



Scottish Brewing Archive Association  
Promoting the History of Brewing in Scotland

## SBAA Newsletter No. 29 – October 2016

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### Welcome

Welcome to Newsletter number 29 of the Scottish Brewing Archive Association. There's a range of fresh topics here. And some very up-to-date news. Thank you to those who have helped. Remember. It's your SBAA Newsletter, so read it all.

There is a new exhibition, in the great brewing centre of Alloa, where the role of that town and area in the great story of Scotland's brewing industry is featured until the end of January 2017 at the Speirs Centre. See more details here, including the opportunity to visit.

First of all, you should already have received the agenda for the Annual General Meeting of the SBAA. As on three previous occasions, it's in the Behind the Wall pub upstairs at Falkirk (close to Grahamston station which is served by ScotRail). It's at 7.30pm on November 24<sup>th</sup>, a Thursday.

Please let Chairman John Martin know if you can attend. Please make every effort to do so.

Thanks to John for taking and sourcing pictures for this SBAA Newsletter.

### Another date for your diary

In addition to the above event, the year-end social has been arranged for Alloa on Thursday the 8th December in the afternoon.

We will visit the Speirs Centre to view the brewing exhibition, followed by a brewery walking tour of Alloa and ending up at The Old Brewery for a buffet.

Please let me know if you can come.

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John Martin

## "View from the Chair"

As we are now approaching autumn and the tail end of the year, the SBAA can look back over a successful year with our main aim of promoting the heritage of breweries in Scotland. This year's Journal is now ready for distributing and hopefully by the time you read this you will have received your copy. Many thanks to everyone who provided articles for the Journal, please keep it going. Thanks also go to Allan McLean and Forbes Gibb for the work in preparing the Journal for printing.

Please welcome Helen Carmichael to the fold, our new Treasurer and Membership Secretary. There has been a delay with the transfer of duties from the previous Treasurer, however Helen is now getting to grips with it.

I would also like to bring to your attention that the Scottish Brewing Heritage Raise Your Glass! brewing exhibition is now on display in Alloa, another town with great brewing heritage, see details that follow.

I mentioned in the last Newsletter that it is important to write in with your comments, suggestions and ideas. After all this is your Newsletter.

John Martin

## Scottish Real Ale Festival – 2016

As in previous years the SBAA attended this year's Scottish Real Ale Festival at the Corn Exchange in Edinburgh. This event over the years has proved to be popular and gives the SBAA an opportunity to promote our organization.

Our approach has been to highlight the history of brewing in Scotland with some interesting facts to anyone who visited our table. Many thanks to Harvey Milne, Allan McLean who manned our table and in particular Neil Lawrence and George Douglas who attended all three days. George also brought along a small selection of his model trucks, a great talking point with many.

It would be good to have more of our members to help next year.

The entertainment was provided by the Caledonian Pipe Band, with Craig Steven from the Caledonian Brewery, third from the left in the picture. Good on you Craig!

Raj IPA was chosen as this year's winner, brewed by Tryst Brewery it is a traditional strong bitter at 5.5 % ABV.



Caledonian Brewery Pipe Band (see story above).

## Alloa brewing exhibition

To celebrate Alloa's great brewing heritage the Raise Your Glass! exhibition is now on display at the Speirs Centre (Library) Mezzanine level. The Speirs Centre is a 5-minute walk from the Railway station and there is a large car park adjacent.



Picture shows The Alloa Brewery as was, now the site of an ASDA near the new station.

Thanks go to Susan Mills, Museum and Heritage Officer, in putting the display together. The exhibition will be on display until the end of January 2017.

There will be a number of talks and presentations during the period of the exhibition with dates still to be agreed.

So why not attend, we would like to hear your comments.

### **Do you know?**

At the Museum of Edinburgh earlier this year, the Raise Your Glass! exhibition had on display an artefact that we were not sure of its purpose, it was described as a shoulder gauge.

Everyone that attended the talks at the time of the exhibition was asked and although I did receive some good suggestions, the best came from Duncan Kellock.

“A bottle shoulder gauge was used to check that a bottle closure was depressed to the correct depth thereby ensuring that a bottle was sealed correctly, suffering no liquid leakage.”



Crown bottle shoulder gauges.

## Question Corner

Graeme Cruickshank wrote in to ask what is “botanical brewing”?

Graeme has a great deal of knowledge of the Scottish pottery industry and has written his own book on the subject and has come across a number of stoneware flagons, with details that follow:

Roland Whiteley, Botanical Brewery, Dundee 1925

Maker: Pearson & Co Ltd., Whittington Moor by Chesterfield

D. Eastwood, Botanical brewer, Greenock 1929

Maker: E. Wright & Co Ltd., Chesterfield

Gledhill & Son Ltd., Springfield Botanical Works, Glasgow 1938

Maker: Govancroft Pottery, Glasgow (then called Gledhill & Dyson in 1910)

Can you please help Graeme with this and write in with any information that may help. Would also be good to find out more about the breweries.

Thank you.

John Martin

## Brewing Heritage Scotland Exhibition in Alloa

An Alloa Breweries Memorabilia Exhibition has been set up in the Speirs Centre at Primrose Street in Alloa and will run to the end of January 2017. The Exhibition has been set up jointly by Susan Mills, Museum and Heritage Officer of the Alloa Library and Archives, and John Martin of Brewing Heritage Scotland and the SBAA. The material on show has come from the archives in Alloa, the recent exhibitions in Edinburgh, and with contributions from Forbes Gibb and Brian Eaton. A bust of Archibald Arrol, formerly in Alloa Brewery, is also on show.



**MEADOW BREWERY (1890)**

Picture shows a Victorian scene in Alloa.

## Clackmannanshire Doors Open Days – Guided Walk 24 September

Alloa is well known for its Brewing Heritage – we can trace brewing ale for sale in Alloa back to 1648, and in 1900 there were 10 Breweries in and around Alloa.

In connection with the Exhibition and Doors Open Day a short guided walk was arranged round some of the former brewing sites on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> September.

Ten hardy souls met at the exhibition in the Speirs Centre and after some introductions by John Martin there was time to look at the exhibits before we set off. The guides (in alphabetical order according to height) were Brian Eaton (who led the group), Harvey Milne, and John Martin who had prepared encapsulated maps for everyone. John also brought along a lot of photographs of the former buildings etc. (also encapsulated - a wise precaution!)

Leading off in the drizzle we talked about Blair's Brewery then Alloa Brewery before we headed into the town centre to Maclay's. We were able to point out the sites of the Springfield Maltings, Caponcroft Brewery, and the Mills Brewery.

We then went round to the Candleriggs to the former George Younger's Brewery and then the Meadow Brewery. Passing the site of the old Post Office we mentioned the Bass Crest Brewery (Bass Crest House still exists) and then down to the old coal truck at the side of the former wagonway, which was used to transport coal from the mines at Sauchie to the docks. (The M.V. Stefan docked in Alloa in 1954 bringing the new brewhouse vessels from Sweden for Alloa Brewery). From the old coal truck we could point out the Shore Brewery site, the Glassworks and also the Maltings – still in use, mainly for grain for the distillers.

By this time we were being treated to a heavy downpour so we returned to the Speirs Centre for a group photo. John thanked all the participants (None of whom dropped out due to the weather!) and the guides.



A group of the visitors at the Speirs Centre on 24 September.

## Further Events

Further events associated with the exhibition in Alloa are at the planning stage. There will be talks by Brian, Harvey and John at the exhibition itself and possibly at the Alloa Beer Festival at the end of October.

Thanks are especially due to Susan Mills and John Martin for all their hard work on the exhibition, arranging the walk and the forthcoming talks.

Harvey Milne

## Scotland gains many more breweries!

There's been a massive increase in the number of breweries. When the total in Scotland soared past 100 -- last heard of it was 144 Scottish breweries and brands and counting -- it became obvious we would no longer be able to give up-to-date lists of new breweries for SBAA members.

Therefore I am suggesting that members may care to look at a website that does give recent information:

<http://www.stravaiging.com/drink/beer/>

**And to think that back in 1970, Scotland was down to 11 breweries.**

## Caley sheds light on the dark

Our friends at the Caledonian Brewery in Edinburgh have introduced a new Dark Lager at 4.7 per cent alcohol by volume (ABV).

Named Dark Light it is inspired by original dark lager or *schwarzbier*. The name is explained by the combination of appearance and taste, with a crisp, dry finish.

In keeping with the origins of the style, it incorporates German malt and hops. This beer is one of several initially trialled at Slateford Road in a pilot brewery named “Wee George” after founder George Lorimer (one of the partners who started the main brewery in 1869).

“Wee George” uses scaled down plant manufactured in Scotland. It can be used to try out new recipes in smaller batches than the “big brewery” upstairs.

Craig Steven, Caledonian’s Beer Manager and Beer Academy Sommelier said: “Dark Light is our fresh and modern take on the historic Schwarzbiers of southern Germany. It really does have it all – some fruity tones initially, followed by clean bittersweet notes of dark malt, chocolate coffee and vanilla, within a medium bodied, creamy mouth-feel and a crisp dry finish. We’re certain this fresh yet historic style will be a hit with punters looking for something a bit different.”

## Members set off by train for a taste of Tempest

With many more than 100 breweries in Scotland now and the number still rising, members and friends of the SBAA decided it was time to visit one of the best of the newbies.

On 22 July we set off by train to Tweedbank, the current terminus of the Borders Railway. Sited between Galashiels and Melrose, there is not a lot to do at Tweedbank – except take a short stroll to the nearby brewery established by Tempest Brewing when they moved last year from Kelso in search of more room to meet their growing popularity.

An enjoyable afternoon was had by all during a fascinating visit in which we tasted some of the beer as well as inspected the site.

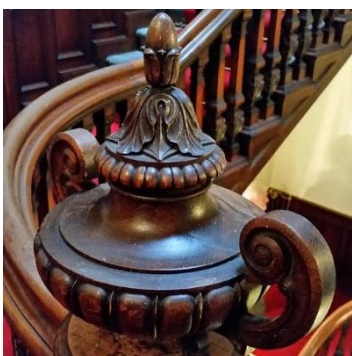
Since our visit, we learned that the brewery is not just regarded as “one of the best” but actually “the best”. Tempest has been named “Scottish brewery of the year” in the Scottish Beer Awards with a string of “Best” awards for several of their beers.

Allan McLean



On 22 July, the SBAA vice-chairman Allan McLean, who also happens to chair the Campaign for Borders Rail, presented a certificate commemorating the visit to Graham from Tempest and expressed the hope that Tempest would become a corporate member of the SBAA.

### Puzzle pic



In the SBAA Newsletter 27, readers were asked if they wanted to win a bottle of beer by identifying this picture. But as there were no entries, we repeated that picture again in Newsletter 28. Just for fun. This time there was a response, correctly identifying the picture as showing a staircase newell post in the house originally lived in by William McEwan. Thank you to Graeme Cruickshank for this emailed response:

“It is in the building now called the Sir Arthur Conan Doyle Centre at 25 Palmerston Place, at first floor level. I was there a couple of years ago on an Open Doors visit.”

## McEwans celebrate 160 years

And now, a bit more about the recent 160<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the McEwan brewery in Edinburgh at Fountainbridge. Although brewed elsewhere, beers with the McEwan name continue to be enjoyed. Here is their recent press release:

McEwan's painted Edinburgh red this October as they celebrated 160 years since William McEwan started brewing his now world-famous beer at the Fountain Brewery in the city. The event held at The Caves on Niddry Street was attended by key McEwan's customers, trade press and influential friends of the brand from the drinks industry, as well as members of the Charles Wells family and their McEwan's team who are now custodians of the brand.

Speaking at the event, Marketing Manager for McEwan's, Tara Karimian, said: "McEwan's remains synonymous with beer in Scotland and is in great shape, having both the biggest selling canned and bottled ale in Scotland and a wide variety of beers that appeal to all tastes.

"For a brand to be successful over such a long time is down to many people over many years. Those who worked on the brand, brewed the beer, sold the beer, and drunk the beer at any point in its history should be hugely proud of the part they have played in the story. Here's to the people of McEwan's past and present and to a long, bright future for our favourite beer."



## Society Shop

The Association can offer the following journals, newsletters and books to members at attractive prices. Please tick the items you would like and send this form to (please note change of person and address since previous information was published):

John Martin  
41 Auchingane  
Edinburgh EH10 7HU

All prices **include** postage and packing within the UK.

Please make cheques payable to the Scottish Brewing Archive Association. Alternatively we can accept payment by PayPal to [orders@scottishbrewingarchive.co.uk](mailto:orders@scottishbrewingarchive.co.uk)

## The Scottish Brewing Archive Journal

The journal first appeared in 1998 and is packed with articles on breweries past and present, supported by illustrations of labels, adverts, etc. Back issues are available as below:

Volume 2	(2000)	<input type="checkbox"/>	£4
Volume 3	(2001)	<input type="checkbox"/>	£4
Volume 4	(2002)	<input type="checkbox"/>	£4
Volume 5	(2003)	<input type="checkbox"/>	£4
Volume 6	(2004)	<input type="checkbox"/>	£4
Volume 7	(2006)	<input type="checkbox"/>	£4
Volume 8	(2009)	<input type="checkbox"/>	£4
Volume 9	(2010)	<input type="checkbox"/>	£4
Volume 10	(2011)	<input type="checkbox"/>	£4
Volume 11	(2011)	<input type="checkbox"/>	£4
Volume 12	(2012)	<input type="checkbox"/>	£4
Volume 13	(2013)	<input type="checkbox"/>	£4
Volume 14	(2014)	<input type="checkbox"/>	£4
Volume 15	(2015)	<input type="checkbox"/>	£4
Volume 16	(2016)	<input type="checkbox"/>	£4

## The Scottish Brewing Archive Newsletter

CD of SBA newsletters 1-50	<input type="checkbox"/>	£10
CD of SBA/SBAA journals 1-10	<input type="checkbox"/>	£10

## Books

Gibb, F. The brewers and breweries of Ayrshire, Buteshire and Renfrewshire. Lomax Press, 2013. £11

Brewery historians will find information on brewers, breweries and their beers from 1559 to the present day, and pictures and locations of breweries and associated buildings.

Gibb, F. The brewers and breweries of Fife. Lomax Press, 2012. £13

Brewery historians will find information on brewers, breweries and their beers from 1495 to the present day, and pictures and locations of breweries and associated buildings.

Gibb, F. The brewers and breweries of Linlithgowshire. Lomax Press, 2009. £6

Brewery historians will find information on brewers, breweries and their beers from 1655 to the present day, and pictures and locations of breweries and associated buildings.

Gibb, F. The brewers and breweries of Stirlingshire. Lomax Press, 2008. £10

Brewery historians will find information on brewers, breweries and their beers from 1688 to the present day, and pictures and locations of breweries and associated buildings.

Miller, J. and Tubb, M. Here's tae us: a social history of drinking in Edinburgh. Living Memory Association, 2007 £3

This large format pamphlet contains stories and memories from people who worked in the brewing industry, as well as material on the social side of drinking.

Name: .....

Address: .....

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Town: .....

Postcode: .....