



CAMRA ANGLE



SPRING 2025 - ISSUE 70

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CAMRA 50TH ANNIVERSARY

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WELCOME TO THIS EDITION OF CAMRA ANGLE.

Welcome to the 70th edition of CAMRA Angle. It may interest you to know that the first edition of our magazine has been going since 2002. The look of the magazine has changed considerably in that time. This issue includes, dotted around these pages, the new CAMRA logo which as recently been launched. This, combined with a new standard palette of colours, gives this edition a slightly different look.

On the subject of looks, if you are wondering about the pub images on the cover, wait till you get to the middle pages (clue; its called **"And the Winners Are"**!)

Also in this issue Peter Tong has written another person focus pub article, while Mark Taylor and The Wandering Bear have also been out and about. There is comprehensive look at Public Affairs from Michael Wynne, who also writes another Beer on the Box review.

But wait there's more, two of us visited the recent CAMRA Winter Beer festival and enjoyed a Burton Union beer. A previous edition of the Angle was spotted in Glasgow. While on the subject of over the border, there is good news from Cumberland. Finally, there is a reminder to members on how to score their beers and what more the new CAMRA website offers regarding beer quality. Let's not forget the pub news, brewery news and the good old quiz.

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

Enjoy the read - Ken Paul

Contributors :- Brewery Liaison Officers, Ken Paul, Hugh Price, Mark Taylor, Peter Tong, Wandering Bear and Michael Wynne. All photographs are by the editor unless stated. Uncredited pieces are by the editor.

The Branch would like to thank Chesters in Sunderland for hosting our last branch meeting and The Mid Boldon Club for holding beer festival meetings.

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

BRANCH CONTACTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 27

ADVERTISING IN CAMRA ANGLE

We have been busy acquiring advertisers for this magazine. Without them, we would not be able to present a printed CAMRA Angle for your enjoyment and information. Please support them.

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DIARY DATES

March 2025	
North East Regional Meeting	Saturday March 1 st , Victoria Comet, Neville Street, Newcastle (opp Central Station)
Maxim Open Night	Friday 7 th March 5pm -10pm Maxim Brewery, Gladwell Rd, Rainton Bridge, Houghton, DH4 5NL
Brewlab Taproom Open day	Friday 14 th March 2pm-8pm. Unit 1, West Quay Court, Sunderland Enterprise Park SR5 2TE
Coxhoe Village Hall Beer Festival	March 20 th - 22 nd (see back page for details)
Branch Meeting	Wednesday 26 th March 8pm, Mid Boldon Club, 60 Front Street, East Boldon, NE36 0SH
Brewlab Taproom Open day	Friday 28 th March Details as above
April 2025	
Maxim Open Night	Friday 4 th April - Details as per March
Newcastle Beer & Cider Festival	April 9 th - 12 th Northumbria Students Union, (See page 21)
Brewlab Taproom Open day	Friday 11 th April Details as above
May 2025	
Maxim Open Night	Friday 2 nd May - Details as per March
Advance Notice :-	
Branch Beer Festival	Thursday 11 th September to Saturday 13 th September 2025 - Beggars Bridge, East Boldon NE36 0AB
Look out for announcements on social media or our online FUTURE EVENTS page https://sst.camra.org.uk/wordpress/?page_id=42	



https://sst.camra.org.uk/wordpress/?page_id=2
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Locale promotes pubs stocking locally brewed ale in order to reduce the number of beer miles from brewery to cellar. Online is a list of those in our branch that sell beer brewed in Northumberland, Tyne & Wear and County Durham. Any updates please email the branch Pubs Officer sst.pubsofficer@gmail.com



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North Sea

OPENING HOURS

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SUNDAY 12 NOON-10.30PM

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

Ryhope

The “headline news” in this issue concerns **The Guide Post**. Landlord Keith Dewart and his wife Julie will be retiring from the pub in April. They have been running this popular community local for nine years, during which time they have offered excellent quality real ales. They have featured in CAMRA’s Good Beer Guide since 2020.



Keith and Julie are pictured above, middle and right, alongside Linda. This photo was taken by Peter Tong, who wrote an article about the pub in CAMRA Angle Issue 67 - <https://sst-arch.camra.org.uk/dl.php?id=221961>

The branch wishes them well; they will be very much missed.

Cleadon

Plans have been submitted to South Tyneside Council to convert a church hall into

a cafe and cocktail bar. It is unknown at this time if they be selling real ale.

Hebburn

Dougie’s Tavern, formerly known as the White Lead and The Royal Hotel has changed hands and is now known as **The Riverside Inn**. No real ale reported.

Jarrow

The Lord Nelson in Monkton Village no longer sells real ale. Meanwhile, just north of Jarrow town centre, **Johnny’s** has closed.

Sunderland

There was a report in the Sunderland Historical Society that a member has acquired **The Clarendon** on High Street East, on the way to the docks. A



refurbishment is taking place; we await further developments. The White Plaque outside the pub states it is Sunderland’s

“Oldest Pub”. To read more about the pub go to our branch Heritage Pub website :-

https://heritagepubs.sst.camra.org.uk/?page_id=11335

Fitzgeralds.

There is a major refurbishment underway and the Chart Room (the bar on the right) is closed off as the floor is being raised/ levelled. Also the owners are ditching the Fitzgerald s name and most of the chain will be rebranded as. '**Canny Lad**'.

The Blue Bell in Fulwell is also undergoing a refurbishment and closed on February 17th for about four weeks.

South Shields

In the last issue we reported that after reopening, **The Vigilant** had reinstated real ale in the form of Timothy Taylor’s Landlord. Sadly this was a brief appearance as the pub no longer has real ale on.

The Boiler Room in the town centre has closed. This is of historic interest as it was the former cinema called The Scala. This closed in 1982 and as a pub it has had many names including The Venue and Tinker Smith’s

Washington

A new food led pub has opened in Washington Town Centre. It is called the **Cantoro Lounge**, but no real ale is on offer.

The Wearside Farm near the Nissan factory no longer sells real ale; the handpulls have regrettably been removed.

West Boldon

The Wheatsheaf has closed again, having only reopened in July 24 after a lengthy closure.

Club News.

There are 65 clubs on Camra Experience in our branch. Four of them have real ale permanently on.

If anyone has any pub or club news they wish to share please contact the branch pubs officer or clubs officer. See page 27 for details.

The Branch Pub and Club of the Year winners for 2025 can be found on page 14.

Regional News.

The National Pub Saving Award was presented to the community owned **Old Horn** in Spennithorne. This is a small North Yorkshire village near Leyburn.

The CAMRA website has general information about Community Owned and Community Run Pubs. Worth a read.

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

The Burton Unions - In Brief

In 2024 Carlsberg Marstons, now known as Carlsberg Britvic, announced they were retiring their **Burton Union System** used to brew Marston's Pedigree. Fortunately Thornbridge Brewery have acquired a small set and one of their beers, **Union**, appeared at the CAMRA Winter Beer Festival (see next page).

So what is the Burton Union? Wort and yeast fermenting in wooden casks

rises through pipes into a trough above. The trough is on a slight angle so the aerated beer flows back down into the casks to continue fermentation. The yeast is collected to be used again. The casks and troughs linked together are said to be held in union, hence the name. *

Until the National Brewery Centre in Burton closed down in 2022 there was a Burton Union system on

display. (Photo below from 2018 visit).

The full story with an informative video, can be found on the Thornbridge website :-

<https://thornbridgebrewery.co.uk/pages/union?srsId=AffmBOoozUVFA6hMwsQGyH8hgmKtyNKqQk7uxuMNNTYSNzY53qB0-9Pf>

** From 300 Beers To Try Before You Die - Roger Protz*



Great British Beer Festival (GBBF) - Winter

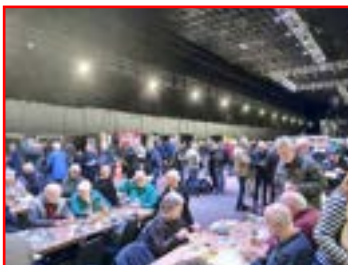
Ken Paul Reports

GBBF Winter, as it is known, made its first visit to Rotherham last month. The Magna Science Adventure Centre, played host from 12th - 15th February.

Ian Monteith Preston and myself visited on the Thursday 13th, getting there by different routes. The nearest railway station was Meadowhall so I caught a train at Durham, changing at Doncaster. Meadowhall Station is an interchange with buses so I joined the ever lengthening queue of CAMRA lookalikes who quickly filled the X3 bus for the six minute journey to The Magna.

Being a former steelworks, the building was huge. So big in fact there was quite a walk from the entrance to the main hall where most beers and ciders could be found. The all important **Champion Beer of Britain Bar (CBOB)** judging had taken place the evening before we arrived (see panel). Unfortunately the Champion Beer - **Cairngorm Black Gold** had inevitably sold out. I was pleased it had won as one of my top 10 beers. The beer is also the 2024 Champion Beer of Scotland ...a worthy winner.

There was still a great



choice of beers available. There were several brewery bars including Brew York, Theakstons and Thornbridge. The latter featured one of their newer beers called Union. This had been brewed using the Burton Union System (see previous page). Union is a 6% IPA. Now I normally drink dark beers but this one went down a treat ! (See below)



There were some North East breweries beers there including Allendale (see panel) Anarchy, Almasty and Cullercoats.

Champion Winter Beer of Britain (CBOB).

The judging for these took place on the opening evening of the festival.

The Winners:

There were six categories judged from which an overall Gold, Silver and Bronze emerged . These were :-

Champion Winter Beer of Britain :-

Cairngorm Black Gold
Silver - Sarah Hughes
Snowflake (the 2024 Champion)
Bronze - Grain Slate.

Only one North East Regional Brewery featured. Gold went to **Allendale Adder Lager** for the in the Speciality, Differently Produced category.

The full list can be found on the Press Release from February 12th 2025.

<https://camra.org.uk/media-centre/press-releases/cairngorms-black-gold-is-camras-champion-winter-beer-of-britain-2025-93739>

So, a great day out and the big one - GBBF 25 - awaits in Birmingham in the summer.

Brewery News

Reports by Branch Brewery Liaison Officers (BLO's)

Brewlab

There were two Taproom events in January. The latter included a 'curry off' competition between Brewlab brewers and Taproom regulars; there was also live music.

So far, four new beers have appeared in cask and there is an interesting range of bottles for sale. Details of new beers and bottled beers available can now be found on the Taproom beer blog at

<https://brewlab.co.uk/brewlab-beers-january-taproom-beers/>

Maxim Brewery.

For 2025 the brewery will feature, besides its six core beers, three seasonals a month, which may include a new beer. In March three will be Nelson Pale, Smoke &



Photo - Mark Anderson

Mirrors Porter and Superdelic, a new ale brewed with New Zealand Superdelic hops. In April we can look forward to John Bull Stout, All English and Riwaka. The latter is a new 4.6% pale ale, again brewed with New Zealand hops.

North Pier Brewery

This Roker based brewer has launched a new beer called XPA ; this is an extra pale ale with Cascade hops.

Two new fermenters have been installed which doubles capacity and allows more frequent brews.

The brewery picked up Gold and named Category Champion at the SIBA regional bottles and cans awards in the North East IPA (5.6% to 7.4%) category for High Tide. That beer is off to BeerX in March to compete for the national title.

Vaux Brewery

Their Sunderland taproom is now open only on Sunderland AFC match days with no cask ale Their new venture, The Bridge



The bar of the Bridge Hotel Vaults in December - with Wear Beer Red, Vaux Pale Ale and Vaux Best Bitter

Hotel (pictured above right) in Sunderland has had Vaux Pale Ale and Vaux Best Bitter available along side a guest beer. Example has included North Pier's Falling Leaves.

Wear Beer.

Brewer Julio Romero Johnson still attends Hebburn and Sunderland - Sunnyside markets on a regular basis.

The brewery has collaborated with Alnwick and Darwin Breweries to produce a pale ale with wakatu and styrian goldings hops. A new beer planned is a green hop lager with Sunderland's own Vedra hops. Should be available in cask, bottles and keg.

Branch Brewery Liaison Officers. Please contact them with any news.	Stan Johnson - northpierBLO@sst.camra.org.uk
Michael Wynne - brewlabBLO@sst.camra.org.uk	Mo Moseley- vauxBLO@sst.camra.org.uk
Ken Paul - maximBLO@sst.camra.org.uk	Steve Thompson- wearbeerBLO@sst.camra.org.uk

THE BUTCHERS ARMS

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- Tuesday is Quiz Night at 8.30pm. Table booking advised.
- Wednesday - Craft Night every other week.
- Thursday - Play Your Cards Right every other week



Good News From Across The Pennines

With thanks to Hugh Price (West Cumbria CAMRA)

It has been reported in the media that a couple of local entrepreneurs have acquired **Jennings Brewery** along with the rights to all the trademarks, intellectual property and beer recipes from former owner Carlsberg Britvic.

The new owners of Jennings Brewery Limited are Kurt Canfield and Rebecca Canfield.

Kurt is reported as saying that they have extensive plans to enhance the site while respecting its heritage. He says that it will take some time to get back



to brewing the great beer that Jennings is known for. They will be creating

several new jobs including the appointment of a Head Brewer and a brewing team.



10 great reasons to join CAMRA

1 CAMPAIGN
for great beer, cider and perry

2 Become a BEER EXPERT

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

4 GET INVOLVED
and make new friends

5 Save YOUR LOCAL

6 Find the BEST PUBS IN BRITAIN

7 Get great VALUE FOR MONEY

8 DISCOVER
pub heritage and the great outdoors

9 Enjoy great 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

Meet The Sullivans

Words and photos by Peter Tong

It's Wednesday afternoon at **The Stags Head** in South Shields. The real ale is on and being enjoyed, and Stephen Sullivan is doing what he does best - entertaining the regulars. It's Bingo time and although I recognise many of the bingo rhymes, Stephen seems to have one for every number and he even has customers completing the rhymes he's started!

Meanwhile, his Mum Julie is where she is happiest, behind the bar serving the punters.

She knows most of them very well, shares their troubles, a listening ear during hard times and smiles when there is happiness to celebrate, she



just has that lovely way about her.

Mother and Son are custodians of a place we love to go to there is no doubt, they know how special the place is.

In the 1990's Julie could be found working away at the now demolished Golden Lion in Boldon Lane and Stephen has really fond memories of that time. It's good to have memories as I know only too well. Julie then ran The Victoria Sandwich Bar in town and Stephen, with his usual knack of making entertaining look easy, was busy doing the karaoke at The Office, so busy, it was literally one in

and one out on a Wednesday night! Karl Ferguson ran it in those days but then started at Coast in Prince George Square. Some may remember the spiral staircase and the terrapin pond? Enough said!

Following Julie's departure from sandwiches, she returned to the bar. Coast had become Trocadero's and Julie became licensee. It was a busy place. There were singers on and "Strike It Lucky" (remember Michael Barrymore) was very popular.

Trocadero's became Ziggy's in 2018 and was much more music based. It had a day time and night time trade. Opening at 9 am it catered for night shift workers and then had the horse racing on the TV's. At night time the atmosphere and the lighting changed along with live acts, it catered pretty much for the



j

middle aged clientele and always had a good feel about it.

Following lockdown and the downturn in pubs fortunes and folks drinking habits, Ziggy' was not as financially viable as it was and it had to close. In December 2022, The Stags Head came available and as it had always had a special place in Julie's heart, she took it on and it's a great little pub again now, having gone through a difficult time.

So, what had happened to Stephen. Well following his stint on the Karaoke he ended up acting and these days is in big demand as a pantomime Dame. Recently he has done a

long stint in Bolton and then Newcastle in the Adult Pantomime. One night back in 2005 he'd gone with some mates to a social night at the Westovian Theatre in South Shields and although it was member' night he had no aspirations about getting involved. He did though and to cut a long story short he fell upon something that was pretty much his "calling" and his career has just continued and is now a mixture of presenting and acting. He's opened the Retro Lounge upstairs at The Stags, Friday and Saturday nights, great music and craic.

But, what of 2025 and beyond? Times are hard for

pubs, especially "wet led" ones. Julie and Stephen continue to look after their loyal band of customers. Things are definitely not easy though, and only recently we were chatting and Julie said, "When I got the latest gas and electric bills I nearly fell off my perch". I guess that is the same for many pub owners and tenants, but this is exactly the reason why CAMRA have to support pubs like the Stags to keep them going. The real ale is there along with a wide selection of other drinks. Please pop in for a pint or two whenever you can.

Beer on the Box :- Food Unwrapped - Channel 4 Jan 17th

Review by Michael Wynne

For those who haven't seen this programme before, it reports on a range of food and drink related issues and the style is quite science based, without getting too serious science wise.

The subject that caught my attention was 'what is bottle conditioned beer?' (now called Real Ale in a Bottle (RAIB) by CAMRA) The reporter this time was Matt Tebbutt, who went to

Wellbeck Abbey Brewery in Nottingham to find out. The brewer explained that the process after fermentation for RAIB is that warm sugar water is added to aid the secondary fermentation one it is bottled.

The piece finished by explaining why clear glass is generally not used for beer as UV light can cause off flavours.

Previous items on beer have been presented by one of the women presenters who seem to have a better understanding of the subject and have better flavour appreciation. This presenter used terms as flat and cloudy and, for me had nothing more than a superficial grasp of the subject. An otherwise good programme spoilt.

And The Winners Are

Sunderland & South Tyneside CAMRA Branch Pub and Club of the Year 2025

Voting and judging by branch members has taken place for the pub, club and cider pub of the year. The winners of each category now go forward to the next judging round later in 2025. Presentations for the winners will be announced in due course.

Pub of the Year

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| 1 st | Ship Isis, Sunderland |
| 2 nd | Marine, South Shields |
| 3 rd | Dun Cow, Sunderland |

The other three finalists were The Guide Post - Ryhope, The Harbour View - Roker and The Steamboat South Shields

Club of the Year

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| 1 st | Mid Boldon Club |
| 2 nd | Boldon Cricket Club |
| 3 rd | Ryhope Catholic Club |

Cider Pub of the Year

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------------------|
| 1 st | Blue's Micro Pub, Whitburn |
| 2 nd | The Avenue, Sunderland |



Ship Isis by Terry Ford



Mid Boldon Club by Steve Drummond



Blues Micro Pub by Peter Tong

THE 2024 NATIONAL PUB AND CLUB WINNERS

The 2024 CAMRA Pub of the year is The Bailey Head in Oswestry, Shropshire. Described as “a rags-to-riches success story after the owners turned what was once a closed local into a haven for the local community”.

<https://camra.org.uk/media-centre/press-releases/shropshire-pub-taken-from-failing-local-to-best-in-the-uk-in-under-a-decade-93730>

The 2024 CAMRA Club of the year is The Firs Club in Codsall, Staffordshire. The multi-award-winning social club is a must visit for cask beer fans, with an onsite microbrewery

<https://camra.org.uk/media-centre/press-releases/staffordshire-social-club-named-best-in-the-uk-93734>

CAMRA'S National Beer Scoring System - An Update

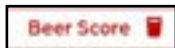
CAMRA has a **National Beer Scoring System (NBSS)** which this branch use to help selecting entries for **The Good Beer Guide (GBG)** and promote venues that serve top quality ale. So as a member it is important to score the condition of your beer when you visit a pub or club.

These beer scores are also used to support **CAMRA's Beer Quality Accreditation (BQA** - see later).

How To Score Your Beer

Scoring your real ale is straightforward and can be done using Whatpub.com, or the new CAMRA Website (called CAMRA Experience). The instructions below are for the latter. Log on to <https://camra.org.uk/pubs>

Then search for the venue you wish to score and click on the Beer Score Icon.



Check the date, then select your score NBSS uses a 0-5 (0 = No cask ale available) point scale for judging beer quality in pubs and clubs..(note half scores are possible)

Next select the brewery and the beer you are scoring. Follow the instructions on the screen.

What Do The Scores Mean?

0: No cask ale available - This can be because the pub never has it or it's run out.

1: Poor - Beer that is anything from barely drinkable to drinkable with considerable resentment

2: Average - Competently kept, drinkable pint but doesn't inspire in anyway, not worth moving to another pub but you drink the beer without really noticing

3: Good - Good beer in good form. You may cancel plans to move to the next pub. You want to stay for another pint and may seek out the beer again

4: Very Good - Good Excellent beer in excellent condition

5: Perfect - Probably the best you are ever likely to find. **A seasoned drinker will award this score very rarely. (I've only scored a 5 once in over 12 years of scoring - Ed.)**

BQA

CAMRA's Beer Quality Accreditation uses NBSS to award pubs a 1-3 pint rating on the new website. This is based on member scores over time. This rating highlights pubs serving good to great quality cask

beer to aid in consumer choice.

How We Display Scores On The CAMRA Website

To simplify understanding beer quality, pint symbols are used.



3 full pints: Average score of 3.6 or above - assessed by CAMRA members as serving great real ale.

2 full pints: Average scores from 3.0 to 3.5 - If you're looking for a good, decent pint then look no further.

1 pint:

Average scores between 2.5 to 2.9 - Serves a drinkable pint but quality may vary.

Insufficient:

Indicates insufficient scores for the venue.

Note: Scores reflect the last twelve months of beer quality data, providing a current glimpse into what to expect. The exception is where a specific date has been supplied, for instance when a pub changes hands. New scores are not reflected instantly, and have a one month delay in being attributed.

If you are not a member consider joining CAMRA (see page 11)



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Public Affairs

CAMRA has lamented the Government's decision to put an early end to the **Community Ownership Fund** which enabled groups of people to take ownership of local pubs destined for demolition. The fund is being closed due to budgetary pressures and unspent money; £135m, transferred to other departments.

CAMRA has now addressed a letter to the Deputy Prime Minister and her Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government to reinstate funding for communities wanting to save their local pubs.

Access to market review

In light of the chancellor's announcement to review independent brewers' access to the pub market, Ash Corbett-Collins (CAMRA national chairman) Tom Stainer (CAMRA chief executive) and Ellie Hudspith (CAMRA senior campaigns and communications manager) met the Department for Business and Trade officials who will be carrying out the review. CAMRA's involvement in the review, and its views on global brewers dominating the market as well as the need for

Michael Wynne reports

more consumer choice, led to a productive conversation. CAMRA hopes to meet with the minister during later stages of the review. The chancellor promised a consultation exercise, so we will push for a formal process as part of the review.

There was a very interesting report on BBC North East and Cumbria about the new Labour MP for Carlisle, Julie Minns and the Scottish Pub Code which is expected to be passed by Holyrood later this year.

This piece of Scottish legislation will allow all pubs to stock a beer from any brewery outside of the tie. This is of interest in Cumberland for a number of reasons. The most obvious one is Cumberland



Above - the popular King's Head in Carlisle was a State Management pub from October 1916 to May 1973. Look for the small plaque inside the door.

has a physical border with Scotland as does Northumberland.

To promote sobriety among armament's workers at the huge ordinance factories at Gretna during the Great War, pubs and breweries were nationalised and managed by the Home Office. Punitive restrictions were imposed on the trade which continued until 1971 when the Conservative government closed the Carlisle and Gretna State Management Schemes. The pub estate was split into packages and sold to Courage, Greenall Whitley and Scottish and Newcastle.

To this day, the shadow of state management influence the drinking culture of Cumberland as nearly all pubs are owned by pub companies and there a few free trade pub. In some places, the range of guest beers is disappointing. This Scottish legislation comes into force in April.

Business rates

The legislation for the new permanent lower-multiplier rate for retail, leisure and hospitality businesses, promised by the chancellor in her Autumn Budget, will

Continued

come into effect in England in 2026/27.

As the new rates system is set to be introduced next year, CAMRA is committed to calling on the government to monitor the impact of the rates hike pubs in England will face when the current 75 per cent relief drops to 40 per cent for 2025/26.

Due to the Barnett Formula, as a result of the 40 per cent rates relief in England, Scottish, Welsh and Northern Irish governments received extra funding – although it is up to those bodies whether or not they implement a similar relief.

CAMRA has been campaigning for devolved nations to introduce rates relief for pubs. As well as the new legislation, a **Transforming Business Rates** discussion paper has been published by the Treasury. Ellie Hudspith attended a discussion with hospitality sector representatives and

Treasury civil servants in December to discuss proposals for reforming the rates system.

Smoking ban (England only)

Proposals to ban smoking in beer gardens, have been dropped from the Tobacco and Vapes Bill. The UK government's announcement said: "*In England, hospitality settings, including outside areas of pubs and bars, will not be included in the proposed extension to the indoor smoking ban.*" CAMRA continues to monitor this legislation for attempts to reintroduce the smoking in beer gardens ban, and for potential proposals to introduce similar legislation within devolved nations. See the CAMRA Press Release (<https://camra.org.uk/media-centre/press-releases/dropping-pub-beer-garden-smoking-ban-will-be-welcomed-camra-93713>)

High Street rental auctions [England only]

The High Street rental auctions scheme officially came in to force on 2 December 2024. Local authorities now have the power to provision the use of empty premises, including pubs, which could see the removal of fixtures and fittings with local authority permission. CAMRA continues to encourage its branches to use Campaign resources in contacting local authorities to mandate that empty pub premises are let for pub use, and to refrain from removing fixtures and fittings.

Branches are monitoring the scheme in their areas to understand how High Street rental auctions are impacting pubs.

Handpump Hijack Update



This is a CAMRA Campaign reported last summer. (See panel for details).

An enquiry has been sent to West Northants Council's Trading Standards (which provide trading standards advice to Carlsberg) for an update on its investigation into Fresh Ale.



Ready For Take Off - The Flying Boat

Mark Taylor Reports

I have lived in Fulwell since 2008. I am a native of Ryhope which used to have an amazing array of pubs and clubs from the top of the colliery bank down to the village green. Alas no more . The sprinkle of bars that survive to this day in Ryhope are a testament to the social changes as a society we have made in the last 20-30 years. Amazingly Fulwell has reversed the narrative. It now has twice the number of bars and clubs on the Sea Road strip since I first moved across to north side of town.

The Flying Boat (aka Royal Marine - to the old school drinkers- and previously the Sunderland Flying Boat) was traditionally the ugly duckling of the drinking establishments in Fulwell. This Cinderella pub was always part of an established Fulwell scene. It seemed however to be always overshadowed by the dominant Blue Bell. Then the new kids on the block Oceans Bar, the Lighthouse and Torque stole the limelight. But times have changed. Under the enthusiastic guidance provided by new landlord James Gallagher, the pub has become one that can no longer be ignored. It fully deserves to be in the spotlight as a



destination for drinkers and foodies alike.

A total re- furb and re-decoration of the Flying Boat has pulled off the uncanny knack of making it a clean, welcoming, modern environment while still retaining a community pub feel. An extensive menu from breakfasts, meals, pizzas and snacks (the beer pigs are different and ideal with a pint- they are warm pork scratchings). There is a pool table, darts and plenty of sports TV's. This provides a broad appeal across all the age groups and demographics .

Proof, on any visit, why there is always a good social mix of customers in the spacious premises. The volume of the background music is perfectly set ; allowing conversation to be heard and pitched at a level to be enough to break the silence.

Ah, but what about the beer ask? James is passionate about keeping his cask ales to the highest standards. The emphasis is

always on *Locales* ; Usually something from Maxim and Wear breweries on tap, with up to three handpulls in use. However the key is quality not quantity. If its quiet and demand is low then only one handpull may offered. When trade is busy it could be two and just before Xmas all three were in operation. But whatever the choice options- it is served in the best condition possible.

To reward regular customers a loyal card scheme is in operation, A very reasonable "buy five pints and the sixth pint free" is the deal to thank regular cask ale drinkers. For CAMRA members the production of your membership card provides a 10% discount off Cask Ale. But there is more ... A Monday night Cask Ale Club is in operation. All Cask Ales at £2.50 a pint (at time of writing) on Monday. James is really pushing the cask ale agenda and encouraging customers to try cask in a way many other bars could do well to copy. The word 'community' pub is, in my view, over used and can mask really a lot of failing colloquial pubs that are quite frankly unwelcoming to strangers and usually a sad dump

Continued

that you wouldn't choose to spend money and time in. This description is not appropriate to the Flying Boat. Maybe, because, its location within 10 minutes walk of Seaburn Metro station, at the end of a busy vibrant shopping parade, close to the seaside at Seaburn, it attracts a broad cross section customer base. It has the feel of a local while strangers are welcome and at ease. The recent re-decorations give the place a clean, airy feel.

But what of its community credentials? Well, apart from the Monday Cask Ale club Wednesday is quiz night with a Find the Jack Bingo with cash prize cumulative running into figure sums on



occasions. There are approximately monthly Northern Soul nights on a Saturday and Sunday night is a lively Bingo and Karaoke night. Furthermore, when Sunderland AFC are playing at home they provide a bus to the Stadium of Light on match days with bus tickets from the bar. If a pizza and pint as pre-match drink ritual sounds good, add transport to ground. So not a bad start to going the football.

If you haven't considered the Flying Boat as a pub destination may you ought revisit that opinion and give it a visit. The E2 Sunderland - South Shields bus stops right outside on a frequent basis as indeed is the Metro not far away. There is also an hourly 18/18A service which also stops outside. The pub might not be accessible by sea or air but Sea Road is easy reached from most parts of Wearside and the Coast by land.

After some bumpy landings in the last 15 years The Flying Boat has launched and is ready for take off. Get along and be part of the journey. Fasten your seat belts !

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The Red Hackle - Jarrow

The Wandering Bear Reports

Struggling for time (again) I ventured to the Scotch Estate in Jarrow and in I walked to **The Red Hackle**. Named after the feathery plume of a soldier's beret, the pub takes pride of place at the corner of Edinburgh Road and Perth Avenue.

I last visited in February 2018, and I have to say I didn't notice any changes having been made in the meantime. That is by no means a criticism, by the way, as I do not like change and much prefer things to stay as they are. Sadly, as I get older, this is rarely the case.

This being an 'estate pub' and me being a relative stranger (despite being a Jarrow native), a degree of uncertainty could have been expected. However, the handful of locals who were present were very friendly and as my short time there ticked over, I engaged with the craic.

The layout is a strange one; toilets on the right, bar on the left, straight ahead looks like another bar/function room. Regardless, décor was eclectic with NUFC and SAFC memorabilia on the walls, items portraying Jarrow FC and some furniture akin to a CIU club. Again, not a criticism.



There were about six locals in attendance when I visited, and I believe the fine gentleman serving behind the bar was the licensee. Also visiting at the same time was Rosie the very large but very friendly German Shepherd dog.

Back to the likely licensee and I must say he did a fine job. Knowing everyone (bar me) by name and knowing exactly what they wanted as they approached. By the way, mine was a Theakston's and it set me back £3... absolute bargain.

TV's were on showing the news and there was pool, darts and a jukebox with the room unofficially split into two halves (drinking/socialising in one half, entertainment in the other half!).

Large windows give a bright and airy feel, with breathtaking views of

Edinburgh Road shops just across the road. A short walk away being Aberdeen Drive, where my father spent some time as a child.

Now I love pubs like this, because of their character and of course the characters that happen to visit. I can't go into details lest they be identified but honestly, half a dozen of the friendliest Jarrow, (AKA *Jarra*) folk you could meet were in that pub at the same time as me. The craic was hilarious and made my swift hour a very enjoyable time indeed.

Hopefully it won't be another five years until I visit again.

The Red Hackle,
Perth Avenue, Jarrow,
NE32 4HT

Kolsch in Cologne

Grahame McDonald takes a trip

Last year whilst in Germany I discovered a watering hole which might be considered as being a blast from the past. Close by our hotel was the brewery tap of an independent brewery, which had a seating capacity for at least 200+ customers. Although there was only one draught beer on offer it was ALL dispensed by gravity from wooden casks; not a fizz pump or metal keg to be seen.

Throughout our visit the venue was very busy with a cosmopolitan clientele of both sexes and all ages, with fresh casks being put up about every 15 minutes to cope with demand. There was no piped music, television screens or gaming machines, and during the 3 1/2 hours we spent there we did not even SEE a mobile 'phone, let alone observe one



being used!! Extraordinary in this day and age, and a real pleasure to experience. (Beer was good, too).

So where is this paragon of virtue? Regrettably not close enough for an evening out with friends; it is in the city centre of Cologne in Germany. Nonetheless well worth a visit for anyone visiting that city; the beer was "Kolsch" which is a lager-style unique to the Cologne area and, of course, brewed under the German purity

laws for brewing beer. The address is:- "Brauerei Paffgen", 64-66 Friesenstrasse, Koln (Cologne).

Also worth a visit by anyone in the area is "Papa Joe's Biersalon", 50-52, Alter Markt, Koln. As well as serving excellent Kolsch, the interior is somewhat olde worlde with a fascinating collection of old pictures, vintage fairground slot machines and several mechanical music machines which are activated from time to time.

Editors Note

Further Reading :-

Three Kolsch beers feature in the CAMRA book, *300 Beers To Try Before You Die*, by Roger Prost. They are Fruh Kolsch, Hellers Kolsch and Hellers Ur-Weiss (Original White).

Continuing the travel theme, Durham CAMRA branch members **Wendy and Chris Phillips** visited Glasgow late last year, enjoying the hospitality of **The Bon Accord** (the editor's favourite pub in the city). They were pleased to find a copy of CAMRA Angle Issue 68, which said editor had left a few weeks earlier.

Thanks to both for sharing.



Pub Quiz (Answers on Page 27)

- 1 Who wrote the novel The Day of the Jackal?
- 2 What are the only vehicles allowed on the Channel Island of Sark?
- 3 What role did seven foot three actor Peter Mayhew play in Star Wars?
- 4 Name the South American country which is the only one in the world named after an element.
- 5 Hussain is the middle name of which former American President?
- 6 On TV's University Challenge, where do the team captains sit?
- 7 In the phonetic alphabet what is the letter E ?
- 8 Jessica Tandy won an Oscar for which 1989 film which also starred Morgan Freeman?
- 9 What type of bird is a gentoo?
- 10 Dastardly and Muttley first appeared in which TV cartoon series?
- 11 Mount Cook is the highest mountain in which country?
- 12 Which bridge in the USA has been described as the most photographed bridge in the world?
- 13 This quote came from which film ? "Roads? Where we are going we don't need roads.
- 14 Who wrote the Sinead O Connor song " Nothing Compares to You"
- 15 What type of animal was Eyeore in Winnie The Poo?
- 16 Without using your hand, is anticlockwise left or right?
- 17 Who was the first maths expert on Countdown?
- 18 Who hosts the Traitors on the BBC
- 19 How many US states start with the letter A? For no bonus points, name them
- 20 Name this Sunderland City Centre pub.



CAMRA Discounts and Loyalty Cards

Branch pubs and clubs that offer either a discount scheme, loyalty card or accept CAMRA 50p vouchers. Loyalty cards are available to all regular customers, not just CAMRA members. If you have any updates please email:-

pubsofficer@sst.camra.org.uk For discounts, please show your Membership Card.

East Boldon - Grey House - 50p off voucher & loyalty card	Sunderland North	Sunderland Centre (contd)
East Herrington - Board Inn 50p off voucher	Avenue - 20p off a pint	Dun Cow - 10% discount
Hebburn - Longship - 10% discount & loyalty card.	Blue Bell - 10% off for card carrying members OR 50p CAMRA Voucher (not both)	Ivy House - 10% discount
Houghton le Spring - Wild Boar - 50p off voucher	New Derby - Ask about loyalty card	Keel Tavern - 10% discount
Ryhope - Guide Post- 10% discount	Sunderland Centre	Peacock - 10% discount
South Shields	Chaplins - 10% disc & loyalty card	Saltgrass - Mon cask ale club 25% discount
Bamburgh - 10% discount	Chesters - 50p off voucher and loyalty card	William Jameson - 50p off voucher
Fountain 10% discount	Cooper Rose - 50p off voucher	Washington
Maltings - 10% discount	Deptford Bank Loyalty Card	The Courtyard 10% discount
Marine - loyalty card	Ship Isis, King's Arms and Saltgrass - buy 9 pints get 10 th free.	Sir William de Wessyngton - 50p off Voucher
Wouldhave - 50p off voucher	Pubs also offer 20p off a pint for CAMRA members	Washington Arms - 50p off voucher

TRADING STANDARDS

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

Contact details are given below :-

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

PUBLIC TRANSPORT INFORMATION

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

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

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Social Secretary	Robin Sanderson	social@sst.camra.org.uk
Branch Heritage Pubs	admin.team@heritagepubs.sst.camra.org.uk	

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

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Quiz Answers

1	Frederick Forsyth	11	New Zealand
2	Farm Tractors	12	Golden Gate Bridge, San Francisco
3	Chewbacca	13	Back to the Future
4	Argentina (named after the Latin Argentum - silver) - trust me , Google it !	14	Prince
5	Barack Obama	15	Donkey
6	Third from the left.	16	Left
7	Driving Miss Daisy	17	Carol Vorderman
8	Echo	18	Claudia Winkleman
9	A penguin	19	Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas.
10	Wacky Races	20	The Museum Vaults

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