



Scottish Brewing Archive Association

Promoting the History of Brewing in Scotland

SBAA Newsletter No. 31 – April 2017

<http://www.scottishbrewingarchive.co.uk/> web site

info@scottishbrewingarchive.co.uk e-mail

Welcome:

Welcome to April's Newsletter of the Scottish Brewing Archive Association. Please read it all.

“View from the Chair”

It would appear winter is over for another year, or so it would seem. To welcome the warmer weather, this month's SBAA Newsletter contains details of our events programme, so please take note of the dates for your diary. The first brewery visit is on the 16th May, so please contact promptly to book a place.

Once again I would ask you to write in with your comments or any information you think would be of interest. It may be just your ideas.

Be good to hear from you.

John Martin

Programme of SBAA Events:

The following are the dates of visits and events planned during this year. If you wish to attend please contact John Martin by either phoning **0131 441 7718** or by e-mail **martin.j7@sky.com**

Numbers to be confirmed at least one week before the date.

16th May at 2:00pm Edinburgh Beer Factory

The SBAA have been granted a 50% discount.

Price of our visit is £7.50, which includes 2 drinks, a brewer-led tour, and a tutored tasting of unfiltered beer straight from the tank and a £5 voucher to spend in the gift shop.

15th June at 2:30pm Broughton Brewery

Dependent on numbers we may hire a mini-bus.

6th -8th July Scottish Real Ale Festival at the Corn Exchange in Edinburgh

We normally staff a table to help promote the SBAA and need volunteers to help with this. Please get in touch.

23rd August at 2:00 Diageo Archive, Menstrie

The Diageo Archive is the largest source of drinks brand information in the world and two years ago it was expanded to store more than a half a million items of drink heritage.

AGM – date and venue to be agreed in **November**

Brewing Exhibitions:

There is another great exhibition on Scotland's brewing heritage for you to visit now. It's the latest in the "Raise Your Glass" series by our associated but separate not-for-profit community interest company Brewing Heritage Scotland.

It is on now at the Musselburgh Museum at Musselburgh High Street. Several bus routes call at stops nearby. Please visit soon. Entry is free of charge. The exhibition is open on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays between 10.30am and 4pm. The last day is Saturday 3rd June.

Even if you think you have seen some material at an event in Alloa or Edinburgh, it is worth noting that the Musselburgh show offers previously unseen Musselburgh-related breweriana. The history of brewing in Musselburgh and Fisherrow covers dates between 1697 and 1971.

Allan McLean

War time in Alloa:

Following the brewing exhibition in Alloa, I received further information on what life was like and the part played by Alloa brewing in maintaining the morale of the troops during the Second World War.

The following is an extract.

"My Dear Mam worked in Hibbert's bottling plant from 13 or 14 years old, her and other lassies would write their names on the labels of bottles of beer being sent to the troops and they would write back as pen pals".

Here is a label one of the troops sent back in his letter.



Canongate Kirkyard:

During last years brewing exhibition at the Museum of Edinburgh I came across a burial headstone in the Canongate Kirkyard that provides further evidence of the heritage of brewing in Edinburgh.

For its age the headstone is remarkably well preserved, it reads,



The Burying Place of George Rae
and continues,
Erected to the memory of James Gilbert
Late Brewer in the North Back of the Canongate
who departed this Life 22 June 1777
aged 48 years

There is also a further burial plot in the Kirkyard which is the resting place of another brewer from Edinburgh – Drybrough.

This time the burial stone is quite extensive and records the names of James Drybrough and his family.

His father, Andrew Drybrough was brewing prior to 1750 and was succeeded by his son James who was brewing in the Tolbooth Wynd and later moved to the North Back of the Canongate in 1782.

Drybrough's later moved to Craigmillar where it continued to brew beer until 1987 when it was closed.



At the top of the burial stone is the inscription,
James Drybrough
Brewer, Edinburgh, 1794

However I am intrigued why this year is shown,
as James was brewing much earlier and died in 1803.

The Drybrough family burial plot

The burial plot is next to the memorial to “Clarinda” (Agnes Mclehorse) who befriended Robert Burns when he visited Edinburgh and who was the inspiration for **Ae Fond Kiss**, one of Burn’s more famous poems.

I find it amasing of the many interesting stories you can come across when walking through a cemetary.

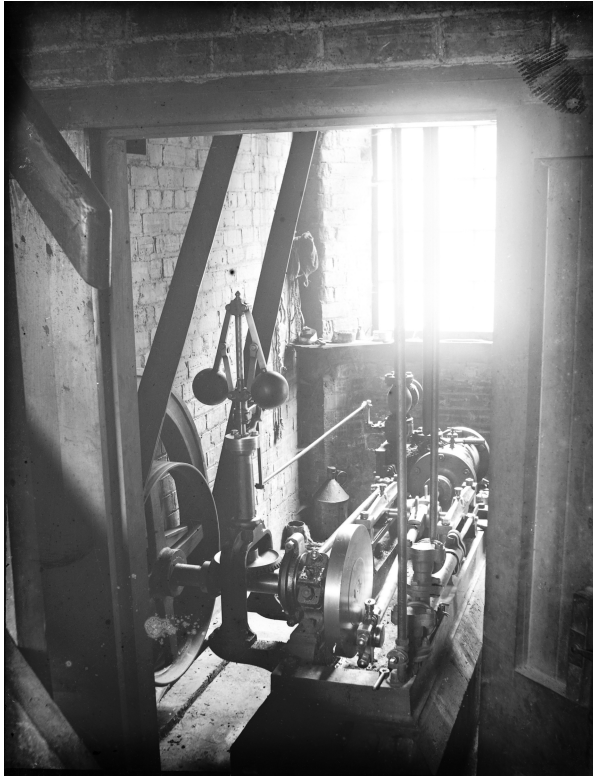
John Martin

Can you help?

During my research for the Musselburgh Raise Your Glass! Brewing exhibition I came across this photo entitled Brewery Engine.

Can anyone identify what it is? I don't have any other information.

Please get in touch if you think you know. Thanks.



Scottish brewing history – sitting down:

In the last SBAA Newsletter I mentioned that I was doing something different to help promote the history of brewing in Scotland.

A small group met last month to discuss unusual, interesting and not very well known aspects of brewing history, over a beer or two.

Based on feedback it worked quite well but will make some changes to the format before the next one which I plan to hold in May.

If you are interested in attending please get in touch.

0131 441 7718

martin.j7@sky.com

John Martin

Reminder of SBAA Membership arrangements:

Currently renewing your SBAA membership varies at different times throughout the year. To simplify matters it was agreed at the AGM in November for current members to renew their membership in line with the SBAA financial year, which runs from 1st October to 30th September. It was agreed that the change in membership arrangements would start as from October 2017, giving some members time to make any changes with their banks.

For the current financial year please renew your membership as soon as possible, if you have not done so already. With your continuing support the aims of the SBAA can grow.

Tennent's and its Heritage – history in a bottle:

Earlier this year Tennent's launched a limited edition heritage pack, which includes Tennent's Lager in a bottle but has four different label designs from yesteryear. This was inspired by the brands own archive collection at the Scottish Brewing Archive and maintained by the University of Glasgow Archive Services.

The birth of Tennent's Lager was in 1885 when Hugh Tennent acquired a taste for lager during a visit to Germany and decided to brew it on his return to Glasgow. This enterprise earned the contempt of a local newspaper who hailed it as a "Madmans Dream". Far from being mad, Hugh proved to be very astute with his business dealings for one so young.

Tennent's Lager has now been in existents for over 130 years and still going strong.



The heritage packs are now available in the larger stores of Tesco and Sainsburys.