

Issue 72


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Winter 2018

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FREE

PINTS of VIEW



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FOR
REAL ALE


The CAMRA Magazine for Edinburgh and South-East Scotland

Staggs Bar - CAMRA National Pub of the Year Finalist!



In this issue ...

- A tour of the Black Bulls
- Tiled Pubs Pt.2: Café Royal
Oyster Bar
- The Perfect Pint
- New Heritage Pub Guide
- Latest real ale pub news
- Latest local brewery news
- ... and more!

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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

Our cover this month features Staggs Bar, Musselburgh, which has added to its long list of Pub of the Year awards this year. See p4 for the full story.

Our branch members may be interested to hear that next year's CAMRA Members Weekend will be held closer to home than usual, at the Caird Hall in Dundee. More information can be found on p15.

Scam Warning

We have become aware that on a few occasions this year, people claiming to be from CAMRA have visited pubs in Midlothian and asked for money to be entered in to a guide. We would like to make it clear that we never ask for money for entry in our guides or for a posting on our website.

We do of course sell adverts in this magazine, but should you take out an advert you will be invoiced after publication. We may also offer *Good Beer Guides* for sale but in that case, should you choose to buy one, we will hand over the book at the time and give you a receipt.

Scott

Cover photo: Neil Johnson Photography

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- Quarter-page: £108
- One-eighth page: £72
- Back cover: £POA

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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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CAMRA Calling

Branch News

Forthcoming Branch Events

Branch Good Beer Guide 2:00pm, 24 November 2018
Hitlist Meeting
Staggs Bar, Musselburgh

Festive Pub Tour 2:00pm, 15 December 2018
Starting Regent Bar, Montrose Terrace

Two-Pub Social 7:30pm, 9 January 2019
Venue tbc (see website)

Branch Social Meeting 2:30pm, 19 January 2019
Argyle Bar (basement), Argyle Place

Branch Good Beer Guide 2:00pm, 16 February 2019
Selection Meeting
Beehive (1st floor), Grassmarket

All venues for branch events are in Edinburgh unless otherwise noted.

Occasionally we may need to cancel or re-arrange events due to circumstances outwith our control, so please check www.edinburghcamra.org.uk/diary for the latest information and updates.

Forthcoming Scotland & N. Ireland Branches (SNIB) Events

SNIB AGM & Quarterly Meeting 1:00pm, 2 March 2019
Canal Station, 1 Stow Brae, Paisley

SNIB Quartely Meeting 1:00pm, 11 May 2019
Venue tbc, Northern Ireland

Please see the SNIB website, snib.camra.org.uk for more details and the latest information.



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CAMRA Calling

(continued)

Congratulations to Staggs Bar again!

Staggs Bar, Musselburgh (aka The Volunteer Arms) have had a particularly successful year in the CAMRA Pub of the Year competition. After being voted Lothians Pub of the Year and Overall Branch Pub of the Year, they went on to win the Scotland & Northern Ireland Pub of the Year award in August, and in November were named as a Finalist in the National Pub of the Year 2018 competition - or in the words of the CAMRA press release, one of the best four pubs in the country!

The winner of the National Pub of the Year title for 2018 will be announced in February 2019. Well done to Nigel and Katie, and best of luck!



Nigel shows off his latest Pub of the Year certificates.



Regional Director Sarah Crawford, with Nigel and Katie.



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A pub is for life... not just for Christmas!

by Sarah Crawford

Christmas is the time of year where people like to socialise more with friends, family and some are even forced to socialise with colleagues! The pubs are bursting at the seams with 'Seasonal Drinkers'. Seasoned drinkers lose their favourite spot at the bar as their chairs are moved to accommodate the swathes of new customers. Regulars get annoyed as their local is taken over by the new celebrating clientele. Publicans are rubbing their hands, counting the money ringing into their tills.

But, with the final bars of Auld Lang Syne still echoing in our ears, when the New Year bells have fallen silent, so do the tills. The chairs are moved back in front of the bar and 'usual service' resumes. What happened to the Christmas drinkers people ask, all



licensees can do is shrug their shoulders and hope their December windfall can last them till Burns Night.

According to official figures, between January and June 2018 Scotland lost 12 pubs as their doors closed forever. The high cost of drinking is usually cited as a reason for people to drink at home. While CAMRA still continues to campaign on behalf of pubs and breweries these said tax rises add extra pressure on the industry. Pubs are struggling under a triple whammy of high Beer Duty, rapidly rising Business Rates and VAT. As a result, a third of the cost of a pint is now made up of various taxes. England and Wales have seen a slash in Business Rates in the recent budget but we have to wait for the Scottish Government to decide whether to follow the Chancellor's footsteps as the rates are devolved.

So what's your New Year's resolution? I'll let you into a secret and tell you what mine is. I'm going to make sure I visit at least one new pub a month, in remembrance of the 12 that closed early this year. Why don't you do the same? I promise you, it'll be loads of fun!

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City Ale Tales

Pub News

Not so much a blow-by-blow and area-by-area report in this *Pints of View*, more an overview. We start with recent reports that **Baobab** in Melville Place (Queensferry St) have started selling real ale, with Deuchars IPA possibly to be joined later by another local cask beer on a second handpump. This bar used to be **52 Canoes Tiki Den** and latterly **First Fleet**.



On a recent trip round Rose St and the West End there were other positive signs, with the following all having at least one real ale when there had been none at all on the previous visit: **Rose and Crown**, **Indigo Yard**, **Foundry 39**.

Forthcoming new bar openings in Edinburgh include developments on Victoria St; in the New Waverley complex; in Bruntsfield (Tom Kitchin's new bar/restaurant and also the old bank site at Holy Corner); and, if it ever opens, Signature Pubs' new brewpub on Grassmarket.



Let's hope that some of these serve real ale, unlike a number of recent newly-launched pubs such as **Nauticus** on Duke St, **Barologist**, **Black Fox by the Shore** and **Smoke and Mirrors** (also in Leith) and the **Doo'cot** in Drylaw, which is undeniably beautifully presented (and now serves food from Thursday to Sunday) but suffers from Sam Smith's refusal to send any cask Old Brewery Bitter to Scotland.

Other news in brief:

- Star Pubs and Bars has set aside £4.4 million for refurbishments at a number of its Scottish sites, including the **Phoenix** in Broughton St (to convert it to 'a stylish bar offering food').
- The **Bow Bar** won 'Best Pub in Scotland' in the 2018 Scottish Hospitality Awards.
- **Innis and Gunn Beer Kitchen** was SE Scotland Regional winner in the 2018 National Pub and Bar Awards. **Black Ivy** and **Montpeliers** were also winners in the Scottish Pub and Bar Awards.
- Harry Cullen is retiring from the **Oxford Bar** to return to his first love of singing. New licensee Kirsty Grant has been working with Harry for the last decade.



- Callum Mackay from the **Malt and Hops** has taken over the lease of the **Old Chain Pier** at Newhaven. He aims to develop the food options and build a new waterfront terrace.
- CAMRA has been right behind the 'Save Leith Walk' campaign in its efforts to stop the demolition and redevelopment of the 1930s sandstone block at Stead's Place on Leith Walk. This includes the **Leith Depot** pub and music venue.

A bright note is provided by the fact that some recent new-builds are still serving real ale, including the **Refinery** on St Andrew Square and the **Westgate Farm** at South Gyle.

Recent CAMRA Branch mid-week socials have included a visit to Corstorphine, kicking off in the excellent community pub **Winstons** before moving on to the

White Lady. Other local real ale outlets include the **Corstorphine Inn** and the **Toby Carvery**.

Earlier in the year CAMRA members celebrated 'Cheers to Beer' by raising a toast on Beer Day Britain at **Steel Coulson** in Henderson St, Leith, which usually features a number of beers from parent Dawkins of Bristol.



However, there's no getting away from the unpleasant truth that several venues have stopped selling real ale, including **Scotch Hop, Torfin, Three Sisters, Telford Arms, Toby Carvery (Lauriston), Spiers Bar (now Inverleith), Joseph Pearce** and **Burlington Berties (now B13)**. An even more high profile case was **Andrew Usher and Co**, which abruptly closed down immediately after the last Fringe performance in August, with all signs of real ale removed in its transformation to **32Below**. In that complex, three real ale pubs have been reduced to zero in a matter of a few years. **OX184** reopened in July after its serious fire, still selling a number of interesting keg beers (many from Tempest) but no real ale.

Craig Millar

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.

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Tiled Paintings in Edinburgh Pubs

Part 2: the Café Royal Oyster Bar

by Michael Slaughter and Geoff Brandwood

In the first article (*Pints of View* 71, Summer 2018) we described the six impressive tiled paintings that adorn the walls of the main Circle Bar at the **Café Royal** which date back to a major refit in 1900–1 and were the work of the famous London firm of Doultons of Lambeth. The tiling described below is without doubt from the same scheme.

In this article we are illustrating those in the Oyster Bar, which mainly operates as a restaurant so to view them we strongly recommend you call at a quiet time i.e. avoid 12 to 2.30 and 6 to 9 and ask staff if it is OK to take a closer look at the tiling etc.



Café Royal Oyster Bar, W. Register St.

On the rear wall are three large figurative panels, again by Doultons, that were designed by John Eyre and were painted by artists Katherine Sturgeon and W.J.W. Nunn. Continuing the theme of the six in the Circle Bar, the one on the left is another mural depicting famous inventors at the moment of their invention. The caption on this is “Louis. J.M. Daguerre, scenepainter & N. Niépce Joint Discoverers of Photography.” Niépce created the first surviving photographic product in 1825. After his death in 1833 his partner Daguerre went on to develop the photographic process with his ‘daguerrotype’.

To the right are another two large tiled painted nautical scenes situated either side of a large plain mirror and they too have a theme. They depict the last two Cunard liners that were fitted with auxilliary sails – RMS *Umbria* and RMS *Etruria*. These transatlantic ocean liners were built by John Elder & Co. of Glasgow in 1884/5. Apart from Brunel’s *Great Eastern*, by then out of service, these sister ships were the largest afloat and served the Liverpool and New York route. Both paintings were designed by Esther Lewis.



Two pioneers of photography, Frenchmen Louis Daguerre and Nicéphore Niépce.

The remaining tiled panels are in the servery of the Oyster Bar and of much more modest size.

On the front of the bar counter (which has a red marble top) there are tiles situated towards the curved corners. – each, consisting of two tiles, feature musically minded cherubs. The one on the left is playing a drum and the one on the right is holding pan pipes.

Also, there are two, consisting of four tiles each, situated on the wall behind the bar counter on the lower section of the gantry. Again they show cherubs, one playing a violin, the other a double bass.

The windows of this room have eight large stained glass depictions of British sportsmen, made by Ballantine & Gardiner of Edinburgh. They depict the sports of (from left to right) bowling, tennis, archery, shooting, hunting, fishing, rugby football and cricket and add to the considerable delights of this bar.

There’s a lot more to discover around Edinburgh and Part 3 will feature the amazing tiled arcading in **Bennets Bar**, Tollcross.

If any reader is aware of other tiled paintings, then we would be delighted to hear from you with details – please contact poveditor@edinburghcamra.org.uk.



Michael Slaughter LRPS

The RMS Umbria built on the Clyde in 1884 was one of the last two Cunard liners to be fitted with auxiliary sails.



Michael Slaughter LRPS

The RMS Etruria, with rigging for auxiliary sails, went into service in 1885 to serve Transatlantic traffic.



Michael Slaughter LRPS



Michael Slaughter LRPS



Michael Slaughter LRPS

Two further tiled paintings of cherubs (playing musical instruments) situated on the bar counter.



Michael Slaughter LRPS

Two tiled paintings of cherubs (playing musical instruments) situated on the wall below the gantry.

Festival Season

by Pat Hanson

Some of the smaller beer festivals held around the branch area during the summer and autumn.



County Hotel, Peebles, September

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Allanton Inn, June



Craw Inn, Auchencrow, June/July



Original Gravity, Cockenzie, September



Tweeddale Arms, Gifford, May

Beer festivals were also held in Edinburgh at Stockbridge Tap, Bow Bar, Cloisters, Guildford Arms, Dreadnought, Nicholson's pubs - and at the Nether Abbey, North Berwick.

The Perfect Pint

by Callum Bracher, Branch Tasting Panel Chair

Real ale should be cool and clear, with enough condition to give a tingle on the tongue and a head that will last until the liquid is low down the glass. The aromas and flavours should be pleasant and not anything untoward. Simple. Or is it? Let's elaborate.

Temperature

Real ale should be served at approximately 11-13°C (+/-1°C tolerance). This is recommended by most brewers, CAMRA, and Cask Marque, amongst others. It shouldn't be as cool as keg beer or the pint of milk in your fridge, but it shouldn't be warm or even room temperature either.

Appearance

As a rule, you should expect real ale to be clear, which is to say you can see through it. Beer may be hazy if the brewer does not use finings, but these beers are a minority. Bar staff may be able to tell you if this is the case. Even un-fined real ale is not usually cloudy or opaque. The combination of temperature and dissolved carbon dioxide will produce a head of foamy bubbles. Opinion is split on size of bubbles and the size of head, but it should likely be around 10mm (shy of ½").

Aroma and flavour

The smell emanating from the glass should be full of characteristics of malt (cereal, biscuit, caramel), hops (earthy and spicy or fruity), and yeast (faint banana, apple or pear drops in some real ales). There should not be any unpleasant aromas such as vinegar, gone off vegetables, mould, or other bad smells. The same is true for taste.

Condition

You should be able to detect a degree of fizz. Real ale should not be highly carbonated like champagne or a can of fizzy pop. Conversely it shouldn't be flat like wine or tap water. A given quantity of ale will hold a little over the same amount of carbon dioxide in solution, at optimum temperature and atmospheric pressure (1.1 volumes per volume – from CAMRA's definition of real ale). This will manifest itself as a light sparkle or tingle felt on the tongue. If you swirl the glass you will see bubbles break out of the liquid.

Scoring your beer

Members are encouraged to record scores out of five for the quality of real ales they are served. Full details and how to score can be found at:

www.edinburghcamra.org.uk/scoring/.

If your real ale displays all the positive characteristics described, it should score highly. If it is not to your personal taste or preferred style but still displays the key elements, it should still score well. If it is deficient in any area, then mark it down accordingly. And if it's seriously lacking in several of these fundamentals I suggest you return it to the bar!

Footnote – brewery issues

All of the above assumes the real ale is of sound quality to start with. Poorly produced real ale can display negative attributes despite the publican's best efforts. Score each pint as you see fit. Pubs regularly selling ale of dubious production quality may find this is reflected in their average score...

Quick check

- Are the glass and its contents cool? (10-14°C)
- Is it clear? / is there a head on it? (see through / 10mm of foam)
- Does it smell and taste like beer? (no smell of vinegar)
- Is there some slight fizz on the tongue? (1.1 v/v)

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BEER AND LOTHIAN

Pub News

There's a new real ale outlet in South Queensferry: **Scotts** opened in September in a first-floor site adjacent to Port Edgar Marina. This is a smart new development by award-winning West Coast operator Buzzworks Holdings. Scotts has a house ale by Broughton called Set Sail plus one more real ale. Disabled access is by external lift. With real ale once again available at **Harry Ramsden at the Three Bridges** this increases the number of cask beer outlets to six in South Queensferry.

On the other hand there has been a further decline in Livingston, where the handpumps at **Deer Park Beefeater** are now unused. Real ale is sold at JD Wetherspoon's **Newyearfield** and Marston's **Chain Runner**. The **Grapes** in East Calder is looking good after a seven-month redevelopment by PG Taverns and Hawthorne Leisure but the appearances of real ale have been patch.

No sooner had we featured the **Leadburn Inn**, with photo, in the last issue, than it closed! Iain and Fiona Dempster made such a success of taking over the **Horseshoe** at Eddleston that customers apparently deserted the Leadburn and it's now on the market.

The **Flotterstone Inn** has been suffering from (hopefully soon to be finished) roadworks nearby, and the diversion of many of Stagecoach's 101 and 102 buses, but still offers a good range of Stewart Brewing beers and is an excellent base for exploring the Pentland Hills. Another pub to specialise in Stewart's beers is **Haig's** in Penicuik, which was explored by CAMRA members in the summer following a Branch Social Meeting at the **Navaar**.

The **Cockatoo** in Millerhill closed in the spring for redevelopment, having become unviable due to traffic changes following the construction of the Borders

Railway. The owners hope to start up a new pub elsewhere with the proceeds of the sale.

At the Scottish Licensed Trade News awards in November the **Sun Inn** at Lothianbridge was the only winner in any category from amongst Branch real ale pubs, being awarded 'Gastropub of the Year.'

In North Berwick the **County Hotel**, which had sporadically sold real ale in the summer, abruptly closed and has not yet reopened. Star Pubs and Bars are seeking a new lessee. Along the road in Gullane, Tom Kitchin's **Bonnie Badger** is due to open in December after a very comprehensive conversion of the former real ale outlet the **Golf Inn**.



Scotts, Port Edgar

The remote **Garvald Inn** was the first stop in a recent CAMRA research and beer scoring trip to some of the more inaccessible pubs in the Lothians and Borders. It has no public transport of any kind but still welcomes real ale drinkers enthusiastically.

There are plans to reopen the **Masons Arms** in Belhaven under new management in early 2019. The licence has been transferred to James Hughes, who currently runs Dunbar Golf Club. He has said that he wants to turn the pub into a 'good country food and beer premises' and hopefully he will be retaining real ale when it reopens.



Garvald Inn

Another pub to reopen was **Weavers** in Currie although it does not sell real ale. Also in Currie, Star Pubs and Bars are said to be planning a £600k investment to reopen the **Woodhall Arms**. In Balerno, the former **Malleny Arms** (over the road from the well-known real ale pub, the **Grey Horse**) is to reopen soon as the **Fig & Pheasant** and is advertising for bar and kitchen staff.

Finally, in news from Haddington, a famous pub name has been resurrected with the transformation of a bistro site into the **New Pheasant** although unlike the former **Pheasant** in the same location it sells no real ale. There is still some doubt about the future of the **Victoria Inn** and the **Bell** where new tenants are being sought, although some stability (and good real ale) can be found at the **Waterside**, **Tyneside Tavern** and **Golf Tavern**.

Craig Leith

Black Bull Illuminations

by Pat Hanson

So the self-imposed task was to visit all four of the cask ale 'Black Bull' pubs in the Edinburgh and SE Scotland CAMRA Branch area in one day (without staying out late at night). After a few planning sessions it became obvious that this would only work successfully by starting in England! Yes, the first stage was to take the LNER train from Edinburgh to Berwick-upon-Tweed. This is how it unfolded from Berwick...

The first of several Borders Buses on the day, the 60 made the shortish journey to Duns on time. Coffee at Hugo's preceded a check of the **Whip and Saddle**, a former real ale pub (with stained glass signage to prove it) closed since early 2018. Star Pubs and Bars seeks a new lessee. The **Black Bull** in the aptly named Black Bull St opened bang on time at 11am and I had some very nice Brinkburn St Quayside Blonde II from Byker. Also on handpump were Orkney Corncrake and Tempest Pale Armadillo. In the summer one of the taps is often turned over to a bag-in-box real cider. The bar is small, with seating for no more than 15, although there are other rooms. The Black Bull's beers are usually on the light side, with reportedly insufficient demand for dark ales. It's been run by the Turner family for 16 years and deserves huge credit for keeping the real ale flag flying in Duns.



Progress to the next target took me on another 60 bus towards Earlston, where a change was needed. The bus passed through Greenlaw, where there was unfortunately no time to call in at the **Blackadder Bar and Restaurant**. Earlston's **Red Lion** had some good Cheviot Harbour Wall on handpump, with Orkney Dark Island ready to come on next, so tastes here are obviously a little different to those in Duns! Cheviot have

made a big name for themselves on both sides of the border since starting up recently, even matching the rate of progress of Cross Borders when they set out. A look up the road from the bus terminus found a bonus keg **Black Bull** pub, which wasn't open.

Arrival in Lauder found the **Golden Bannock** closed, so I couldn't check out the real ale availability. Over the road the **Black Bull** had Campbell's Gunner as its single real ale – a second tap is used regularly in the summer, perhaps with beer from Campbell's or Belhaven. Alan Pryde, the owner, told me that a major refurbishment of the bar area (the Harness Room Bar) of this 350-year old pub was just getting under way, the aim being to lighten up the previously rather gloomy décor, improve the seating, etc. This was a good opportunity to get some lunch and appreciate the effort that the Black Bull makes to support local suppliers of food as well as beer.



The next stage of the journey was always going to be the longest, using another Borders Bus into Edinburgh and a First Bus out to Mid Calder and the **Black Bull** for a much needed Stewart Brewing Radical Road Reverse. Caledonian Deuchars IPA and Inveralmond Daracha were also on the handpumps. Food is popular seven days a week in this lively pub and there's also a public bar, although its opening times do not always match those of the main bar. On leaving there was sadly no time to check out the **Fork and Field** just round the corner whilst I awaited the competing First and Lothian Country buses to show up. As it turned out, both companies' scheduled buses were no-shows before a First X23 finally came to the rescue.

Back in Edinburgh I headed off to the Grassmarket via the revitalised **Bannerman's**, which had two dark beers, Ferry Stout and Williams March of the Penguins, out of three! In the **Black Bull** there were as usual three real ales on the six handpumps, with the Jaw Fathom being possibly the beer of the day. Williams Red and Edinburgh Gold completed the offering. This pub is not as old as some in the Grassmarket, but still dates from 1858. It has a huge back room area as well as the obligatory pavement seating which is a big feature for all of the pubs on the

Behind the Beer

Dr Vaughan Ellis, Edinburgh Napier University



When I first moved to Scotland as a fresh faced undergraduate student in 1990 the search for a decent pint was often a fruitless and frustrating one. Confronted with a choice often restricted to Tennents or MacEwans I yearned for a greater variety of styles and the chance to sample beers from other breweries. However, in recent years there is no doubt that things have changed for the better. The explosion of micro-breweries producing artisan craft ales has revolutionised the beer scene and led to a far greater choice, and arguably quality, of beers. Although this phenomenon has yet to reach every town and village in Scotland, there is no doubt we live in the best of times to be a beer drinker.

As an academic, aside from enjoying drinking their beer I have always been curious about the people who make it and the conditions of work and employment in which they do it. As a result, I am presently leading a research team examining people management and the nature of work within the Scottish microbrewing industry. So far, the research team (comprising Dr James Richards of Heriot Watt and Dr Jennifer O'Neil from Napier) have visited 13 breweries, including Stewart's, Coul Brewing, Beath Brewing and Windswept, with more to follow.

However, we are still looking for more participants to take part in our study. The study is seeking to learn more about quality of working life, job satisfaction, work-life balance and career opportunities within the Scottish craft beer industry. In addition we are keen to examine the industry's skill requirements and how skills are developed/acquired and to appraise management approaches to managing staff within breweries at different stages of growth and maturity. More information can be found about the study at <https://behind-the-beer.co.uk/>. We are also on Twitter: @behind_thebeer

If you are the owner/manager of a microbrewery in Scotland we'd love to hear from you. Participation in the study takes the form of a friendly, confidential interview, typically lasting around an hour, at a time of your choosing. If you are Interested in finding out more, then please contact me at v.ellis@napier.ac.uk.

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street. I chatted to the friendly staff about the long-running saga of the rebuilding of Signature Pubs' development next door, where a brewpub is to be created out of the old church building. This is now apparently due to be reopened by around the end of January 2019, although there's no word as to whether they will be brewing cask ale.



As usual, the **Last Drop** and **Jolly Judge** provided some good beer on the way back to the station (Fyne Maverick and Cross Borders SPA respectively) before the day's 'Black Bull' excursion was completed.

INN the BORDERS

Pub News

There's good news from Peebles, where the **Peebles Hydro** became a new real ale outlet, with the 'Not the Cocktail Bar' installing a single handpump, selling re-badged beer from the on-site Freewheelin' Brewery. At the multiple award-winning **Bridge Inn**, Shonagh Milne raised a massive £640 for Macmillan nurses with a community coffee morning in the pub.

Selkirk currently has no real ale after the closure of the **Heatherlie House Hotel** and the change of ownership at the **County**, although there are hopes that in the latter case there may be a return to Born in the Borders or other local cask ales.

There's a pub closure in Duns, where the **Whip and Saddle** has been shut since early 2018. Other closed pubs include the **Kings Arms** in Melrose, formerly a popular real ale pub. There are still hopes that the



historic but long-closed **Crook Inn** at Tweedsmuir can be reopened one day. The planning permission for redevelopment of the site recently expired and had to be renewed. At an event in October the Architects described the 'Phase One plans' for the Crook Inn Café, Bunkhouse and Campsite, although any plans to reopen the actual pub seem to be more distant. You can keep in touch via info@tweedsmuircommunitycompany.org.uk.

The recently opened **13 Brew** Bar and Bistro at 13 Teviot Crescent, Hawick now stocks Vermont Sessions from Tempest, albeit in craft form but owner Steve

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Anderson is hoping to add a real ale tap in the near future. This would take Hawick's tally to four outlets, the others being **The Bourtree**, the **Masonic 424 Lodge** and **Dalton's (Exchange Bar)** which is now no longer on the market.

Leitholm, **Templehall** Morebattle, **Plough** Town Yetholm and **Border** Kirk Yetholm, all of which featured some good real ale and were very welcoming!

The **New Inn** at Coldingham is still selling two real ales and has a big turnover, especially for Jarl. The village is still upset about the diversion of Borders Buses' 253 route via Ayton, although the **Hemelvaart Bier Café** in Ayton, which featured probably Scotland's first Portuguese Beer Festival in the summer, is not complaining. The **Contented Sole** in Eyemouth once again had real ale for the summer, Herok & Howell Festival Ale being a typical example.

Finally, no report on Borders pubs is complete without mentioning yet another award for **Rutherfords** micropub in Kelso, which won 'Most Innovative Business in Scotland' at the 2018 Scottish Business Awards to add to their CAMRA awards. Well done Simon and Debbie!

The CAMRA Branch undertook a Borders Beer by Bus tour in October, taking in the **Clovenfords Hotel**, **St Ronan's** and **Traquair Arms** in Innerleithen and **Horseshoe** in Eddleston as well as a number of more regularly-visited pubs in Galashiels and Peebles. Both of the Innerleithen pubs featured Bear Ale from Traquair, being almost certainly the only current retail outlets for this excellent cask ale.



The branch visits the **Wheatsheaf**, Swinton

Both **1905** and the **Tipsy Ghillie** in Kelso have expanded their beer range recently, each typically selling two rotating real ales. At the 1905 one of these is often from Born in the Borders. Other Borders pubs recently visited on CAMRA research and beer scoring trips included the **Wheatsheaf** at Swinton, **Plough Inn**

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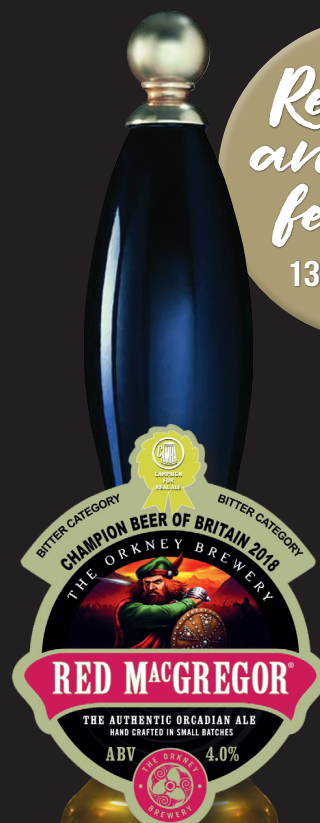
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Scotland's Real Heritage Pubs

Pub Interiors of Historic Interest

by Dave Pickersgill, CAMRA National Pub Heritage Group

This publication, the Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA) guide about Heritage Pubs in Scotland, is available as a free download. Edited by Mick Slaughter, this ground-breaking publication aims to create an up-to-date snapshot of the Pub Heritage picture in Scotland.

Paul Ainsworth, Chair of the CAMRA National Pub Heritage Group: "Over the past 25 years, CAMRA has developed its national and regional inventories of historic pub interiors. These highlight the crème de la crème of interiors which have either escaped much alteration for many years or contain features of exceptional interest."

For example, the **Oxford Bar** is a small, no-frills affair which has become something of an Edinburgh institution. At the front left is a tiny stand-up bar with just two window benches seating about four people, and a few stools. There is also an old fireplace on the far left, partly covered up by the counter and thus predating the existing servery arrangements. The **Café Royal** has a truly stunning interior. The building, by architect Robert Paterson, dates from 1861 and opened as a showroom for gas and sanitary fittings, but by 1863 had become the Café Royal Hotel.

Included is detailed comment on all the pubs in Scotland listed on the CAMRA Pub Heritage website. The guide is freely available from the CAMRA Pub Heritage website, pubheritage.camra.org.uk/scotland.

Other recently-updated pub heritage guides available from the website cover Wales, East Anglia, North-East England and Sheffield.

Grateful thanks are given to numerous individuals, the National CAMRA Pub Heritage Group and local Archives: the latter for providing access to unique historic documentation.



NEWS OF THE BREWS

Brewery Update

Alechemy Brewing

More of the Bring Out The Imp 10.5% Oatmeal Imperial Stout has been matured in wooden casks before bottling - there's not much left though, as 400 cases were snapped up by Canadian importers. Charisma and Secret Citra are the latest regular brews.

Belhaven Brewery

The brewery and parent Greene King have decided not to proceed with plans for on-site whisky and gin distilling, preferring instead to improve visitor and bar facilities and accessibility in the run-up to 'a year-long series of celebrations' to mark the 300th anniversary in 2019. Belhaven's Spott Road depot in Dunbar was due to close at the end of October, with all deliveries being outsourced to K&N, to whom many Belhaven staff were transferring.

Belhaven beers won gongs at the World Beer Awards for four of its beers, with Twisted Grapefruit IPA also being named 'Beer of the Year' at the Scottish Beer Awards.

Bellfield Brewery

Cask versions of Lawless Village IPA first appeared at the **Jolly Judge, Cambridge Bar** and **Dreadnought** in Edinburgh at the start of June, with the beer also proving popular at the Scottish Real Ale Festival, with its distinctive and refreshing hop flavour. We hope that this becomes permanently available in cask form. All Bellfield beers are gluten-free without enzymes and are Coeliac UK accredited.

A 2000L brewing system is currently being fabricated and should be installed at the Stanley Place site by December. For now, all beers are being brewed elsewhere and use a full mash process. The brewery continues to win many awards, with the beers being available in 350 outlets in Scotland and further afield.

Born in the Borders Brewery

The brewery continues to do well, with brewer Tom Graham brewing interesting seasonal ales such as

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Elderflower, Summer Cloud (wheat, unfined), Wildside IPA, Flower of Scotland, Liquid Velvet and Festive Foxy. The new bottling plant is up and running, which will help to increase the availability of beers. The brewery and visitor centre near Jedburgh also includes a gin distillery, café restaurant and shop as well as outdoor activities including a winter ice rink! The company had a high profile at the Berwick Beer Festival in September and also won 'Primary Producer of the Year' at the 2018 Scottish Food and Drink Excellence Awards.

Broughton Ales

Broughton were delighted to win CAMRA's accolade as Champion Strong/Old Ale 2018 with Old Jock, especially as they once again promoted 'The Hunt for Old Jocktober'. Wee Jock also appeared in cask form during the same month, as well as the 4% abv Autumn Ale. The popular Hopopotamus is now available for all M&B, Nicholson's, Ember and Vintage Inns in Scotland to order from their depots.

Caledonian Brewery

Caledonian cooled towards CAMRA after Special Resolution 6 failed to win



the required 75% backing at the AGM in Coventry in April, suggesting that CAMRA did not represent '80% of Caledonian's output' (presumably the non-cask-conditioned part). However, there were signs later in the year that relationships might improve, which would certainly be helpful in the run-up to Caley's 150th anniversary in 2019.

Campbell's Brewery

The core cask range of Gunner, Flintlock, Destrier and White Tail has also been joined recently by a new 4.5% abv keg lager, Shayger.

Campervan Brewery

The brewery now has one or more permanent lines at the **Voyage of Buck** in Edinburgh, which they described as their 'new home'. The Brewery Tap Room in Leith continues to be very popular, although cask ales are rarely seen there.

Edinburgh Beer Factory

This brewery was another to do well at the World Beer Awards in August, picking up three wins and describing itself as 'officially the highest performing UK brewery', although Belhaven and Stewart might dispute that. The bottled 'Bunk!' brown ale appears to be bottle-conditioned, although this has not been confirmed yet by EBF.



EdinBrew

Recent new additions to the range include Mid Atlantic (Golden Ale) and Citra Pale (American Pale Ale). Deliveries are now being made as far as Cleveland.

Eyeball Brewing

Brewing at the new West Barns site adjacent to Thistly Cross Cider began in the summer, with the first batch of cask ales (namely, Yellow and Black) going to the Original Gravity Beer Festival in Cockenzie and more appearing at the Prestonpans Battle re-enactment the following weekend. Other local pubs such as the **Goth** in Prestonpans have also featured both of these beers, with cask Orange to follow later.



Ferry Brewery

After a series of 'Ferry Brewery Nights' and 'Ferry Fest 18' at the end of June, Ferry ran an OctoberFest late in October at its South Queensferry site. The Brewery Tap Bar continues to open daily for an excellent selection of cask ale.

Freewheelin' Brewery Co.

The Freewheelin' range of beers continues to be available at various pubs throughout the Lothians and


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NEWS OF THE BREWS

(continued)

Borders, with the **Gordon Arms** at West Linton being the most regular outlet. Bottled and cask beers are also available at the Peebles Hydro albeit rebranded.

Brewery tours continue to be popular with guests of the Hydro and other groups. The CAMRA Branch enjoyed a sunny visit to Freewheelin' in July and sampled several of the cask ales.

Hurly Burly Brewery

Hurly Burly have moved into greatly expanded new premises in the heart of Musselburgh, with a new 6 barrel system manufactured by Oban Ales of Fort William. Brewer Peter McNaught is thrilled at the prospect of being able to brew full-time, producing bottle-conditioned craft ales such as Hare of the Dog IPA (6.5% abv), Gnat's Hop Pale Ale (4.0%), Giddy Goat Saison (4.5%) and Last Sheep Sheared Dark IPA (6.5%). With a pilot system also on site, Peter is looking forward to exploring some innovative new recipes. Look out for Hurly Burly beers with their quirky hand-drawn labels in local stockists around Edinburgh and East Lothian.

Knops Beer Co.

New beers in late 2018 were a 10% Scotch Ale (cask and bottle-conditioned) and a further cask beer in the Revolver series.

Pilot Beer

Pilot has continued to produce a respected range of keg beers as well as an entertaining Twitter presence. There is no sign that they will be following Cloudwater and BrewDog by returning to cask ale production.

Stewart Brewing

The brewery was presented with the top award at the Third Scottish Beer Awards – Scottish Brewery of the Year 2018. This was after a phenomenal year of growth in turnover, exporting and product development. Stewart also received the Growth Business of the Year award and two taste award medals for Corpse Reviver and Cascadian East.

Jack Back was awarded third place in the Golden Ale category of the Scottish heats of the CAMRA Champion Beer of Britain competition. Finally, at the World Beer Awards 2018 Cascadian East and Hollyrood won UK Gold in their categories, with six other beers also being UK medal winners.

Stewart's second annual Oktoberfest was held at the brewery in September, with a wide selection of 32 beers including six on cask: Radical Road Reverse; 80/-;



The branch visit Freewheelin' Brewery

Rauchbier (5.5% abv with oak-smoked wheat); Hefe-tea (5.0% Hefe with tea and orange peel); I am Gruit (5.2%); and ESB (4.6%).

Forthcoming cask specials include Wanaka (4.1% IPA); Pandora's Box (4.0% American Ruby Ale); and Talini (4.8% Tangerine IPA). Expect a Christmas Open Day on Saturday 8th December at the brewery taproom in Loanhead.

Stow Brewery

There were plans during 2018 to relaunch the Red Ale in September but in the end this was postponed. Further news is awaited.

Tempest Brewing Co.

The brewery at Tweedbank continues to develop new styles of both cask and keg beer, with six cask beers and eighteen keg beers in the core range including some interesting seasonal offerings. Armadillo and Cascadian are the best known cask ales but the range also includes Best Bitter, Little White Gooseberry, Modern Helles and the increasingly popular Vermont Sessions IPA. Tempest again held their successful Oktoberfest (in September!) which attracted many devotees from all over Scotland for food, drink and entertainment.

The ongoing success of the brewery is demanding yet more space and plans are in place for a move to a purpose-built site – still in Tweedbank but just across the road from the Borders Railway.

Top Out Brewery

First Ascents, a 3.9% abv unfiltered Plum Sour, was launched in July at **Jeremiah's Taproom** in Edinburgh.

Vault City

This is Edinburgh's latest brewery and launched its first keg products in August, with an address in Corstorphine. It describes itself as 'Edinburgh's first mixed fermentation brewery' and specialises in sour beers of various kinds.

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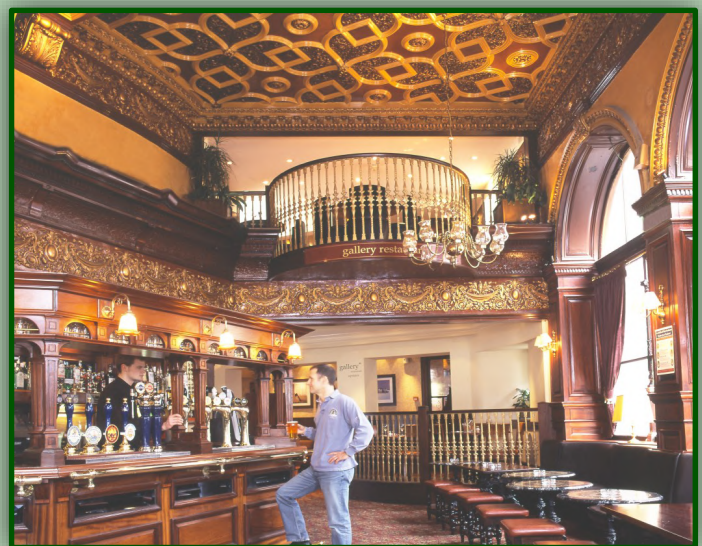
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