a small amount in this year's Budget as part of a long-term strategy towards reducing duty to a level that will take the profit out of beer smuggling. This will enable British pubs to compete on an equal footing with French retailers.

Excise duty for a pint of beer at 5% abv

Austria 9.5	Belgium 7.8	Cyprus 9.1	Czech Republic 3.3	Denmark 17.7	Estonia 6.7
Finland 37.1	France 5.0	Germany 3.6	Greece 5.4	Hungary 7.6	Ireland 37.9
Italy 7.3	Latvia 3.5	Lithuania 3.9	Luxembourg 3.6	Malta 3.4	Netherlands 9.6
Poland 6.6	Portugal 5.9	Slovakia 5.7	Spain 3.4	Sweden 30.4	UK 35.8

Only Finland and Ireland have higher excise duty regimes but Finland has reduced its excise duty rates recently - this has been included. These figures are only approximate due to currency fluctuations

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**\*Regional Pub of the Year\***

The Robin Hood at Primrose Hill has been chosen as North East Pub of the Year by the North East Branches of CAMRA. The competition is open to the 5 pubs that have won branch pub of the year in the North East branches of the Campaign. The winner is chosen by members of the local branches who visit the entrants and judge them on number of criteria including the quality of the beer and the standard of service and welcome. Sunderland & South Tyneside Branch Chair Michael Wynne said: 'As usual, the branch winners were of a very high quality and it hard to select the best from the five. The Robin Hood has now been recognised as the best pub in not just our local area, something that we have known for a long time, but it has now won recognition from lovers of cask ale from the whole North East. This is the second CAMRA award that Jess and Alison McConnell have won this year. Rivet Catcher was voted North East Beer of the Year at Newcastle Beer Festival in April'. As regional winner, the pub now progresses into CAMRA's National Pub of the Year competition. The national winners will be announced during National Pubs week in February next year. The runner- up was the Grand in Bishop Auckland, and the other entries in order were the Victoria in Durham, the Bodega in Newcastle and the Britannia in Darlington.

*Westoe Breweries Ltd:* Dunelm Street: founded 1862 the brewery closed in 1960 and its 83 pubs were bought by Hammonds United Breweries of Tadcaster.

*Matthew Wood & Sons:* Spring Lane Founded 1897 and acquired by Newcastle Breweries in 1919.

### Sunderland

*T E Chapman & Son:* John Street: acquired by Cameron's in 1897. Owned 100 pubs.

*James Deuchar:* Monkwearmouth Brewery: Founded 1880 Brewing ended in 1936 but it continued as a mineral water producer until take over by Newcastle Breweries in 1956.

*R Fenwick & Co:* Low Street: Established 1770 Acquired by George Younger in 1898 with 63 pubs. It was sold to J W Green in 1952 and brewing ended in 1964.

*North Eastern Breweries:* Wear Brewery, Westbourne Road: Registered in 1896 to acquire Bramwell & Co, William Storey of Sunderland and Tower Brewery Spennymoor. It merged with Vaux in 1927 to become Associated Breweries. The Wear Brewery Closed in 1962.

*William Robson:* Middle Street: Brewing ended in 1941 as a result of German bombing but continued to operate as a bottler.

*Vaux Breweries:* Castle Street Founded in 1837 by Cuthbert Vaux at Matlock Street and moved to Castle Street in 1875. It merged with North Eastern Breweries in 1927. The brewery closed in 1999.

*Darwin:* Back Tatham Street: Founded in 1994 at Brewlab at the University of Sunderland. Acquired Hodges of Crook in 1997 to brew commercially. All production switched to Sunderland in 2002.

*Riverside Brewery:* Pallion Shipyard: Started as a brew it yourself operation in 1996 but brewed commercially until 1997. It closed in 1998.

# Past and Present Breweries of Sunderland & South Tyneside

## East Rainton

*North of England Clubs Brewery:* 1905 to 1909.

*Rainton Brewery Co:* 1904 to 1909, acquired by Thomas Lamb of Hetton le Hole. Owned 9 pubs.

## Hetton le Hole

*Thomas Lamb & Sons:* 1823 to 1929. Acquired by Associated Breweries with 40 pubs and closed.

## Houghton le Spring

*Robinson Brothers:* 1892 to 1925. Acquired by Vaux and James Calder of Alloa and closed. Owned 63 pubs.

## Jarrow

*Jarrow Brewing Company:* Established in 2002 by Jess and Allison McConnell at the Robin Hood Pub in Primrose. To cope with increased demand, a second plant is under construction in South Shields.

## South Shields

*R S & D Crosthwaite:* Faires Quay: closed 1900

*John W Pratt:* East Holborn: operated from 1913 to 1927 but continued as a wine merchant.

*John Turnbull & Co:* James Mather Street: Brewery 1918 to 1923.

*William Turnbull & Co:* Saltwell Lane, and Tyne Street: acquired by John Rowell of Gateshead in 1896.

*James Watt:* Rekendyke Lane: 1930.

## A Deptford Stagger

The area between Farringdon Row and Queen Alexandra Bridge along the banks of the Wear has an interesting selection of pubs to attract those who appreciate good cask conditioned ales. You can start this stagger at either end as both have good public transport links. The Ropery is 10 minutes walk from Pallion Metro Station and the Kings Arms is a similar walk from both Millfield and University Stations. Alternatively, Stagecoach buses 10, 11, and 20 stop on Silksworth Row.

First stop on Silksworth Row is the **Museum Vaults**. This is small single roomed lounge that serves a single cask ale. On a recent visit, this was Cameron's Strongarm.

Next stop is the **Kings Arms**. Head along Trimdom Street past PC World and B&Q. Turn right and the Kings is at the foot of the bank. The Kings is one of the oldest pubs in Sunderland and is runner up in the local CAMRA pub of the year competition for 2004. The window panels, bar fittings and windows are all original and the small panelled bar has a large open fire in winter. There is also a small back bar, with table football, served by a hatch in to the main bar area. Six cask beers are on sale. The regular beer is Taylor's Landlord.

Leave the Kings, turn right, and follow the road down towards the former shipyards to our next stop, **the Saltgrass**. This is another former Vaux pub now operated by Pubmaster. It has been our local pub of the year and CAMRA North East Regional Pub of the Year in the early nineties. The pub consists of a small bar with a low ceiling and is decorated with ships artefacts and a small comfortable lounge. Regular cask ales are Draught Bass, Caledonian Deuchars IPA; Two guest beers are usually available as well as Weston's Old Rosie cider. The lounge operates as a restaurant from Wednesday to Sunday evenings. Bar meals and Sunday lunches are also served. Tuesday is quiz night.

Leave the Saltgrass, turn , follow the road past the bus garage, and continue walking and you will reach our last stop..

The Ropery sits on the banks of the Wear in the shadow of the Queen Alexandra Bridge. There is an outside drinking terrace in front of the impressive former rope works and is quite a suntrap in summer. The Ropery re-opened recently as part of the Tavistock group consisting of a restaurant and two bars, one of which sells real ale. At the main entrance, turn left down the stairs to the **Darwin Brewery Tap**. As the name suggests, the focus is on Sunderland brewed Darwin beers. On a recent visit, four Darwin beers were on sale- Ghost Ale, Evolution, Penshaw's Pint, and Black Cat together with Taylor Landlord and Caledonian Deuchars IPA. The glass-fronted cellar is visible at the end of the bar.

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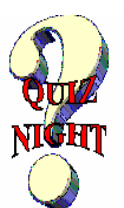
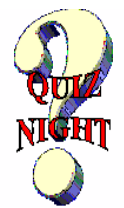
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## National Pub of the Year 2005

The Fat Cat in Norwich, Norfolk, is the only pub to have received this award twice since the competition began in 1988! The National Pub of the Year competition analyses all the criteria that makes a good pub including the quality of the beer, atmosphere, décor, customer service, welcome and value for money. The award was presented to the pub on Wednesday 16th February as a build up to National Pubs Week.

The Fat Cat is described in CAMRA's Good Beer Guide 2005 as an "Ale drinkers' paradise".

This award winning pub serves a range of ales; the tap room can be seen behind the bar. Up to 25 guest beers include one mild and a dark ale, sourced from leading breweries around the country.

Themed weeks are held throughout the year. The pub

stocks up to 30 Belgian bottled beers, plus six on tap. CAMRA's National Pub of the Year in 1998, its popularity ranges from locals to students; visitors to Norwich should not miss it."



Colin Keatley, owner of the Fat Cat said, "I am overwhelmed at winning the National Pub of the Year award for the second time. I am just about to open a new pub in Norwich so this news could not have come at a better time! To be voted best pub in Britain for the first time in 1998 was some achievement, but to run and own the only pub in Britain that has won this award twice is just unbelievable. We have run a good operation at the Fat Cat for over 14 years and my wife and I would like to thank all the staff and locals for their support - without them this wouldn't be possible!"

Mr Keatley plans to open a new pub called the Shed in Lawson Road, Norwich in April. There will be a small brewery adjoining the pub, called the Fat Cat Brewery Company, that will brew some of its own beer to sell at his two pubs.

[www.fatcatpub.co.uk](http://www.fatcatpub.co.uk)

The Runners-Up this year were:

The Olde Swan, Netherton, West Midlands - Tel: 01384 253075

Arden Arms, 23 Millgate, Stockport - Tel: 0161 4802185 or [www.ardenarms.com](http://www.ardenarms.com)

The New Inn, Halse, Somerset, TA4 3AF - Tel: 01823 432352 or

## Another Two Pubs Lost

After struggling along for a while the Bedes Tavern in Jarrow has closed down. When it opened it was stocking two national brands of real ale but quickly began selling some Jarrow beer. Unfortunately the newly refurbished pub did not really take off and the owner sold it to a property developer who promptly knocked it down to make space for private flats.

The Gaslight in Jarrow has also been struggling to stay open for some time now and has had to call time for good, after selling real ale for many years it will become a casualty of the new second Tyne Tunnel

## Third Jarrow Brewery Pub Opens

The third pub operated by the Jarrow Brewery opened at the end of April. **The Maltings** is located in a former dairy in Claypath Lane opposite South Shields town hall. The pub is located on the first floor and the large bar area features lots of wood panelling, alcove seating area and a baby grand piano.

The full range of Jarrow beers are available along with guest beers and Weston's Old Rosie cider.

To cope with demand for their award-winning beers, a new brewery will be installed in the ground floor of the building. Brewing will also continue at the Robin Hood.

The Maltings has full disabled access via a wheelchair lift up to first floor.

The Maltings is open from 11.30 and meals are available in the afternoons.

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## Darwin Brewery Tap

Sunderland-based Darwin Brewery has a new outlet with the opening of their Brewery Tap at the Ropery on Webster's Bank just below the Queen Alexandra Bridge.

The Ropery re-opened in April and is now part of the Tavistock group. The rest of the complex consists of a gastro pub and restaurant, but real ale is only available in the Darwin bar which is located on the lower ground floor at the far end of the building.

The Darwin Bar has 6 handpumps serving a range of Darwin beers from a glass fronted cellar that can be seen at the end of the bar.

The Ropery has always had a reputation for live music and the new owners are carrying on this tradition.

The return of the Ropery completes the Deptford Crawl from the King's Arms down the banks of the Wear.

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## What is Real Ale in a Bottle?



Real Ale in a Bottle (RAIB) is the bottled equivalent of the draught real ales you enjoy at the pub. The beer is unpasteurised and contains yeast and enough fermentable sugars to allow for a slow secondary fermentation in the bottle. Care should be taken when pouring a RAIB to ensure that the yeast remains in the bottle and the refreshing flavoursome beer ends up in the glass.

It is important to note that though a particular beer is a real ale in draught form this is not a guarantee that the bottled version will be real also. Most real ales will be clearly labelled but a quick check to see if there is any yeast sediment will confirm if the beer is a RAIB or look for the CAMRA Logo



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## Brewery News

Both of the local breweries were represented at the recent Bradford Beer Festival. Jarrow Bitter and Rivet Catcher were on sale together with Darwin Black Cat Bitter and Classic No 9.

Darwin Ghost Ale and Cauldron Snout were on the menu for Leeds beer festival.

### Darwin

A new beer, Lemon Tree Ale at 3.8%, a pale wheat beer with a citrus aroma, was available at the recent Darlington CAMRA Spring Thing Festival. Ghost Ale and Classic Number 9 were available at the 29<sup>th</sup> Newcastle Beer Festival.

### Jarrow

A new beer, Tunnel Vision at 4.5% appeared at Darlington Spring Thing festival and the latest seasonal beer Venerable Bede is now available.

### Boddington's Closes

Boddington's Strangeways Brewery has now closed. The keg version of the beer is being brewed at Magor in South Wales and the cask version will come from Hydes in Manchester.

## PUB NEWS

### New Outlets

**Barnes**, Durham Road, Sunderland. Selling Taylor Landlord and Greene King Abbot Ale.

**Grey Hen** in Temple Park Road, South Shields is selling Jennings's Cumberland Ale and Charles Wells Bombardier. **Ropery**, Webster's Bank, Sunderland has reopened and is the home of Darwin's brewery tap.

**Maltings**, Claypath Lane, South Shields, third in the Jarrow Brewery estate.

### South Tyneside News

After a brief closure, The **Gaslight** in Jarrow has finally closed its doors to make way for the new Tyne Tunnel.

Graham Robertson has moved from the **Robin Hood** to run the **Maltings** in South Shields. The **Robin Hood** is now run by Val White who was previously at the Old Fox in Felling.

## Sunderland News

The **King's Arms** has 3 additional handpumps bringing the number of beers up to 9 and an extra pump for real cider is expected shortly.

After a brief closure, the **Isis** in Silksworth Row reopened but no longer sells real ale. In the loss column, the **Burn Hotel** in Houghton has had the handpumps removed and the **Blue Bell** in Fulwell is no longer selling Darwin beers.

## Washington News

A festival of beers from the North East and Cumberland was held at the **Courtyard** at the end of March. Over 40 beers were sold including beers from **Darwin; Jarrow, Big Lamp, Mordue, Yates, Jennings and Tirril**.

## National News

The Tyne Brewery has now closed and all production has moved across the Tyne to the Federation plant in Dunston.

The last regional brewer in the north, **Jennings of Cockermouth** has been sold to **Wolverhampton and Dudley** despite a campaign to keep Jennings independent by CAMRA and shareholders of the brewery.

**W & D** also acquired the company's 131 pubs. The new owners have given assurances about the future of the brewery but the long term future could still be in doubt, as could the survival of some of the **Jennings's** brands.

Hot on the heels of the sale of Jennings comes the news that the country's other super-regional brewer, **Greene King** has bought the Essex brewer, **Ridley's** of Chelmsford together with the company's 76 pubs. Brewing at the Hartford end site will end in the autumn.

**Greene King** also acquired and closed **Morland's** of Abingdon, and **Tolly Cobbold** of Ipswich. Both breweries have since closed.