



CAMRA ANGLE
ISSUE 64 - AUTUMN 2023



SST CAMRA
Beer & Cider Festival
2023

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WELCOME TO THIS EDITION OF CAMRA ANGLE.

As you can tell by the front cover, this is our beer festival issue. This is a new venue for us and we hope you can come along and enjoy the beer, cider and the music. How to get there is detailed on page 5. The second main item of news is that the branch is pleased to announce the launch of our new **Heritage Pub Website**, which is work in progress but see page 14 for more information.

Also inside are some award presentations and a look at our pub of the year trip in July (pages 6 and 7). There is the usual pub news which, to be frank does not paint a very good picture about the number of real ale pubs in the branch. On the plus side however there is a new micropub in Sunderland ,with another possibly on its way.

It is good to report however we have a new brewery in the branch (page 10), and Brewlab have launched their Brewlab Brews Taproom (page 11). There are also feature articles about Dumfries, Tan Hill Inn , Hartlepool and Springwell. Oh, and not forgetting the quiz

Mentioned in the last issue, our Community Award Scheme is still open for nominations Follow this link for more information <https://forms.gle/dmzCwZKtNFV59Rdy7>

Many thanks to our contributors and our advertisers in this issue.

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

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

Ken Paul

Did you know CAMRA has it's own YouTube channel ?

<https://www.youtube.com/@CAMRAOFFICIAL/about>

This is the official channel for CAMRA and home to all free content from **Learn & Discover**, the online learning platform. This is the online home for any one who wants to learn more about beer, cider, perry and the venues we all love to drink them in.

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2000 copies are distributed across the branch and beyond .

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

North East Regional Meeting	Saturday 9th 1pm, The Station House, Durham DH1 4SE
SST CAMRA Beer Festival	Thursday 14th - Saturday 16th - Beggars Bridge , East Boldon NE36 0AB . See page 5.
Branch Meeting	Wednesday 27th , Gin & Ale House, 73 Walter St, Jarrow NE32 3PQ (5 minutes walk from Jarrow Bus & Metro Station)
2024 Good Beer Guide Launch	Thursday 28th - The Courtyard, Washington Arts Centre, Biddick Lane, Fatfield, Washington. NE38 8AB

OCTOBER

Maxim Open Night	Friday 6th October Maxim Brewery, Gladwell Rd, Rainton Bridge, Houghton, DH4 5NL from 5pm.
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NOVEMBER

Maxim Open Night	Friday 3rd November Details as per October.
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Keep an eye out for any Brewlab open day announcements (see also page 10)

Thanks to Fitzgeralds, for hosting our last branch meeting and The Mid Boldon Club for Beer Festival committee meetings.



Image from :- <https://caskaleweek.co.uk/>

SST CAMRA Beer & Cider Festival 2023

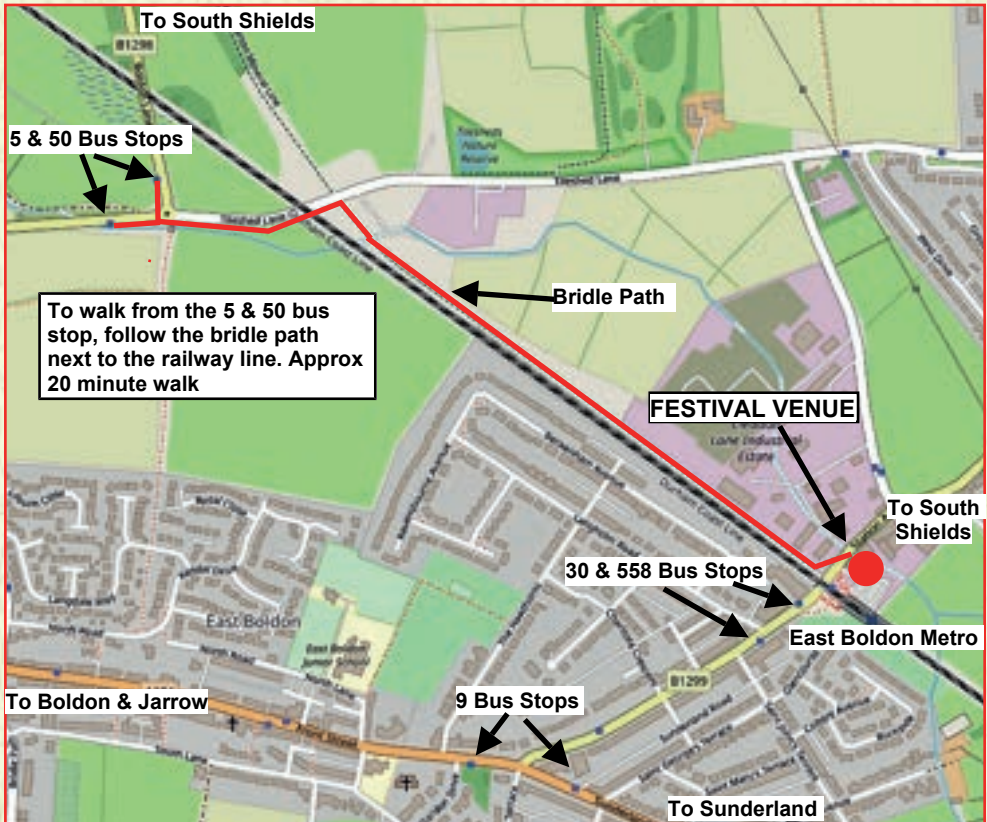
Our venue for this year's festival is **Beggar's Bridge Pub & Kitchen, East Boldon NE36 0AB. Tel 5373969**

Festival hours are noon till 1030 pm each day ; Thursday Sept 14th - Saturday Sept 16th

The pub hours are 11 - 11 on Thursday, 11 - 00,30 on Friday & Saturday

The pub food service times are 11.30 - 7.30pm (last orders 7pm) on Thursday, 11 - 6.30 pm (last orders 6pm) on Friday & Saturday

Below is a guide on how to get there.



Green Line Metro to Sunderland & Newcastle, every 12 mins daytimes, 15 mins eves
5 to South Shields & Jarrow, every 30 mins daytimes, hourly evenings
9 to Sunderland & Jarrow, every 30 mins daytimes, hourly evenings
30 to South Shields & Boldon, every hour daytimes, 2 hourly evenings
50 to South Shields , Washington & Co Durham, every 30 mins daytimes, hourly eves
558 to Seaburn & Heworth, every hour daytimes only

<https://travelineneast.info/plan-a-journey/>

Awards Page

CAMRA members from the five North East Region branches have been out and about judging the regional Pub of the Year (POTY) and Club of the Year (COTY) for 2023. An article about our branch judging trip the POTY is on the next pages.

The North East Regional



Pub of the Year 2023 is **The Grey Horse**, Consett Co Durham. **The Golden Smog** in Stockton is runner up.

The North East Regional Club of the Year 2023 is **The Mid Boldon Club**, East Boldon, last years winner. **The Masonic Centre**, Chester le Street was runner up.

Mid Boldon Club director **Steve Drummond** said :-

“There are some fantastic clubs out there which don't get the recognition they deserve. So, to be chosen as Regional Club of the Year is absolutely fantastic”

A correction. In the last issue of CAMRA Angle there were photographs of the Pub and Club of the Year presentations. Unfortunately, the image for **The Avenue, the Sunderland Cider Club of the Year** - was just a certificate. We are happy to correct this omission.



Above owner **Dave Graham**, left is presented with his certificate by Peter Tong, to add to his collection.

Congratulations to all.

The Great British Beer Festival, held in London Olympia at the beginning of August, saw several awards announced.

The Champion Beer Of Britain winners were :-

Gold Elland - 1872 Porter
Silver Greene King - Abbot Ale
Bronze - Salopian Darwin's Origin



Also awarded was the 2023 Home Brew Competition winner. This went to Patrick Davies for his **Magnificent Frigate Strong Mild (6.2 %)**

Finally, **Green Jack's Baltic Trader (10.5 %)** has won CAMRA's Champion Bottled Beer of Britain title.

CAMRA Press Releases give more information about these awards, along with other CAMRA news at <https://camra.org.uk/about/media-centre/press-releases/>

CAMRA'S Pub of the Year 2023

Terry Ford has a great day out

On Saturday 8th July 2023, 14 gallant crew set sail our Captain Karl our driver for the south, well Darlington! The first port of



call was **The Quakerhouse** (above) in Darlington, on sale was Bitter & Twisted by Mad Scientist, Fast & Loose, Jackler and Black Dub Stout, all from Wensleydale, A Little Faith by Northern Monk, Booze Brothers by Mad Scientist, Crouch by Front Row, I had Pedal Pusher from Mithril. This is a popular music venue in Darlo.

Our second pub was to be **The Golden Smog** of Stockton but we were early and it wasn't open yet, so we all piled into the cleverly named Topsy Turtle. This was close by in a small arcade and was an unexpected surprise. Even though it was not to be judged I thought it was the best pub of the trip, welcoming, cosy and good beer.

By now the Golden Smog, a previous winner, was open. It can be found down a narrow alley way which gives it a rustic feel (below). There were six hand pulls on the bar including: Vista, Iron Ore, Grey Ghost IPA, As You Were and Swim To The



Moon Breakfast Stout. As was expected being a previous winner the beer was excellent!

Leaving Stockton, we set off for Durham Branch's Town Pub of the Year **The Grey Horse** in Consett built in 1848. This pub is a gorgeous traditional pub with mining paintings, fireplaces and decent grub (see page 6 for picture)..

The beers included White Hot, Steel Town Bitter, Consett Stout and Red Dust. All these beers are brewed at the back of the pub and the brewery is called the Consett Ale Works.

Our final port of call was Gateshead's latest micropub called **The Microbus** a rather unusual place. Based in an old railway arch and modelled on a camper van there were a few quirky features which add to the novelty effect of the pub. There is a mock bus stop sign and a LED display which tells you the times of the next bus to leave at the bus stop right outside the pub, so you can get a swift one before your bus leaves! The beer was very good, the landlady very helpful and my guess is that if they had placed more emphasis on CAMRA's aim and objectives they probably would have won!

An excellent day out and it seems strange to me that more people do not go on these CAMRA Pub Of The Year trips as these pubs are considered to be the best in the North East!



The gallant crew outside The Microbus



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Pub & Club News

(whatpub.com)

Sunderland city centre saw the opening of **The Mortal**



Hound, the brewery tap for the Blockyard Brewery. . Three handpulls are available, serving Blockyard and other local beers. There is a large picture



window looking down Stockton Road. There are plans for food to be available. This micropub can be found in Vine Place

Not too far away in Mary Street (opposite Chaplins) planning permission is been sought for another

micropub This will be in a former hairdressers and will have "a military style" .

At the coast In Roker **The Poetic License** no longer sells real ale.

It's all change in South Shields. **The Trimmers Live Lounge** closed at the end of May, and reopened under new management as the Trimmers Arms in July. It has been reported there is no real ale.

After a brief closure, **The Harbour Lights** on Lawe Top is now open following redecoration. A recent visit reports no real ale. The pub will close again however for an extension to be built. .

In the last issue of CAMRA Angle we reported that **The Lambton Arms** in the town centre had reopened, after having briefly closed. Well since that issue it closed again and then reopened on 21st August at 9 am. The pub is literally next door to the Mechanics Arms and were both owned by Camerons Brewery. The brewery has since sold off its leased/tenanted estate to FB Taverns.

The Cyprus Hotel on Chichester Road was also a Camerons pub, but is now wholly owned and called **The New Cyprus**.

The Riverview in Mill Dam no longer sells real ale.

Meanwhile in Washington **The Wearside Farm** (near Nissan) has stopped selling real ale. During the recent rains **The Cross Keys** in Washington Village temporarily closed due to a flooded cellar after the heavy rains.

Some good news in The



Village, **The Steps** now has extended opening hours, opening 1130 am Monday to Saturday and at noon on Sunday. This is for the summer, such as it is.

If you have any pub news please either update the relevant Whatpub entry or email :-

pubsofficer@sst.camra.org.uk Thank you , Ken Paul

Here is a useful link if you are into micropubs.

<https://micropubadventures.co.uk/micropub-map/>

You can either subscribe for updates or just browse the map.

Brewery News

Blockyard Brew Co.

See the pub news on page 9 about their new brewery tap, The Mortal Hound, in Sunderland City Centre.

Brewlab.

August was the start of their regular open days and their tap room launch. See next page.

Darwin.

June saw the release of Don Carlos: a 4.4% pale ale with Calypso and Centennial hops, and most recently Cyborg Bette a 4.3% pale ale brewed with Citra, Chinook and experimental hop CF299



Lazy Lizard. Based in The Stables in Cleadon, they brew occasional small batch keg beers for sale in the pub.

Maxim. Seasonal beers now available are Medusa, which will feature at our Beer and Cider Festival, and Raspberry Porter. Available for the Wetherspoons Autumn Beer Festival (from 11th - 22nd October) will be



Slovenia Pale Ale.

Now a teaser - coming this autumn will be a new Treacle Toffee Stout, keep an eye out for details nearer the time.

Looking ahead to Christmas there will be four seasonal offerings : Great Escape, Santa's Soot, Hapi Christmas and Santastic.

The popular Open Nights continue, details are given on the Diary Dates Page Four.

Vaux The brewery have acquired other premises in nearby Charles Street, on the north bank of the river near Wearmouth Bridge. The taproom will remain at it's present address in Monk Street. Their new German style wheat beer is now ready, a 4.7% brew called Wanderlust, as is a 4% bitter in cask, VPA. The former brewer is now at Almasty in Newcastle and his former assistant is doing the brewing, including a new brew of Vaux's 5% stout Black Wave.

Wear Beer This brand new micro brewery has been established in the basement of **The Ship Isis** in Sunderland.

The brewer is Julio Romero and two launch beers, a 3.8% pale ale and a 4.4% bitter were released initially, followed by a stout (4.8%) and a 5.1% IPA.

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

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

Brewlab launches its Tap Room

Michael Wynne reports

World renowned brewing teaching facility, Brewlab has opened its doors to show off the beers they produce. The first **Brewlab Brews Tap Room** event



was held at the brewery on Friday 4 August.

The plan, while they test the waters is to open a couple of times a month and possibly on some Sunderland AFC home games.

For the first event, there were 4 cask ales Blonde (4%), Wearside Red (4.5%), West Quay Porter (5%) and Belgian Tripel (6%). In addition, two keg beers; N-Spire, a 3.8% session pale and Pilsner (4%). The beers have been produced by brewer Joe Robinson.

Along with these beers, there was an intriguing

selection of bottled beers under the Pilot name, featuring some of the more experimental brews from Brewlab students.

Most interesting were a range of **Kombucha**. This is new to me. It is a sweet, black fermented tea, which is alcohol free, but it is then refermented with yeast, to make what I suppose would be alcoholic tea. Of the four Kombucha on offer, I bought two bottles of Pineapple, Mango and Cayenne. As you could buy four bottles for £11, I also took two bottles of a Rye IPA,

On the day, I tried all 4 cask beers, I particularly enjoyed the Wearside Red and the Belgian Tripel. All 4 beers were excellent quality and well served.

The next Taproom opening is on **Friday 25 August from 2 to 8 pm**. Both cash and card payments are accepted. You can keep up to date with events at Brewlab on their **Facebook** page or website :-

www.brewlab.co.uk



Above :- Inside the brewery
Below :- N Spire and Pilsner keg



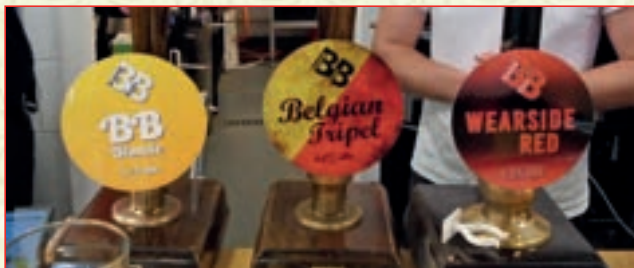
Photos by the author.

Getting there :-

Brewlab is easily reached using Go North East service 8 Country Ranger. From Park Lane alight at West Quay Road, or from Washington, alight at North Road. For time table information, go to www.gonortheast.co.uk/services/GNE/8

Brewlab Address :-

Unit 1; West Quay Court; Sunderland Enterprise Park; Sunderland; Tyne and Wear; SR5 2TE,





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Pub Protection and Heritage Updates

Ian Monteith Preston reports

I gave you a taste of my role as branch Pub Protection Officer in our recent summer edition of CAMRA Angle Online (link at end of next page). Since then there has been a huge national outcry over the fate of the **Crooked House Pub**, near Dudley, West Midlands. This total loss is extremely sad but it has lit a very bright spotlight on the kind of behaviour predatory developers display all too often while destroying our pub heritage for their profit. It is hoped the outrage displayed by politicians, the press and the public on this occasion will eventually be turned into stronger protection for pubs I also hope the local authority involved will insist the pub is fully restored, brick by brick. Ironically the Crooked House story hit the national press just days after CAMRA released its latest figures on the state of pubs losses over the previous six months. The source of this detailed information is gathered from data obtained at local level and can often include information supplied to us by you. Remember use the "Submit Updates" tab on the WhatPub entry for a pub or just email us if you find out info about a pub you think we should know. Incredibly, this CAMRA report highlighted that in

almost 30% of pub demolitions and change of use cases, the developers have failed to even follow existing legislation to protect pubs and not obtained planning permission. It also highlighted reluctance by some local authorities to see the existing rules are correctly adhered to.

So, a local update

In South Tyneside the owners of **The Queen Vic** in South Shields (below) have eventually made a retrospective planning application for the closure and change of use of this pub in 2019. The branch is objecting but sadly the four



year delay caused both by the owners dragging their feet and some reluctance from South Tyneside Council (STC) to enforce planning law will make it an uphill battle. The best outcome will be the planners refusing the application and the owners being required to restore the pub.

We also await the

decision from STC planners on an application to demolish **The Simonside Arms** (below) that we've opposed.



In Sunderland a long running planning application to demolish **The Cavalier**, Silksworth (above) has been granted despite the branch objecting. In our opinion the developers never provided sufficient evidence of the venues unviability as a pub. In a new planning application we've objected to plans for change of use of **The Halfway House**, (pictured over) Southwick. The application makes no attempt at all to provide any evidence the pub is unviable yet unbelievably

Continued

the predatory developer in this case is Sunderland City Council (SCC) Housing Department. It will be very interesting to see how the SCC planners interpret their own policy to protect pubs



as this change of use is lacking evidence so should easily be rejected"

Some good news

I always keep the good news to the end and I am delighted to announce we now have a branch "**Heritage Pubs**" website <https://heritagepubs.sst.camra.org.uk/> -

This is still a work in progress but there has already been some very hard work by Ken Paul and Terry Ford to add a town centre "**Heritage Pub**

Trail" for both Sunderland and South Shields. Please check it out and use the contact form on the site or email

admin.team@heritagepubs.sst.camra.org.uk with any comment, suggestions or if you want to get involved in developing the content on the site.

Summer CAMRA Angle Online link: <https://sst-arch.camra.org.uk/dl.php?id=200556>

Tan Hill Inn

Ian Monteith Preston spends the night

If you look up the Tan Hill Inn in WhatPub the first sentence says "A *destination pub in every sense*" Well I can't argue with that!

In late July myself, Mrs M-P and our Golden Retriever spent a night there as the final stopover after a few days hotel hopping across the Lake District. We approached England's legendary highest pub over barren moors in a bitter gale with horizontal rain! Somehow we ended up in the middle of a convoy of classic sports cars! We arrived to find more parked outside alongside dozens of camper vans, motor cycles and pedal cycles etc.

Checking in, our room was basic but all we needed for a place to sleep, most of our time planned to be in

the three public rooms below, each with a roaring fire.

The place was rammed with leather and lycra clad cyclists, classic car clubbers, hill walkers, foreign/domestic tourists, stag party, hen party and lots of dogs, the hubbub of busy pub noise! Busy when we arrived, busy late on when we went to our beds and busy next morning at 8 am breakfast.

Five handpulls, four nationals and a "Tan Hill" rebadge were on. I tried Theakston Old Peculiar, Black Sheep Bitter and Blonde. As you'd expect for a busy place, all in good condition.

For my first visit, I liked Tan Hill Inn. We enjoyed the sociable atmosphere, talked to several other groups but there were

niggles. I hated every table was reserved with three or four reservations. They wouldn't tell you your table until 5 minutes before the booking. They insisted you move when your allotted time was up, and a 40 minute delay for our food to arrive left us just finished eating in time!...We (like everyone else) needed to move four or five times to tables only free for perhaps an hour! The food was good basic pub food, the staff thin on the ground for a busy place, run off their feet and as a result tired and not particularly customer friendly.

The place plays on its fame and I felt run to cram people in, then encourage those already in to go and I suspect they're not bothered if you don't go back!

Bottle Conditioned Beers

Mo Moseley writes

Bad news on the bottle-conditioned front.

Marstons, the once-respected regional brewer but now with much bigger ambitions, have stopped bottle conditioning their flagship beer, Pedigree. As soon as I heard this I rushed along to Morrisons to see if there was still any old stock I could pick up. Too late.

So I bought four bottles of Shepherd Neame's 1698 instead, also bottle-conditioned and, in my

opinion, rather better than Pedigree. I could also have bought Proper Job from St Austell and there were one or two bottle-conditioned beers from Belgium.

Perhaps we should make a complete list of bottle-conditioned beers that are available at shops in our area. Also is Marstons Pedigree available on cask anywhere near? The writing was on the wall with Marstons. Pre Covid they brought out three limited edition bottle-conditioned

beers under the name Horninglow Street, the address of the original Marstons brewery. All at 7.4% ABV, there was a British IPA, a stout, and an American IPA. Three good beers but then, without any explanation that I saw, the series stopped. And now Pedigree is no longer bottle-conditioned

Worth checking Durham Brewery website for their bottle conditioned beers-ed.

Branch Locale

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

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

Alum Ale House



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alumalehouse22@gmail.com



Capps off to Hartlepool

Guest writer @MorpethWolf goes on a trip..

Reg Smythe (1917-98) was the creator of one of my generations' most famous comic strip characters, Andy Capp. I remember as a paperboy in my schooldays taking a sneak look inside the *Daily Mirror* and the *Sunday Mirror* newspapers and chuckling along at Andy's working-class antics. Reg Smythe hailed from Hartlepool and it was with a degree of excitement that I set off from Newcastle Central station on a 50 minute train journey to this harbour town.

On arrival the first pub of choice was obvious. The **'Rat' or Rat Race Ale House** is situated at



Hartlepool railway station and can be accessed from the platform. This famous single-roomed micro pub was the second one to open in the UK. Its small interior is welcoming with the walls and ceiling ablaze with hundreds of pump-clips. Previously used as a taxi office and newsagents it was established in 1969 by ale enthusiast Peter Morgan. At the time of my

visit (May 2023) it had served 1,947 different beers from 524 different breweries, a fact that is updated on a small chalkboard near the street entrance. With a choice of 3 real ales and 2 ciders, I opted for the smooth and hazy Carnival Brewery, Ribbons of Distinction; Citra 4.2%. With a capacity of just 22 persons, arriving at opening time is recommended and unusually for any pub, table service is mandatory.

Exiting the station, crossing a busy dual carriageway and off Victoria Road, it takes less than 15 minutes to walk to **King John's Tavern**.

Wetherspoon's converted this former furniture shop to a one of their many popular pubs but it is now owned by local pub group Tees Inns. Its large split-level interior was bustling and it has the hallmarks of its previous owners. The choice of real ales is of national ales alongside local Camerons Brewery fayre. Greene King, Morland Old Golden Hen 4.1% may not be everyone's first choice of beers, but I found it to be refreshing and of a reasonable quality

The easiest route to **The Causeway** is a 10 minute stroll south along York Road and then taking a left turn into Elwick Road. A

traditional pub which is well worthy of a visit. This Victorian red brick pub stands beside Camerons brewery and offers Strongarm as well as beers from the Marstons range. Well, "when in Rome" as they say, I ordered a pint of Camerons, Strongarm 4.0% a beer I would normally overlook in favour of a pale ale. I was amazed by its superb quality; smooth, creamy with a deep caramel taste and at £3.60 / pint it was really good value.

Camerons Brewery is now the only remaining major independent family brewer in the North East of England. Brewing at the site in Hartlepool dates back to 16th century and The Lion Brewery has been



home to Camerons since 1865. Their **Anchor Tap Room & Bottle Shop (above)** is furnished in a contemporary style with comfortable seating areas. This former visitor centre offers an extensive range of bottles and cans. Normally two handpulls dispense beer but at the time of my

Continued

visit only Camerons, Strongarm 4.0% was available. As you would expect the quality and taste was exceptional. Strongarm doesn't get any better this. ! Whilst enjoying this unbelievably smooth ale I chatted with a local who recommended that I try it served as a "Banker". In all of my years of visiting pubs this was a term I had not heard of, but I was keen order it should I visit another pub that day with Strongarm available.

Crossing the busy dual carriageway again and heading up Hucklehoven Way, in just over 5 minutes I was at **Hops & Cheese** situated on Tower Street. This spacious pub is very unique offering real and craft ales alongside cheeses and charcuterie. All to be enjoyed in relaxed surroundings which provide a Mediterranean feel. When I visited the three handpulls had two real ales available and I chose Perpetual Motion V3, 3.8% from Stockton-on-Tees brewer Three Brothers. I was amused by the cheese grater hanging lampshades over the bar as I sipped this citrus flavoured IPA

It was time for a bite to eat and two minutes' walk away is **The Ward Jackson** a very modern Wetherspoon's outlet with plenty of seating on a single level. Through large windows the sunshine filled the front area of the pub where I sat and enjoyed one of my favourite beers from the North East; Big

Lamp, Prince Bishop Ale 4.8% accompanied by a good value pizza. The pub was getting busier as locals were beginning to fill the pub for a much anticipated Friday night out.

The Headland area of Hartlepool is easily accessible from the towns' main bus station. I took the regular No. 7 service and after a 20 minute bus ride I arrived at Town Square. Less than 3 minutes' walk from here I was able to pay



homage to my cartoon strip 'hero'. Jean Smythe, wife of artist Reg Smythe, unmasked the 5 ft high bronze sculpture in June 2007. The statue, by Shropshire artist Jane Robbins, captures the working class hero in a typically relaxed pose presumably against a pub bar.

The family owned **Fisherman's Arms** is a 2023 CAMRA Good Beer Guide listed pub located on Southgate. Here I sampled Durham Brewery, Mudita 3.9% pale ale whilst admiring the traditional surroundings of this single roomed pub.

Refreshed, it was time for my last pub visit of the day

and within 6 minutes I was walking into **The Globe** located on a street corner in Northgate. Camerons,



Strongarm 4.0% was available and with some trepidation I asked for a pint served as a "Banker". With a polite nod the bar person pulled a half pint into a pint glass and then put it in the fridge behind the bar. He then took out another glass which was also half filled and continued to pull a full pint. What was put on the bar in front of me was a sight which looked quite ridiculous. Along with a thick foamy head below the glass rim there was a mini-mountain of froth above it. But my smirk was short lived as I once again enjoyed incredibly smooth tasting ale in this superb two roomed community pub full of locals enjoying the very same beery experience.

During my bus ride back to the town centre I reflected on the day and the drinking delights I had experienced in, what most people would call, an unfashionable town in the North East of England. I'm sure Andy Capp would have approved.

Tara-a-bit !

Dumfries

Michael Wynne pays a return visit.

Dumfries is the principal town of south west Scotland and is only 40 minutes by train from Carlisle. It was chosen for a birthday excursion so a party of four arrived the town at 10:30.

This small town has a diverse range of pubs and usually rewards with an interesting range of beers from Scotland, Cumberland and the North East, mostly from Northumberland.

On leaving the station, cross the road, continue past the Waverley Hotel, and past County Hall, and you will reach English Street. The highlight of this street is TB Watson spirit merchants, which offers an excellent range of whiskies from Scotland and further afield along side Scottish gin and rum. Their online presence is called Dram busters and they run a brilliant whisky festival in November.

Turn right on to and continue along High Street until you reach the Burns



Statue. Our first stop , for breakfast is the local Wetherspoon (above), **Robert the Bruce**, in an

imposing former chapel, at the top of Buccleuch Street. We availed ourselves of the large breakfast, which includes black pudding and potato scones in place of the dreaded hash browns. Six cask beers were available, including the usual suspects, but Ruddles Bitter is replaced by Belhaven 80/-. Standard price is £2.55 with Belhaven for £1.77. We settled on coffee.

Leave the pub, turn right, pass Barbour's Department Store and you will arrive at our first stop, **Cavens Arms** (GBG 2023).

This smart bar is a converted shop that offers excellent food and has a small bar area to the rear. The pub had been Dumfries and Stewartry CAMRA pub of the year for as long as I have been going to Dumfries. Today, the cask beers were Oakham Inferno, Thornbridge Crackendale, Five Kingdoms Prentice, Born Amber, Old Speckled Hen, Taylor Landlord, Fyne Jarl and Swannay Orkney IPA. Four of the range are Scottish. I would usually go for the Orkney IPA, but this time I went for the Five Kingdoms.

Leave the Cavens, turn left, and when you reach the River Nith turn left and into Friars Vennel, where we arrive at our next stop **The Riverside Tap**.

(below) This was the first time I had visited and it has been open around two



years and is a modern style craft beer emporium. There were 10 keg taps and one cask beer on handpump, displayed on a number of screens throughout the bar. The cask offering was Borderlands Red Reiver from Langholm in the east of Dumfries and Galloway; a new brewery for me.

There was also an excellent selection of bottles, cans and minicasks. This is a



welcome addition to the local pub scene and one for a future visit.

Leave the Tap, turn left up the Vennel and on the crossroads with Irish Street, you will reach

Continued

The Douglas Arms. This is a typical south of Scotland town centre pub and offers two real ales: Stewart 80/- and Great North Eastern Smoke Screen, a passion fruit and mango DDH IPA. Service was friendly and efficient. The Dougie took the local pub of the year crown from the Cavens this year.

Continue up the Vennel back to the Burns Statue. On the other side of the square, pass the Nationwide Building Society on Crescent, then turn right onto Queensberry Street and we reach the **Tam O' Shanter Inn**, (opposite) another small pub with recently refurbished bar and a rear pool room and beer garden. Three cask beers were available, all from

Scotland: Fyne Off the Clock and two from Five Kingdoms Invisible Hand, a traditional Heavy and Bright Idea. With CAMRA discount, this was the cheapest in town at £3.35. The Invisible Hand was a good representation of this traditional beer style.

Next, continue along Queensberry Street, turn left onto Great King Street and on the right at the crossroads is the **Fleshers Arms**. The name comes from the slaughterhouses that were nearby.



Another small pub with three Scottish beers: Sulwath Moffat Toffee, Five Kingdoms Summerisle and Bellfield Lawless Village IPA, The Moffat Toffee was very nice, and tasted of err, toffee. This is another recent reopening and is under the ownership of the couple who used to run the Tam.

Return to the station by turning left, then left again on English Street. Beer prices are similar to the North East, with £3.50 being common and £4 most expensive.

There are two trains an hour from Newcastle to Carlisle, and one an hour from Carlisle to Dumfries. An off-peak day return costed £17.35 with a railcard,

Thanks to Dumfries & Stewartry CAMRA

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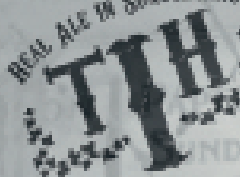
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Branch pubs and clubs that offer either a discount scheme, loyalty card or accept CAMRA 50p vouchers. Loyalty cards are available to all regular customers, not just CAMRA members. If you have any updates please email:- [sst.pubsofficer@gmail.com](mailto:ssst.pubsofficer@gmail.com).

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

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

Pub Quiz (Answers on Page 27)

- 1 Who wrote the novel Little Women?
- 2 Going Straight was the 1978 follow up to which well known TV sitcom?
- 3 Hexakosioihexekontahexaphobia is the fear of which number?
- 4 Which Australian State cancelled their hosting of the 2024 Commonwealth Games?
- 5 Which of these is furthest north in the Atlantic - The Canaries, Madeira, The Azores or Cape Verde?
- 6 What is the name of Barbie's boyfriend?
- 7 Who piloted Iron Maidens charter aircraft Ed Force One when touring?
- 8 Which London Underground Line has trains every 100 seconds at peak times,- Jubilee Line, Elizabeth Line or Victoria Line?
- 9 Who wrote the novel The Godfather?
- 10 Name the capital of Ghana
- 11 Three women have appeared on Bank of England notes ; Elizabeth Fry, Jane Austen and which other?
- 12 In 1980 Abba had a hit with Super Trouper. What is a super trouper?
- 13 In 1980 REO Speedwagon had a hit with Keep on Loving You. What is an REO Speedwagon?
- 14 TV :- what happened in the world of snooker on 23rd July 1969
- 15 Which English North Western town is the home of Bentley cars?
- 16 Name the former British railway company whose name was revived in 2018?
- 17 Which sporting venue and London Underground Station are both named after a geometric shape?
- 18 The sale, fire and demolition of The Crooked House in Dudley made the national news. What was the name of the brewery on the front of the pub?
- 19 Name the pub below left , featured in this issue
- 20 Name this branch pub, below right





THE STATION HOUSE,
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- SUN: 2PM - 9PM • TUES - THURS: 4PM - 10.30PM,

Springwell Village - The Guide Post

The Wandering Bear pays a visit.

As I am so short of spare time these days, my Wandering opportunities are extremely limited. Still, if I can nip out for a beer or two without causing too much inconvenience to the other members of my family then I will always try my best to head out and sample a new pub. And so at the end of February 2022, I made my way to the village of Springwell and specifically to the Guide Post.

Springwell is situated in Sunderland, right on the border with Gateshead (it has a Gateshead post code). The first residences were built in 1821 to house the workers of a nearby colliery, and although the village has of course grown since then it still holds its own quaint charm. Home to the Bowes Railway Museum, the railway itself ran from 1826 until 1974.

The Guide Post is situated in the village centre. Nearby is Springwell Club and the long closed Perseverance Arms. So for the purposes of this Wander, I am sticking to the one pub.



The pub is part of the Black Rose group, and sadly has no real ale. However, it was nice enough to pay a visit with my youngest son in tow.

I paid £6.90 for a pint of Beavertown Neck Oil and a Fruit Shoot for the bairn, with a further half of Neck Oil setting me back £2.10. And very nice it was too. The pub was quiet at the time, with a few people dotted about and the atmosphere was friendly. The service was excellent, and everything was clean and tidy with lots of comfortable seating.

I would describe the building as being one-roomed, however, due to the layout it could just as easily be described as two-roomed, with access between the two through a couple of open-plan doorways. The important bit to note though is that

there is a lot of space to either socialise with others or to just sit on your own.

There are fireplaces (always good to have!), and the pub is child and dog-friendly. A jukebox is available for use, with

some TV's on the wall. I noticed a games machine should that be your thing, and there is a large outdoor area for when the weather is nice. The large food menu has lots of different options to cater for most dietary requirements, so most people should be able to find something to their tastes. There is also a car park.

To conclude, this is a fine pub with lots to offer, and the village is lucky to have it.

*The Guide Post
Makepeace Terrace,
Springwell Village
Gateshead NE9 7RR*

<https://whatpub.com/pubs/SUN/6788/guide-post-gateshead>

The BBC have an archive called BBC Rewind. An interesting piece which first appeared on Look North in 1968 is worth a view. It's about the last pub in Sunderland to be a men only pub. Those interviewed by reporter Luke Casey were in favour of the lifting of this restriction. The news clip can be viewed here -

<https://bbcrewind.co.uk/asset/611257879e2c440020e8f2ee?categories=societyAndCulture&q=vestry&size=30>

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

BRANCH SOCIAL MEDIA DETAILS	PRESS & MEDIA CONTACTS
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Quiz Answers

1	Louisa May Alcott	11	Florence Nightingale
2	Porridge	12	Spotlight used in large venues
3	Fear of the number 666	13	Make of truck such as a fire engine
4	Victoria	14	Pot Black broadcast in colour for first time.
5	The Azores	15	Crewe
6	Ken	16	LNER
7	Bruce Dickinson	17	Oval
8	Victoria Line	18	Banks Ales
9	Mario Puzo	19	Tan Hill Inn
10	Accra	20	Stables, West Herrington



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and make new friends

5 Save
YOUR LOCAL

6 Find the
**BEST PUBS
IN BRITAIN**

Get great
7 **VALUE FOR
MONEY**

8 **DISCOVER**
pub heritage and the
great outdoors

Enjoy great
9 **HEALTH BENEFITS**
(really!)

10 **HAVE YOUR SAY**

What's yours?

Discover your reason
and join the campaign today:
www.camra.org.uk/10reasons



Campaign
for
Real Ale