

Issue 77

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Winter 2021

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Digital Edition

PINTS of VIEW



Campaign
for
Real Ale

The CAMRA Magazine for Edinburgh and South-East Scotland

The Queen's Head returns

see page 14

In this issue ...


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- Outstanding Conversions and Restorations
- Pub History Quiz
- Latest real ale pub news
- Latest local brewery news
- ... and more!



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

Sadly, it looks like Covid has scuppered the festive season for a second time with all that implies for the pub trade. Just before publication of this issue of *PoV*, the CAMRA Covid working group have recommended that, again, no formal face-to-face CAMRA meetings in Scotland should take place, until further notice.

However, looking on the sunnier side, it is great to see that our local breweries (with the sad exception of Hurly Burly) are surviving the current situation and new microbreweries are continuing to pop up; Newt Brew, Otherworld and Walkie Talkie are new to this issue's brewery news section.

Season's Greetings, stay safe, and let's hope for better news in the New Year.

Scott

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Our standard fees for advertisements are as follows:

- Full page: £285
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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.

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CAMRA Calling

Branch News

Forthcoming Branch Events

All events are subject to the prevailing Scottish Government Covid-19 guidance. Please check the Branch Diary page on our website (www.edinburghcamra.org.uk/diary/) for further updates.

Three-Pub Social

7:30pm 12 Jan 2022, **Teuchter's, Grosvenor, Mather's**

Branch Social

2:30pm 22 Jan 2022, **Volunteer Arms, Dunbar**

Good Beer Guide 2023 Vote Meeting

2pm 19 Feb 2022, **Beehive Inn** (upstairs)

Branch Social

2:30pm 26th March 2022, **Staggs Bar**

Scotland & NI Branches (SNIB) Events

Quarterly SNIB Meeting

11am 5 February 2022. Host branch is Renfrew. Details tbc. See snib.camra.org.uk/whats-on/events/ for more details.

Real Ale Quality Awards 2021

Beer scores received from members since November 2019 were used to select the winners of the 2021 Real Ale Quality award. The results were announced at the November branch meeting.

This year's Branch Real Ale Quality award winners are:

- Edinburgh City - **Kay's Bar**
- Lothian - **Riccarton Inn**, Currie
- Borders - **Allanton Inn**, Allanton

Runners up:

- Edinburgh City - **Roseburn Bar**
- Lothian - **Ferry Brewery Tap Bar**, S. Queensferry.
- Borders - **Plough Inn**, Leitholm

The overall branch winner is the **Allanton Inn** in the Borders. We hope to do a presentation in the New Year.

Cover photo: the newly-refurbished interior of the Queen's Head, Hawick, by Steve Anderson



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WE LOVE LEITH



PUB HISTORY QUIZ

by Jim Lawrie

Can you name the Edinburgh streets and roads that these Edinburgh public houses were in?

(answers on page 11)



City Ale Tales

Pub News

There have been some positive real ale developments in Edinburgh since the last issue of *PoV*, partly balanced, as always, by a few setbacks. Starting in Leith, the team behind the Pitt St Market, together with Barney's Brewery, took over the previous **Pond** pub on Bath St and reopened it as the **Bullfinch**. Many of the former features have been preserved and enhanced, such as the gantry and water taps on the bar. Expect to find cask Barney's Extra Pale on one of the back wall taps. There is also an attractive outdoor area.



The Bullfinch, Bath St.

The **Old Eastway Tap** opened in November on the site of the former **Riordan's Sports Bar** on Easter Road. It's a sister pub to the **Portobello Tap**, so there will be a number of Cross Borders beers on the four handpumps. The pub is named after the Eastway, a former cinema at the top of Easter Road. A short walk through the back streets will take you to the **Strathmore** on Iona Street, where a handpump has recently been installed, once again featuring a Cross Borders real ale. This friendly bar is associated with the three **Brass**



Old Eastway Tap, Easter Rd.

Monkey pubs in Edinburgh and Leith. Elsewhere in North Edinburgh **Spiers Bar** reopened under that name again (with a couple of real ales) after its brief spell as the **Inverleith**.

The **Aviator** on Causewayside had been in decline, with poor or zero cask ale availability, so it was a relief to see it taken over and reopened by Glen Dawkins and his team as **Steel Coulson Southside**. There have been up to four real ales and ciders on handpumps in its busy first few weeks, with plans for an increased selection. After **Steel Coulson Tap** had moved down to Bernard Street and become **Steel Coulson Shore** Glen's Leith ambitions didn't stop there: back in Henderson Street he's planning to reopen the former **Harmonium** site as the **Vaudeville**, a beer showcase with up to six cask ales and the same ethos of supporting independent breweries. The kitchen is likely to be rented out to changing street food operators. The target date for opening the Vaudeville (possibly a unique name amongst UK pubs) is mid-January 2022.

More established operators have not been sitting back – after their successful work on the **Thistle Street Bar** and, in particular, the return to a traditional format with cask ale on handpumps for **Mather's** on Broughton St, Belhaven are planning to refurbish **Middletons** on Easter Road once they have found new lessees. The artist's impression of the new exterior shows 'Traditional Ales' signage. A further Belhaven project will be the **Centurion** at Corstorphine, which is set to become the **Carrick Inn** after its planned upgrade. Yet another Greene King/Belhaven job is the former **Lebowski's** on Morrison Street, which is to revert to its previous name of the **Festival Tavern** after a major refurbishment.

Bruce Taverns' Old Town Pub Co has been very busy recently, having taken over and reopened (with little change other than redecoration inside and out) the famous **Halfway House**.



Steel Coulson Southside, Causewayside

They are also working on the **Canons' Gait**, a recent acquisition from D M Stewart. Old Town are even embarking on a new-build 'traditional pub' set into a modern building at the junction of Waverley Court and the Royal Mile, to be called **MacKays on the Mile**. This is due to open in Spring 2022. D M Stewart themselves are still working on a thorough refurbishment of **Ryrie's** at Haymarket, most visibly removing all of the blue paint from the outside. This is expected to reopen in the New Year. Conversely **Froth and Flame** just

up the road in Morrison Street has acquired a new blue exterior. One more pub that is still under refurbishment (as well as tons of scaffolding) is the **Kenilworth** on Rose Street (was due to open in late November). Also in Rose Street the **Rosehip** has been sold to new operators and **Element** has finally reopened. At Fountainbridge the **Fountain** has also reopened; Signature Pubs had been concentrating its staffing in some of its other venues such as **Cold Town House**.

In East Edinburgh the former **Barrelhouse** reopened as the **Willow** with a couple of real ales such as Deuchars IPA or Jarl. It's been very nicely refurbished and retains its large beer garden. Across the traffic lights, **Porters** also reopened under new ownership although they have not reverted to selling real ale. A few of the notable internal features are still intact in this three-room pub.

Some pubs that have now closed down include the **Skylark** café/bar in Portobello (after 10 years), **Anderson's** in Leith, the **Earl of Marchmont**, **Crosstown ED** in Fountainbridge, the **Turnhouse** at the airport and the two Sam Smith's pubs **Doo'cot** and **Cramond Inn**. There's also little sign of life at **Southpour** in Newington, where the nearby site most recently occupied by **My Friend the Murderer** is to become a coffee shop. A few pubs have sadly also stopped selling real ale, including **Ryan's Bar** in the West End, which always used to have a good selection, the **Royal Oak**, which has sold real ale regularly for many years, **Montpeliers** and the **Ghillie Dhu**. **One Canonmills** has not abandoned cask ale, but has been slow getting it back on sale.

The trend towards brewery-operated pubs and bars shows no sign of stopping. One of the more interesting new examples is the **Wee Vault** at Haymarket, operated by Vault City Brewing. It has a genuine claim to be the smallest bar in Edinburgh, although it has a remarkable 24 beer/cider taps as well as a large bottled and canned selection of Vault City and other beers and ciders. Happily a booking system is now in place. The **Moonwake Tap Room** overlooking the eponymous brewery on Tower Street in Leith also opened in September. Sadly neither of these sell cask ale.

Woodland Creatures on Leith Walk won 'Gastro Pub of the Year SouthEast' in the Food Awards Scotland, organised by Creative Oceanic, at the end of November. Other Edinburgh pub finalists in various categories included the **Orchard Bar** and the **Barony Bar** (which reopened in August under new management but with a strong ongoing commitment to real ale). At the Pub and Bar Magazine Awards in September, **No.1 The Grange** was named SE Scotland Pub/Bar of the Year. Bar Brand of the Year was **The Alchemist**, which has just opened a branch in the new St James Quarter development.

In other Edinburgh news:

- A new **BrewDog DogHouse** hotel and bar was due to open on New Street at the beginning of December
- The former **Peacock Inn** in Newhaven (which had had several identities since then) has now been converted to a South Indian restaurant and takeaway.



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- Cask ale availability at the **Hanging Bat** has been steadily improving since full reopening, with one highlight being a Thornbridge Tap Takeover in early December including five cask lines
- The new-build **Refinery** bar closed down and has been converted into a Gordon Ramsay restaurant
- The **Wildcat** on Tarvit Street reopened in June but still has no real ale
- The former **Bisque** in Bruntsfield is now the **Neighbourhood Bar, Kitchen and Garden**
- The **Copper Still** has taken the place of the **Royal McGregor** but its opening has been delayed until 'Winter 2021'

Finally, apart from selling really good beer, the **Dreadnought** has found time to paint the old railway bridge outside in Pride colours as a response to homophobic graffiti and has, according to its Twitter page, facilitated the collection of over £7k in donations to charities supporting Syrian Refugees, LGBTQ+ rights, underprivileged kids in Leith, mental health, homeless dogs and more. Well done Toby and the team!

Craig Millar

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PUB COMPANIES

WHO THEY ARE AND WHAT THEY DO

by Paul Ainsworth

The CAMRA Pub and Club Campaigns Committee feels that many members would find it helpful to have more information about the companies that control many of our pubs. This is the first in a series of articles that will provide the facts on pub company practices and operations, explaining in particular how their business models work and what this means for both licensees and, ultimately, us as customers. The aim is to let the facts speak for themselves so that members can make up their own minds about the positive or negative effects of these practices on our pubs and the folk who run them.

I. A POTTED HISTORY OF THE PUBCO

Fifty years ago, when CAMRA was formed, the pub landscape looked very different. For a start, there were many more of them – some 75,000 against around 47,500 now. The majority of pubs (52,000 or so) were owned by breweries. The 89 small and regional breweries had 13800 of them and the rest were in the hands of the ‘Big Six’ – Bass Charrington, Allied, Whitbread, Scottish & Newcastle, Watney/Grand Metropolitan and Courage/Imperial.

Most of the other 23,000 pubs were free houses (in name anyway – many tied their beer supplies to a big brewer in return for loans and discounts). Companies that just owned pubs were few and far between – the likes of Sir John Fitzgerald in the north-east and Heavitree in the south west (though they tied themselves to Bass).

Just about every pub-owning brewery rigorously imposed a supply tie on its own products. As late as the mid-1980s, I remember a Greene King Director recoiling in horror at my suggestion that they allow a few guest beers in their pubs. As a result, new breweries found outlets hard to come by and we customers were hardly spoilt for choice, as a glance at a Good Beer Guide of that era will reveal.

Then, in 1989, along came the Beer Orders. The story of this epochal legislation (for better or worse) is superbly told in Laura Hadland’s recent Fifty Years of CAMRA book but, in essence, the government acknowledged the stranglehold on the industry exercised by the Big Six and, among other things, capped their pub ownership at 2000.

By now, because of closures and sell-offs, the Big Six owned fewer pubs between them but the Orders still meant around 11000 pubs coming onto the market. We, of course, dreamed of a new golden age of multi-handpumped free houses galore, but the reality was sadly different. Companies were quickly established, usually with close links to the Big Six, to Hoover up these pubs in big batches then negotiate supply deals, invariably with the company who previously owned the place. Enterprise Inns, for instance, started off with the purchase of 368 pubs from Bass, and that’s where they bought the beer from.

In the years that followed, wheeling and dealing saw companies variously grow, collapse, merge, acquire, dispose – it was very difficult to keep up with who owned what. Some companies concentrated on managed pubs, some on tenancies, a few on a mixed model. Behemoths emerged – by 2004, Punch Taverns and Enterprise each owned more than 8000 pubs, though both had accumulated so much debt that they ran into trouble come the financial crash and subsequently retrenched. We’ll have a closer look at the current pub company scene in the next article.

A brief history of Punch Taverns illustrates the volatility surrounding pubcos from the 1990s onwards. Punch formed in 1997, purchasing a tranche of pubs from Bass. Two years later, they bought Inn Business (mostly former Whitbread pubs) and then the rump of the Allied estate. The managed pubs were spun off into a separate division called Spirit. In 2003, they acquired their 3100-strong rival Pubmaster plus a couple of smaller companies. Next, Scottish & Newcastle’s managed pubs were snapped up and added to Spirit. By 2011 the impact of the crash was being felt, calling for a ‘strategic review’. Spirit was demerged and, in 2015, sold to Greene King. Come 2016, a takeover bid totalling £403m (plus the taking on of a billion pounds of debt) was accepted; 1900 pubs went to Heineken with the remaining 1300 residing with Patron Capital, though the Punch brand has been retained.

In the meantime, the treatment of their tenants by many of the Pubcos had become a major issue and, after years of campaigning, the Government was persuaded, in 2014, to announce a statutory Pubs Code aimed at regulating their practices and ensuring fair treatment for tenants. We’ll return to the Code in a future article. In this context, though, it needs mentioning that the currently accepted definition of a pub company embraces breweries that own pubs – and nowadays most such companies have separate management structures for their pub and brewing operations.

Final comments. Pub companies are here to stay. There is nothing wrong with the basic model and, indeed, there are some excellent companies (mostly smaller ones) who treat their licensees well and clearly see their pubs as more than just property assets. It would, though, be difficult to argue that the ways in which some companies operate raise many issues around their custodianship of what aren’t just piles of bricks-and-mortar but, in most cases, precious and valued community assets. We’ll examine those issues in due course.



BEER AND LOTHIAN

Pub News

Currie is set to gain a new real ale pub! Star Pubs and Bars have invested over £600k to refurbish the **Woodhall Arms**, due to reopen before the end of 2021. It's been confirmed that the pub will have cask ale although details of other facilities are not yet to hand. The **Riccarton Inn** is already a reliable choice for real ale drinkers in Currie, with a regular offering of four beers. The only other pub in Currie, the **Abbots's Choice**, is a more basic locals' pub with no cask ale. About six years ago it went through a temporary phase as the **Mocha and Merlot** bistro bar.

Down the road in Balerno, the **Balerno Inn** has unfortunately given up real ale, but you can always find at least two cask ales over the road at the **Grey Horse**.

There had been reports that real ale availability at the **Railway Inn** in West Calder had been patchy or even non-existent, so it was good to see them promoting Greene King Yardbird IPA on handpump in late November. The **Murray Bar** (no real ale) in Polbeth, West Calder, is now co-owned with the Railway.

The **Fork and Field** in Mid Calder may reopen soon under the stewardship of Dougie Kilpatrick, we hear. Dougie is a veteran of the **Inn on the Mile** in Edinburgh and other establishments. The **Black Bull** over the road continues to sell a good range of real ales.

There's a new bar on South Queensferry High Street – Ferry Brewery have opened the **Ferry Beer Shop** at number 23 which also operates as a tap bar. Real ale in the town is currently provided by the **Stag Head**, **Ferry Tap**, **Railbridge Bistro** and **Hawes Inn**.

Congratulations to the **Bridge Inn** at Ratho, which as 'Gastropub of the Year' was the only local real ale outlet to win an award at the Scottish Licensed Trade News Awards 2021. **56 North** and **Uno Mas** in Edinburgh also saw success.

In Midlothian the **Bucleuch** in Dalkeith finally reopened, although its handpumps are said to be for decoration only! It had previously been relinquished by the Innuitive Group, as it was felt to be not in keeping with the rest of its portfolio (such as the **Carfraemill**, **Kings Arms** and **Goblin Ha'**). It was rumoured in the summer that the **Blacksmith's Forge** along the road, abandoned by JD Wetherspoon, was under offer to reopen as a pub, but nothing has come of it yet. The **Polton Inn** in Lasswade has reopened after refurbishment, although if you want any real ale locally you'll have to head to the **Laird and Dog** for a good selection.

Sadly East Lothian has lost several real ale outlets, with the **Longniddry Inn**, **Old Aberlady Inn** and **Royal Mackintosh** (Dunbar) all giving up cask ale. This still leaves approximately 23 real ale pubs spread across 13 towns and villages.



Ferry Beer Shop, High St, S. Queensferry

There's controversy in Tranent, where the 120 year old **Tower Inn** is scheduled for closure on 10th January after Hawthorn Leisure and Admiral Taverns (who are in the process of taking over Hawthorn) between them ignored the needs of the community by selling the pub to

an unnamed purchaser who allegedly wishes to use the site for housing. Planning permission for such a change has NOT been granted and is likely to be strongly opposed if and when an application arises.

Another Hawthorn pub that has now actually been bought by its previous tenants is **No.5 Duke Street** in West Barns. This is expected to reopen soon; like the Tower, it flirted briefly with real ale previously, although Hawthorn's level of support to its tenants for these initiatives was disappointingly small.



The Watchman, Gullane

Back in Tranent, plans to turn the closed **New Plough** into a restaurant have been approved, but in better news Caledonian Heritable have said they will be upgrading the **Brig Inn**, which had been under a threat of conversion into flats.

In Gullane the **Watchman** opened in the late Summer but, despite prior promises, it carries only a selection of mainstream keg products and no real ale. This is not a major problem with plenty of real ale choice nearby at the **Old Clubhouse** and the **Bonnie Badger**. In North Berwick, Caledonian Heritable plan to redevelop the former **Golf Hotel**, which had latterly been used for staff accommodation for the Marine Hotel. The Marine itself has now been reborn as the **Marine North Berwick**. Its attractive Bass Rock Bar has a full range of Edinburgh Beer Factory keg products but no real ale.



The **Linton Hotel and Steakhouse** in East Linton won in both the SE Scotland and Overall categories as 'Hotel Restaurant of the Year' in the Scottish Food Awards at the end of November. Its cask ales often include at least one from Winton in Haddington. Winton itself has now moved its new **Tap Room** indoors, opening on Fridays and Saturdays in December.

Finally, work has been proceeding for many months on the **Winton Arms** in Pencaitland, another major Caledonian Heritable project. It's hoped that at the end of it there will still be a commitment to real ale.

Craig Leith

QUIZ ANSWERS

(from page 5)

1. **STAGGERS**
FOUNTAINBRIDGE (now a restaurant)
2. **STRAND'S BAR**
KING'S ROAD, PORTOBELLO (now a restaurant)
3. **JIMMY DEE'S**
NORTH JUNCTION STREET, LEITH (now called Swanny's Bar)
4. **MISFITS**
ROSE STREET (no longer a pub)
5. **MARR'S BAR**
THISTLE STREET (now called the Thistle Street Bar)
6. **JOHN'S BAR**
RAEBURN PLACE (now the St. Bernard Bar)
7. **STAN & OLLIES LOUNGE**
QUEEN CHARLOTTE STREET, LEITH. (now a function suite and restaurant)
8. **LANTERN LOUNGE BAR**
COCKBURN STREET (now called The Malt Shovel)

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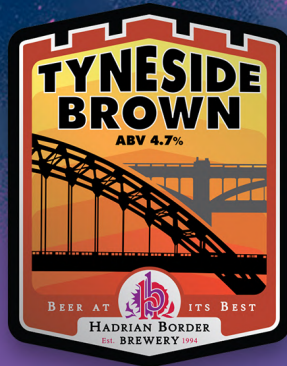
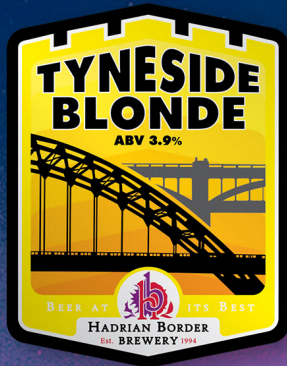


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Outstanding Conversions and Restorations

by Gerry Hahlo

CAMRA is dedicated to supporting pubs, as well as promoting best-quality beers and ciders. In particular, we are widely regarded for our work on identifying and helping to protect the UK's most important heritage pubs through the compilation of our inventories of pubs with historic interiors – the most precious survivors.

CAMRA defines heritage pubs as those that are wholly or mostly unchanged or retain important historic rooms or features from before 1970. Since then, huge numbers of pubs have been expertly refurbished and many have been established in buildings previously used for other purposes. And, contrary to popular belief, a lot of new pubs in both urban and rural locations are really good. They deserve to be recognised and applauded.

We have therefore begun a project to identify, preserve and protect pubs that are **Outstanding Conversions and Restorations (OCR)**. These are the best examples of pub owners taking care to present a pub for modern times whilst respecting the origins of the building in which it is located. Or, they have taken care to refashion a pub so that it has a genuinely historical feel and/or has design to admire. All pubs included have that essential quality of, well, pubbiness.

Why is CAMRA doing this?

1. To raise awareness of examples of outstanding pub conversions and restorations, thus stimulating interest in visiting and enjoying them.
2. To inspire pub owners and others to pursue excellence when converting or restoring buildings for pub use.
3. Thereby to establish yardsticks against which future pub conversions and restorations can be judged.
4. To help protect identified pubs from unsympathetic changes.
5. To contribute to CAMRA's wider objective of generating enthusiasm for pub-going.

In our Branch area, 13 pubs have so far been identified as worthy of listing, including the **Bow Bar, Cumberland Bar**, both **Cask & Barrels, Kay's Bar, Thomson's Bar**, the **Persevere**, and **Nobles**.

You can find out more about the project and see the full national listing by going to the CAMRA website and clicking on <https://ocrpubs.camra.org.uk/> Go and enjoy as many as you can. This is a live project so if you know other pubs that you think should be included as outstanding conversions or restorations, please let us know at: info@ocrpubs.camra.org.uk. Enjoy!!

CAMRA Members' Weekend 2022

National Events

A warm welcome awaits you on the East Sussex coast!

CAMRA's Members' Weekend, AGM & Conference will be hosted by our Sussex branches at the Winter Garden in Eastbourne 8-10 April 2022.

After two years without a physical event, hundreds of members have already registered to attend – to see what Sussex has to offer by way of great beer, cider and perry. The weekend is a chance to meet friends, make new ones, go on organised brewery trips and take part in activities.

It's free to attend and open to all CAMRA members.

The weekend is staffed by volunteers – with a range of opportunities to help on offer.

All the information is on the event page – where you can register to attend / sign up to help - go to **www.camra.org.uk/members-weekend-agm-conference**

Alternatively, email **membersweekend@camra.org.uk**



INN the BORDERS

Pub News

Good news from Oxtou, where the **Tower Hotel** has been bought by Stephen and Laura Anderson to run as a pub/hotel, thus saving the anguish of the community group that was trying to size up the feasibility of taking it on. As yet there's no timetable for bringing the building back to life; CAMRA members had already made a substantial input to previous studies on behalf of the potential community buyout and will be encouraging the new owners to work with local brewers such as Stow to bring cask ale back to the site (and also to preserve and enhance any original features that remain).

The **Fisherman's Arms** at Birgham has been sold. The new owners, Ruth and James Hayes intend to be able to open the pub 7 days per week serving both lunches and dinners. Dave Miller, the present tenant, will finish his tenancy at the end of December.

Further west, the **Queen's Head** in Hawick has entered a further stage of its extended refurbishment now that it has



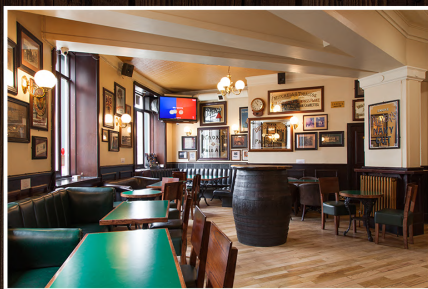
The Cross Inn, Paxton

been enveloped in scaffolding. The aim is to open the doors in early Spring 2022. It's been confirmed that there will be real ale and support for local breweries, which is good news.

The village of Lilliesleaf is now without an open pub, as Roy and Theresa McIntosh (formerly of the **Clovenfords**) have left the **Cross Keys** to pursue other business interests; the pub is now on the market. Carlops has also lost its only pub, with the **Allan Ramsay Hotel** closing down and selling off all of the fittings, furniture, etc. It remains to be seen what sort of planning application emerges, if any.



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1905 in Kelso is looking to turn a back room behind the bar (currently furnished with picnic tables) into a steakhouse arrangement, possibly by Spring 2022. The three cask ales here usually include ones from Hybrid and Firebrick. The manager's family connections may be involved in setting up a new brewery in Kelso or at Floors Castle nearby. The **Cross Inn** at Paxton has seen some enterprising changes during the periods of lockdown and restrictions, having built a whole new decking area at the front of the pub with massive retractable canopies. Again, three cask ales are usually on offer. A recent tap takeover featured Hadrian Border beers.

In other news:

- There is now no real ale at the **Laurel Bank** in Broughton, the handpump having been removed
- Well done to the **Fleece Bar and Kitchen** in Selkirk, which won 'Best Scottish Cuisine' at the recent Scottish Food Awards
- The **Old Thistle Inn** at Westruther notably celebrated its 300th birthday at the end of November and is now open Thursday to Sunday following a period of what looked like permanent closure
- The **Gordon Arms** in Gordon reopened under the new ownership of Tara and Graeme earlier in 2021 after refurbishment and the addition of new garden areas
- The **Plough Hotel** at Town Yetholm has been doing a great job raising money through fortnightly charity quizzes, recent beneficiaries being Shelter and Marie Curie
- Work finally started on the 'Wee Crook' licensed bistro at the **Crook Inn** site at Tweedsmuir, although the main pub building is in a worsening state of disrepair
- The remote **Tushielaw Inn** was taken over by the management of the nearby caravan park in October.
- As reported elsewhere, the **Lauderdale Hotel** in Lauder is planning to install a handpump for Stow Brewery beer
- The **Clock Tower** in Coldstream is now being run by its owners again and has reverted to its former name of the **Eildon**

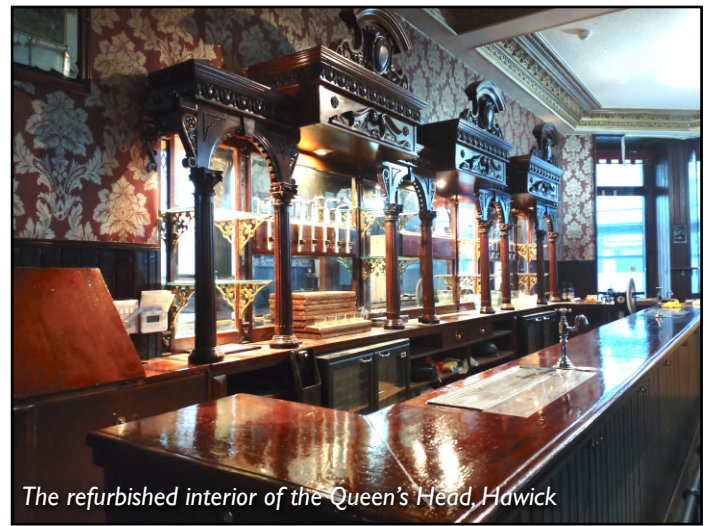
Grant S House

Please note: 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.



The Queen's Head, Hawick in 1984



The refurbished interior of the Queen's Head, Hawick



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NEWS OF THE BREWS

Brewery Update

Aye Been Brewing

The 5% abv Autumn Red Ale was launched in September at regular outlets the **Ship Inn** and **Contented Sole** in Eyemouth and the **Curfew** in Berwick. Aye Been Blonde (gold winner in the SIBA Scotland bottle/can awards 2021) was expected to appear later at the **Guildford Arms** and **No 1 High St** in Edinburgh. Another new local outlet for the Eyemouth brewery is the **Waterloo Arms** in Chirnside.

Fort Point, a 5.1% porter, was launched in November and also debuted at the Curfew.

Belhaven Brewery

Belhaven's new Visitor Reception and Brewery Shop building (converted from an old storeroom) was opened on 1st November by local Paralympian medallist Maria Lyle. Brewery tours also restarted later the same week. Numbers were initially restricted to 8 per tour. If visiting, don't forget to try some real ale at the nearby **Brig & Barrel** pub.

Bellfield Brewery

Bellfield's latest release is Totally Wired Stout (7% abv), described as being infused with cold brew coffee and vanilla beans. The brewery deservedly won the 'Excellence in Social Media' award at the Scottish Beer Awards in October.

Born Brewery

Born is still brewing cautiously while footfall slowly increases, concentrating on Blonde and Amber in cask, although IPA has also been available recently. The Visitor Centre continues to attract visitors and locals alike and bottled beer (and Lilliard gin) are on sale in the shop.

Both Dark and Amber won Gold in their respective categories at the Scottish Beer Awards.

Campervan Brewery

In September Campervan confirmed the disappointing news that there were no plans to relaunch Leith Juice in cask form.

Cold Town Beer

There were two successes for Cold Town at the Scottish Beer Awards – 'Excellence in Branding' and also 'Best Beer Bar' for **Cold Town House**.



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Cross Borders Brewing Co.

Cross Borders also won a Bronze for Oatmeal Pale Ale at the Scottish Beer Awards. Their brewing capacity has been increased with a new larger fermenting vessel, with a canning line also planned. Look out for a collaboration brew with Dark Star, following that brewery's tap takeover at the **Old Eastway Tap**, Cross Border's new venture on Easter Road (see *City Ale Tales*).

Edinburgh Beer Factory

East Lothian is set to host another brewery, because EBF is set to move from its neon-lit premises in Sighthill to West Barns near Dunbar, where it will share the current Thistly Cross Cider site. There is already a close partnership between the two companies. Lynne and John Dunsmore, EBF's co-founders, described the move (due to be completed by Spring 2022) as 'transformative'.

Faking Bad Brewery

The latest beer to be launched at the host **Goth** pub in Prestonpans has been a Scottish Stout at 3.5% abv.



NEWS OF THE BREWS

(continued)

Ferry Brewery

Ferry picked up three awards, for Milkshake Porter, 40/- Fine and Oatmeal Stout, at the Scottish Beer Awards and were also thrilled to be runner-up for the **Tap Room** in CAMRA's Real Ale Quality Award (Lothians).

Ferry has now started its own Beer Club, with a case of 12 beers being delivered monthly. New members joining before December 20th will also get a special Christmas beer pack.

Hurly Burly Brewery

CAMRA was shocked to hear the news in October that Hurly Burly were to close, and sell, their brewery in Musselburgh. Their small but tasty range of bottle-conditioned beers had more recently been supplemented by the appearance in cask form of Hare of the Dog, Gnat's Hop, etc. Unfortunately the commercial stresses of the pandemic period eventually took their toll. We wish Peter and Louise all the best in the future.

The final casks of Hurly Burly real ale went out to the **Waterside Bistro** in Haddington and the **Castle Inn**, Dirleton.

Innis & Gunn

Planning permission for the proposed new £20 million brewery at the Heriot-Watt Research Park at Riccarton was granted in October, although there is no confirmed date yet for the start of construction. Later phases will include a tap room, visitor experience and Beer School. About 30 full- and part-time jobs could be created.

Jump Ship Brewing

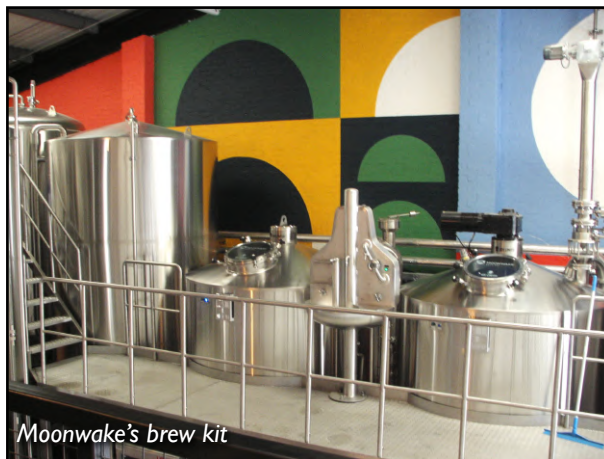
Jump Ship also found success at the Scottish Beer Awards for Yardarm and Flying Colours. The latest beer to appear in 330ml can is the dry-hopped Goosewing IPA.

Head Brewer Pete Sharp hosted an informative online tasting in October at which all three beers were sampled and discussed.

He confirmed that Jump Ship were still actively seeking their own brewery site in Edinburgh (the beers are currently brewed at Alechemy). A tap room and possibly a move to lower-alcohol beers (greater than 0.5% abv) were also planned. The next new beer was likely to be a stout, with a new move into keg production possible for early 2022.



Last cask of Hurly Burly Gnat's Hop at Castle Inn, Dirleton



Moonwake's brew kit



Newbarns Barrel Aged Plain Dark Beer

Moonwake Beer Co.

Moonwake's Tap Room is now open (see *City Ale Tales*). The distinctively branded keg and canned beers are widely available in the Edinburgh area. The first collaboration beer, a Rye IPA, was brewed with Fierce and appeared in November.

Newbarns Brewery

As well as hosting Donzoko, Holy Goat from Dundee brewed their Foehammer (11% abv Russian Imperial Stout) at Newbarns' Jane St site. Newbarns themselves have now released a Barrel Aged version of Plain Dark Beer (also 11%).

Newt Brew

Newt took over Hurly Burly's brewery on 1st November and are understood to be brewing organic beers.

Otherworld

Cross Borders are set to get a new neighbour on the Hardengreen Industrial Estate in Eskbank. Daniel Juett and Timothy Pearce's Otherworld Brewing reported in November that their brewing kit was being delivered to site.

Pilot Beer

It's been a busy few months for the Bonnington brewers. In September they announced that they were to cease the use of lactose in their beers (most notably in the Mochaccino Stout). They then teamed up with Liverpool's Carnival Brewing Co and Germany's Fuerst Wiacek to produce a Vienna Lager

called Metamorphosed. Pilot have added three new fermenting vessels and also three new staff, including an additional brewer. An IPA (not to be confused with 'An IPA!') has also been added to the range, as has a Barrel Aged version of North Sea Stout. Pilot are also now a shirt sponsor for Leith rugby club.

Stenroth Brewing

Stenroth reported in July that they were waiting to hear back on a potential brewing site, although there has been ►►►

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NEWS OF THE BREWS

(continued)

no further news and brewing remains suspended.

Stewart Brewing

The brewery recently received awards at the 2021 Scottish Beer Awards. New Relic won Gold in the IPA category, Ka Pai Gold in the Pale Ale category and Clara Rosa Silver in the Juicy or Hazy Beer category. At the SIBA (Scotland) 2021 Awards Silver awards were also won by 80/-, Session IPA and Jack Back.

Cauld Reekie has sadly now been delisted but may make occasional appearances in cask as a seasonal special. Cascadian East has been renamed Masterplan although the beer remains unchanged. Citra Blonde, a 4% cask IPA is a seasonal special that has been on sale in pubs from late November. Sleight My Name, a 4.1% Copper Ale will be available in December and Backing Blue a 4.1% IPA for the upcoming Rugby Season.

The brewery has launched a new website, just in time for getting the Christmas supplies in.

Stow Brewery

After some trial runs in September, a 3.8% abv IPA and a 4% Red Ale were launched at the end of October as 'Dhu Brew by Stow Brewery', in can, keg and cask. The cask ale can typically be found at the **Golden Bannock** in Lauder, although the **Lauderdale Hotel** in the same town is expected to install a handpump soon for the sale of Stow beers; the IPA has been selling well on keg.

Tempest Brewing Co.

Newly-developed beers in can and bottle include Barrel 3 Smoked Islay Imperial Stout (7% abv), Mango & Coconut Sticky Rice (13%), Bourbon Barrel Aged Mexicake (12.4%), Altered Air IPA (9%) and Ascension Seeker (9.5%). Pale Armadillo is generally the only cask ale on offer although a new ale – Snow Motion (4.2%) has just been launched for December and there is also a choice of mini-casks. The weekend Tap Sessions continue to be popular, with Christmas Party bookings available.

Top Out Brewery

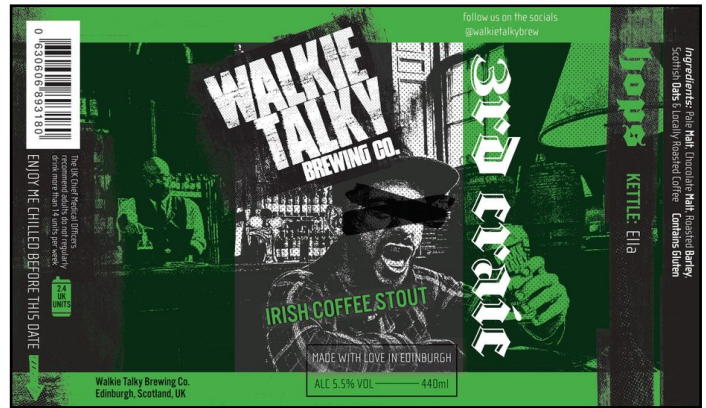
First Crack (7.8% abv) was a very popular choice at the **Bandstand** Beer Festival in Nairn in October. It was due be followed later by Second Crack (details unknown at press date).

Traquair House

Traquair has regrettably lost its only regular outlet for cask beer with its discontinuation (in favour of lighter ales) at the nearby **Traquair Arms** in Innerleithen.

Vault City Brewing

The **Wee Vault** bar at Haymarket is now open (see Pub News). This will be followed by a Tap Room at the Portobello



site in Spring 2022 (capacity 250, with a music venue and 'secret garden').

Walkie Talky Brewing Co.

Yet another brewer has arrived in Jane St, Leith, with Walkie Talky brewing at Campervan since July. Founded by Heriot-Watt ICBT Brewing & Distilling Masters graduates Michael Johnstone and Joel Saunderson, Walkie Talky's canned and keg beers made early appearances at **Mother Superior, Lost in Leith, Innis & Gunn Leith, Three Marys** and the **Hanging Bat**. One'er (a 3.5% abv hazy blonde ale) was followed by 3rd Craic (5.5% vegan Irish Coffee Stout).

Winton Brewery

Winton has created a Tap Room at its Haddington site (initially open Fridays and Saturdays). Half a dozen one-off beers were produced for two Beer Festivals at the brewery's **Station Yard** micropub in Dunbar.

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