

Issue 76

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Summer 2021

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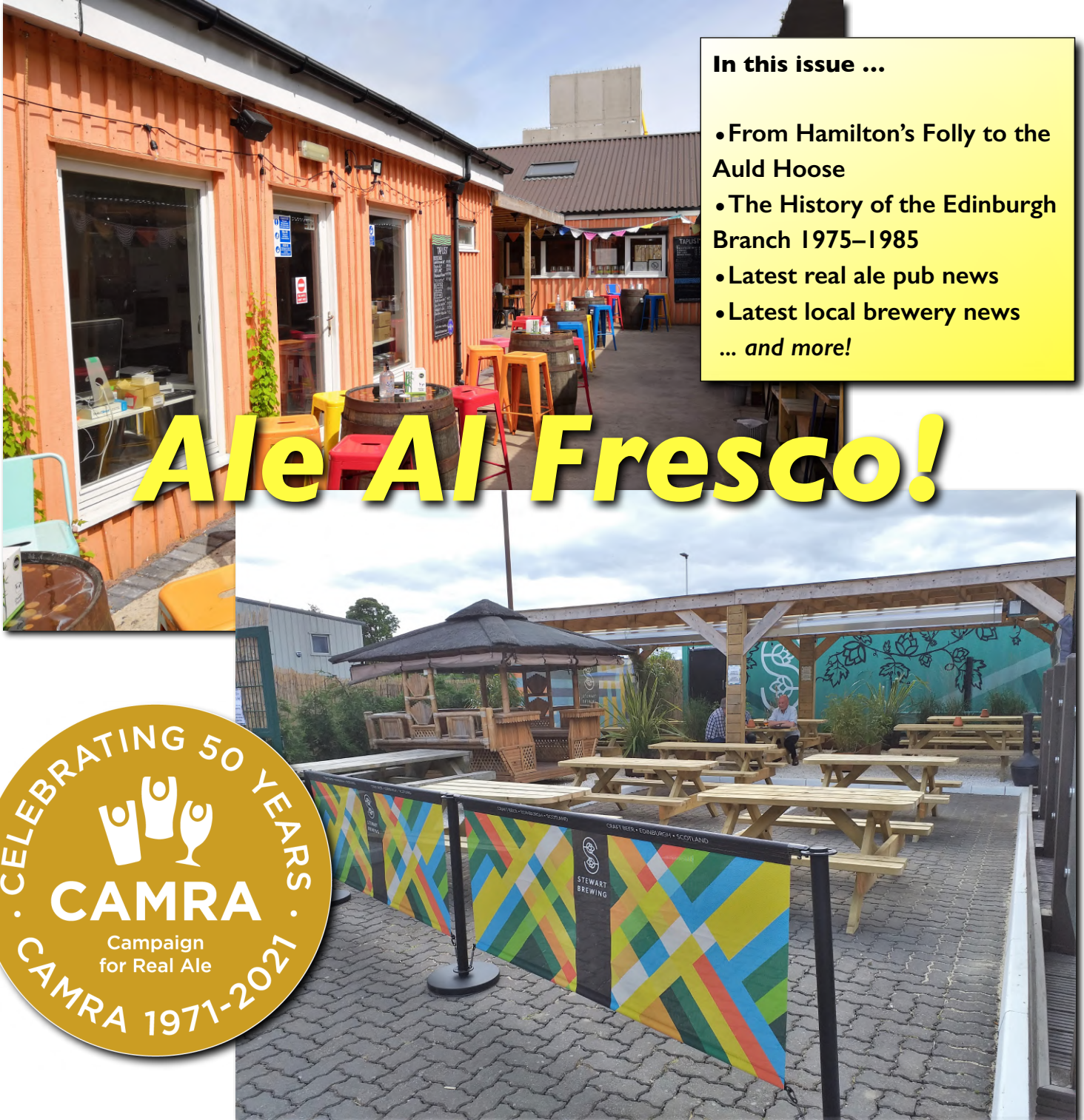
Digital Edition

# PINTS of VIEW



Campaign  
for  
Real Ale

**The CAMRA Magazine for Edinburgh and South-East Scotland**



## In this issue ...

- From Hamilton's Folly to the Auld Hoose
- The History of the Edinburgh Branch 1975–1985
- Latest real ale pub news
- Latest local brewery news
- ... and more!


# Ale Al Fresco!



***Pints of View*** is the magazine of the Edinburgh & South-East Scotland Branch of the Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA), an independent, voluntary organisation campaigning for real ale, community pubs and consumer rights.



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## Editorial

Welcome to the second digital-only edition of *Pints of View*. After a year of inactivity, this issue's pub news includes encouraging reports of pubs throughout the branch area finally reopening and new developments on the pub scene. Refurbishments and renamings, new pubs opening, and a general feeling of reawakening in the air.

As this issue's cover illustrates, taproom beer gardens have become a popular way for our smaller local breweries to weather the pandemic. In addition to the Bellfield Brewery and Stewart Brewing beer gardens pictured, others, including Ferry Brewery, Campervan, Cross Borders and Tempest, are also offering similar open-air facilities. Yet more are expected soon at the Vault City brewery in Portobello and newcomer Moonwake in Leith. Fingers crossed for a long hot summer!

*Scott*

## Advertising Rates

Our standard fees for advertisements are as follows:

- Full page: £285
- Half-page: £190
- Quarter-page: £115
- One-eighth page: £75
- Back cover: £POA

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## Subscriptions

This magazine is available by subscription at the following rates:

- 4 issues – £8.00
- 6 issues – £12.00

We currently publish *PoV* twice a year. You can also read the current and previous issues on our website.

Subscription requests with a cheque payable to "Edinburgh CAMRA" should be sent to:

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22 Wadingburn Road  
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EH18 1HS

# CAMRA Calling

## Branch News

### Branch Pubs of the Year 2021

Due to the Covid pandemic, there will be no Branch Pub of the Year awards this year.

### John Hein



Long-time branch member, committee member, and well-known LGBTQ activist, John Hein, sadly passed away on 23rd December 2020.

### Forthcoming Branch Events

At present there are no physical branch meetings planned, due to social distancing requirements. Please check the Branch Diary page on our website ([www.edinburghcamra.org.uk/diary/](http://www.edinburghcamra.org.uk/diary/)) for future developments.

### Forthcoming Scotland & NI Branches (SNIB) Events

#### Quarterly SNIB Meeting

Saturday 21st August 2021

This is expected to be a virtual meeting and will start at 11:00.

See [snib.camra.org.uk/whats-on/events/](http://snib.camra.org.uk/whats-on/events/) for more details.

Cover photos: Bellfield Brewery beer garden by Jim Darroch;  
Stewart Brewing Taproom beer garden by Jon Addinall



# 1992: THE YEAR OF THE WETS

by Pat Hanson

In January and February 1992 Wet Wet Wet held the number one spot for four weeks with 'Goodnight Girl'. They also had a number 1 album at the same time. More significantly, *Pints of View* issue no. 9 was published, a 12-page edition featuring the Scottish launch of the 1992 *Good Beer Guide* as its cover story.

The launch took place at **Todd's Tap**, nowadays known as **Henry Hall's Carriers Quarters**. This pub was also singled out as one of Edinburgh's top pubs which were also free houses, along with the **Golden Rule**, **Guildford Arms** and **Bow Bar**.

The CAMRA Branch Diary listed a fascinating collection of venues for Branch and Committee meetings, including the out-of-the-way **Habbie's Howe**. This was vaguely near Penicuik at Nine Mile Burn, just off the A702. It closed about 20 years ago.

Beer Festivals reviewed or shortly to take place included those at the **Guildford Arms**, **Nether Abbey Hotel** and **St Vincent Bar**.

Jim Lawrie contributed a fact-filled review of the history of the **Sheep Heid Inn** in Duddingston village, standing on a site that has had a licensed inn since the fourteenth century. King James VI used to be a regular visitor and was reputed to have donated a ram's head which adorned the bar for many generations. Jim also supplied the quiz in this issue (see below), and indeed was *PoV* Editor at this time.

Amongst real ale pubs listed in pub news, or advertising in this issue, there were many that either no longer exist or have not sold real ale for many years now, including the **Hopetoun Arms** in Ormiston, **Bisset's** in Gullane, **Middleton Inn**, **Cross Keys**, Selkirk and the **Kingsmuir Hotel** in Peebles.

Also in Edinburgh there were the **Bridge Bar**, **Right Wing**, **Gold Tankard**, **Royal Nip** and **Port Bar**, the latter selling eight real ales.

Readers with a long memory, or good access to old Edinburgh and Leith pub guides, might like to try their hand at Jim Lawrie's Quiz No. 5 from this issue. The answers can be found on page 14:



1. Burns St bar known for many years as 'Mr Smiths' (11 letters)
2. Leith walk bar demolished in 1990 (4,3,5)
3. Former Campbell's pub in Portobello which has reverted to its old name (5,5)
4. Old Town pub once called the 'Plevna' (9)
5. Henderson St bar usually referred to as 'Ross's' (9,3)
6. Refurbished William St pub once renowned for its excellent Drybrough's heavy (5,3)
7. Former island bar in Rose St where at one time a collar and tie had to be worn (6)
8. Fountainbridge bar which was previously called 'Porters' (4,8,6)
9. Famous Queen Charlotte St bar has taken a new name, perhaps influenced by the police station opposite (8)
10. Pub in the Bonnington area, with a nautical name, which used to be an ice cream factory (8)

Finally, does anyone remember Beer Festivals and Brewery Tours? *PoV* issue No 9 looked back at the 1991 Edinburgh Beer Festival at Meadowbank and a CAMRA visit to Harviestoun brewery. Happier days!

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# City Ale Tales

## Pub News

In central Edinburgh, we greet the **Keller Taproom**, a small, welcoming bar newly built into part of the former GHQ club, in Broughton Street Lane. It currently has real cider, due to the Somerset connections of the co-owner, with plans to install cask ale lines later in the year. There's also a microbrewery and distillery, which may well both have been acquired from the former **Apothecary** at Quartermile. The latter bar has been turned into an events venue that's not open to the public.



There's another microbrewery project awaiting Council approval as an adjunct to a planned restaurant/bar in Bonnington Road, Leith, right next to **Fox's Bar**. Elsewhere in Leith the former **Pond Bar** is set to reopen as the **Bullfinch**. We hope that the notable gantry and ancient water taps are preserved here. It's to be operated by the team behind the **Pitt Market**. **Steel Coulson Shore** has taken the place of **Tipple** in Bernard Street, having vacated its Henderson St premises. The mass desertion of that street by pubs has been partly reversed by the conversion of the former **Sofi's** to be the **Three Marys**. This cocktail bar is a sister operation to the **Malt and Hops** and the **Old Chain Pier**, but sadly with no real ale. The **Fly Half** sports bar has become **Bundits of Leith**, which started off as a pop-up bao bun bar but has now been established permanently. Finally in Leith the **Dreadnought** temporarily transformed itself into **Gayz Onley** (*sic*), a Pride pop-up bar, the phrase having previously been graffiti'd onto the pub.



Elsewhere in town there are new bars (without real ale) at **Home Bar** (ex-**Cuckoo's Nest**) and at nearby **Ranch in the Toon** (ex-**Henrick's**), as well as the **Gallery Bar** at Summerhall, which is a conversion of the former spacious café in the main building. In the same complex, the **Royal Dick** was one of a handful of pubs that reopened in May/June

without the expected cask ale on the handpumps, other examples being the **Hanging Bat** and the adjacent **Innis and Gunn Brewery Taproom**. Hopefully, by the time you read this they will all have a selection of real ales. On the other hand, the reported demise of cask ale at the **Green Room** in the West End proved to be pessimistic, as Deuchars IPA is now back on sale. Just across the road, **Teuchters** has been rebranded to **Teuchters Bar and Bunker**, the bunker in question being the previous basement restaurant. Sister bar in Leith **Teuchters Landing** has converted the former bistro-

bar next door to Teuchters Bothy, with entry still controlled at the main bar door.

DM Stewart, who now operate **Ryrie's**, say that the pub will eventually reopen when refurbishment is complete and there are fewer capacity restrictions in place. The pubco has, however, given up the **Canons' Gait** and its future is uncertain. The **Murrayfield Bar** has now reopened but sadly with no real ale on sale. In a previous guise it had unusually offered real cider (but not real ale) for a time.

In other Edinburgh news:

- BrewDog announced that they were to open a DogHouse hotel/bar in Lower East Market Street
- **McSorley's** in Forrest Road has been de-branded and may re-emerge in a different guise (or as another 'Irish' pub)
- **Steel Coulson Southside**, on the site of the former **Aviator**, had yet to reopen as this was written

- **Caley Picture House** has planning permission for a new outside area
- There is a planning application to turn the closed **Sofi's Southside** into flats
- The Kilderkin Group has expanded in an unexpected direction with the acquisition of the **Creagan Inn**, Appin, Argyll
- Three brand-new bars opened in the new St James Quarter – **Hauf & Howff**, **Dookit** and **Tryst**. There would be long odds against any real ale here.

**Craig Millar**

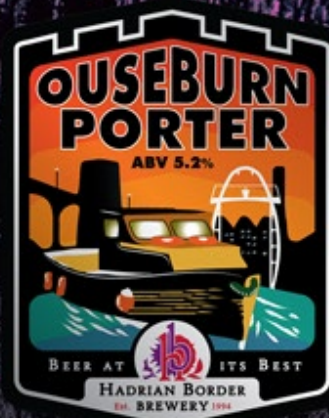
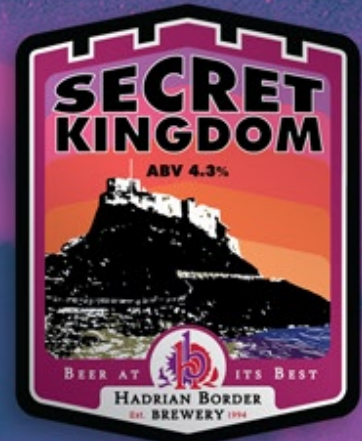
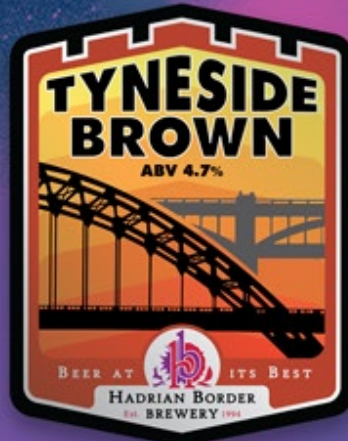


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# BEER AND LOTHIAN

## Pub News

In *East Lothian* the Village of Gullane is set to welcome a new real ale pub later in the summer. The **Watchman Hotel** is emerging from a rebuild of the former **Mallard Hotel** and will have a dog-friendly bar with cask ale. It's not far from the **Old Clubhouse**, which normally offers three real ales and Thistly Cross Jaggy Thistle cider. On the main road the **Bonnie Badger** also has a couple of cask ales, so Gullane looks like the place to visit later in the year, when hopefully East Coast Buses' Express X5 service will have finally restarted.



Caledonian Heritable is still working on a major refurbishment of the **Winton Arms** in Pencaitland as well as the **Keepers Arms** in Tranent (now reopened as the **Tranent Arms**). The pubco's **Ship Inn** (Musselburgh) is now fully open after a

lengthy transformation, but has no real ale. There's plenty of other news from Tranent, but not of the good variety. There's a planning application to turn the **New Plough** (which has been on the market for some time) into an Indian restaurant; the **Tower Inn** has been put up for sale by Hawthorn Leisure; and after 30 months there has still been no decision reached by East Lothian Council on an application to convert the **Brig Inn** into flats.

In North Berwick, the former **MacDonald Marine Hotel** is to reopen as the **Marine North Berwick**, featuring the Bass Rock Bar – a great name but judging by the advance photos it won't have any real ale. Fans of pumpclip badge collections will be sad to hear that the framed examples at the town's **Ship Inn** have now been replaced by nautical art.

The **Brig & Barrel** at Belhaven won 'Dog-Friendly Pub of the Year' at the Scottish Bar & Pub awards. The pub's garden area has been impressively upgraded and two real ales have been consistently available.

The big news from *Midlothian*, we are sorry to report, has been the closure of the **Blacksmith's Forge** in Dalkeith. This was the only real ale pub in town, but between them JD Wetherspoon and Lidl, their landlords, could not manage to

www.broughtonales.co.uk/shop

come to any agreement about a continuing future for the pub. To their great credit, CAMRA members Jenny Bottley and Kenny Brunton organised a petition which attracted over 800 signatures but the final answer about a lease renewal from JDW was 'No'. The pub has now been put on the market to let as a fully fitted opportunity.

Just down the road, the **Buccleuch** has been run by the intuitive Group for several years; CAMRA has suggested to that company and its MD that they would be pushing at an open door to introduce a range of real ales at the Buccleuch, but there's been no response and, so far, even progress towards reopening has been slow. Intuitive has added two more properties to their portfolio – in Thurso and Scrabster!

Midlothian's new cask ale venue is **Stewart Brewing's Tap Room** at Loanhead – see Brewery News in this issue for further details. Elsewhere in Loanhead, **EH20** (no real ale) has closed down and may become a restaurant.

In *West Lothian*, Ben Smith regrettably had to hand back the **Fork and Field** in Mid Calder to the pubco in March, so he will be concentrating on his other venues, the **Riccarton Inn** in Currie and the **Kinleith Mill** in Juniper Green, both of which have a good selection of real ales.

Craig Leith

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# The History of the Edinburgh Branch 1975–1985

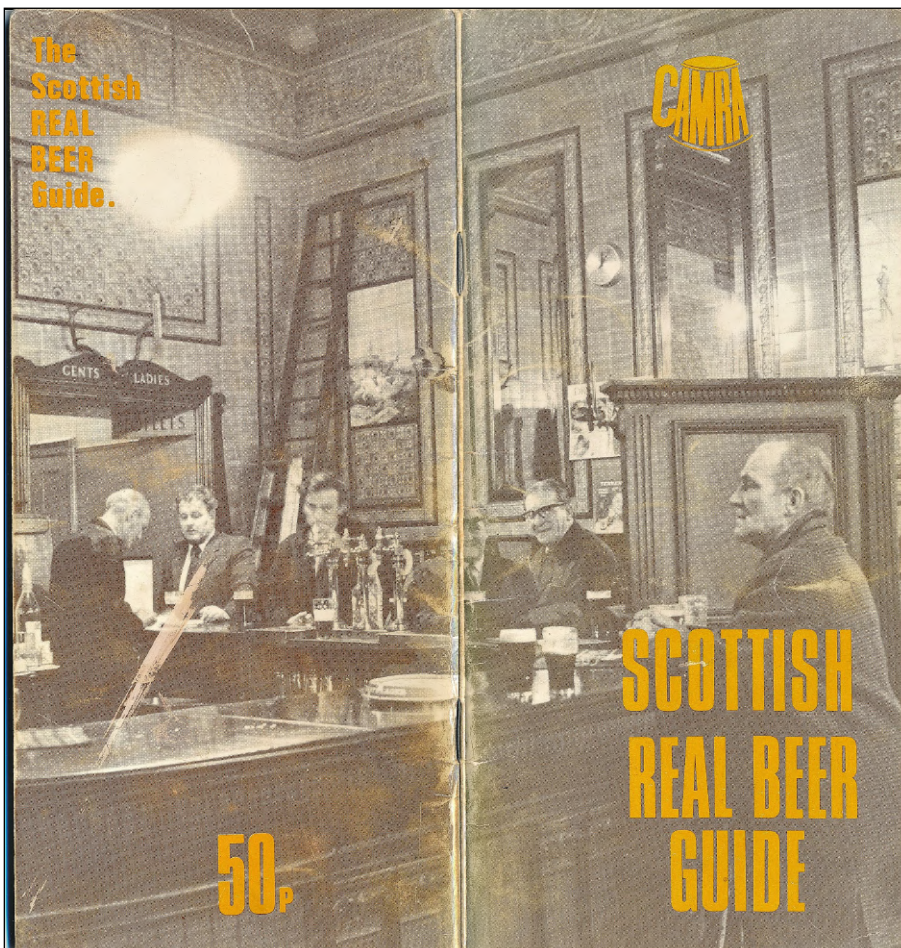
by Ted Sharp (and others)

The Campaign for Real Ale was founded in 1971 by a group of four friends from the north west of England who were concerned about the declining quality of beer which had resulted from the rash of brewery takeovers in the 1960s and the emergence of keg beer at the expense of cask conditioned beer. But it was not until 1974 that the first branch was founded in Scotland, the inaugural meeting being held at the Golf Inn in Bishopton, Renfrewshire. It would have been held in Glasgow but the founders of the branch could not find a single pub in the city which still sold real ale!

Things were a bit better in Edinburgh, but even so there were only about 14 pubs in the capital selling real ale when the inaugural meeting of this branch was held. This was on 16 January 1975 at the Black Swan (aka Jimmy Muir's) in Sandport Place, Leith. Apparently it was standing room only as the back room of the pub was nowhere near big enough to accommodate the 60 ale drinkers who attended, angry at the flood of Tennent's Lager and Tartan Special which threatened to drown them. There had already been a meeting to 'test support' at the Black Swan, also well attended. The early meetings were excellently chaired by the late lamented Tony Dean. While it cannot be confirmed, the general consensus is the cask beer sold at the Black Swan at the time was Younger's IPA.

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Advert for the first Scottish Traditional Beer Exhibition, 1979



One of the first projects of the Edinburgh branch was to contribute to the first Scottish Real Beer Guide which appeared in 1975. The section for Edinburgh listed 23 pubs including some which sell real ale to this day. Amongst them are both Bennet's Bars (Tollcross and Morningside), the Blue Blazer in Bread Street, Clark's Bar in Dundas Street, Sandy Bell's in Forrest Road and the Oxford Bar in Young Street, which at that time was still run by the legendary Willie Ross.

There are a lot of anecdotes about the Oxford Bar's Willie Ross. He allegedly once threw Robin Cook out of the pub (I can't imagine why he would do that - the beard perhaps) and definitely threw Nigel Starmer-Smith out one Calcutta Cup weekend. He also famously used to close the bar during the Festival every year. A story about him surfaced quite recently in one of the Edinburgh history Facebook sites where a retired policeman recalls that as a young constable he had had the task of checking security arrangements at some Edinburgh pubs. Willie told him not to bother looking in the Oxford cellar as he had set bear traps to catch any nefarious intruders. Early

The cover of the first Scottish Real Beer Guide, 1975

branch activist Roger Preece, who is from Herefordshire, recalls when he used to go there for a drink with Tony Dean, Tony would not allow Roger to buy a round as he reckoned Willie would bridle at his accent. There was certainly a large print of the Declaration of Arbroath on the wall.

In 1976 the second edition of the Scottish Real Beer Guide was published, edited (as the 1975 Guide had been) by Kenny Garden of the Edinburgh branch. This time 54 Edinburgh pubs were listed. Whether this spectacular increase in 12 months was due to a rapid growth in real ale outlets or better information on the part of the branch remains a mystery but in any case it is evidence that real ale was becoming an established part of the Edinburgh scene. Also in 1976 the Edinburgh branch held its first beer festival, at the Fruitmarket Gallery near Waverley Station. About 30 kilderkins (18 gallon casks) were ordered and the event was highly successful. This was not in fact the first Edinburgh beer festival. A smaller scale event had been held earlier in Hill Place, the premises then, as now, owned by Edinburgh University. Roger Preece remembers this event quite well as he was one of the unfortunates tasked with carrying a wooden cask of Old Peculiar up the stairs.

In 1979 the branch published the first edition of Real Ale in Edinburgh, edited by Brian Potter, featuring 59 pubs in the City but including others as far afield as Peebles and Dunbar. The turnover of pubs in the previous three years had been fast but by the end of the decade real ale was not such a novelty and pubs were beginning to emerge where it was not just being tried out but had become a regular, long term demand of the clientele. As a result beer quality was starting to stabilise and the chances of finding a seriously dodgy pint were getting smaller (although even now they are not zero). Also in 1979 the branch held its first major beer festival at the Thomas Morton Hall in Leith. This was much more ambitious than the 1976 event and about 75 kilderkins of beer were ordered. It was unique as the only CAMRA event that Roger Preece knew of where Dortmund Union and Ritter beers were dispensed by air pressure (long story). It also marked the first appearance of Broughton Greenmantle. Again the event was very successful but the venue was not regularly available and the branch was unable to establish its beer festival as an annual event.

This problem was not solved until 1981 when Stuart Wilson, the then General Manager at Lorimer and Clark's Caledonian brewery on Slateford Road, approached the branch with the suggestion that a beer festival could be held in one of the disused barley stores in the brewery grounds, with the added advantage that the site would be available rent free. The branch accepted this offer with enthusiasm and the result was a series of six hugely successful and enjoyable beer festivals at the site. The arrangement was continued by Wilson's successor as General Manager, the late Dan Kane, and it only came to an end in 1987 when the Caledonian Brewery Company was established, as

they needed the barley store for other, more commercially viable, uses.

Further Scottish guides were published in 1981 and 1984 and, also in the early 1980s, the Branch established *Pints of View* as its regular mouthpiece. The Spring 1985 edition of *PoV* is particularly interesting as it features the tenth anniversary of the branch. An event to celebrate this was held at Wilkie House in the Cowgate. The main headline is the purchase by Scottish and Newcastle of the Moray Firth Maltings in Inverness, another example of the concentration of the brewing industry into fewer and fewer hands. The leader article refers to S&N's interest in Matthew Brown of Blackburn (which they subsequently took over and closed). I wonder what the writers of that 1985 newsletter would make of S&N later closing the Fountainbridge Brewery altogether and transfer production to Lorimer and Clark's (or the Caledonian Brewery as it is now)?

It had taken ten years but by 1985 the branch had a regular beer festival, a newsletter and a local beer guide, as well as contributing both to Scottish beer guides and to the annual national CAMRA *Good Beer Guide*. The branch had established the basis of its activities on which it continued to build over the following years and, we hope, in the future. I wonder what the lead story will be in the edition of *Pints of View* for Spring 2025?



The cover of the 1976 edition of the Scottish Real Beer Guide

(Article originally written in 2004 and revised in 2021 with extra material by Jon Addinall, Colin Valentine and Roger Preece.)

# INN the BORDERS

## Pub News

Most pubs in the Borders progressively reopened in the April – June period, one exception being the **Hemelvaart Bier Café** in Ayton, where reopening is likely later in July, when food trucks and live music are also promised. Not far from Ayton, in Upper Burnmouth, the **First and Last** has been excellently refurbished both inside and outside. Greene King Yardbird IPA is the house ale, with a guest ale also on handpump. The **Craw Inn** has been the latest Borders pub to accept dogs inside; joint lessees Susan and Kimberley report that so many people acquired dogs during lockdown that it would be economic madness to maintain their previous ban. Perhaps the **Allanton Inn**, **Ship Inn** (Eyemouth) and **Oblo Bar** will follow suit!



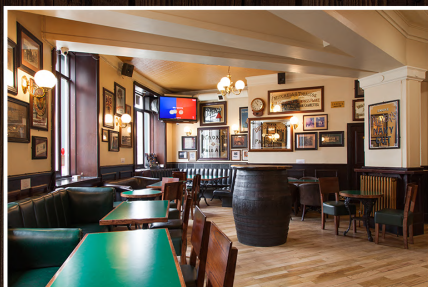
First and Last, Burnmouth

The latest tenants at the **Fisherman's Arms** in Birgham, near Coldstream, have unfortunately handed back the keys, so the pub is shut again. There has been talk of the pub being put up for sale, but this would require the agreement of all of the community shareholders. Further west in Kelso, the **Tipsy Ghillie** has reverted to its previous name of the **White Swan** and is confirmed to be committed to real ale. **Rutherfords** has been sold to Paul Mitchell and reopened, retaining the essence of the micropub. Stewart Brewing beers were among the first to appear on the four new handpumps, the cellar having been restored in place of gravity stillage. There is an expanded outside area, using two bays of the town square car park. Original owners Simon and Debbie Rutherford's new venture is a mobile bar service. In the adjacent back street, **1905** reopened quite late in June after refurbishment and also has an apartment to let via Airbnb. Expect to find up to three real ales here.

The **Blackadder** in Greenlaw has a new team from the **Gordon Arms** in Gordon running it now, although the future of the Gordon Arms (no real ale) itself is now in some doubt. The **Old Thistle Inn**, a charming 18<sup>th</sup> century pub in the small village of Westruther, looked as though it was going to close, but eventually reopened



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thanks to the enthusiasm of its local customers, who persuaded owner Angie to keep it going. New keg beer choices from Tempest have been added.

The old Station House by Stow station has been refurbished and extended by the Stow Community Trust (SCT). The SCT obtained funding from a number of sources, which helped to save this old building from demolition. A tenant to operate the bar/restaurant is now being actively sought by the SCT. Just off the A68, the **Tower Hotel** in Oxton is a more modern building dating from 1903 and has been for sale for some time. The village community development group is keen to buy it, do it up and let it out, but the key element will be sufficient volunteer input. An information morning was staged in the village hall in late June to raise awareness and, hopefully, attract new blood to the team. Funding similar to that obtained by SCT should be available.

The **Dryburgh Arms** at Newtown St Boswells has enterprisingly teamed up with the next door Karen's Tea Room, who have moved into the pub to offer a seven day food and beverage service from 10am.

The ground floor part of the **Harrow Inn** (ie the pub itself) in Galashiels has been sold, while the first floor residential part is still for sale. Melrose is fast becoming a popular destination, with the **Ship Inn** and the five hotels all fully utilising their outside spaces, some of which have been recently extended.

The **Red Lion** in Earlston reopened in June, having been sold to new owners Curt and Susie. Its restaurant is due to restart operations in the autumn and they are intending to feature real ale prominently.

Finally, many congratulations to Andrew and Heather, lessees at the **Clovenfords Hotel**, who have recently got married!

**Grant 5 House**

*Please note: due to space constraints, our Pub News columns sadly cannot mention every real ale pub in the branch area in every issue. If you have some news about your pub you'd like us to share in the next issue, please get in touch (contact details on p2).*

*For more up-to-date information on all real ales pubs in the branch area and beyond, please see [WhatPub.com](http://WhatPub.com).*

**Archive Talk Appreciated**

by Pat Hanson



Scottish Brewing Archive Association  
Promoting the History of Brewing in Scotland

CAMRA Branch members have expressed their thanks for the recent virtual tour of the Scottish Brewing Archive hosted by John Martin of the Scottish Brewing Archive Association (SBAA). Whilst the Branch maintains annual membership, individual membership of the SBAA is also available – see <https://www.scottishbrewingarchive.co.uk>



The Archive itself is kept by Glasgow University. There is some uncertainty about its future content (in an era of many new breweries), as currently only items that can be flat-packed are accepted.



## Letters to the Editor

Write to: [poveditor@edinburghcamra.org.uk](mailto:poveditor@edinburghcamra.org.uk)

### A Landlord's Reminiscences

Congratulations and well done to all those involved in getting PoV 75 to print (albeit digitally). I must say that I much prefer reading it as a hard copy with a pint in a pub but I'll download and print off a copy when it's available, but I've had a skim through and it meets our usual high standards!

I was very interested in Pat's PoV 30 years on article which brought back many memories and started me reminiscing. After I sold my Herby's Delicatessen business in Stockbridge in the 80's, I was approached by Timothy King, Sales Director at Belhaven (and formerly SD at Mitchells & Butler) about working for them. At the time, they had just bought Stansfields on the Royal Mile and wanted someone to transition it into a Belhaven managed house to add to the Highwayman they already had in South Clerk St.

I jumped at the chance, but on the condition that I could change it back to the World's End which it had been before, but changed (to red and gold) following the famous murders (which weren't committed there anyway). The Earl of Stansfield, who lived in the close next door was, himself, convicted of murder so it was hardly the best choice of name! The World's End, duly renamed and restored to the blue and gold livery did very well and real ale was well back on the menu.

After putting in a management team there, my next project was to do the same with the Starbank, just bought by Belhaven from Peter Todd and this time the then MD of Belhaven, one Stuart Ross, not only gave me free rein to redecorate the place but allowed me to stock whatever real ales I wanted as long as Belhaven ales featured as well.

The Starbank became a very popular pub and attracted a new market – students – and was the first pub to hold weekly quizzes. We also started doing meals; however my plan to turn the rear courtyard into a conservatory was a step too far, though it did happen later on.

Again, once up and running, I put in a management team to run it. Belhaven then asked me to area manage all their pubs but they only had seven managed pubs and these were spread between Edinburgh, Glasgow, Motherwell, Perth – and the County in Peebles and after a year, rather than expanding the estate, they opted to put them out to tenancy, so that was that.

Pat also mentioned the Allen (not Allan) Partnership who, following Belhaven moving their estate to tenancy, approached me to work for them. Bruce Allen was a New Zealander in the wannabe Tim Martin mould and he did buy most of the Scottish Whitbread pubs in the late 80's – I think for a song and worked

on an unusual principal of not employing anyone! A manager would be appointed, but would be self-employed and take a % of the gross takings out of which he would employ and pay for all the staff so I suppose the incentive was there.

The problem with the Whitbread pubs is that they had been trendy and very original in their day but they were tired and run down and desperately in need of "reconditioning". My first pub project with them was the former Café L'Odeon on George IV Bridge which was a failed Belgian themed café bar and they did agree to my proposal to spend some (not a lot!) of cash to turn it into the Bridge Bar and concentrate on real ale, students, Sunday morning breakfasts and Monopoly competitions!

I then did some work for them in both Perth and St. Andrews before also taking on the Pelican in the Cowgate as Manager. No real ale there but one helluva experience, especially during the Festival when we were open till 4am daily, not to mention Hogmanay in 1990 which was my last working day there before moving to the Borders and Denholm! Not sure what happened to all their pubs, but I suspect the money ran out – or the customers did! Happy days – well most of them, anyway!

Once installed as *Mein Host* in Denholm, my first task was to appoint a supplying brewer. Hitherto it has always been S & N and their sales manager told me that to change supplier would ruin my business! Knowing Belhaven so well, they were delighted to assist which gave them a bit more presence in the Borders and, of course, real ale was definitely back on the menu again, helped by the purchase of a 1920's refurbished Gaskell and Chambers 4-tap beer engine which still sits proudly on the bar!

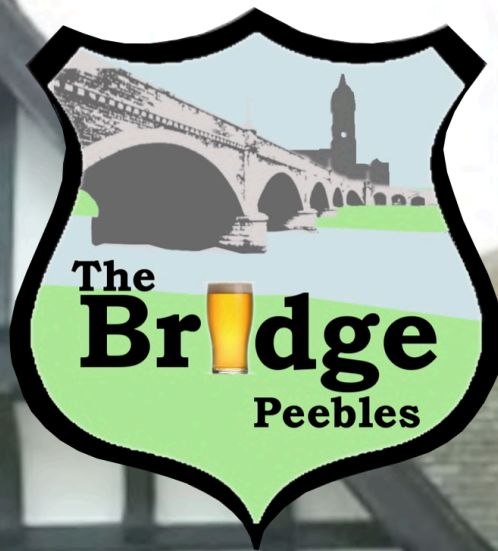
So, so sorry for wittering on but you'll be pleased to know my glass is now empty so off to fill it up again!

Cheers  
Douglas Newlands.

## QUIZ ANSWERS

(from page 4)

1. MARLBOROUGH
2. HALF WAY HOUSE
3. KINGS CROSS
4. SCOTSMANS
5. TRAFALGAR BAR
6. BERTS BAR
7. SCOTTS
8. PORT HAMILTON TAVERN
9. SLAMMERS
10. SCHOONER



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# Hamilton's Folly and the Auld Hoose

by Jim Lawrie

Hamilton's Folly is an area in the south side of Edinburgh within the St Leonards district of Newington. The name 'Hamilton's Folly' dates back to 1709. The name was attributed by locals to a quaint three-storey building which had a large archway, peaked gables, and dormer windows, with the building bearing the date of 1709. It stood on the south side of the Pleasance and was long known as **Hamilton's Folly** from the name of the proprietor who had been deemed unwise in those days to build a house so far from the centre of the city. In addition the building was erected on the road that led south out of Edinburgh where the hangman's gibbet, not far away, publicly displayed the bodies of criminals who had been hanged there for all to see.

## HAMILTON'S FOLLY BREWERY

There was a brewery at Hamilton's Folly as early as 1725. It belonged to one of the numerous Edinburgh master brewers

Today the former brewery site comes under the name of **Hamilton's Folly Mews** and lies between Rankeillor Street and East Crosscauseway. This 'hide-away' location is in a unique courtyard setting with security gates.

The site accommodates twelve modern town houses as well as a public house that has existed for more than a hundred years on St Leonards Street – the **Auld Hoose**.

Adjacent to the 'Auld Hoose' there is a large vennel that allows transport to enter and exit from the domestic location. This narrow close was in the eighteenth century just a few yards from the entrance to the Hamilton's Folly Brewery.

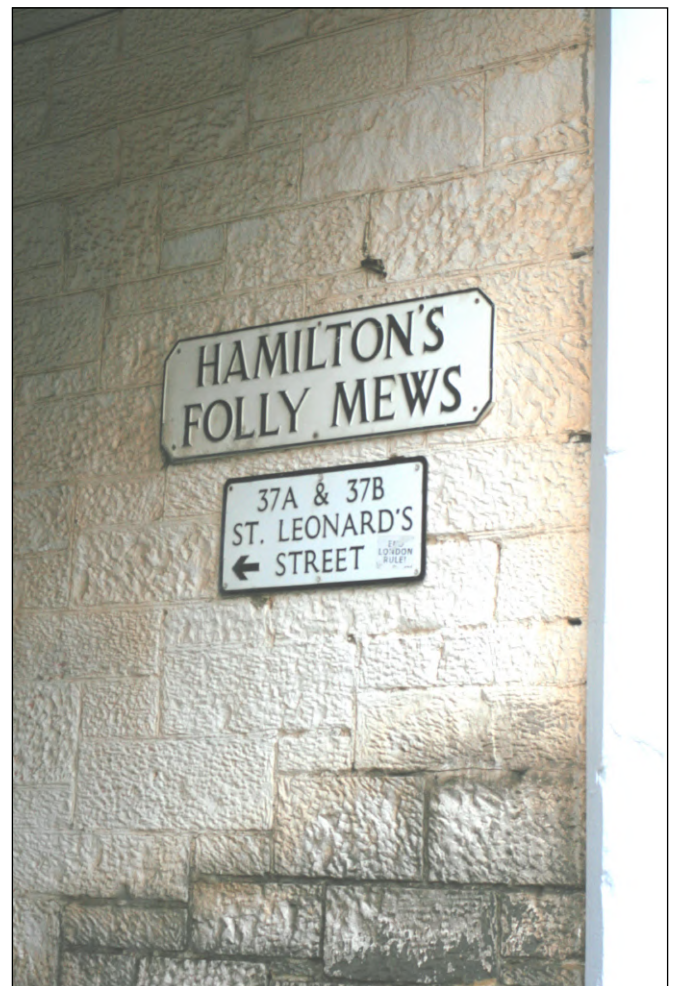
The nameplate for 'Hamilton's Folly Mews' can clearly be seen on the vennel wall.

In the Newington area between the foot of the Pleasance and Potterrow there have been at least twenty-two breweries.

that added their names to a list of those who were united to publicly protest about the impending Malt Tax. Some fifty years later in the 1770s a new brewery was created on the site that was located on the west side of St Leonards Street with Rankeillor Street on the south side of the brewery. From around 1774 **George Comb** was brewing at Hamilton's Folly and he continued brewing there until around 1780. (At that time Comb re-located to larger brewing premises at Livingston's Yards 'behind Edinburgh Castle'.)

In the period 1782 – 1785 the brewer **James Baird** was brewing at Hamilton's Folly. Baird had some years earlier been a baker and brewer at Dub Row (part of the Kirkgate) in the Port of Leith. With effect from 1786 **John Tod** was brewing at Hamilton's Folly under the name of '**Tod & Bee brewers**' and operated there until around 1792. From that date Tod re-located to take over one of the breweries at Potterrow previously occupied by Thomas Comb. Following the closure of the Hamilton's Folly Brewery in 1792 the brewery buildings were converted for other industrial use.

(A short distance from Hamilton's Folly, the St Leonards Hill Brewery had passed from brewer William Henderson around 1773/74 to William Sinclair, senior, who brewed there from 1782 to 1799 when it passed into the hands of William Sinclair, junior. The St Leonards Hill Brewery is now the site of Jeanie Deans public house.)



© 2020  
Jim Lawrie



*a Drybroughs pub sign*



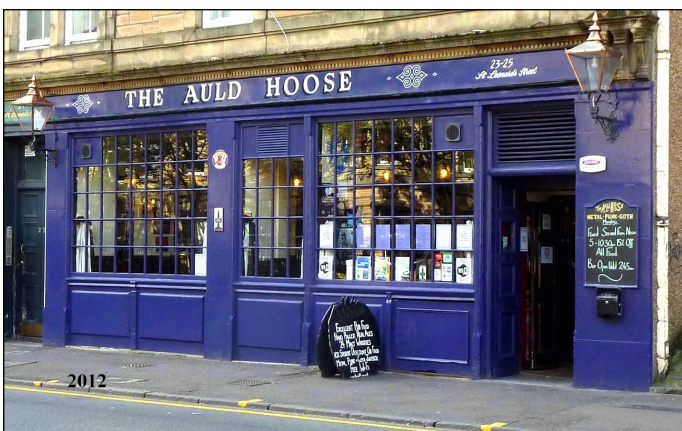
*a Skol pub sign from Alloa Brewery*



*brewery sign now replaced by lamps*



*a change of colour*



*hand pulled real ales*



*pub and kitchen*



*craft beer on sale*

# NEWS OF THE BREWS

## Brewery Update

### Alechemy

Founder James Davies left the brewery at the end of June to return to pharmaceutical work but stayed on as a director of Consolidated Craft Breweries.

Alechemy has installed a centrifuge, one of only two amongst Scottish breweries. Occasionally brewing is undertaken for other companies in the Consolidated group (Keith, Spey Valley and Out of Town). The bottling plant has enabled them to make up a mixed case of beers from all four breweries.

Ritual is now certified as gluten free, with the rest of Alechemy's beers awaiting test. The only low alcohol beer is Talisman LA lager (0.5% abv). This is brewed as an ale and is available in Keykeg and bottle.

### Aye Been Brewing

Yvonne Sinclair's microbrewery has moved to a new site on Eyemouth's Gunsgreenhill Industrial Estate. Hazy Days, a hazy version of Aye PA was recently launched at the town's **Ship Inn** and **Contented Sole** pubs, marking a welcome return to real ale for the latter.

### Barney's Beer

Barney's vegan daughter challenged him to make a rich, creamy milk stout – without the milk/lactose. The result is Not Milk Stout (5.9% abv). It has layers of barley and oats combined with locally roasted Williams and Johnson coffee, making a lush dessert beer. First seen on keg at Jeremiah's Taproom, this beer has not yet made it into cask.

### Bellfield Brewery

Bellfield's latest beer is Märzen Festival Lager (5.7% abv), their first darker-coloured lager. Other new beers this year have included Three Rivers Pils and Daft Days Porter. Food truck pop-ups have been featured at the popular Taproom and Beer Garden. Extra outside space has been created with the Keg Yard; despite its name, cask ale is also available.

### Bier Edinburgh

This is the brand name for the beers



Alechemy's new centrifuge

brewed at the new Keller Taproom (see p6) in-house microbrewery.

### Born Brewery

Born (formerly Born in the Borders) has weathered the pandemic and is now back in full production of both cask and bottled ales brewed at the Born in Scotland facility at Lanton Mill, which also includes the Visitor Centre, Lilliard Gin distillery, restaurant and outdoor attractions. Recent expansion has mainly been into retail, with other shops in Glasgow, Stirling, Tillicoultry and Edinburgh, where all things Scottish can be sourced, including Born's bottled ales.

### Broughton Ales

In a recent statement, Broughton Ales confirmed that they are currently seeking corporate investment to grow their brewing operations domestically and internationally.

### Campervan Brewery

The outside seating area at the brewery taproom has been greatly expanded, with a mobile bar, and has proved very popular.

Persevere (4% abv) is the latest beer to be produced. It's a Golden Ale, with all of the proceeds going into Campervan's Persevere fund to give back to the local community 'as much as they helped us when we needed it'.

**Donzoko Brewing Co.**

Donzoko is the latest brewery to arrive in Leith, sharing the facilities of Newbarns in Jane St. They are a cuckoo brewery based in Hartlepool who had been producing their flagship Northern Helles unfiltered lager in London, as well as other beers in various North East England breweries.

**Faking Bad Brewery**

The most recent beer launched was Auric Ale, a 5.3% abv golden ale with Fuggles and Northern Brewer hops.

**Ferry Brewery**

Ferry staged a tap takeover at the **Stag Head Hotel** in South Queensferry in May when restrictions were relaxed, supplying Ferry Fair, 40/- Fine and Ferry Witches Brew on handpump. However, FerryFest 2021 has unfortunately had to be cancelled.

The Tap Bar and Shop have been opening on Friday and Saturday from 12 until 7pm, with online deliveries available locally and nationally. The prizewinning John Martine series of stronger stouts and porters has continued to be popular. John Martine was a brewer in "the Ferry" from 1831-2 and the beers follow adapted versions of his recipes.

**Hurly Burly Brewery**

In June Hurly Burly launched Red Rye Ale, a limited edition dark red beer with a fruity citrusy flavour. Earlier the brewery had hosted a virtual beer tasting for CAMRA members, which was much appreciated.

**Jump Ship Brewing**

Yardarm won silver in the gluten-free beer category at the Free From Food Awards; the only alcohol-free beer in the final.

**Moonwake Beer Co.**

Moonwake have been creating waves in Leith since installing their 35 HL kit in April/May 2021. Their first keg beer was delivered to **Teuchters Landing, Monty's, Jolly Judge, Portobello Tap** and **Roseleaf** in June, with the Jolly Judge also due to host a four-beer tap takeover later in July. Cans are due to be launched at the end of July.

A mezzanine-level accessible taproom is due to open at the Tower St site later in the summer.

**Newbarns Brewery**

Newbarns' latest beer is PX Pilsner, which is said to be a historical Victorian lager (5.5% abv) based on an 1880s Younger's recipe. It's been sold on keg and also in a retro-style can reminiscent of the old Fowler's (Prestonpans) branding.

**Pilot Beer**

Pilot has collaborated with Lynsey from **Beer Cave** in Dalry Road to brew Isle of Independents, a 5.3% abv gently soured vegan tropical fruit beer in celebration of Indie Beer Shop Day (17th July). Pete Brown, the renowned beer writer, will be conducting a virtual beer tasting on that day; there will also be events at many independent beer shops.

**Stewart Brewing**

2021 is a big year for the brewery with two construction projects being undertaken.

On the retail side, a new bar area kitted out with a pizza oven has been created and the outdoor seating area extended. This is open on a regular basis Thu & Fri evenings and all day Sat and Sun. The good news for cask ale drinkers is that, in addition to the wall of keg taps, two handpumps have been installed on the bar. The shop continues to operate all week and is much the same as before.

On the production side, a large second building is being constructed which will bring more brewing and warehousing space. New giant fermenting tanks were shipped in May and are due to be installed by the end of July.

The lockdowns saw a massive shift in demand to small pack. As with other breweries, Stewart found it difficult to source cans over last summer but these issues are now largely resolved. Over the last 2 months there has been a steady and welcome return of cask and keg beers but the demand for small pack is still holding strong. Temporary staff have been taken on to help with the demand and the transition back into large pack sales.

No changes are planned to the well-known core cask line up but a few cask specials may appear in autumn when the demand for cask has hopefully returned to more normal levels. The only one currently in the pipeline is a cask version of the South Pacific Pale Ale, Ka Pai. Stewart also hope to restart the Project 7 line of beers later this summer, which will bring some exciting new experimental beers in 440ml format to the shelves.

**Stow Brewery**

In a surprise return to activity, Stow Brewery announced in June that they would be brewing a relaunch beer in July, for distribution in bottled form later in the year.



*Ferry Altbier and John Martine Series Black*



# NEWS OF THE BREWS

(continued)



Stewart Brewery Taproom with Richard Webb, Manager

## Suspect

Suspect started brewing gluten-free beer in June 2021 in the former Liquid Brewing site at 34 Jane St, Leith, the first beer being a millet and buckwheat lager.

## Tempest Brewing Co.

Tempest have been brewing throughout the last year, although mainly for canning and bottling, and several original beers have been brewed. While cask ales have been somewhat restricted of late, Pale Armadillo and Modern Helles have proved popular and 5L mini-kegs have once again been available. The popular Friday and Saturday Tap Sessions have resumed (pre-booking advised, except for first Friday session). Food trucks are also in attendance. The brewery shop is also open for orders and collection in line with current restrictions.

## Thistly Cross

Having said goodbye to Winton Brewery (see below) the cidemakers are seeking to redevelop their Victorian Long Shed for the eventual hosting of a new brewing operation (not by Thistly Cross themselves).

CAMRA has recently published a new definition of 'real' cider and perry and discussions will be taking place with Thistly Cross to see whether Jaggy Thistle, Whisky Cask, Original, etc are able to comply with the new standards.

## Vault City Brewing

In June, Vault City reported that they hoped to report progress 'soon' with their planned taproom at Portobello.

## Winton Brewery

Having vacated the West Barns site, Winton were happy to return brewing to Haddington early in 2021 when they

established their new brewery at Station Yard Industrial Estate. It's still expected that they will seek to introduce cask ale at their Dunbar micropub (also called **Station Yard!**) before long.

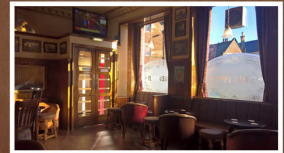


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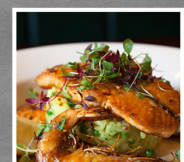


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