

Issue 74
—
Winter 2019
—
FREE

PINTS of VIEW



Campaign
for
Real Ale

The CAMRA Magazine for Edinburgh and South-East Scotland

The Bridge Inn, Peebles - Scotland and N. Ireland Pub of the Year!



In this issue ...

- Jolly Judge wins Cider Pub of the Year award
- Tiled Pubs Part 4: Barony Bar
- Alehouses on the A702
- Robbie's Bar photo history
- 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

It was sad to hear that Knops Brewing Co. at the Archerfield Walled Garden will be closing soon. However, as you can see from this issue's bumper News of the Brews column, the microbrewery scene in and around Edinburgh is in great shape, with several new names appearing this year.

Just before we went to press, the Scottish Licensed Trade News Awards were held in Glasgow. Several winners were in our Branch area, including Winston's in Corstorphine (for Beer Quality), the Bonnie Badger in Gullane (Gastropub of the Year) and Mark Barrett from the Horseshoe Inn, Eddleston (Bartender of the Year). Congratulations all round!

Finally, don't forget that January is a particularly challenging month for our local pubs and breweries. Even if you're having a "Dry January," a visit to the pub for some food and a soft drink (or trying some of the new zero alcohol beers being produced by UK breweries) is still supporting the industry!

Scott

Cover photo: Pat Hanson

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@edinburghcamra.org.uk

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

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EH18 1HS

CAMRA Calling

Branch News

Forthcoming Branch Events

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

Occasionally we may need to cancel or re-arrange events after we go to press. Please check www.edinburghcamra.org.uk/diary for the latest event information and updates.

Branch Christmas Social

2pm 14 December

Meet 2pm at **Bellfield Brewery** Taproom, Stanley Place, Abbeyhill, for beers and buffet, followed by a tour of local pubs. See Branch website for more details.

Two-Pub Social

7:30pm 15 January

The Hanging Bat, Lothian Rd, then the **Blue Blazer**, Spittal St.

Branch Social Meeting

2:30pm 25 January

Henry Hall's Carriers Quarters, Leith (back room)

Two-Pub Social

7:30pm 12 February

Greenmantle, W. Crosscauseway, then **Dagda Bar**, Buccleuch St.

Branch Good Beer Guide 2021 Selection Meeting

2pm 22 February

Venue TBC

Water of Leith Walk Part I

TBC (March/April)

Roseburn to Leith (pubs TBC)

Edinburgh Diverse Drinkers (LGBT) Social

9pm, first Monday every month

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CAMRA Calling

(continued)

Forthcoming Scotland & NI Branches (SNIB) Events

Quarterly Meeting

1pm 15 February

Tam O'Shanter, Dumfries

Quarterly Meeting

1pm 16 May

Glasgow (Venue TBC)

Quarterly Meeting

1pm 22 August

Station Hotel, Larbert

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

Scotland and NI Pubs of the Year

This year, we have been lucky to have both Pub of the Year winners for the Scotland & Northern Ireland CAMRA region in our branch area. The overall **Pub of the Year** is the **Bridge Inn** in Peebles, and the **Cider Pub of the Year** is the **Jolly Judge** in the Lawnmarket, Edinburgh.

Both pubs were presented with their awards in September by Scotland & NI Regional Director, Sarah Crawford.

Congratulations to both pubs on their success!



Photo: Jon Addinall



Photo: Neil Johnson



Photo: Neil Johnson

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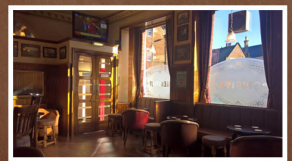


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City Ale Tales

Pub News

The **Scotch Hop** on Causewayside has been revamped and renamed the **Aviator** by new tenant Damien, who has also reintroduced of real ale.

The **Merlin** in Morningside is now dog-friendly and has opened a new sports bar on the first floor. Down the road, the **Canny Man's** has the Lane Hotel (12 bedrooms) as an integral part of its operation, a rare example of a real ale pub in Edinburgh with accommodation (**White Lady**, Corstorphine, **Hampton Hotel**, Murrayfield and **Raeburn**, Stockbridge are others).

The former **St Andrews Brewing Co. Potterrow** is now **Soul Nation** with no real ale but a passable selection of keg taps. St Andrews' other bar in Edinburgh, the **Outhouse** (off Broughton St) is now run by Kevin McGhee of **Diggers**, who has a two-year plan for the venue that may involve the introduction of cask ale.

We reported in the last issue of *PoV* on the reopening of the **Spylaw Tavern** in Colinton. It's now under the same management as the **Hermitage** in Morningside.

There are reports that the Edinburgh University Students' Association venue, **The Pleasance**, may have a permanent real ale tap in a bar open regularly to the public – CAMRA research continues. Another EUSA site, the **Library Bar**, now has improved signage, making it a little easier to find the place. It sometimes has as many as six real ales on tap.

There are two new real ale bars in East Edinburgh. The **Bellfield Brewery Taproom** at Abbeyhill is open weekends and sells Bellfield's own gluten-free real ale (a single one at first, due to increase to three). The **Portobello Tap Joint** is operated by Cross Borders Brewery on the former **Jaffle Joint** site and has a couple of real ales, often one from Cross Borders and one from Stewart. The **Ellwyn Hotel**, once a cask ale outlet, is now reported closed.

The former **Phoenix** on Broughton St has now reopened as the **Broughton**, following an extensive transformation by Star Pubs and Bars. It carries a single real ale, a house beer called Broughton Pale Ale ('brewed in Burton'). **Basils** in Newhaven was another smart Star conversion to open in the summer but without any real ale.

Leith Depot on Leith Walk has gained two extensions of its lease and now expects to be open until 2nd January 2020. The developers who own the block are awaiting the result of their appeal against refusal of planning consent to demolish it for student housing.



The **Queens Arms** is one of the Signature Pubs group sites that should benefit from the roll-out of a revolutionary audio menu for blind and partially-sighted customers.

After a period of closure, the former **Dunedin Bar** on Broughton Road reopened as the **Hare of the Dog**. It has no real ale, although the keg selection includes some interesting Pilot, Campervan and BrewDog beers. Along the road at Canonmills, **Brandon's of Canonmills** has been rebranded as **One Canonmills** after a management change in April, although the actual signage has taken months to get sorted out. The single real ale is often from Loch Leven or Campervan. Over the road **The Other Place** became **O'Connor's** soon after the last *PoV* was finalised. It still has up to three real ales.

In late October the City of Edinburgh Council gave planning approval for the majority of the site of the **Victoria Park Hotel** (Ferry Road) to be redeveloped into a House of Multiple Occupation, with 19 flats and 30 occupants. Therefore the hotel's **Gosford Bar**, which has real ales, may well be disappearing soon. Another planning application to demolish **Smithie's** and build flats was withdrawn; there are suggestions that it may be sold as a going concern, which would be a good outcome.

Since the last issue of *PoV*, **Clark's Bar** closed abruptly, apparently permanently, but then reopened in mid-July with



three real ales, often from Stewart Brewing. Signage has been restored and a small restaurant is planned for next door.

Steel Coulson in Leith ran its first beer festival in mid-June, with up to 16 real ales featured over the four-day period as well as four cask ciders and perries and nine keg beers.

The **Windsor** on Elm Row was the Scotland SE Regional Winner in the National Pub and Bar Awards. This well-run pub has also featured a number of brewery showcases throughout the year.

Real ale has appeared sporadically at the **Campervan Tap Room** in Jane St, Leith, but is unlikely to be a permanent feature until bar expansion work has been completed.

The 'Women in Beer' Fest, organised by Beers Without Beards in Edinburgh in October, was a highly successful multi-pub event. Beer showcases, talks, etc took place in a number of pubs including the **Stockbridge Tap** and **Monty's**. Monty's hosted a session on Cask Ale in its upstairs room, where the panel included CAMRA Vice-Chair Abigail Newton.

The previous **Melville** bar in William St, West End, was transformed into the **Green Room** bar/bistro, with considerable amounts of attractive green décor in evidence. It



still sells Deuchars IPA and is therefore one of the few remaining pubs in Edinburgh to have this as its sole real ale (**Paradise Palms** recently became another example).

The **Born in the Borders** café/bar in Waverley Mall failed to stand up to the local competition and closed in October. It's been converted into the 'Born in Scotland' gift shop and online store. Another brewery bar, the **Innis & Gunn Beer Kitchen** is now the **Innis & Gunn Brewery Taproom** after a refurbishment. The cask ale range has been reduced from four to two, with Bristol Beer Factory Breakfast Stout being a recent standout.

The **Guildford Arms** hosted beer festivals in the spring and autumn, with over 50 real ales at each one. The **Bow Bar** summer beer festival, held just before the Fringe, featured over 20 real ales as well as a Box Social Brewing tap takeover. The Bow also won 'Best Bar' for the second year in a row at the Scottish Hospitality Awards.

The new **Fierce Beer** bar on Rose St opened shortly after the last PoV went to press. As expected, it sells no real ale but has around 24 keg taps for Fierce and other beers. The previous bar on the site, **1780**, had been leased by Rupert Kendal, who still operates the adjacent **Dirty Dick's**.

Au Bar, which had previously lost its real ale, started opening erratically and then finally closed down and is to let. The following pubs are amongst those in Edinburgh to have stopped selling real ale: **Ventoux**, **Black Ivy** and **Panda and Sons**.

Kilderkin Group developments have included the conversion of the former restaurant at the rear of the Group's **Bennet's** pub at Tollcross into 'Tables', described as a 'pop-up dining room and bar'. The Group also runs the **Kilderkin** itself, the **Windsor** and the **Blue Blazer**.

Finally, **No 1 The Grange** won 'Gastro Pub of the Year' at the Scottish Bar and Pub Awards 2019. This pub's real ales always include one Top Out beer, usually Staple. Other Edinburgh awards winners included **Teuchters Landing** and the **Bow Bar**.

Craig Millar

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Tiled Paintings in Edinburgh Pubs

Part 4: Barony Bar, New Town

by Michael Slaughter and Geoff Brandwood

In Part 3 (*Pints of View 73, Summer 2019*) we described the impressive tiling at Bennet's Bar, Tollcross, Edinburgh.

This time we visit one of the New Town's great historic pub interiors and its very interesting and somewhat curious tiling scheme - the **Barony Bar**, 81-85 Broughton Street. It's part of a Georgian tenement block and, rather extraordinarily, the L-shaped plan wraps around a florist's shop (there must be an interesting story as to how that came about). Behind the teak ground-floor frontage, there is now a single space but there used to be a couple of snugs at the rear and a jug-and-bottle (off-sales) accessed from the front right-hand doorway.

What concerns us here is a quality refurbishment in 1898-9 by respected local architect John M. Forrester, whence the counter, ornate gantry and a couple of tiled fireplaces. But what of the wall tiles? Here we have no less than eleven tiled paintings evoking generalised Scottish rural scenes, nine of them featuring lochs. One shows a castle which might perhaps be based on Urquhart Castle on Loch Ness, They are curious in being so low down and would always have been quite difficult to view! Many were obscured by benches but recently more have been revealed by replacing some benches with chairs: only

a few are now hidden. They're framed by non-pictorial tiles of various plain colours.

When in the Barony Bar don't miss the left-hand wall where there are two massive ornate mirrors with the wording 'Finest Old Scotch Whiskies Wines & Brandies McLaughlan Bros Proprietors'. Around the corner is another mirror advertising 'William Younger & Co's India Pale Ale Edinburgh'.

In Part 2 (*Pints of View 72, Winter 2018*) we featured the wonderful tiled paintings in the Oyster Bar/ Restaurant at the nearby Café Royal. Recently we discovered another painting tucked away behind the revolving door so for the sake of completeness we include it here (see right).

There's a lot more to discover around Edinburgh and Part 5 will feature the four sporting tiled paintings at the Central Bar, Leith.

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.





*All photographs by
Michael Slaughter LRPS*

Drinking in Ratho in 1839

by Colin Wakeling

Tidying up recently I came across the following from the New Statistical Account, for Ratho, written by the Minister there in 1839:

“There is no proper inn in the parish; there are, however, 8 public-houses, 7 of which are in the village of Ratho. This number is considerably greater than the amount of the population would justify. Their influence upon the habits of the people has never been considered of a beneficial kind. The practice, however, which is every day getting more prevalent, of sending for spirits and drinking them in private houses, is infinitely more demoralising, as in the latter case, the wives and children of the drinkers are not only witnesses to the evil, but participators in the sin. Every drunkard becomes thus the corrupter of the whole household.”

The first statement is certainly no longer true of Ratho (only the Bridge Inn left) but the latter is echoed by present-day campaigns against supermarket discounting.

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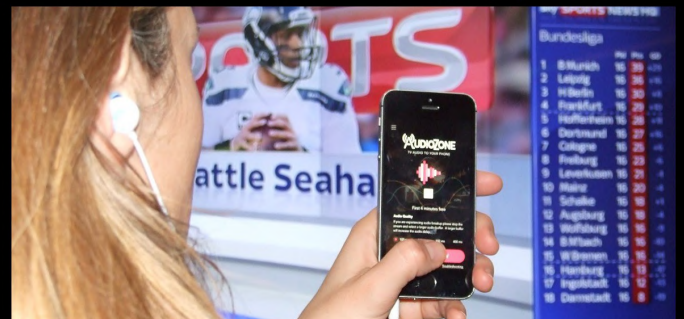
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Alehouses on the A702

by Jon Addinall

The Stagecoach 101 bus service from Edinburgh to Biggar and beyond allows an afternoon visit to the various real ale hostelries along the A702 road, south of Edinburgh. It's roughly an hour between buses and all the pubs mentioned are within 5 minutes walk of the bus stops.



Allan Ramsay Hotel

village's connections with the 18th century poet and collector of Scots songs with regular events being held to celebrate his work. The pub serves one real ale, often from Stewart or Broughton and may be closed Tuesday/Wednesday in winter.

Next stop is the **Gordon Arms Hotel** in West Linton where four real ales are to be found, often from Stewart, Black Sheep and various other local and Yorkshire breweries.



Steading

A convenient start point is the **Steading** at Hillend which can be also be reached using the Lothian No 4 service. This busy pub serves three real ales, Stewart Pentland IPA and Timothy Taylors Landlord being the regulars along with something from breweries like Fyne, Cromarty and Orkney.

Next stop is the **Flotterstone Inn** which is a handy place to recover from a walk in the Pentland Hills and offers two or three real ales which are usually from Stewart Brewing along with a good all day menu.

It's on to Carlops next, with some buses going via Penicuik and others direct, to visit the **Allan Ramsay Hotel**. A lot of effort has gone into reinvigorating this historic pub, restaurant and hotel over the last few years. Much is being made of the



Gordon Arms Hotel

If time permits one can carry on to Biggar which has several real ale pubs, or if returning via Penicuik the journey can be broken at the **Navaar House Hotel** which offers two real ales, often from Fyne and Stewart Brewing.



Flotterstone Inn



Navaar House Hotel

BEER AND LOTHIAN

Pub News

Congratulations to Adam Bolton and the staff of the **Laird and Dog** in Lasswade. They won 'Team of the Year' at the inaugural Scottish Bar and Brew Awards in September. The pub has three rotating real ales, often from Tryst, Fyne Ales and Stewart. The **Melville Inn**, near Dobbies, has had a major refurbishment prior to a new hotel being opened next door. It sells a couple of real ales and has a dog-friendly area to the left of the bar.

In other Midlothian news, the appearance of real ale at the **Craigie** in Penicuik was sadly short-lived. The **Navaar House** and **Haig's** still provide some very reliable real ale choices, though. Star Pubs and Bars are looking for a new lessee to take over the **Cuiken Inn**, with a substantial investment promised.

The East Lothian coastal village of Port Seton has gained a real ale pub. The **Seaglass Inn** is another Star transformation of the previously drab **Wemyss Hotel**. So far the real ale availability has been rather patchy, especially during the week, but hopefully this will improve following some suggestions by CAMRA (particularly as there are prominent 'Cask Ales' signs outside). Fyne Ales Jarl and Marston's 61 Deep are the usual beers, when available.



Seaglass Inn, Port Seton

Yet another Star makeover is promised for the castellated **Railway Tavern** in Prestonpans. This is just along the road from the **Goth**, which had three excellent Faking Bad real ales ranging from 4.8% to 7.1% abv on a recent visit.

The **Old Aberlady Inn** was due to close for a major refurbishment in November. It's under the same management as the **Victoria Inn** in Haddington, where the upstairs Albert



Victoria Inn, Haddington

Restaurant is now open. The bar, which is dog-friendly, has two real ales, often from Belhaven. Haddington's other real ale pubs are all grouped near the River Tyne – the **Waterside**, **Golf Tavern** and **Tyneside Tavern**, which has now opened its attractive new beer garden and celebrated 200 years as a pub with a series of events in the summer, including a match against Haddington Cricket Club.

Stagg's in Musselburgh was nominated in October by East Lothian MP Martin Whitfield for Parliamentary Pub of the Year following a public vote. It will compete with nominees from other constituencies, with the award ceremony to be held at Westminster early in 2020.

The **Winton Arms** in Pencaitland has been bought by pub group Caledonian Heritable. They plan to turn it into a bar/bistro, with extended opening hours. The process has only just started and current tenants Jamie and Elaine have agreed to stay on until after the festive season. This will help to prevent the pub being closed for an extended period and will be well appreciated by regulars.

It's always worth visiting Dunbar in September for its Traditional Music Festival. This unique event takes place over a weekend in no less than eight Dunbar/Belhaven pubs (plus other venues), including the **Volunteer Arms**, **Royal Mackintosh Hotel** and **Brig & Barrel** (Belhaven) with real ale. The Volly itself hosted four sessions this year, including the first one of the weekend. It has two real ales, often on the strong side, including Cross Borders IPA (6% abv) recently. Kelham Island Pale Rider is also a massive local favourite.

The **Pine Marten**, as expected, removed its cask ale lines after the Marston's debacle, in which they carried through their threat to take real ale out of all (but one) of their Scottish pubs in a crass and avoidable move. This affected the **Old Colliery**, Danderhall, and the **Chain Runner** in Livingston as well.

Also in Dunbar, the **Station Yard** micropub put on a pin of Knops beer on gravity during its 'Fringe in the Yard' event in August. However, this was a one-off and real ale is not regularly available. It also held its first beer festival in late October.



Station Yard micropub, Dunbar

Kinleith Mill (three real ales) is under the same management, but was closed for several weeks until late October after flood damage.

Further along Lanark Road, the **Juniper Green Inn**, where Darren and his team have Timothy Taylor Landlord and Deuchars IPA as standard, plus two guest ales. Interestingly, the signage incorporates the pub's previous name of the **Railway Inn** (est. 1891). New features have included a kids' licence (over 5s until 8pm). The back garden lawn was beautifully manicured, even in October!



In Balerno, the long-closed **Malleny Arms** will open on 14th November as the **Balerno Inn**, and we're please to note that it will have two real ales on handpump, with perhaps more depending on demand. The focus will be on ales around 4% abv with the occasional stronger dark beer and, as it's a free house, they have plenty of scope for variety. It's virtually opposite the famous **Grey Horse**, which offered four cask ales as usual on a recent visit. Paul at the Grey Horse said that he would be welcoming the competition!

Up the road at the **Riccarton Inn** in Currie there was a darker tinge to the real ale, with Orkney Dark Island and Stewart 80/- plus another Stewart and a Knops beer. The

Look out for new developments in West Lothian, where the former **West End Hotel** in West Calder (shut for over two years) is to become the **Bluebell Inn** after a big makeover. We don't know if it will be selling real ale. There's also a planning application for a new pub/restaurant in the western part of Livingston.

Out to the west of Edinburgh, JD Wetherspoon's **Sir Walter Scott** (airside at the Airport) closed for four days while it was being uprooted to a £2 million new site in a nearby unit, with expanded facilities, bespoke new carpets, etc.

In South Queensferry, **Harry Ramsden at the Three Bridges** and **Scotts** have both stopped selling real ale. Whilst this is disappointing, you can still find cask ale at **Ferry Brewery Taproom**, **Hawes Inn**, **Railbridge Bistro** and **Ferry Tap**. Just to the west of the town centre, the **Inchcolm Inn** (no real ale currently) is another pub on Star Pubs and Bars 'to lease/refurbishment planned' list.

Craig Leith

STAGGS BAR

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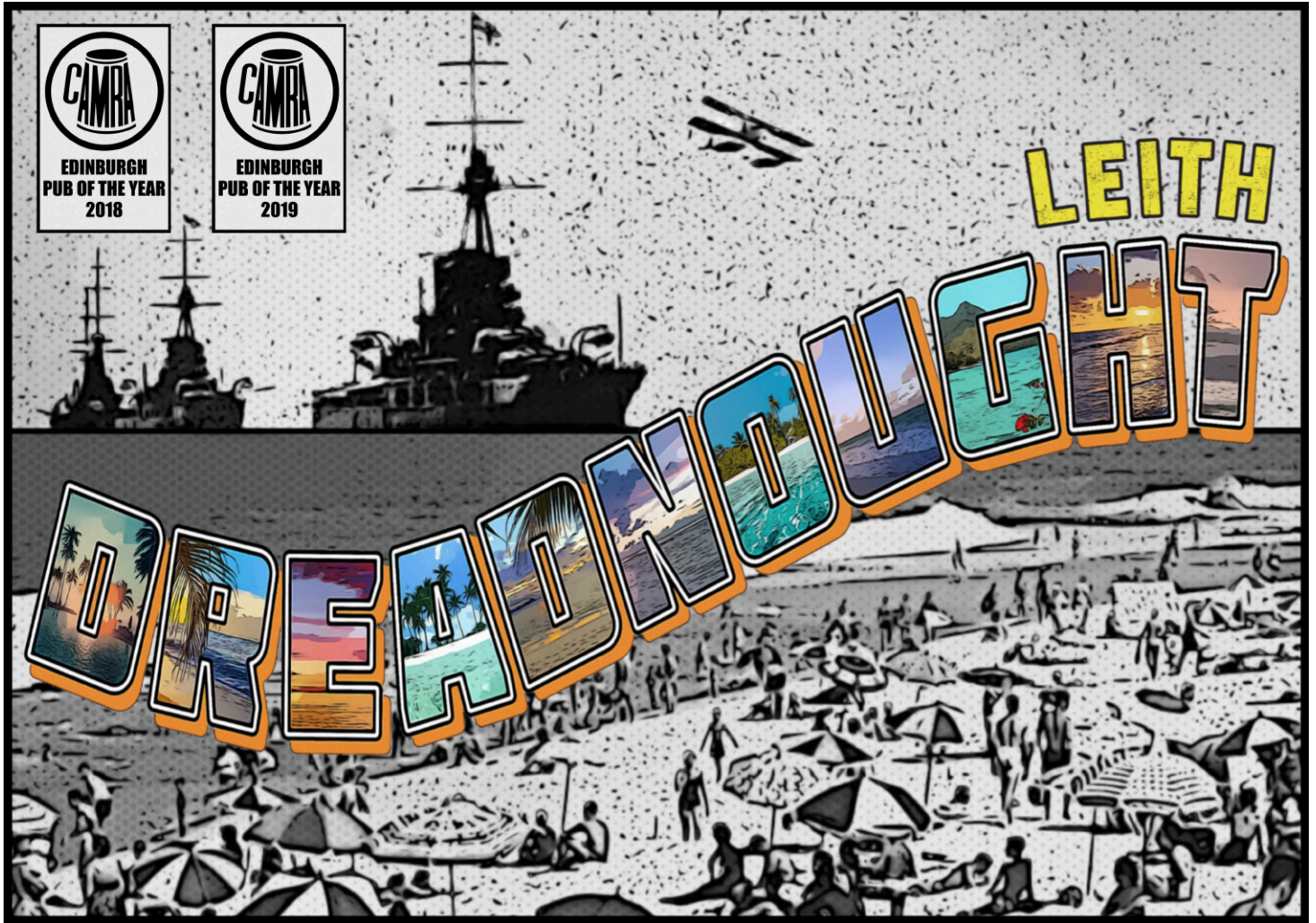
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Please note: due to space constraints, our Pub News columns sadly cannot mention every real ale pub in the branch area in every issue. If you have some news about your pub you'd like us to share in the next issue, please get in touch (contact details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

For more up-to-date information on all real ales pubs in the branch area and beyond, please see WhatPub.com.



Letters to the Editor

Write to: poveditor@edinburghcamra.org.uk

Hi,

In Issue 73 you asked for any other examples of tiling in pubs.

The Feuars Arms in Kirkcaldy has a beautiful old Victorian or Edwardian interior with lovely tiled paintings and stained glass windows, and even the antique toilet fittings are worth checking out!

I haven't been there for a long time and I hope I'm wrong but I don't believe it sells any cask or craft beers at the moment.

Well worth a visit though to see it. Maybe some wider CAMRA interest could give the pub a boost. Fife CAMRA has a modest entry:

<https://www.kingdomoffife.camra.org.uk/viewnode.php?id=18525>

Cheers,
Brian Wiley

Actually, according to the latest WhatPub information, the Feuars Arms serves two changing real ales - Ed.

Champion Beer of Scotland

2019 Results

The results of the Champion Beer of Scotland 2019 competition, held at the Ayrshire Real Ale Festival in Troon Concert Hall on Friday 4th October, were:

1st: Windswept Weizen

2nd: Broughton Old Jock

3rd: Cairngorm Black Gold

Other shortlisted beers this year were:

- Bellhaven 60/-
- Black Isle Yellowhammer
- Harviestoun Old Engine Oil
- Loch Lomond Southern Summit
- Swannay Orkney IPA and Scapa Special
- Windswept Wolf.

The winner, Weizen, (5.2% abv) is a faithful version of German wheat beer from Windswept Brewing in Lossiemouth. It's available in cask-conditioned or keg format in pubs and bottled-conditioned in shops.


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INN the BORDERS

Pub News

There's been welcome news about two new real ale outlets. The **White Swan** in Duns has a couple of Born in the Borders real ales on handpump. Just round the corner, the excellent **Black Bull**, with three changing real ales, therefore loses its long-standing claim to have the only real ale in Duns.

The **Newcastle Arms** in Coldstream is a large corner pub and hotel. It, too, now offers a couple of real ales in its lively bar, with Belhaven IPA and Cheviot Upland Ale sampled on a recent visit. The **Castle Hotel** also has a single real ale on handpump but, in a surprising turn of events, we said goodbye to Wayne when the **Besom** closed down in August. Punch Taverns are seeking a new tenant for this attractive main road pub. Nearby, the **Fishermans Arms** in Birgham is still closed and for sale.

As soon as the last issue of PoV went to press JD Wetherspoon announced that they were not, after all, proceeding with the



Newcastle Arms, Coldstream

potential sale of the **Bourtree** in Hawick and the **Cross Keys** in Peebles. The expansion and refurbishment of Wetherspoon's **Hunters Hall** in Galashiels was successfully completed in July. This includes an extension into the adjacent former butcher's shop and a big increase and upgrading of the beer garden area.

There have been rapidly changing fortunes at the **Laurel Bank** in Broughton (right on the edge of the CAMRA Branch area but reachable by bus from Peebles). Linda and Rhonda, the previous lessees, left at the end of September, with seemingly



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Hunters Hall, Galashiels

little prospect of replacement, but then in November a new management team (Susan and Andrew) took over. Hopefully the Broughton real ale (normally Clipper IPA) will be continuing.

The former **Crook Inn** at Tweedsmuir is in an even more remote location. The Tweedsmuir Community Company (TCC), which is seeking to reopen the Crook Inn (eventually) has a five-point plan in place, commencing with the opening of a café in the old steading building. The TCC has recently obtained grants totalling £74k from the National Lottery Heritage Fund and Scottish Borders Council. Some of the pub's Art Deco features are reported to be in a bad way due to water ingress, vandalism, etc.

The **Plough Inn** at Lilliesleaf (which had already stopped selling cask ale) closed in mid-August. This leaves the **Cross Keys**, which reported in the summer that they were hopeful of restarting real ale, as the only pub in the village.

There is still no real ale in Selkirk, which once had six cask ale pubs! There is, however, some hope that the **Fleece Bar and Kitchen** will establish a case for making real ale sales viable, perhaps through the use of 4.5 gallon pins. The same approach could be helpful for the **Black Bull** and **Golden Bannock** in Lauder, where cask ale availability has been poor this year.

The **Traquair Arms** in Innerleithen now features Traquair Bear Ale as part of its range all year, as the Stuart Ale which used to be brought in as a seasonal change did not sell too well. **St Ronans Hotel** on the main road continues to offer a couple of well-kept real ales.

The **Border Hotel** in Kirk Yetholm was one of the first outlets for the new Cheviot Brewery cask Pilsner called Kopec (5% abv), brewed just across the border at Etal.

In the eastern Borders. Justin and Andrea gave up the lease of the **First and Last** (Burnmouth) in June to concentrate on running their **Ship Inn** in Eyemouth. Welcome, therefore, to Lawrence and Amy, who have taken over in Burnmouth and are keen to expand the bar area and possibly add to the current two cask ale lines.

The **Kings Arms Hotel** in Melrose, which reopened earlier in the year after extensive refurbishment, was selling Born in the Borders Foxy Blonde and Dark Horse, as well as Greene King IPA, on a summer visit. Real ale is also available at **Burts Hotel, George and Abbotsford Hotel** and the **Ship Inn**; only Peebles (7) and Kelso (6) have more real ale pubs amongst Borders towns.

The multiple award-winning **Rutherfords** micropub in Kelso, which sells four real ales from gravity stillage, launched a vegan menu earlier in the year (despite having no kitchen).

The garden-based **Allanton Inn** beer festival was again a summer highlight enjoyed by all, with up to 14 real ales available across the weekend. These included some interesting choices from Fyne Ales, Tryst, Moorhouses, Bradfield and Skinner's, amongst others. Well done also to Katrina from The Allanton, who won a 'Hotelier of the Year 2019' award in May.

Another beer festival that took place just after the last PoV went to press took place in the busy **Craw Inn** at Auchencrow, again featuring up to 14 cask ales. Redwillow Heritage Special Bitter (5.3% abv) from Macclesfield was one of the best beers on offer. The Craw has been selling up to five cask ales at a time in recent months.



Licensee Ben Chambers at the Craw Inn Beer Festival

The **Hemelvaart Bier Cafe** in Ayton was successful in the 2019 Scottish Enterprise Awards, winning 'Best Craft Beer and Live Entertainment Venue - Scottish Borders'. The pub is also additionally open from 5pm on Tuesdays and Wednesdays until the New Year in response to customer demand.

Finally, the **Liddesdale Hotel** in Newcastleton, easily the most southerly pub in the Branch area, is considering selling cask ale on a more regular basis. Real ale usually only appears during the (bike-based) Copshaw Common Riding and music festival. Telford's Coaches provide bus links to Hawick and Carlisle. The village also hosts one of Scotland's three micropubs, the **Trap**, but it has no real ale.

ROBBIE'S BAR

by Jim Lawrie

A photographic history of a longstanding name
on Leith Walk...



1980



1986



1996



2014

Robbie's Bar has been a traditional alehouse for many years with a number of handpumps in the centre of the bar. There are numerous pieces of interesting brewery memorabilia that decorate the walls.

In addition there are some fine brewery mirrors. The most striking of these is the 'Rutherford & Co' mirror that reminds us of this 'pub co' that was established in Edinburgh in 1834. All together the group had 12 pubs in Edinburgh, one in Leith at the Shore, and nine licensed premises in Glasgow. (Rutherford & Co expanded into Glasgow in 1837). Robbie's Rutherford & Co. mirror is of a good size and is probably the only remaining mirror of its type left in the capital. (There is a larger Rutherford & Co. mirror in the Chrystal Bell & Co pub in Glasgow's Gallowgate.)



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NEWS OF THE BREWS

Brewery Update

Alechemy Brewing

The brewery has been revamped to provide expanded storage space. There have been no significant changes to the core cask ale range. Alechemy had the highest placed cask ale in the **Bow Bar** 2019 IPA Challenge (blind tasting) with its Secret Citra (5.0% abv).

Aye Been Brewing Co.

This new microbrewery started production on a four-barrel kit in Eyemouth in September. The first beer, Aye PA (3.8% abv), went on sale on handpump at Eyemouth's **Ship Inn**.

Barney's Beer

Bastard Amber won a Bronze award in the Scottish Beer Awards (Amber and Dark Ale category).

Belhaven Brewery

2019 has been a momentous year for Belhaven for a couple of reasons. The oldest brewery in Scotland celebrated its tercentenary this year and held a number of events to mark this auspicious occasion. This included the launch of a new beer, with no prizes for guessing it was called 1719, a Holyrood reception in February hosted by local MSP Iain Gray at which the main speaker was the outgoing chief executive of Belhaven's parent company Greene King and a music and beer festival at the brewery in September.

The potential cloud on the horizon is the takeover of Greene King by Hong Kong based CK Asset Holdings. CK is controlled by the family of one of Hong Kong's richest men, Li Ka-shing, and we await with interest their plans for the Belhaven brewery and their Scottish pubs. Belhaven management have, unsurprisingly, made no comment in respect of the takeover.

Bellfield Brewery

Edinburgh's Bellfield was the first dedicated gluten-free brewery in the UK. Their visitor centre, taproom and brewery at 46 Stanley Place has now opened and allows dogs (and also children until 9pm). Cask Lawless Valley IPA and Session Ale can be found on the bar (Fri-Sun). The taproom is available for hire during the week; brewery



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tours and tastings are available. Other new beers planned include a golden ale and a stout.

Born in the Borders Brewery

In the summer various 'specials' were again brewed in addition to the core range, including Elderflower, Summer Cloud and Heavy Nettle as well as the very popular New Millennium ale (now brewed on a regular basis).

For the autumn and winter months other real ales such as Gold Dust, Flower of Scotland and Harvest Moon will return, as well as some festive favourites. At the brewery HQ at Lanton near Jedburgh the Lilliard Gin facility has been taken over. For news about the Waverley Mall café/bar see *City Ale Tales*.

Broughton Brewery

Broughton Old Jock gained second place in CAMRA's Champion Beer of Scotland competition held at the Ayrshire Real Ale Festival in Troon in October. At the brewery, two new closed fermentation vessels have been installed to complement the existing four open fermenters.

Caledonian Brewery

As part of the celebrations around Caley's 150th birthday a reunion at the Slateford Road brewery was held, with over 100 of the founding Lorimer family in attendance. Lorimer's Best Scotch was brewed as a one-off special replication of the famous 1960s beer.

Campbell's Brewery

In a surprise move, Campbell's no longer operates a brewery of any kind in Peebles. Some Campbell's Gunner has been observed in Edinburgh pubs such as the **Olde Golf Tavern** and this may have been brewed elsewhere under contract. Campbell's **Wally Dug** pub in Edinburgh's New Town had no Campbell's cask ale on a recent visit, although the keg Shayger was still on tap.

Campervan Brewery

New fermenters have been installed, increasing the tank capacity from 52 HL to 170 HL. Progress on the bar expansion and installation of a mezzanine floor has stalled due to cracks being discovered in the building's framework.

Coast Beer Co.

This new alcohol-free beer producer is currently selling two canned beers, Hazy IPA (0.0% abv) and Farmhouse Ale (0.3%), available from online retailers and (in the case of Hazy IPA) Tesco shops nationwide. Headquartered in Haymarket Terrace, Edinburgh, the beer is brewed at De Proef in Belgium.

Cross Borders Brewing Co.

A 5% abv Stout has been added to the core range and the IPA has been updated to 6%. One-off collaborations with other craft brewers have been continuing. For news about the new bar in Portobello see *City Ale Tales*.

Edinburgh Beer Factory

Surprise (and welcome) news of the season was the appearance of EBF's Futurism (6% abv brown ale) on cask at **Teuchters Landing** in October, although there were dispense problems due to an adapted keg being used for the beer, according to the pub. The brewery is better known for the keg lager Paolozzi. Progress has been slow on EBF's planned bar of the same name on Forrest Road, Edinburgh.

Eyeball Brewing

Eyeball's brewery at West Barns, Dunbar has been taken over by Winton Brewery (see below). It's believed that Eyeball will revert to contract or cuckoo brewing.



Ferry Brewery's Mark Moran receives his GBG pack from Huw Thomas (BLO)

Faking Bad Brewery

Two new beers were launched at the **Goth** in Prestonpans (home of the brewery) in August: Dark Energy (7.1% abv) and Alchemy (3.6%). Another new experimental beer that appeared recently was Buckminsterfruiteerene (4.8%), an orange wheat beer.

Ferry Brewery

Ferry Brewery held their annual FerryFest event again in June. Recent additions to the beer range have included Forth Brigg, a 6.7% abv red IPA, and Ferry Alt, a 4.8% German style dark ale. The Brewery Tap Bar is enjoying its second year in the *Good Beer Guide*.

Freewheelin' Brewery

Freewheelin' beers are available at the **Peebles Hydro**, the **Gordon Arms**, West Linton, and occasionally at the **Cross Keys**, Peebles. Bottle-conditioned beers can be found at the Hydro and at **Villeneuve Wines** in Peebles.

Two new bottle-conditioned beers have been produced: a Kolsch-style lager (4.4% abv) and a New England IPA (6.5%). Special beers have been produced for various local events including the Baddingsgill Hill Run, the Tour of Tweed, West Linton Whipman Festival and Earlston Gala Day. Brewery tours continue to be popular with Hydro guests and can also be booked by prior arrangement with brewer Richard.

Hurly Burly Brewery

Hurly Burly Brewery has just celebrated its first birthday since Peter and Louise moved into new premises in Musselburgh. Until now they have concentrated on a range of bottle-conditioned real ales, but following some encouragement from CAMRA they have now made the move into cask ale!

A 5% abv version of their Hare of the Dog dry-hopped IPA was therefore brewed for the Nottingham Beer Festival, with additional casks also being taken by the **Dalriada**, **Stagg's**, **Kilderkin** and **Nether Abbey** (North Berwick), amongst others, in October. The cask ale at the Dalriada was the first on and sold out quickly to good reviews.

Hurly Burly brewer Peter is excited by the move to cask, saying "This allows us to reach a wider range of real ale drinkers who may not yet have heard of us, as well as providing the opportunity to create one-off specials or limited editions more easily". Look out for some more cask ale from Hurly Burly coming soon.

Innis & Gunn Brewing Company

Innis & Gunn have identified a potential site for their new Edinburgh brewery, taproom and visitor centre at ►►►

NEWS OF THE BREWS

(continued)

Riccarton (on the Heriot-Watt University Research Campus). A brewing capacity of 400,000 HL is envisaged. Environmental feasibility studies at the site are under way. This would be the first new large-scale brewery to be built in Edinburgh for 150 years!

Jump Ship Brewing

Sonja Mitchell is aiming to establish a new alcohol-free brewery through a crowdfunding exercise. It's planned to produce a canned 0.5% abv beer which will also be vegan and gluten-free.

Knops Beer Co

Full details are awaited as we go to press, but it seems certain that Knops Beer Company will be closing down its brewery at the Archerfield Walled Garden (near Dirleton, East Lothian). There will also be significant changes on the rest of the site, including the loss of the bar, which was an outlet both for Knops beers and for Archerfield Fine Ales (also brewed by Knops). CAMRA wishes Bob Knops and his former staff well for the future.

Newbarns Brewery

Newbarns Brewery is the latest microbrewery to seek to establish premises in Jane St, Leith. Gordon McKenzie from Stirling is aiming to brew kegged beer in 30L containers, with a five-year expansion plan. There will also be a tasting room and customer toilets. The timescale for this development is not known at present.

Pilot Beer

Although Pilot does not brew cask ale normally, a recent cask collaboration with Fuller's produced Huvvy Dug, an outstanding 7.4% abv Scottish Wee Heavy style beer. This featured at **Steel Coulson's** Beer Festival and in selected other pubs. A taproom is expected to open at the new Bonnington site shortly. A canning line has also been installed.

Stenroth Brewing

This is a new nanobrewery set up in Edinburgh, co-founded by Kat Drinnan. Its first beer, a keg Raspberry Sour, appeared at the **Stockbridge Tap** during the excellent Women in Beer Festival during October.

Stewart Brewing

Radical Road once again won the CAMRA Champion Beer of Scotland "Real Ale in a Bottle (Light)" category at a judging session hosted by the Kingdom of Fife Branch of CAMRA.

Stewart Brewing also took home the big prize at the Scottish Beer Awards, winning Scottish Brewery of the Year for the second year in a row, plus another six awards including Product Development Team of the Year and Exporter of the Year.

Throughout October, Stewart's hosted a series of Meet the Maker events in partnership with Nicholson's pubs to showcase

the cask ale line-up, featuring Jack Back, Pentland IPA and Stewart 80/- along with specials such as Baronet (4.5% abv Burton Pale Ale), Columbus Calling (4.1% American Pale Ale), Pandora's Box (4% American Ruby Ale) and Freeman (4.2% Blonde Ale).

There will be some limited edition cask specials for the festive season, including Cauld Reekie stout, Pennymob Porter (4.2%) and Face of Winter (4.3% Cranberry Scotch Ale). A brewery Open Day will be held on Saturday 7th December.



Tempest Brewing Co.

Following another successful Oktoberfest, Gavin and his team continue to evolve new styles and beers, albeit mostly in can or bottle form, with recent additions being Soma IPA (6.8% abv), Trimontium IPA (6.5%) and Double Denim BA Barley Wine (12.5%).

Cask ales still feature and are brewed on a rotational basis, usually including Cascadian, Armadillo, Elemental Dark and Modern Helles.

There has been little progress to date on moving to larger premises on the Tweedbank estate; however the brewery shop is still very much in place.

Top Out Brewery

Top Out have recently launched the new Barony Session IPA (3.7% abv) as a house beer for the **Barony** in Edinburgh.

Vault City

Vault City have moved out of Edinburgh and have installed new and much larger brewing equipment at the site of 71 Brewing in Dundee. New distribution arrangements will see their mixed fermentation beers available UK-wide.

Winton Brewery

Winton are understood to have taken over the brewing equipment of the Eyeball Brewery and are using it at the West Barns site to produce their range of beers, including Barry Swally and Peelywally.

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