

Issue 80

—

Summer 2023

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FREE

# PINTS of VIEW



Campaign  
for  
Real Ale

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

## The Jolly Judge wins a Hat Trick!

### In this issue ...

- Trams (and Cask Beer) to Newhaven
- Kay's Bar Treasure Trove
- Latest real ale pub news
- Latest local brewery news
- ... and more!


Edinburgh Pub of the Year  
Branch Pub of the Year  
and Cider Pub of the Year!



*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

So far this year, the headwinds facing the brewing industry have sadly led to the closure of Ferry Brewery in South Queensferry and Faking Bad Brewery at the Prestoungrange Goth. However, it's good to see new or continued commitment to real ale from breweries such as Barney's, Campervan, Newbarns, Otherworld and Stewart.

As we go to press, it looks like the Scottish Government's Deposit Return Scheme, which has been seen by the drinks industry (and CAMRA) as deeply problematic, will now not go ahead in its intended form. We hope the Scottish and UK Governments can now work together on a harmonised DRS which will not place an unacceptable burden on small breweries and cider producers or reduce consumer choice.

We were also alarmed by the Scottish Government's recent proposals for restrictions on the marketing and advertising of alcoholic drinks. Thankfully, the new First Minister has acknowledged that these have caused real concern to an industry already facing several challenges, and require a comprehensive rethink.

*Scott*

*Cover photo: Jon Addinall*

## 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

We normally also give a discount for multiple inserts in a single publication.

All enquiries to [advertising@edinburgh.camra.org.uk](mailto:advertising@edinburgh.camra.org.uk)

## Subscriptions

We currently publish *PoV* twice a year. You can also read the current and previous issues on our website. *PoV* is available by subscription at the following rates:

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# CAMRA Calling

## Branch News

### Pubs of the Year 2023

#### Edinburgh

1st **Jolly Judge**

2nd **Stockbridge Tap**

3rd= **Roseburn Bar** and **Dreadnought**

#### Lothians

1st **Volunteer Arms [Staggs]**, Musselburgh

2nd **Dean Tavern**, Newtongrange

3rd **Grey Horse**, Balerno

#### Borders

1st **Allanton Inn**

2nd **Cross Inn**, Paxton

3rd= **Salmon Inn**, Galashiels and **1905**, Kelso

### Cider Pub of the Year

1st **Jolly Judge**

2nd **Dreadnought**

The **Jolly Judge** was also elected Overall Branch Pub of the Year. Congratulations to Adam, Jack and the rest of the JJ team!

### Forthcoming Branch Events

Occasionally we may need to cancel or re-arrange events after we go to press. Please check [edinburgh.camra.org.uk/diary](http://edinburgh.camra.org.uk/diary) for the latest event information and updates. All venues for branch events are in Edinburgh unless otherwise noted.

#### Two-Pub Social (New Town)

7:30pm 12 July

**Thistle Street Bar**, then **Rose Street Brewery**

#### Branch Social

2:30pm 22 July

**Henry Hall's Carrier's Quarters**

#### Two-Pub Social (Southside)

7:30pm 9 August

**Old Bell Inn**, then **Leslie's Bar**

#### Two-Pub Social (Abbeyhill)

7:30pm 13 September

**Artisan**, then **Safari Lounge**



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# CAMRA Calling

(continued)

## Scotland & NI Branches (SNIB) Events

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

### Quarterly SNIB Meeting

1pm 19 August

Nether Abbey Hotel, North Berwick

### New Branch Chair

Pat Hanson has decided to stand down from the positions of Branch Chair (which he has held since 2016) and also PoV chief contributor and advertising manager (which he has held for even longer!). The new Branch Chair is Chris Miller, previously a long-standing member of the Kingston and Leatherhead branch. We'd like to thank Pat for his services to the branch and PoV, and welcome Chris to his new role.

### New Branch Website

Our new branch website was launched at the beginning of May. This is now hosted by CAMRA's own hosting service and uses CAMRA's BeerEngine content management system. This has a number of advantages, including better mobile device compatibility, close integration with WhatPub.com, the ability to have "members only" pages, and allowing multiple website administrators.

Due to the switch to CAMRA's own hosting service, the website is now officially [edinburgh.camra.org.uk](http://edinburgh.camra.org.uk) rather than the previous [www.edinburghcamra.org.uk](http://www.edinburghcamra.org.uk). Likewise, branch committee email addresses have changed from [user@edinburghcamra.org.uk](mailto:user@edinburghcamra.org.uk) to [user@edinburgh.camra.org.uk](mailto:user@edinburgh.camra.org.uk). The old [edinburghcamra.org.uk](http://edinburghcamra.org.uk) domain name will however redirect to the new one for some time to come.

### Russell Sharp

We were sad to learn that Russell Sharp, who helped save and revive the fortunes of the Caledonian Brewery in the 1980s, died earlier this year at the age of 83. A fuller obituary can be found in *What's Brewing* (<https://wb.camra.org.uk/2023/03/12/caley-saviour-dies-aged-83>)

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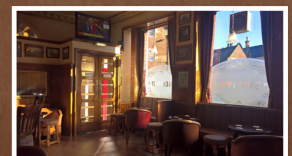


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# KAY'S BAR TREASURE TROVE

by Charlie Hughes

Kay's Bar in Jamaica Street West, New Town – CAMRA's Real Ale Quality Award winner for Edinburgh and SE Scotland last year – has a long and interesting history. Much of it not as a pub.

Commonly considered to have been a mews property for India street, built around 1815, there is however evidence of a much earlier agricultural dwelling. The original fireplaces, the cellar and some stonework clearly predate New Town. It will have stood in a wide expanse of farmland somewhere to the west of the ancient Gabriel's Road, which ran from behind where The Café Royal is now (check out the sign on the railings) down to Stockbridge. Then it was swallowed up by New Town.

It wasn't a mews for long. In 1819 it became John Kay's Wine and Spirit Dealer and remained so until the mid-1970s. It was converted to a pub in May 1976. The casks adorning the wall opposite the bar were whisky casks left from the dealership. The bar itself, sometimes described as a well-preserved Victorian bar, is actually mainly constructed from fittings removed from a shop in Leith Walk in the 1970s (partly aged by some carefully applied boot polish).

Last year a man came in to the pub and asked Fraser, the licensee, if he might be interested in purchasing a bottle of Kays branded whisky. Fraser knew there were a few bottles of this around and had previously tracked down one or two. From the 1950s right up until it closed, Kays had purchased cask strength whisky, cut it with water on the premises and bottled and labelled it themselves. Kay's Glen Grant, Kay's Glenlivet etc.

Turned out the man had a whole case of the stuff, and three or four boxes of documents. A Treasure Trove, now in Fraser's possession.

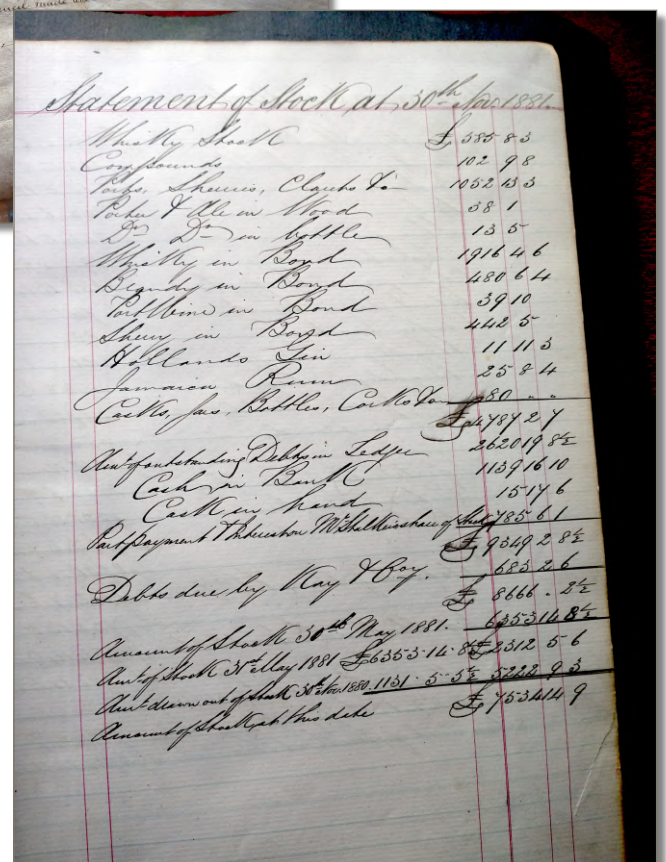


Documents date back to 1841 when John Kay was made a Burgess of Edinburgh. There are Profit & Loss accounts from before the First World War. A statement of stock running from 1881 to 1972, delivery notes and correspondence. A letter explaining the supply issues caused by a heavy frost damaging vines in France in 1956.

A Mr and Mrs Milligan owned the shop from the 1930s. She was of French aristocratic background – and had returned to France in the second world war to help the resistance. They had a country house in the borders and a town house in Northumberland Street. After a burglary in the 1960s Mrs Milligan became lifelong friends with a policeman who helped her recover her stolen paintings. In the 1970s, not in good health she planned to close the business and return to France. Though she had been considering this for a while it happened suddenly because one day she happened upon a French removal lorry delivering a French family to Northumberland Street. She asked it they fancied a return fare. Leaving in haste, she asked the policeman to clear the house ready for sale. That was when he found the boxes left behind, looked through them, took them home and forgot all about them. Then recently, someone was helping clear out his house and found them. Maybe Kay's would be interested? And, of course, they were.

Quiz question: Kay's is the only pub in Edinburgh that I am aware of that sells Theakston's Best bitter. What was the connection? Answer in our next issue.

With thanks to Fraser Gillespie and Simon Fisher for telling me the story over a few pints.



# City Ale Tales

## Pub News

Good news from the **Newbarns Tap Room** in Jane St Leith – a handpump has been installed and has been used for the brewery's own beers such as Sparkling Ale. Another new outlet for real ale has finally been opened on the Royal Mile after a long gestation period:-

**Mackays on the Mile** is a new-build venture by the Old Town Pub Co and has a couple of handpumps, usually featuring Stewart Brewing beers. It's an impressive bar, with a split-level fully accessible ground floor and a large upper floor.

There are two more new builds to report, both of which are conversions of former public toilets! **Herringbone Abbeyhill** is situated in Regent Terrace Gardens near the London Road/Easter Road junction. It's light and airy, with a nice decking area, but like its counterparts in North Berwick and Goldenacre has no real ale. **Joppa Rocks** is located right at the east end of Portobello Beach and has wonderful views across the Firth of Forth but, again, no real ale. Not far away the former **Dalriada** has been put on the market again and the price tag of over £1 million will unfortunately be a deterrent for anyone wanting to see it return to pub use (which many local residents would welcome).

There was a rare sight in **Lost in Leith** when Southern Switch, a collaboration between Campervan and Blackjack, was served on gravity dispense. The beer also appeared later at the **Guildford Arms**. Look out for Northern Switch, which will be a similar effort brewed in Leith. An even rarer sight would be Sam Smith's cask beer in Edinburgh; the **Cramond Inn** recently reopened under managers Chris and Kerera, but only has Old Brewery Bitter in keg form. Written enquiries to Humphrey Smith at the brewery brought a handwritten response that explained their real ale, which is in wooden casks, has a much shorter shelf life than real ale in "normal" casks and due to only having two outlets in

Scotland the distribution logistics prevented them supplying it to Edinburgh.

Getting the bad news out of the way – real ale is no longer sold at **Duke's, Black Rose, Lioness of Leith, Olde Golf Tavern, Polwarth Tavern, Westgate Farm, Raeburn, Broughton, Southpour, Biddy Mulligan's** and the **Strathmore**. Recently closed pubs have included **Philly's, Bundits of Leith, Good Brothers Wine Bar** and **Harmonium**, which sadly never replicated its previous range of vegan real ales when it moved from Leith to the foot of Broughton St.

On the brighter side, real ale has returned to the **Toby Carvery (Corstorphine)** in the shape of Stewart's Jack Back. Stewart's real ale (usually Edinburgh Gold) is also now a regular at the **Keller Taproom** and could be joined by beer from their in-house brewery when a stock of pins has been purchased.

Robert Shepherd has given up the lease of **Mather's** in Broughton Street and it has now reopened (retaining three real ales) with new lessee Colin Sinclair and manager Michelle Wilson, formerly of the **Goth** in Prestonpans. The bar most recently known as **Ooh Mami** in Leith has also changed hands and is now **Tim'rous Beastie**. They have taken note of the strong real ale sales in places like the **Malt and Hops** and are considering going down that route, which is encouraging.

On the planning front, there are now new plans for the drastic redevelopment of the Jock's Lodge area involving the demolition of a large part of the street for student flats (including the **Limelite** and **Willow** pubs, the latter with real ale and a great beer garden). The revised plans are no better and will please only supporters of the Limelite, which has been promised a spot in the new development.

A series of evening 'Pint of Science' talks about the latest discoveries took place across Edinburgh in May, including real ale pubs **Steel Coulson Southside, Salisbury Arms, Old Bell** and **Canons' Gait**.

May and Heather McKenzie, licensees of the **Royal Oak** on Infirmary St, have received an award from Star Pubs and Bars



which recognised the contribution that they have made to Edinburgh's folk music scene over the last 20 years:

There was a recent shock for Bristol beer-drinkers when Dawkins Ales announced that the brewery was shutting down. However, the pub estate in Bristol and Edinburgh (the two **Steel Coulson** pubs) will continue trading, according to a statement issued by Glen Dawkins.

More new pubs that have opened include **Patron Saint** (no real ale) on the site of the former **Ranch** in Bruntsfield and the **Cider House** in St Stephen St. At the Cider House you'll find up to eight of Edinburgh Cider Co's ciders on keg and some more in bottles. These all feature the use of concentrate as well as whole fruit and are not regarded as 'real cider' by CAMRA. The company is looking to move production to new premises this year and will be looking for 'community apples' for a new farmhouse-style cider made in traditional fashion. There's no such problem next door at the **Last Word**, where both Ascension Pilot cider and Cidre Breton are sold.

In other Edinburgh pub news:

- The refurbished bridge to Rennie's Isle was expected to reopen in June and will include a further expansion of **Teuchter's Landing's** outdoor area.
- The **Bow Bar** staged a Loch Lomond Tap Takeover and Meet the Brewer in April after Silkie Stout had won the pub's Dark Beer Challenge

- The former **Cowshed** has been renamed the **West Port Oracle**, still with no real ale
- **Leith Depot** has expanded into the adjoining unit of the Red Sandstone redevelopment to make a new venue space with its own bar
- The **Filmhouse** complex has been bought by Caledonian Heritable for £2.65 million. The company has not divulged any plans although there are suggestions that the cinema parts could be leased back to a suitable organisation
- Kevin and Claire from the **Diggers** took on the nearby **Caley Sample Room** in December, with up to four real ales
- **Monty's** reopened as **Hebrides West End** early in the year. Belhaven 80/- and Deuchars IPA are the regular real ales
- **Brewhemia** was the winner of 'Best Beer Selection' at the Scottish Entertainment Awards in May. As its selection does not include real ale this is somewhat surprising
- Also in May, the Scottish Hospitality Awards saw **Footlights** win 'Sports Bar of the Year'. The **Scran and Scallie** also won two regional awards

*Craig Millar*

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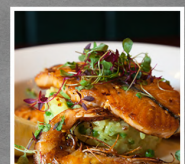


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# SIGN HERE

by Pat Hanson

The art of signwriting for pubs has seen something of a revival in recent years. Here are some of the best examples from Edinburgh. Let us know if you've seen some good ones!



# BEER AND LOTHIAN

## Pub News

We look first at Midlothian, where congratulations are due to the **Laird & Dog**, Lasswade for winning 'Best Bar' in the recent Scottish Hospitality Awards 2023. The pub continues to sell at least two reals from Stewart and other Scottish breweries. The **Polton Inn** has closed down, as has **Madison's** in Dalkeith. There's a new use for the **Pentland Inn** at Loanhead as it is now a Free Baptist Church. The current crop of real ale pubs in Midlothian seems to comprise: **Sun Inn** Lothianbridge; **Laird and Dog** and **Melville**, Lasswade; **Stobsmill Inn**, Gorebridge; **Dean Tavern**, Newtongrange; **Navaar House**, Penicuik; **Stewart Brewing Taproom**, Loanhead; **Justinlees**, Eskbank and the **Flotterstone Inn**. If readers are aware of any others, please let us know!



Across in East Lothian the picture is one of mixed news. In Musselburgh the former **Muss Bar & Kitchen** is now **Willow on High St**, with a single handpump awaiting the arrival of real ale. The **Prestoungrange Gothenburg** reopened in February under the stewardship of Pat Cairney, fresh from revitalising the **Tower Inn** in Tranent. The real ale is often from Born, pending the on-site brewery restarting. Also in Tranent **Ross High Rugby Club** (open to the public) is selling real ale again, featuring Oakham, TwobyTwo, Stow and other breweries. The **Green** in Haddington has reopened but there is still no real ale. Better news from Pencaitland, where the **Winton** is planning to introduce a Winton cask ale on handpump once the staff are trained up. In West Barns, a planning application to turn the former **No 5 Duke St** pub into a mixture of artists' spaces, gallery,



café and soft play area will result in the loss of another pub if approved.

The **Volunteer Arms** in Dunbar put on a popular Beer Festival in March, with real ales from Cairngorm, Stewart, Born, Loch Ness and others all selling out. The **Station Yard** briefly became the second real ale pub in Dunbar during their own Beer Festival recently, with a Winton beer on handpump. Is anyone likely to be visiting the **Horseshoe** in Musselburgh? Admiral Taverns are trying to find a new tenant and have variously described it as having real ale/cask ale. We hear that the owners of the remote **Garvald Inn** may be retiring next year, which could put a big question mark over the future of the pub. Dunbar and Belhaven saw double award-winners in the Scottish Hospitality Awards, the **Royal Mackintosh** winning 'Hotel of the Year SE' and the **Brig and Barrel** bringing home 'Pub/Inn of the Year SE'.

In West Lothian (and outlying West Edinburgh places) the **Railway Inn** in Juniper Green is on the market after having been in the same family for 30 years. Further down the main road in Currie the **Woodhall Arms** has stopped selling real ale and the **Abbots Choice** has closed down pending conversion to a pizza takeaway. In South Queensferry the demise of Ferry Brewery has left the **Staghead Hotel** and the **Railbridge Bistro** with no real ale. The new Buzzworks pub **30 Knots** (replacing **Harry Ramsden's**) is also keg-only, leaving only the **Hawes Inn** and the **Ferry Tap** as real ale outlets. The **Fetching Fox** gastropub in the Conifox complex at Kirkliston has closed, although the rest of the operation is still open. The **Railway Inn** at West Calder has reopened but so far without any real ale. Happily the **Black Bull** in Mid Calder shows no sign of reducing its commitment to real ale.



Craig Leith

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).

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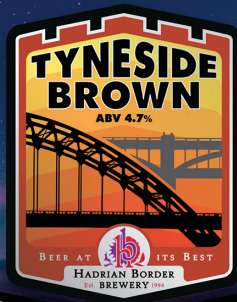
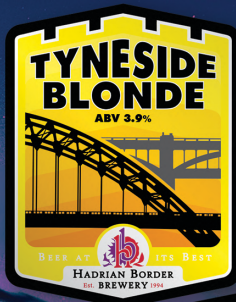
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## Trams (and Cask Beer) to Newhaven

by Ron Elder

Some nine years after the original tramline from the Airport to York Place opened, the line has now been extended from York Place to Newhaven, and is open to fare paying passengers. A guide to cask beer pubs on the original line was published in PoV in 2014, and this article covers the cask beer availability at the new tram stops on the extension.

The original terminal tram stop was located on York Place, but has now been relocated a few metres away in *Picardy Place*, which is famous as the birthplace of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle at number 11 - the event being recorded on a plaque on the wall of number 2 (the new tram stop is located on the approximate original site of number 11). This stop is in the centre of a cultural area with theatre, cinema screens, and associated restaurants and pubs close by. The nearest cask beer pubs to the tram stop are **The Conan Doyle**, a Nicholson's pub with a good choice of cask beers and food; **Mather's (Broughton Street)**, a traditional styled pub with three handpumps; and **The Playfair**, a Wetherspoons outlet with five handpumps regularly in use and the usual food offerings from this chain.



Heading from Constitution Street towards Leith Walk

The tramline now heads north east down Leith Walk to its next stop at *McDonald Road*, where there are two cask beer pubs – the **Windsor**, an Edwardian styled pub with up to four cask beers, and the **Joker & The Thief**, with just one cask beer.

Between the McDonald Road tram stop and the next tram stop at *Balfour Street*, the tramline crosses from the City of Edinburgh into the former independent burgh of Leith, at Pilrig. Until the 1920s, Edinburgh Corporation operated cable hauled tramcars, whereas the citizens of Leith enjoyed an electric tram service. However, this arrangement resulted in the infamous 'Pilrig Muddle' when through passengers had to transfer between the different trams. Two of the original cable winding wheels were discovered during the excavations for the new tramlines, and have been mounted for public viewing at the end of Iona Street, where they can also be seen from the tram as it passes down Leith Walk.

Around the Balfour Street tram stop are many pubs but, unfortunately, only two dispense cask beers. These pubs are **Robbies**, with up to 5 changing cask beers, and **Brass Monkey (Leith Walk)** – up to two cask beers.

After leaving the Balfour Street tram stop, the tram completes its journey down Leith Walk and crosses over the busy junction to the first of two tram stops in Constitution Street, the *Foot of the Walk*. There is only one pub near to this stop that sells cask beer, which is the appropriately named **Foot of the Walk**. It is another Wetherspoons outlet located in a former cinema, and serves a good choice of cask beers and the usual food offerings. It has the distinction of being the closest pub to a tram stop on the whole of the route and, possibly, the closest pub to any tram stop in the UK, as the wheelchair access opens directly onto the tram stop platform!

Although there is no cask beer on offer, it is worth popping into the **Central Bar** to view the Grade 'A' listed interior, which is also a Three Star CAMRA pub interior of Exceptional National Historic Importance. The pub is located underneath the former Leith Central station.

The second tram stop in Constitution Street is *The Shore*. There are many pubs in this area, and the closest cask beer outlets are **Steel Coulson Shore** – three cask beers on offer, but closed on Mondays and Tuesdays. Next door is **Henry Hall's**



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**Carriers Quarters.** This pub has a Grade 'B' listed interior, and is also a One Star CAMRA pub interior of Special National Historic Interest. It is one of the oldest pubs in Leith, and has two cask beers on offer. A few more metres along Baltic Street finds the **King's Wark**, which is located on the corner with The Shore. Several cask beers on offer and majors on food.

*Port of Leith* is the next stop and is within the former commercial dock area. Although now mostly residential, there are no nearby pubs. However, it is only a few minutes walk to **Teuchters Landing** which is located on the opposite side of the Water of Leith. Cask beers and food are available in this quirky pub.

Between the tram stop at Port of Leith and the next tram stop at *Ocean Terminal* the tramline crosses the impounded Water of Leith to its west bank, and passes through a mixed area of residential and commercial developments. Ocean Terminal is the permanent berth of the former royal yacht *Britannia*, but has little interest for the cask beer enthusiast.

The next, and final, tram stop is *Newhaven* where, fortunately, there is a choice of cask beer pubs!

Approximately 240 metres back up the tramline is the **Dreadnought** – four cask beers available. Just opposite Newhaven harbour, where the liberty tenders from the larger cruise ships discharge their passengers, is the former fishermen's local, the **Harbour Inn**, with two cask beers. The Harbour Inn is close to the slipway where the *Great Michael* was built. This Scottish Navy ship was the largest ship in Europe when launched in 1511, and it is hard to imagine such a huge vessel being constructed in this sleepy little fishing village.

If a bit of exercise is wanted after sitting on the trams, a 10 minute walk westwards will find more cask beers in the **Starbank Inn** which has excellent views over the Firth of Forth to the Fife coast, majors on food, and welcomes children! (It should be noted that some of the pubs mentioned above do not allow children inside their premises).

To return to the city, it is a 10 minute walk back to the tram terminus. Also, a number 16 bus leaves from near to the pub door, or bus routes 7,11, and 23 after a short walk. A day ticket for unlimited travel on the trams and Lothian Buses costs £5 (or £12, if travel to the airport is included).

Passing Chancelot Mill, Leith docks



# INN the BORDERS

## Pub News

We go first to Ettrickbridge, where Rory and Vicki Steel have taken over the very charming **Cross Keys**. The cellar and taps have had an extensive overhaul; on the three handpumps there are revolving real ales from local brewers such as Stow, Born and Tempest. When visiting the Ettrick Valley why not also call in to the **Tushielaw Inn**? Andy and Sharon took this



Cross Keys, Ettrickbridge

over in October 2021. There's no real ale but there is a small range of keg and bottled beer.



First and Last, Burnmouth

Another recent reopening across the other side of the Borders is the well-known **First and Last** in Burnmouth. Here new lessees Lucy and Ben have put a lot of hard work into rectifying the terrible damage caused by Storm Arwen, with no less than three outdoor seating areas. In the cosy bar there are two handpumps and the first Abbot Ale was about to go on sale at the time of writing. The pub is open from 8am for tea, coffee, breakfast rolls and snacks as well as normal pub hours.

In Galashiels it's been very hard to keep the **Salmon Inn** out of the headlines recently. Helen, Ian, Michelle and Pam were delighted to achieve £2400 in funding for a defibrillator to be installed outside the pub. The Salmon Inn was also recently voted best food and drink in the Galashiels Heartland Awards and also enthusiastically promotes local cycling. Expect to find Stow Dhu Brew IPA as one of the regular beers on handpump here. Up the road the **Braw Bear** has shut down to become a restaurant, while the **Ladhope Inn** has sadly removed its handpumps. The **Bridge** is closed, the **Harrow** is still to let and the **Woodcutter** is also on the market. Thankfully real ale can also still be found at the **Hunters Hall**.



Our intrepid roving reporters have been out seeking real ale in Hawick. They recently enjoyed Belhaven 80/- at the **Bourtree**, First & Last Mad Jack Ha' at the **Masonic 424 Lodge**, Born IPA at the **Queens Head** and Born Blonde at the **Exchange Bar (Dalton's)**. **Dean's Bar** in Hawick has closed.

Things are looking up in Melrose, where Jim and Lucille at the **Station Hotel** have reintroduced real ale and the **Ship Inn** has also brought back real ale, served from a fount rather than

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handpump. The town is also well served by the **Kings Arms**, **George & Abbotsford** and **Burt's**.

Very sadly the **Castle Hotel** closed in May, leaving only the **Besom** as a regular real outlet in Coldstream, although the **Newcastle Arms** still has handpumps and is offering two real ales in the summer. Elsewhere in the Borders the **Black Bull** in Duns is closed while it continues its never-ending gentrification, with the real ale sales at the **White Swan** around the corner correspondingly buoyant. The long-closed **Whip & Saddle** is said to be reopening as a cocktail bar.

In Kelso the **Cobbles** is usually featuring three real ales these days, often including Tempest Elemental Dark. The **Cross Keys**, **Queens Head**, **Rutherfords** and **1905** provide further choice if a real ale trip round Kelso is on the cards.

In other Borders pub news:

- The **Allan Ramsay** in Carlops has been withdrawn from sale and there are rumours that some sort of community initiative may be in the offing
- There's no real ale left in Earlston because the **Red Lion** has removed its handpumps. It's the same story in Greenlaw at the **Blackadder**
- The **Barony Castle Hotel** near Eddleston is now selling real ale, usually from Broughton or Alechemy. It's to the west of the **Horseshoe Inn** in the village. We hope to be able to report more fully on this venue in the next issue. The Barony Castle is owned by the same people as the **Tontine Hotel** in Peebles
- The **Buccleuch Arms** at St Boswell's was named Pub of the Year in the Scottish Countryside Awards 2023
- There is still no sign of real ale being reintroduced at the **Hemelvaart Bier Café** in Ayton. It's also being reported that the **Red Lion** in Chirnside may have given up real ale, although this is yet to be confirmed
- JD Wetherspoon has sold off the **Cross Keys** in Peebles, with Edinburgh-based Bruce Taverns being the rumoured buyer
- Also in Peebles the **Bridge Inn** was named Borders winner in the National Pub and Bar Awards and goes through to the finals
- There's still no word of any significant progress towards opening at the **Tower Hotel** in Oxton. Nearby at the **Carfraemill** the handpumps were dormant in the winter but were said to be coming back into use later

Finally, the real ale pubs of the eastern Borders (ie east of Kelso!) are still putting on a good show, with regular cask ale choices at the **Plough** Leitholm, **Wheatsheaf** Swinton, **Cross Inn** Paxton, **Craw Inn** Auchencrow, **Waterloo Arms** Chirnside, **Ship Inn** Eyemouth, **Allanton Inn**, and **New Inn** Coldingham. Borders Buses' on-demand Pingo bus service has made travelling between these pubs slightly easier.

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# NEWS OF THE BREWS

## Brewery Update

### Alechemy Brewing

Alechemy's Ten Storey Malt Bomb is now CAMRA Champion Premium Bitter of Scotland 2023 following judging at the Larbert Beer Festival at the end of March. Earlier in the year a collaboration with Livingston-based Matugga Rum produced RumDMC, an 80/- Rum Cask finished beer at 4.8%abv.

### Barney's Beer

Andrew Barnett and his team have been very active this year, with a new ongoing Hazy IPA Project (Concepts #1 and #2 so far) and a renewed emphasis on cask ale. The cask-exclusive LOOP (3.9%abv) joined Volcano IPA and Red Rye, plus some rotational beers, to constitute the new range for 2023. LOOP was launched in March, initially at the **Bullfinch, Royal Dick, Cloisters, Stockbridge Tap, Ox** and **Ensign Ewart**. A second iteration of the beer in April was more heavily dry-hopped and also unfiltered. **Jolly Judge** and **Brauhaus** have also been featuring Barney's real ale.

A collaboration with Holly and Will from the Hanging Bat Brew Co saw a Heritage Pale Ale brewed, destined for both cask and keg. Two new 12HL tanks were delivered in May, to replace the two oldest open-top tanks and give a slight increase in capacity. Barney's also undertook some other collaboration brews with Bidassoa Basque Brewery and Beers Without Beards for their 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

### Belhaven Brewery

Belhaven won three prizes for its beers at Monde Selection 2023, with Scottish Oat Stout and Wee Heavy winning gold and Scottish Ale getting a silver. Could we have some of these in cask form please? There was further good news from VisitScotland, with Belhaven's visitor experience being given four-star quality assurance status.



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## Bellfield Brewery

Before it changed hands (see pub news) **Mather's** in Broughton St staged a Bellfield real ale tap takeover for the duration of the Six Nations tournament. There was an unusual adventure for the brewery in February, when six Meet the Brewer events were staged in the Netherlands.

An International Women's Day beer 'Wild Shore' Saison was brewed by the women of Bellfield. This complex beer was featured first at the **Red Squirrel** on Lothian Road.

## Born Brewery

Despite the sad closure (apparently permanent) of the Visitor Centre, shop and café, Born have continued to brew their four core ales (Blonde, Amber, IPA and Best Bitter). The brewery owned and run **Ancrum Cross Keys** just off the A68 is still popular.

## Campervan Brewery

Campervan has been another brewery with a hectic start to 2023, with both collaborations and a new commitment to regular cask ale releases. The first of these was Navigator, a collaboration with Orkney. This was launched at the **Jolly Judge** in early February.

The first in a series of rotating hop pale ales on cask was Nomad Pale (4.2%abv). This features Citra and Columbus hops and was first launched at **Kay's Bar, Cloisters** and **Ryrie's**. Yet another collaboration, this time with hop suppliers Charles Faram and Co Ltd, produced Crossbill, a 5.7% British IPA. Southern Switch (5.5%) was also brewed with Blackjack – look out for the complementary Northern Switch.

## Closet Brewing Project

New beers appearing this year at **Cornelius, Against the Grain** and other good beer shops have included It's a Stoa (4.7%abv stout), 8 Days a Week Session Pale (4.5%) and G.O.A.T. Doppelbock (7.2%).

## Days Brewing Co.

Days have commented: 'We use water from the Lammermuir hills which is softer and therefore perfect for making crisp 0.0% beer styles and premium malt barley grown locally to our brewery outside of Edinburgh'. Despite these clues, the location of Days' brewery is still a mystery.

## Donzoko Brewing Co.

Donzoko brewed a collaboration cask beer with host Newbarns at the end of 2022 called Autumn. Look out for more in this series. Another collaboration with Fell, Spinners and Losers (4.4%abv lagered ale) made its debut at the **Dreadnought**. More recently, Lumo trains have been selling



Campervan Navigator at the Jolly Judge

Donzoko Train Beer, a 4.5% East Coast Pale.

## Durty Brewing

After cuckoo-brewing a series of canned beers, Durty put their first beer into kegs in April. The microbrewery and taproom in Innerleithen may have launched by the time that PoV is distributed and will feature both cask and keg beer. Durty are committed to a permanent cask offering – the two initial handpulls may have others added depending on demand. There will be a bar, lounge and an opportunity to view the brewery.

## Faking Bad Brewery

Brewers Gareth and Gordon confirmed in January that they would not be restarting brewing at the host **Prestoungrange Gothenburg** pub when it reopened in February. They said that it was a difficult decision and in passing also thanked CAMRA 'for its kind support over the last few years'. As we go to press the in-house brewery has not yet restarted.

## Ferry Brewery

There was also sad news from South Queensferry in April when Mark Moran confirmed that Ferry Brewery was closing down for good. It had been concluded after discussion with the finance team that 'it is no longer financially viable for us to operate under the current conditions'. Mark also thanked CAMRA for their support.

## The Hanging Bat

The three currently operating Brewpubs in our Branch area are at **Cold Town House, Keller** and the **Hanging Bat**. Hanging Bat Brew Co Extra Special Bitter (6.0%abv) was a cask ale highlight at the pub in April.

## Jump Ship Brewing

Following a further successful crowdfunding campaign, Jump Ship is to open Scotland's first purpose-built alcohol-free brewery in summer 2023 at Rosemains Steading, near Pathhead, Midlothian. A new beer, Chuckleberry Sour (featuring wild fermentation) is being launched for the occasion.

## Kerr's Brewing Co.

Trading as *Kerr's Farm Brewed Ales*, they are by happy alphabetical coincidence also brewing at Rosemains Steading. Founder James Kerr is planning to open a tap room at the site and to supply cask ales to local pubs.

## Moonwake Beer Co.

Moonwake's brewers were visiting Wild Card brewery in London in May to do a collaboration brew. The first Beer



## NEWS OF THE BREWS

(continued)

Festival at the Leith tap room is planned for the end of July – ‘Lunarpalooza’.

### Newbarns Brewery

This is yet another very active brewery, having launched its new cask Sparkling Ale (3.8%abv) at the **Guildford Arms, Blue Blazer, Cloisters** and **Joker and the Thief** (as well as its own taproom – see pub news) early in the year. Cloisters also set up a Newbarns rotating house cask line.

### Newt Brew

Mike Clark’s beers are produced in 200-1000 litre batches using his main kit, or the 200 litre pilot kit for small runs. All beers are Certified Organic, Unfiltered and Vegan. The core range of five beers is supplemented by other occasional beers, such as the 5.9% Organic Saison brewed in April.

### Otherworld Brewing

Otherworld produced its first cask ale at the end of March, the 5.8%abv 90/- being launched at the **Dreadnought** and **Koelschip Yard** in Glasgow. A number of barrel aged beers are brewed for keg and the attractive cans. Sinnister also brew here and the Stenroth kit is sat in a corner awaiting them getting premises.

### Pilot Beer

New fermenting vessels were installed early in the year, bringing the FV capacity up to 45,000 litres.

### Sinnister Brew

New rum barrel-aged beers at 11.2%abv have included Indian Ocean and Caribbean Sea. These join three other versions aged in whisky or bourbon barrels by New Zealander brewer Logan Bartlett.

### Stewart Brewing

There’s been no shortage of new cask ales from Stewart in the last few months, with Plumage Archer, Harlequin and Amarillo all being launched. The **Windsor, Kilderkin, Bennets** and the two **Steel Coulson** pubs have all seen launch events.

Backing Blue was enjoyed by Six Nations fans and other cask specials have included Radical Road Reverse and a new Spring Ale.

This summer there’s a Juicy IPA collaboration with Fierce Beer as well as the return of Summer Citra. The Single Hop series was due to continue with Admiral in June and Ekuanot in July before Festiv-Ale returns for the Edinburgh Festival in August. There is also a new keg-only Nitro Stout called Edinburgh Black.

The on-site Taproom at Loanhead is open seven days and the Beer and Pizza restaurant and Beer Garden is now open Wednesday to Sunday. It’s been ranked number one on TripAdvisor for Midlothian.

### Stow Brewery

Dhu Brew Stowt [sic] was on at the **Guildford Arms** early in the year. The **Salmon Inn** in Galashiels is a regular Dhu Brew outlet.

### Tartan Shark Brewing

The North Edinburgh “pico-brewery” has launched a new range of nicely branded canned beers.

### Tempest Brewing Co.

Tempest introduced three new barrel-aged stouts in April, all 11-11.5%abv Imperial Stouts. This followed the earlier launch of Tempest’s first new beer of the year, Luminous Spaces (6.0% can). The regular cask offerings are NZ Extra Pale, Blonde, Pale Armadillo and Stout. The tap sessions included a party weekend in May to celebrate Tempest’s 13<sup>th</sup> birthday!

### Vault City Brewing

Vault City also got in on the cask ale collaboration act, brewing Banana Cookie-dough Cheesecake Stout (6%abv) with Vocation. Once again the **Dreadnought** had this beer on sale at the same time as Campervan and Donzoko collaborations. The brewery’s Vault Wagon ice-cream style van has a 12-week residency at the new **Edinburgh Street Food** market in Leith St.

### Walkie Talky Brewing Co.

The brewery’s first new beer of the year was ‘It Takes 2’, a 7.5%abv West Coast IPA seen initially at **Steel Coulson Southside** and the **Stockbridge Tap**. Walkie Talky’s 3<sup>rd</sup> Craic Stout was the top keg beer in the **Bow Bar** 2022/3 Dark Beer Challenge, beating others from Jane St neighbours Donzoko, Newbarns and Campervan in the top four keg places.

### Winton Brewery

The first Beer Festival of the year at Winton’s **Station Yard** micropub in Dunbar included Peelywally on cask, served by an ingenious ‘handpump on a barrel’ system. The tap room in Haddington is now the **Haddy Tap**. Regular outlets for Winton beers include the **Waterloo Bistro** in Haddington and the **Levenhall Arms** in Musselburgh.

### Yikes Brew Co.

This is a new brewery based in Granton. The first beers in can and/or keg have been Yeah this is a Raw Gose (4.5%abv) and West Granton IPA (5.5%).



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