



CAMRA ANGLE

(Includes Beer & Cider Festival pull out)

ISSUE 76 - AUTUMN 2026 -

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2026 Beer and Cider Festival

Beggars Bridge, East Boldon



November 5th - 7th 2026

(12 noon to 10.30 pm)

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Welcome to the 76th edition of CAMRA ANGLE

This edition is different in two ways. For the first time, we have a pull out beer festival section, highlighting the beers and ciders on offer at our now usual venue, The Beggars Bridge in East Boldon.

The second is that this will be the last issue for me as editor. Hours of staring at a laptop screen means my eyes are not what they were. I have been doing this for nine years, including an enforced online period during Covid. It has been a pleasure but it is time for fresh blood. So I would like to thank the many contributors who have given their time to produce such many and varied content. Let us not forget our many advertisers without whom this magazine would not be possible.

So enjoy the read. Ken Paul

Contributors :- Sid Dobson, Terry Ford, Ken Paul, Mark Taylor, Neil Walters, Michael Wynne All photographs are by our branch members unless stated.

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

The Branch would like to thank The Lighthouse and Beggars Bridge for hosting our last two branch meetings and Mid Boldon Club for Beer Festival Committee meetings.

Branch Contacts can be found on the inside back page

ADVERTISING IN CAMRA ANGLE

Our competitive rates are :-

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2026 BEER FESTIVAL SPONSORSHIP

Are you are interested in supporting us by sponsoring a beer or cider?

A package is £50. This relates to one beer cask, key keg or cider, with a mention in the online programme and signage with the beer / cider.

Please contact ads01@sst.camra.org.uk

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DIARY DATES

Branch Beer Festival - Beggars Bridge - East Boldon Thursday 5th - Saturday 7th November 2026 (see pages 15-18)

Branch meeting and AGM - The Marine - South Shields Thursday 19th November 2026 - <https://camra.org.uk/pubs/marine-south-shields-192767>

Regional meeting - The Cask Lounge South Shields Saturday 28th November 2026 - <https://camra.org.uk/pubs/cask-lounge-south-shields-192790>

Regional meeting - The Masonic Centre, Chester le Street - Saturday 27th February 2027 - <https://camra.org.uk/pubs/masonic-centre-chester-le-street-187363>

CAMRA AGM and Members Weekend April 16th - Sunday 18th April 2027 - Chester Racecourse CH1 2LY

Look out for other events on our online **FUTURE EVENTS** page
https://sst.camra.org.uk/wordpress/?page_id=42

The CAMRA website has an **Event & Festivals** section which is worth a look.
<https://camra.org.uk/events>

Branch Pub Of The Year :-

Branch members are invited to nominate up to six pubs from two pools (North and South) to go forward to the judging of our Pub of the Year. Please go to
<https://evp.sst.camra.org.uk>

Deadline is Sunday 15th November - Thank You

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

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Pub and Brewery News

Note This pub news section cannot mention every real ale pub so please use this link <https://camra.org.uk/pubs> to post any feedback. Search for the pub or club, scroll down to **Help keep our information accurate!** Then share any corrections or updates please.

CLEADON

The Cottage Tavern has seen a change in licensee. The full story can be found on the next page. A recent visit to **The Stables** revealed three handpulls serving local ales from .(Firebrick, Durham and Allendale breweries



SOUTH SHIELDS.

Real ale, in the form of Wainwright's Gold, has returned to **The Pier** on Ocean Road.

SUNDERLAND.

The Dun Cow has just celebrated its 125th year, with a week of special events, including a tour of the pub and some historic displays.

Owned by Just Pubs, **Chesters** closed suddenly late September with activities moved to their sister pub, **The William Jameson**. The latter has introduced a cask ale loyalty stamp card. Buy six pints get 7th free. By the time you read this Chesters may be open

Along with all other Whitbread pubs known as Brewers Fayre, **The Wessington** closed on September 7th 2026.

It has been reported that **The Avenue** and **The Blue Bell** have reduced the number of available handpulls to three each ; and **Vesta Tilley** now has two cask ales available.

Brewlab taproom events are planned on Friday 23 October; open from 14:00 to 20:00 ; then November dates are 6 and 27th from 16:00 to 22:00.

In December, the dates are Friday 4th from 14:00 to 20:00 and Saturday 5th from 18:00.

There are another two openings on Saturdays 24 October and 28 November from 12:00 to 16:00 linked to Brewday Experiences.

Info about Brewlab events can be found at <https://brewlab.co.uk/about-us/brewlab-brews/brewlab-brews-taproom/>

Vaux Brewery have revived their original brewery site in Monk Street as Vaux Social. This opens two days a week; Friday and Saturday. At the same time, they no longer have a presence in The Sheepfolds and no longer run The Bridge Hotel Vaults - although their beers are often found there.

Wear Beer Brewery

celebrate their third anniversary and so their annual Birthday Pale has been released. This time it is a hazy version with New Zealand hop Rakau, and US hops Mosaic and Athanum. There will be no birthday bash this year in The Ship Isis.

A job advert has been launched for someone to join Wear Beer part time on sales, deliveries and markets. There can be an opportunity to get involved in the brewing side of things too.

WASHINGTON

The Washington Arms, no longer a Stonegate pub has, at the time of publication, one handpull in use in the form of a Firebrick ale.

WHITBURN



Jolly Sailor Due to the retirement of its long serving manager, this summer saw a new licensee, Natasha Snaith, who has already worked there for two years, taking over.

Cottage Tavern Favourite Retires *by Neil Walters*

The Cottage Tavern in Cleadon closed in July 2026 after the retirement of long serving tenant Neil Harding. Neil started in the pub trade in 1985 when he bought the station masters house in East Boldon and converted it in the same year to Sleepers ; (note this is now Beggars Bridge).

This became one of the first pubs in South Tyneside to have a children's outdoor play area, enabling parents and families to visit .

He had Sleepers for some time before moving on then he eventually took over the Cottage Tavern. His arrival brought stability to this Stonegate pub after a series of changing managers.

Reaching the age of 73, he decided it was time to retire. His first act on handing in the keys was a well earned holiday with family in Dubai.

The pub didn't stay closed for long ; it reopened in September and real ale

survives in the form of Timothy Taylor's Landlord.



The two Neils ; Walters and Harding (seated). Photo taken by bar staff.

Other News

Parliamentary debates - Cask Beer

The CAMRA team is still awaiting the MP's debate to explore cask beer's importance to our national heritage. Also protections in law for its dispense to stop misleading practices like Carlsberg's Fresh Ale, a kegged beer served through traditional cask beer handpulls

Pubs Code adjudicator (PCA) investigation into Stonegate [England and Wales]

The PCA for England and Wales is investigating Stonegate after suspected breaches to the Pubs Code. CAMRA encouraged Stonegate tenants from July 2021 - July 2026 to submit evidence to the investigation. Thank you to everyone who did.

See page 9 for Sunderland pubs new to the Good Beer Guide 2027

THE STEPS

Real Ale, Real Pub, Real People.



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Did You Know ?

In March 2020, about a week before Covid lockdown, Issue 59 of CAMRA Angle was published. Most of copies of this issue were never read as all the pubs and clubs had to close. It was another two years before a printed version would reappear. In between times online versions made regular appearances. All printed and online magazines can be found online in our archive :- .

<https://sst-arch.camra.org.uk/magazine>



Champion Beer of Britain.

CAMRA members have been asked to nominate their favourite beers, regionally and nationally. If you have not already done so , the deadline is **Saturday October 31st** . Follow this link for more information :- <https://camra.org.uk/cbob/guide>

Presentations Page

Regional Club of the Year

For the second year in a row, **The Billingham Catholic Club** has been awarded Regional Club of the year. The club was up against Boldon Cricket Club in our branch, plus Chester Le Street Masonic Centre, Darlington Snooker Club and Haltwhistle Comrades Club.

The photo (right) shows Regional Club CoOrdinator Steve Drummond (on the left) presenting their award certificate to Tony Hill (centre) and Sean Rowbottom.

The next stage is that the club is reduced down to the semi final stage and competing against the Regional Club of the Year from Yorkshire and the East Midlands,



As you may know,(but this is a reminder) , Billingham Catholic Club are the current National

CAMRA Club of the Year, having been awarded this accolade in January this year
<https://camra.org.uk/media-centre/press-releases/camra-names-popular-good-beer-guide-club-as-best-in-uk-93814>.

I visited the club one Sunday afternoon, for the first time, in July this year and was made most welcome when walking through the door. I enjoyed a well kept pint of Wensleydale Black Dub. In fact, when the wife wasn't looking I had another half !

A good afternoon out.

Ken Paul

(With thanks to Alan Davies,

<https://camra.org.uk/pubs/billingham-catholic-club-billingham-185156>

Good Beer Guide 2027 Launch Event Of our 22 entries in the 2027 Good Beer Guide, two are new :- The M.O.D Bar and The Bridge Hotel Vaults, both in Sunderland. Presentations were held on the Guide Launch Date, Sept 24th 2026. The Sunderland Echo were in attendance, along with four CAMRA members. Both pubs were delighted with their awards and a good afternoon was had by all.



L to R:- Mo Moseley, Ken Paul, Alex Bonallie (M.O.D Bar), Alan Harrison, Michael Wynne. Photo by Sunderland Echo

<https://camra.org.uk/pubs/mod-bar-sunderland-198076>



L to R:- Mo Moseley, Ken Paul, Michael Mc Knight (Bridge Hotel Vaults), Alan Harrison, Michael Wynne. Photo by Emma of the Bridge Hotel

<https://camra.org.uk/pubs/bridge-hotel-vaults-sunderland-198356>

Not quite the Lake District *by Michael Wynne*

On Saturday 15 August, six of us set off to celebrate a birthday. Our destination was Penrith, the county town of Cumberland.

I had calls to make in Carlisle, so I arranged to meet the rest of the party at Carlisle station to catch the train to Penrith. I took the opportunity to buy some pies from the excellent Pie Demand, who now have a permanent location adjacent to the platforms.

The train from Newcastle was delayed and we couldn't catch the train we wanted. There was a wait of around half an hour until the next one, so we adjourned to **Scott and Brassey** located on the platform. This is the old first class waiting room and previously was called 301 Miles from London. The refurbished pub is greatly extended and is now operated by Lancaster Brewery. There were five Lancaster beers available and I settled for the Amber, a low strength beer for £4.70 to start the day.

In no time, it was back to the platform to catch the Avanti West Coast train for the 15 minute journey to Penrith.

Our first call involved crossing a busy road to the **Agricultural Hotel**. This pub was part of Marstons estate in Cumbria, before passing to Jennings until the brewery was acquired and closed by Marstons.



The large sandstone building (*above*) has many rooms and a very interesting enclosed servery with sash screens. There are four handpumps, mainly local. I chose Jennings' new seasonal Captain Jack's Marra for £4.60, which was pleasant golden ale.

From there we turned left and walked down Castlegate to the Market Square where there is an excellent deli, cheesemonger and artisanal bakery. They had many Cumbrian cheeses, but it was too hot to buy any as they would not survive the journey.



A right turn takes us on to King Street for our second call in Penrith, the **Fell Bar**. (*below*) Owned by the brewery of the same name, it has four cask ales. I settled on Ghyll, another very pleasant low strength beer priced at £4.70.

On leaving, we turned left, pass Market Square on Devonshire Street to the **1597 Bar in the George Hotel**. This hotel lobby bar had two handpumps offering beers from local Tirrill Brewery. I went for Borrowdale Bitter at £4.95. The beer was fine, but the venue wasn't really for me.

Heading back to Market Square and on the left on Great Dockray is **Dockray Hall**. This is a grade 1 list 16th century coaching inn with many original features. There are three real ales. I settled on Jennings Cocker Hoop, the most expensive of the day at £5.30.

It was now time for me to head home. Back up Castlegate to the station to catch a Transpennine train to Carlisle for a direct service to Sunderland.

There are two trains an hour from Newcastle to Carlisle and at least two an hour to Penrith. An off peak day return cost £26.50 or £17.60 with a railcard.

Photos thanks to Solway CAMRA

[https://camra.org.uk/pubs/location/54.663763919161/-2.7517222368545?features\[0\]=RealAle&place_name=Penrith&sort=nearest](https://camra.org.uk/pubs/location/54.663763919161/-2.7517222368545?features[0]=RealAle&place_name=Penrith&sort=nearest)

Public Affairs

This abridged article appeared in CAMRA online newsletter (What's Brewing), put together by CAMRA's Campaigns and Communications Team. It gives the latest campaigning updates across Westminster. The full article also features the devolved nation (members only) and can be read here:- <https://wb.camra.org.uk/2026/08/20/public-affairs-update-august>

Planning [England only]

On Monday 17 August the government announced stronger planning protections for pubs in England after months of considering watering them down. The government was looking at protecting only the last pub in an area, instead of all, making it easier for developers to convert locals into houses, shops and takeaways.

Thanks to our dedicated members who sent thousands of emails to their MPs using our e-lobby and our conversations with civil servants and parliamentarians, CAMRA has secured a huge campaign win for vulnerable pubs and communities who want to save their locals. **Read what chairman Ash Corbett-Collins said on page 21.**

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government is also looking at restrictive covenants (legal conditions within a property's contract) when pubs are sold to check if this practice is preventing communities from running community-owned locals.

If you know of any locals that are sold with restrictive covenants that stop the building from being used as a pub,

email_campaigns@camra.org.uk

Access to Market review

The government carried out an Access to Market review for independent brewers who struggle to get their beers into pubs due to the stranglehold global brewers have over bars. Ash Corbett-Collins, Ellie Hudspith (senior campaigns and communications manager) and Tom Stainer (chief executive) met with the Business and Trade minister Kate Dearden MP to discuss plans for publication of the review, which has been delayed due to the change of prime minister and his government. In parliament, the minister mentioned the engagement with MPs and breweries continues "as the government considers the evidence ahead of any announcements". The team will continue to talk to the government about the review and reform needed for independent brewers' access to market.

Beer in the UK report

<https://camra.org.uk/beer-report>

CAMRA published its report **Beer in the UK**, which launched its campaign to get the

Competitions and Markets Authority (CMA) to investigate the beer market, while calling on government to fix labelling and tax issues. In the coming weeks, CAMRA will continue to speak with MPs and government ministers about the report and the need for bold action from government to empower consumers, fix the UK beer market and give independent breweries real access to the pubs market.

Business rates [England only]

Prime Minister Andy Burnham announced a 20 per cent business rates discount for pubs and social clubs in England from 2027.

In the 2026/27 financial year, pubs are receiving a 15 per cent discount on business rates bills on top of any other transitional cuts. The previous chancellor announced a "real terms" freeze (inflation-only rise) in business rates bills in 2027/28 and 2028/29. But after the prime minister's announcement, business rates bills will be cut from 15 to 20 per cent instead of this freeze.

News in brief on Page 12

Public Affairs In Brief

Heritage Public Houses Bill

Kingswinford and South Staffordshire MP Mike Wood previously secured a slot in the House of Commons for a piece of legislation of his choice, guaranteeing time for debates and votes. He has since introduced the **Heritage Public Houses Bill**, aiming to restrict sales and provide extra safeguards in the planning system for any pub on a future Heritage Public Houses register. A debate was set on Friday 16 October in the House of Commons, as well as the crunch vote that will determine if the bill proceeds.

CAMRA will support the bill as well as MPs to help it become law. Wood continues to discuss final text of the legislation with government, including changes that restrict the sale of heritage pubs to bring provisions in sync with the Community Right to Buy fund. See below

Community Right to Buy [England]

The government has announced a new Community Right to Buy fund giving communities opportunities to buy under-threat community assets like pubs. Following the government closing its Community Ownership Fund in 2024, ensuring communities get access to pub-saving funds was one of CAMRA's campaigning priorities.

CAMRA are waiting for more details on the fund's criteria and when communities can start applying. <https://camra.org.uk/community-pubs>

See also Page 19



33rd Carlisle Beer and Cider Festival
29th to 31st October 2026
Station Hotel, Carlisle



Sunderland Pub Crawl on Youtube ; Real Ales Real Pubs by Michael Wynne

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9HoH1CSDOHU>

This is one of my favourite channels. The host is part of the West Riding Branch of Society for the Preservation of Beers from the Wood (SPBW) , and ties many of his crawls into their frequent coach trips.

This one is particularly interesting for me as Sunderland is my home and I am familiar with the pubs and recognise many of the people in the pubs.

Participants on their days out are given detailed itineraries for the towns they visit but the host largely does his own thing.

The pubs visited were the **Engine Room**, **Dun Cow**,

Ship Isis, **Museum Vaults**, **King's Arms**.

Some people in The Ship Isis recommended some spurious venues for them to try, but due to time constraints, they crossed the river and visited Propa for a minced game, chorizo and black pudding pie with mash. I haven't been to the **Sheepfolds** yet, but it looked interesting.

They returned to town and called into **The Peacock** to try the Double Maxim. Being Yorkshiremen, they were not impressed by the price differential between pints and half pints.

As a bonus stop, they visited **The Canny Lad**, before finishing at **M.O.D.**

Many of their party had finished in the adjacent Gunners Club and finally back to Park Lane to catch the coach back to the West Riding.

There have been several films from the north east, and the host was very complementary about our pubs and local beers.

I found this film rewarding as you often don't appreciate what is on your doorstep and it's nice to hear the opinions of visitors.

I am always shocked by the volume of beer these lads sup on their days out. Just hope they have a toilet on the coach!

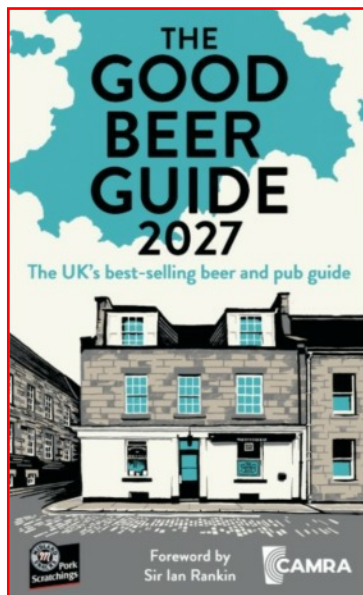
DISCOUNTS FOR CAMRA MEMBERS. Several pubs offer discounts on beer, on production of a valid membership card. We have these pubs listed online. Also included are those that offer **Locale** ; that is beer produced in Northumberland, Tyne & Wear and County Durham.

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

Also available online the branch has an extensive range of historic information ; such as heritage pubs, blue plaque pubs, pub trails and conservation areas.

<https://heritagepubs.sst.camra.org.uk/>

If that isn't enough, check out our online real ale guides <https://rag.sst.camra.org.uk/>



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2026 Beer and Cider Festival

Beggars Bridge, East Boldon



November 5th - 7th 2026

(12 noon to 10.30 pm)

20+ Beers and Ciders

Live music all day Saturday



Website : sundfest.camra.org.uk



It's £5 to get into the Beer Festival for a non member.....BUT JOIN CAMRA either before or on entry to the Festival and you will get free entry. You will also get free entry to every other CAMRA Beer Festival nationwide ; plus much more. See CAMRA membership for details :-

<https://camra.org.uk/membership#membership-options>

SST CAMRA Beer, Cider & Music Festival 2026 :- Beer & Cider List

Prices at the bar :- Token Values :- 1 Red = 50p, 1 Yellow =£2.50

	3% to 3.9%	4% to 4.9%	5% to 5.9%	6% to 7.4%	7.5% and above
Cask Ales	£2.00	£2.50	£2.50	£3.00	
Key Keg			£3.50	£4.00	£4.00
Cider			£2.50	£3.00	£3.50

Third Measures: A paddle of three x third measures will be available at twice the cost of the highest strength beer or cider on the paddle. Ask at the bar

CASK BEERS

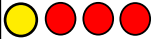
	Brewery	Beer	ABV	Style	Tasting Notes
1	Tapped, Sheffield 	Toha	3.6	Session Pale Ale	An all New Zealand hopped session pale using Nelson Sauvin and Southern Cross.
2	Wensleydale North Yorkshire 	Semer Water	4.1	Pale Ale	Sema' is a light, blonde easy drinking ale. Hopped with Cascade to infuse a balanced and delicate floral undertone. Contains Hops, Barley & Wheat
3	Ashover Chesterfield 	Littlemoor Citra	4.1	Pale	This is a citra-hopped, pale coloured session beer. Very popular with pubs in casks and in bottle shops Winner of 6 awards
4	Wenseydale 	Gamekeeper	4.3	Best Bitter	Gamekeeper has all the traditional traits of a Yorkshire Best Bitter with a modern edge. Rich copper in colour with malty and slightly biscuity flavours; Magnum hops give a subtle hoppy finish. Contains Hops, Barley & Wheat
5	Tapped 	Rye Stout	4.5	Stout	A unique spin on a traditional stout that replaces about 15% of the malt with rye, giving an earthy, peppery and spicy character alongside the beers core roasted notes
6	Colbier, Bootle 	Legato	4.8	Dry Irish Stout	5 different malt varieties delivers roasty, chocolate, with a smooth finish. This seasonal brew uses Phoenix and Target hops to add a hint of molasses, sage and chocolate to the mix.

CASK BEERS CONTINUED

	Brewery	Beer	ABV	Style	Tasting Notes
7	Colbier 	Country	4.8	Blonde	Maris Otter gives a bright, biscuity base, while Harlequin and Polaris hops add gentle citrusy bitterness. A unique blend of two yeasts combine to accentuate the fruity notes of the hops. Suitable for vegans
8	Triple Point Sheffield 	Luxe	5	Porter	An exclusive cask version of our yearly Luxe brews. Ecuadorian cacao nibs and Madagascan vanilla means deep chocolate, rich coffee and soft vanilla sweetness. Gluten Free
9	Atom Hull 	Sticky Toffee Pudding	5.5	Stout	Rich toffee, creamy caramel and gentle roast sit together in a velvety, smooth stout. Comforting, nostalgic and ideal for dark November nights Vegan Friendly
10	Tapped 	Odyssey	5.5	IPA	Brewed with Maris Otter and a touch of Munich malt for body and richness to work in harmony with the punchy resin, citrus and piney hop combination of Cascade, Chinook and Simcoe
11	Triple Point  	Parkin	6	Amber Ale	The traditional Yorkshire cake. It's oats, black treacle and ginger. We've brewed a full bodied, oaty amber ale but added ginger and treacle for a warm and satisfying explosion of flavour. Gluten Free
12	Neptune Bootle  	Rhea	6	Extra Special Bitter	Malt biscuit base of toffee and caramel flavours are intermingled with citrus notes of marmalade rind leading to a soft bitterness.
13	Wensleydale  	Revelation Road	6	NZ IPA	Nelson Sauvin, a classic New Zealand hop, has been allowed to shine in this full-on IPA that is stacked with green grape and wine notes.
14	Ashover  	Spitewinter	6.5	Winter Warmer	Named after a village near the brewery, this traditional English ale. Deep brown, full-bodied, complex, with fruity notes Allergens: Maltd barley (Gluten) Vegan/Vegetarian NO

SST CAMRA Beer, Cider & Music Festival 2026 :- Beer & Cider List

KEY KEG BEERS

	Brewery	Beer	ABV	Style	Tasting Notes
1	Vault City, Edinburgh 	Raspberry Sour	5	Sour	Bold and tart, this vegan friendly sour is packed with intense fruit aromas and flavours. There is a delicate sour finish
2	Two Flints, Windsor 	Big Suze	8	Double IPA	Brewed with Krush, Peacharine and Nectarine hops. The flavour is led by mangos, backed by nectarine and green fruit pastels. There is a heavy dose of wheat and oats giving a soft body and creamy haze

CIDER

ALL ARE SUITABLE FOR VEGANS, VEGETARIANS AND ARE GLUTEN AND LACTOSE FREE

	Producer	Name	%	Taste	Tasting Notes
1	Dudda's Tun, Kent 	Sweet Apple	5.3	Medium Dry	Sweet blend of eating and cooking apples, a moderate acidity tempered by the natural sugars of the fruit. Incredibly easy drinking.
2	Dudda's Tun 	Disco	5.6	Medium Dry	Discovery apples, a sought-after apple for cider, it is one of the few eating apples that is revered for its cider juice. Expect high acidity with red apple flesh and strawberry notes.
3	Dudda's Tun 	Original	6.5	Sweet	Medium blend, easy drinking
4	Sandford Orchards, Devon 	The General	8.5	Medium Dry	Meet The General, crowned the best tannin-led cider in the world at the 2023 International Cider Challenge. Named after our mighty oak vat in which only our best vintage ciders are aged for a minimum of six months. It is bold and satisfying with notes of Seville orange, plum and baked apple, rich and rewarding with a long, warming finish.

CAMRA's National Pub of the Year 2026 update



In August CAMRA revealed their top 16 Pubs of the Year competition for 2026. The North East was represented by **Ye Olde Cross, Ryton Village**.
(<https://camra.org.uk/pubs/olde-cross>)

A presentation was held in the community pub in August. licensee Mick Rolfe is pictured holding aloft their award, which was presented by North East Regional Ian Monteith Preston
(Photo by Paul Dobson)



The Top 16 can be found here.
<https://camra.org.uk/media-centre/press-releases/16-best-pubs-in-the-uk-revealed-ahead-of-bank-holiday-93850>

The Final Four.

In October, it was revealed that the 16 are now down to four, who will now battle it out for the overall crown of **CAMRA Pub of the Year 2026**
They are:-

- Turks Head, St. Helens
- Countryman's Inn, Hunton, nr Catterick Garrison .
- Cockpit, Chislehurst , Gtr London
- Tamworth Tap, Tamworth, Staffordshire
(pictured right in 2023).



Community Pub Update

As well as **Ye Olde Cross** in Ryton, one of the four, **The Countryman's Inn** in Hunton is also a community pub. There is a dedicated website <https://camra.org.uk/community-pubs> giving more information

Top Tips

Beer Scoring

When scoring your beer on the CAMRA website there is means of recording **No Cask Ale Available**. Log onto the pub and click on Beer Score. You should see in red text **Report cask beer is not available**. Select this and a drop down menu will appear. (See right)

Report cask beer is not available

Help keep our pub listings up to date by letting volunteers know what's available.

When did you visit?

24/09/2026

Why do you believe there is no cask ale on?

Temporarily run out

Only available on specific days

Only available on special events

No longer served - Handpulls not in use

No longer served - Handpulls removed

Other

Please provide any details you think will help keep our listings accurate.

Pub Heritage

CAMRA's Pub Heritage Bulletins have been published since 2007. These bulletins are a useful resource for anyone wanting to research the recent fortunes of pub. Follow this link below, and search, for example, for Sunderland, and articles about The Mountain Daisy and The Dun Cow will be highlighted <https://camra.org.uk/heritage-pubs/bulletins>

How to spot Real Cider

CAMRA definition of cider.

*Real Cider and Perry is
#NotFromConcentrate*

CAMRA defines real Cider or Perry as being fermented from the whole juice of fresh pressed apples or pears, without the use of concentrated or chaptalised juices. The word 'chaptalised' as used in the definition refers to a process where the alcohol level in a cider or perry is increased by the addition of sugar to an unnatural level for storage, before it is



diluted with water to the desired alcohol content for sale.

There is often confusion about what constitutes real cider in the pub. A handpull with a pumpclip does not always mean the product meets the CAMRA

definition. **A producers list** can be found online, complete with more information including a producers map. <https://camra.org.uk/producers>

If you want to delve into this subject further there are some **“Learn & Discover”** articles available here :-

<https://learn.camra.org.uk/home>

Just search for cider.

CAMRA's National Cider Pub of the Year is The Hoptician in Dursley, Gloucestershire.

CAMRA Press Release :- <https://camra.org.uk/media-centre/press-releases/eye-conic-micropub-newcomer-wins-camra-national-cider-and-perry-pub-of-the-year-2026-93856>

A Message From The Chairman

Following the announcement yesterday that the government is to introduce stronger planning protections for pubs, CAMRA chairman **Ash Corbett-Collins** said it was a big win for the Campaign.

"Several months ago, the government tried to seriously water down planning protections for our locals, which would have made it much harder for successful, viable and valued pubs to be saved from greedy developers.

"Since then, thousands took part in our campaign and contacted their MP asking for a rethink.

"Because of our consistent campaigning and discussions with MPs and civil servants, we have secured this rethink.

"We now have better protections in the planning system to stop much-loved

pubs being lost to communities and giving people a better chance of saving their local from redevelopment.

"It's not right that viable businesses can be run into the ground by developers who think they can make more by converting a successful pub into a house or flats.

"This proves that when we join together and speak out and make the case for pubs, MPs, civil servants and government ministers listen.

"I want to say a big thank you. Contacting your MP, supporting your CAMRA branch or being a member of the CAMRA family makes a huge difference.

"So, what's next? We know times are still exceptionally tough for licensees and independent brewers and that drinkers aren't getting the choice or

quality they want.

"With the **Autumn Budget** coming up (see panel below), we'll be asking for your support again as crucial decisions will be made on things like VAT, alcohol duty and employment costs for pubs, social clubs and breweries.

"We've also launched our new campaign to get the Competition and Markets Authority to investigate global domination in British brewing and make changes to give independent brewers a fair shot at getting their beers onto bars.

"This announcement shows that CAMRA members contacting MPs, making the case for pro-pub policies and being a strong voice for ordinary drinkers really does make a difference."

Budget 2026

The new chancellor (and CAMRA member!), John Healey, announced the Budget will take place on **Wednesday 28 October**. CAMRA will be calling for action on VAT, beer and cider duty, business rates, energy costs and Employer National Insurance contributions for pubs, pints and people. Watch out for more communication on how to get involved in our Budget campaign.

Healey has previously supported our campaigns, including draught duty cuts to beer and cider served in pubs and clubs :-

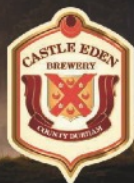
- Permanently making the business rates system in England fairer
- Reducing VAT for beer and pub businesses
- Cutting beer and cider duty on pints in pubs compared to duty charged on cheap supermarket alcohol
- Taking action on high energy bills for pubs
- Reviewing increased Employer National Insurance contributions which are hurting beer and pub businesses.



CASTLE EDEN BREWERY



powdermonkeygroup.com



1826 - 2026

Celebrating 200 years

With over 200 years of North East brewing heritage, Castle Eden Brewery combines traditional recipes with modern expertise to craft distinctive, high-quality ales that honour the North East legacy.

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ALE 4.2%

CASTLE EDEN
BLACK 4.6%

CASTLE EDEN
BLONDE 3.9%

CASTLE EDEN
RED 4.4%

THE
AWARD WINNING

MAXIM BREWERY



Part of
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MAXIM
BREWERY
The Taste of the North Since 1901

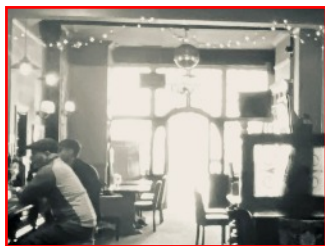
The home of Double Maxim

MAXIM
BREWERY
The Taste of the North Since 1901

Bars, Beer & Berwick by Mark Taylor

It was the day before the Summer Solstice. Four of what is politely termed 'Seniors', headed off for day 'on the drink' away from the confines of Wearside. Weather wise, we couldn't have picked a better day as warm summer sun filled open blue skies.

The journey up by train from Newcastle was a doddle and 45 minutes later we found ourselves strolling out of Berwick upon Tweed station towards our first port of call.



10 minutes later the Art Deco frontage (above) of the **Brewers Arms** on Castlegate greeted us. A decent pint of Timothy Taylor's Landlord poured and we are in the outside beer garden / backyard to catch the rays. This was living the dream and a great way to enjoy this quality brew.

The Bear Claw Brewery in Spittal was our next destination. Located only one and a quarter miles away, its along the riverside via Tweedmouth; a pleasant walk on day like this. However with a collective age of 258

between us, health problems are part of the territory. So while the walk looked tempting, the considered option influenced the consensus of opinion. We took the B1 bus to Spittal.

A 10 minute journey and we were dropped off at The Red Lion (no cask ale) and a short walk into the hidden back lane gem that is now Berwick's only brewery.

Until 1937 the Berwick Brewery operated out of their premises in Brewery Lane (naturally) in Tweedmouth until it was acquired by the original Sunderland based Vaux Breweries. This allowed Vaux to have a considerable presence in the border town right until its own sad demise in 1999. A Vaux legacy lingers in some of the towns pubs to this day. But more of that later.

Amazingly the old Berwick brewery was rejuvenated back into its original purpose in 1992, when the short lived Border microbrewery opened. Two years later they merged with Tyneside based Hadrian. By 2004, the whole operation, now called **Hadrian Border Brewery**, was merged and moved to Newburn on the Tyne.

In 2012 brewing returned to Berwick. This time as a nano brewery based in a unit on East Greenwich Road in Spittal. The Bear

Claw brewery had arrived and the tap room is open to the public on Saturdays. Their cask ales are fermented in oak barriques and in ex-wine barrels. Occasionally barrel aged but mainly in oak barriques giving them distinct flavours.

Bear Claw supply a few bars around Tweedside and mainly sell direct to trade. On our visit 3 casks were ready.

Curmudgeon (a 4% ABV Bitter)
Wiamea (4% Pale Ale)
Riwaka (4.2% Single Hop Pale)

It was rude not to try them all - so we did ! The Bitter was excellent. The pale



Ales were perfect accompaniments to the beautiful summers day (above). There was also a Saison Lager called The Fool on keg. Which again was welcome thirst quencher on a warm day. If you're in Berwick on a Saturday ; this place is a must visit.

Suitably refreshed we headed back on the bus into town. Jumping off at Tweedmouth and crossing the old bridge we were rewarded with a visit to **The Barrels.** (below)
This quirky establishment in Bridge Street has been a



beacon for cask ale around here for decades now. On our visit there was four handpulls in operation. I settled on the Ossett White Rat which hit the spot.

A few doors across the road and up a narrow alleyway is **The Curfew** micropub. Again noted for its eclectic beer range on cask and keg. As a change of pace I went for the Tempest Cresta Stout (4.1%) as my choice among the four cask ales on offer. First class ! The Curfew is worth a visit at anytime but look out for their own beer festival in the Spring .

You cannot live on drink alone It was time for food. **The Atelier** across road fits the bill. Even better it had our own North Pier Northern Bitter on cask freshly delivered from Roker. Unfortunately there wasn't a spare table as the Saturday afternoon diners

had filled the place out.

Despondent but not defeated. Just around the corner on Hide Hill, there is **Foxtons Winebar & Restaurant.** Not only great food but Timothy Taylor Landlord on cask in good condition too.

Now fed we hit our stride. Across the road is what was once the pride of Berwick pubs: **The Brown Bear.** Once a proud ex Vaux pub but post Vaux the hard times hit and it eventually closed in 2018. Thankfully it was bought and refurbished. This historic



pub, despite the recent turmoil and changes still retains that Vaux pub feel. Only one cask ale was available - from the opposite end of England - Sharps Atlantic which was okay . But nothing different or exceptional to bland offerings you could find anywhere.

So time to head towards the station and another gem of a pub on Castlegate. As described by CAMRA :
Built in 1847 and with no major alterations since 1910 this is one of only two pubs in the huge county of Northumberland currently on CAMRA's National

Inventory of Pub Interiors of Outstanding Historic Interest.

This refers to the family run **Free Trade.** Only one cask ale but very appropriately its the once Berwick based Hadrian Border and is consistently for sale in here - their Blond session ale . And what a beer and pub to round off our Berwick session off with in style.

A bit of last minute dash to catch the train and we were back in Newcastle in no time. We all agreed we had an excellent day out and the bars were all different in a good sense. All well worth visiting for a multitude of reasons. It was a grand summer day out!



Mark Taylor, Steve Easles (kneeling), Chris Elkins & Richie Hartley.

Further information about these pubs & brewery can be found on the CAMRA website, including maps and opening times.
<https://camra.org.uk/pubs/place/berwick-upon-tweed-1553?sort=nearest>

Pub Quiz (answers on Page 30)

1. Which airline plans to introduce a non stop flight from Sydney to London in 2027?
2. Name the US golfer who won his 15th majors title at the 2019 Masters.
3. Name the extinct volcano that over looks Holyrood Palace and the Scottish Parliament.
4. What D is another name for a Rastafarian hairstyle ?
5. What is the name for a line of equal atmospheric pressure?
6. Which Bristol born actor has starred in films such as North by Northwest, Operation Petticoat and His Girl Friday?
7. What is the name of the secret HQ of International Rescue in Thunderbirds?
8. Name the most common street name in UK. Front Street, High Street or Station Road.
9. In which county in Sandringham?
10. In which royal residence did Queen Victoria die in 1901. Was it Sandringham, Buckingham Palace or Osborne House.
11. What are the colour of the seats the peers sit on in the House of Lords?
12. In which very popular film did Benny Hill play Professor Peach in 1969?
13. In which country is the port of Casablanca?
14. Jazz musician Stephane Grappelli was known for playing with instrument?
15. Who won a Grammy in 1986 for his Born in the USA album?
16. How many records is a castaway allowed to take on Desert Island Discs?
17. Who won an Oscar for his role as Popeye Doyle in The French Connection?
18. Prior to the Euro, what was the currency of Greece?
19. What is the favourite food of Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles?
20. Which TV show did Ringo Starr used to narrate?



This is the **Blue Bell** in Fulwell, Sunderland. A former Vaux pub, it has been rebuilt twice; in 1887 and the 1930's. This twilight photo was taken on a July 2026 evening by **Mark Taylor**.

<https://camra.org.uk/pubs/blue-bell-sunderland-192680>

If anyone has any night time pub or club photos to share please email magazine01@sst.camra.org.uk
Thank you

Shildon Survivor by Mark Taylor

George Samuel brewery in Shildon Co. Durham is named after brewer's Andrew Ferriman' two sons. The brewery originally set up as a two-barrel plant in 2014 at the Duke of Wellington pub in Welbury near Northallerton. After a short stint based in Spennymoor, the current brewery reopened at the old railway engineering works canteen in Shildon in 2020. This was developed into an eight-barrel plant, brewery tap and, as the Covid crisis and restrictions subsided, an eatery.

Shildon, of course is 'Cradle of the Railways'. Last year saw the 200th anniversary of fabled Darlington & Stockton railway and Shildon became the world' first railway town.

On 30th June 1984, 151 years of production ceased with the loss of 2750 jobs after a much political fight and local campaigns to keep the, then nationalised British Rail, works open. Shildon as a town has not recovered some 40 plus years on.

The brewery and its canteen are described by ex- Northern Echo journalist Mike Amos as 'among the best things to happen in Shildon in donkeys years', in a recent blog called *Grass Routes*.

This proud industrial railway heritage is captured by the names of the George



Samuel beer range. *Leaves on the Line* is my personal favourite bitter by a country mile.

Andrew and his spouse Laura Ferriman have survived, despite the most challenging economic times this decade has produced so far, to keep prices low to help the community while keeping quality high. With the Ukraine war forcing up the price of grain and the recent events in Iran causing a devastating impact on oil prices, this has resulted in production costs tripling since 2022 but only modest price increases at the till. The couple have faced a tough 2026 and at one point it looked likely they were to call it a day with both brewing and the canteen.

Laura started a new job in September. Andrew was looking for a buyer to keep the brewery going. Thankfully for the drinkers of South West Durham a compromise has been reached and both survive with limited opening hours on Fridays & Saturdays.. The fact brewing is continuing and these excellent brews will not be

lost now is something to raise a glass to. Shildon, is a very economically depressed town and can ill afford to lose one of its star attractions. Apart from Shildon Railway Institute there is no other outlet for cask ale in Shildon.

Hopefully with the good news their beers are still going to be available in its limited form, will still make Shildon a destination for ale drinkers. However, the future of these wonderful beers will not disappear or be in jeopardy as feared, when buyers were being sought and closure was a possibility. That George Samuel beers have not become another depressing statistic is purely down to the never give up spirit of the Ferrimans.

Please over the coming months take the time to visit The Canteen in Shildon. and make the most of the beers on offer while there. As Joni Mitchell complained 'That you don't know what you got 'till it's gone'. She might have been singing about the George Samuel brewery!!

Thankfully after a reprieve that isn't the case any more!

<https://camra.org.uk/pubs/canteen-bar-kitchen-shildon-187485>

CAMRA Angle Goes Underground by Ken Paul

In June 2026 I was invited to the 200th Anniversary of the Castle Eden Brewery in Co Durham. The brewery is now located in Seaham and earlier this year Maxim Brewery moved into the Seaham site. I was there in my capacity as CAMRA's Brewery Liaison Officer (BLO) for Maxim Brewery. This anniversary took place at The Old Brewery Business Centre in Castle Eden village. This was the original site of the brewery before they moved 8 miles north 20 years ago – another milestone.

There was about 25 invitees there; I met fellow CAMRA member Dave Thornton from Durham Branch, and we both took our respective branch magazines, Durham Drinker and CAMRA Angle.

The event itself was largely a recap of the brewery history with brief talks on Nimmos, Whitbread, Castle Eden and their new owners, The Powder Monkey Group. As well as sampling some beers and canapés, a key



moment was the “burying” of a **time capsule**.

On a table had been set out memorabilia to be stored inside this time capsule box, including for an unknown reason, a red bra? Anyhow, once the box had been filled I asked if we could include a copy each of our magazine for prosperity. “Of course, why not”, came back the enthusiastic answer.

So with that done it was time to bury the time capsule in the cellar. We invited ourselves down to witness this event; the only ones of the attendees to do so. The cellar had a low ceiling, was dusty and festooned with cobwebs. There is a video on facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/ree/2756273544755404> which shows the cellar and where the time capsule box has been stored. If you are lucky you will catch a glimpse of me lurking in the background of the cellar, the ceiling of which was less than my height. I emerged with a few bumps on my head and a hat and t shirt back covered in cobwebs.

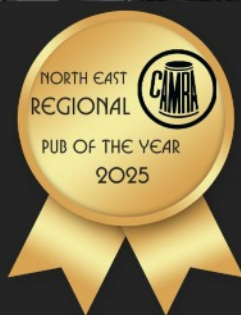
At the end of proceedings we were each given a goodie bag, including a choice of a bottle of beer (I went for Castle Eden Black) and a souvenir glass.

All together this was an enjoyable few hours. A comment was made at the end, that if and when this time capsule is retrieved and opened, will anyone know who or what CAMRA were?

This article has also appeared in Durham Drinker.

The Old Brewery Business Centre can be found just off the Castle Eden exit of the A19. The brewery is at Spectrum Business Park, Seaham





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

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

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



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

Obituaries

Ron Lawson



researching many of them. Ron's pub photos collection had about 30,000 photos! He wrote about 10 books on pubs in the Sunderland area.

Among his vast collection were original photographs from the Vaux and Scottish and Newcastle archives some which had photos of Colonel James Herbert Porter the man who invented 'Broon Ale'!



**One of Ron's many photos of the former Vaux Brewery in Sunderland
Sunderland Antiquarian Society**

When Ron Lawson of the Sunderland Antiquarian Society retired he spent about 20 years photographing all the pubs in the North East and then

Sadly, Ron died in June aged 92.

Terry Ford

Jess McConnell

Sid Dobson writes :-

Jarrow born Jess Mc Connell was a well known brewer, pub and club landlord and stage entertainer. He managed several pubs and clubs during his career among them his first; The Queens Hotel in Jarrow and The Robin Hood, also in Jarrow. He bought the Robin Hood from Vaux and opened the **Jarrow Brewery** in 2002.

The photo shows Jess being presented with a special award for 10 years of the brewery in the Robin Hood.



Above :- Jess with Branch Chair Michael Wynne and Alison McConnell

The brewery's **Rivet Catcher** won Champion Beer of the North East and runner up in the Great British Beer competition. Other pubs included Sunderland' Ship Isis which is recognised by CAMRA

for having an outstanding pub conversion. Similarly The Maltings in South Shields.

He was associated with several clubs including those in Cramlington, Hebburn and North Shields Jarrow Brewery expanded and moved to Bede Trading Estate. Unfortunately it entered administration in 2015.

However he took over the Albion Gin & Ale House just before Covid. On retiring in 2022 he returned to his entertaining roots.

Jess McConnell; 1952-2026

Quiz Answers

1	Quantas	11	Red
2	Tiger Woods	12	Italian Job
3	Arthur's Seat	13	Morocco
4	Dreadlock	14	Violin
5	Isobar	15	Bruce Springsteen
6	Cary Grant	16	Eight
7	Tracy Island	17	Gene Hackman
8	High Street	18	Drachma
9	Norfolk	19	Pizza
10	Osborne House (on Isle of Wight)	20	Thomas the Tank Engine

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/1617/Trading-standards
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
Stagecoach - 0191 566 0231	https://www.stagecoachbus.com/about/north-east
Travel North East Public Transport Hub NEW - Covers North East Mayoral Strategic Authority	https://travelnortheast.uk/
Traveline North East 0871 2002233 Covers as above plus Tees Valley.	https://travelinenortheast.info/

Branch Contact Information		
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Secretary	Lynn Dobson	secretary@sst.camra.org.uk
Treasurer	Steve Drummond	treasurer@sst.camra.org.uk
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Cider Rep.	Steve Clough	cider@sst.camra.org.uk
Social Secretary	Sid Dobson	social@sst.camra.org.uk
Branch Heritage Pubs	admin.team@heritagepubs.sst.camra.org.uk	
Website	https://heritagepubs.sst.camra.org.uk/ -	

Brewery Liaison Officers branch.allBLO@sst.camra.org.uk		
Each of the four breweries in our branch has a dedicated BLO. Please contact them with any news		
Brewlab	Michael Wynne	brewlabBLO@sst.camra.org.uk
North Pier	Stan Johnson	northpierBLO@sst.camra.org.uk
Vaux	Mo Moseley	vauxBLO@sst.camra.org.uk
Wear Beer	Ken Paul	wearbeerBLO@sst.camra.org.uk

BRANCH SOCIAL MEDIA DETAILS	PRESS & MEDIA CONTACTS
Twitter: @SST_CAMRA Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/SSTCAMRA Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/groups/SSTCAMRA/ (Discussion Group) Instagram: https://instagram.com/sst_camra	Michael Wynne, Ian Monteith-Preston, Stan Johnson, Ken Paul. press@sst.camra.org.uk For more details see https://sst.camra.org.uk/wordpress/?page_id=32

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



OPENING TIMES

WEDNESDAY 4-10
THURSDAY 4-10
FRIDAY 3-10:30
SATURDAY 12:30-10:30
SUNDAY 12:30-9

1A PERCY TERRACE, WHITBURN, SR6 7EW

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

EVERY WEDNESDAY AT 7PM - UKULELE CLUB UPSTAIRS

EVERY THURSDAY - PIE AND PINT NIGHT & RUN CLUB

SUNDAY - LIVE MUSIC AT 5:30PM

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4 ROTATING CASK ALE LINES

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DRAMS TO INTERESTING NEW BOTTLES

DOG FRIENDLY — WELL-BEHAVED HUMANS ALSO

WELCOME