



Darlington Drinker 179

FREE

Newsletter of the Darlington Campaign for Real Ale

Autumn 2010

A Blow, but Still Negotiating

A £3.3 MILLION government fund to help stem the closure of local pubs has been closed down by the Conservative - LibDem coalition before a penny was paid out.

More than 80 groups had come forward for help to buy out their local pub since the Community-Owned Pubs Support Programme was announced by the then Labour government in March.

Dave Hollins, an adviser who helped the community of Hudswell, near Richmond, reopen the long-closed George and Dragon in the village told the Sunday Telegraph the decision would mean some community pub buyouts would now fail.

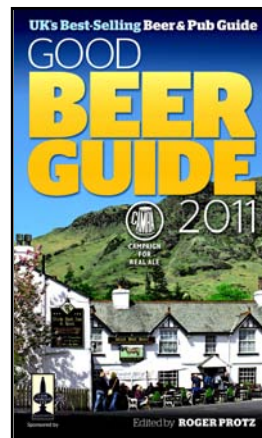
Villagers attempting to save their local in Skeeby, near Scotch Corner, said the decision to scrap the fund had dealt a "serious blow" to their plans.

Marie Church, one of the residents leading the campaign to buy the closed Travellers Rest from a housing developer, said they had expected to receive between £50,000 and £100,000 from the programme to help them.

She added: "I felt before the election that the government investment would come our way. That's been totally withdrawn now. I would describe that as a serious blow to our plans."

She said the pub, shut since 2008, had been run down by a previous owner and was sold to the developer for £150,000 - about half the asking price when it was put on the market 18 months ago. The

The Independent Guide to
Good British Beer and Pubs
Brand New 38th Edition



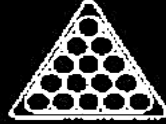
CAMRA's top 4,500 real ale pubs. Unique breweries section listing all Britain's real ales. £15.99 from bookshops, or buy direct from CAMRA on (01727) 867201 www.camra.org.uk

community is now negotiating with the owner to buy the pub outright, or take on a lease, and already has 40 locals willing to invest.

"People are very passionate about getting the pub running again. It would be somewhere for our elderly people to gather, somewhere for our young people to gather. It would reopen the heart of the community again, because, frankly, we have all drawn away from each other."

*See www.travellersrestskeby.co.uk for news and to join the Travellers Rest campaign.

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Booze 'n' Cues 2010



Thurs 28 October, 7pm - midnight
Fri 29 & Sat 30 October, 11am - late
Sun 31 October, noon - midnight

Saturday Night Fancy Dress (optional!)

Free entry to beer festival

A Good Firkin Festival - Just Real Ale, No Frills

Hot and cold food available

Tel 01325 241388

email peterdsc@yahoo.co.uk

Nigel and the Bill

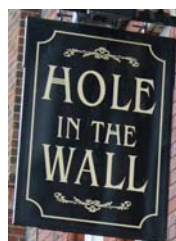
THE CAMPAIGN for Real Ale, is supporting moves by a Conservative MP to bring forward a Bill to help protect valued community pubs and other local services.

This was a central proposal of CAMRA's 'Beer Drinkers and Pub-Goers Charter' which gained the support of over 150 Members of Parliament.

Nigel Adams, MP, was recently selected by a ballot in Parliament to bring forward legislation on a subject of his choice. He had decided to use the opportunity to give local services, such as pubs, greater protection from demolition or change of use.

His Protection of Local Services (Planning) Bill will give local councils in England the power to close loopholes in planning law which allow services such as pubs, local shops and community centres to be demolished without the need to seek planning permission.

It could also be used to protect pubs in particular, which can be turned into cafes,



The Hole in the Wall

Horsemarket,
Darlington

Tel. 01325 466720

An Ancient Hostelry in the Old Market Square

Real Ales:

**Cameron Strongarm Ruby Red
Greene King Abbot
plus Black Sheep Best Bitter**

**Food served Mon-Sat 12-2pm,
Fri & Sat upstairs 6.30-9pm**

**Special offer Tues, Wed, Thurs
6-9pm: drink and meal £6.50**

Opening hours: Mon-Thurs 11-11.30,
Fri & Sat 11-midnight; Sun 12-11

restaurants or financial services offices without giving communities a say.

Mr Adams said: "For too long, community buildings have been able to be demolished despite the wishes of local people. It is crucial that we stand up for them."

His decision to bring the Bill forward was warmly welcomed by CAMRA Chief Executive Mike Benner. He said: "This Bill will empower local communities and offer a much-needed lifeline to community pubs. Pubs are in crisis, with 39 closing every week. A third of these are then demolished without giving local communities a chance to save them. Both councils and communities are powerless to act as valued and viable pubs are destroyed."

***4,700 PUBS** have closed since the start of 2008. CAMRA research shows that of the pubs permanently lost, 31% were demolished, 36% converted to shop, café, restaurant or financial services use and 33% converted to another use, mainly residential.



Darlington Drinker

....Twenty-Five Years Ago

"THIS IS probably the most critical month ever in the history of British brewing. The fate of dozens of traditional breweries rests in the hands of one man: the Secretary of State for Industry, Leon Brittan.

Mr Brittan will either block the takeover bid by Scottish & Newcastle for Matthew Brown/Theakstons or by allowing it to proceed will give the green light to a spate of takeovers throughout the country.

The stock market is convinced that if S&N get the go-ahead other big companies will rush down the same takeover trail."

Darlington Drinker 39, November 1985



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Black Bull
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Three Cask Ales on tap

Open: Mon-Thur 5-11pm, Fri 3pm-late.
Sat & Sun 12noon-late

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Pleasant Beer Garden for warmer days
Darts, Dominoes, Pool.
Quiz Night First Sunday of the month,
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9 CASK ALES ON TAP

Westons Old Rosie Cider
A selection of bottled ciders and perry
Fosters lager, Wines and spirits

LIVE MUSIC

September

1st Russ Tippins 8th The Whole Hog
15th Tin Can Alley 22nd Uncle Gilbert
29th Second Childhood

October

6th King Harvest 13th Delphinians
20th Eddie Miller 27th Animate

November

3rd Voodoo 10th Magnetic Cherry
17th Jump the Gun 24th Sods Law

Sunday 19th September Rhythm & Brews:

2pm: Zep-Free-Cream
4pm: Victims of the Fury
8pm: The Bluffies

aQoustic Lounge

Now open every Monday 8.30pm

Free entry

Sept 6th, By Invitation - Dave Cadman
Sept 13th Paul Liddell. Sept 22nd Paul Dannett
open mic

Keg 'Cask' Con - Continued

FOLLOWING OUR last edition of *Darlington Drinker* - when we denounced as deceitful the practice of the management and owners of the Travellers Rest at Cockerton, Darlington of passing off pasteurised, keg John Smith's Magnet through hand-pumps as if it was real ale - Darlington Council's trading standards officers have been stirred into a bit more action than originally intended.

The supplier of the beer has also come out with a stronger criticism of the practice issuing a statement that "Heineken UK does not endorse this method of dispense" for keg Magnet.

Oddly, however, considering it was the branch which made a formal complaint about the deception to the Council, Fair Trading Officer Neil Watt was not at all forthcoming when Darlington CAMRA asked him what they were doing.

It took two requests even to get this vague reply: "I visited and spoke to the landlord of the Travellers Rest and a number of suggestions were raised by both parties. A number of these suggestions were agreed and the landlord is currently implementing them. I will be visiting the landlord again in a few weeks to view their implementation." Mr Watt refused to disclose to CAMRA - and thus consumers - just what the agreement was!

We do, however, know from another source - a professional in consumer law who after reading *DD178* challenged the Council on its initial conclusion that passing off one very different kind of product from another was legal.

The agreement, it transpires, in order to avoid "further confusion", is that manager Dave Phillips will put up signs in the pub's bar, lounge and function room stat-



ing that the Magnet is sold in a keg form "but is dispensed via handpull and electric pumps for his patrons choice".

Mr Phillips will also amend the price lists to state 'Keg' John Smith's Magnet, and train staff that Magnet is sold in a keg form only.

Darlington CAMRA regards this softly-softly, 'secret' agreement as a partial solution but no more.

After all, Mr Phillips claimed at the beginning of April that "all customers" were already being told that the hand-pulled Magnet was not real ale - a claim shown to be false by the Northern Echo's Mike Amos and others.

By revealing the details of the agreement here we hope that visitors to the Travellers Rest will tell us and Darlington Trading Standards if it is not being adhered to, to the letter. If it isn't, we will press for a prosecution to commence.

**IN A RELATED move, the pub's owners, Ashcroft Pollard of York, have announced that another Heineken UK product, Caledonian Deuchar's IPA, is also now being sold at the Travellers, served by handpump. Normally we would unreservedly welcome the return of proper cask beer. But, as we all now know, unlike any other pub in the Darlington / South Durham / North Yorkshire area, a handpulled beer at the Travellers is no guarantee of real ale. Is it?*



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- *Good Beer Guide 2010*

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Runner-up: Darlington Town Pub of the Year 2007 & 2008

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It takes all sorts to campaign for real ale

Join CAMRA today..

Complete the Direct Debit form below and you will receive three months membership free and a fantastic discount on your membership subscription. Alternatively you can send a cheque payable to CAMRA Ltd with your completed form, visit www.camra.org.uk or call 01727 867201. All forms should be addressed to Membership Secretary, CAMRA, 230 Hatfield Road, St Albans, AL1 4LW.

Your Details Applications will be processed within 21 days

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Forename(s)
Date of Birth (dd/mm/yyyy)
Address
Postcode
Email address
Tel No (s)

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form in? Direct Debit Non DD
Single Membership (UK & EU) £20 £22
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I wish to join the Campaign for Real Ale, and agree to abide by the Memorandum and Articles of Association.

I enclose a cheque for Mem Form 0108

Signed Date

Instruction to your Bank or Building Society to pay by Direct Debit

Please fill in the form and send to:
Campaign for Real Ale Ltd.
230 Hatfield Road, St Albans, Herts AL1 4LW

Name and full postal address of your Bank or Building Society

To the Manager Bank or Building Society
Address
Postcode

Name(s) of Account Holder

Bank or Building Society Account Number Branch Sort Code

Reference Number

Originators Identification Number 9 2 6 1 2 9

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Please pay CAMRA Direct Debits from the account detailed on this instruction subject to the safeguards assured by the Direct Debit Guarantee. I understand that this instruction may remain with CAMRA and, if so will be passed electronically to my Bank/Building Society.

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This Guarantee should be detached and retained by the payer.
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You can cancel a Direct Debit at any time by writing to your Bank or Building Society. Please also send a copy of your letter to us.

Mithril Hails Well

FOLLOWING its official launch in June, the Darlington area's newest micro-brewery, Mithril Ales of Aldbrough St John, is developing nicely. So says owner-brewer-delivery boy Pete Fenwick, who in what spare time he has after also squeezing in a full-time day job is also Darlington CAMRA pubs officer. Here's his own progress report...

THE NAME for our monthly Mithril special for July was 'Heatwave', unfortunately literally the minute I decided on this name the weather changed and it rained practically every day!

The special for August was 'Feast', after the Aldbrough Feast week (and indeed a number of other local villages) which had summer events that month. Unlike Heatwave, naming this beer didn't affect the village activities!

At the time of writing, I have not decided on the name for my special for September - but as the Darlington CAMRA Rhythm 'n' Brews Festival is this month, I think I'll look to use it as my inspiration.



I have extended the pubs into which I supply Mithril's ales, delivering now also to the George and Dragon at Hudswell, the George Hotel at Piercebridge, the Ship at Middlestone Village and the Black Swan at Staindrop. But delivering is getting expensive when accompanied by Corinna as we always end up eating out at one of the pubs on the way round!

In addition to DD, I hope discerning local drinkers will look out for a new, free bi-monthly magazine being published in the North East called 'Cheers'.



Edited by well known writer Alistair Gilmour (twice UK Beer Writer of the Year), I was lucky to be visited for a photo-shoot and interview for it and Mithril was duly featured in the August edition (above). Local outlets for this currently include Number Twenty-2, the Quakerhouse, the Britannia and Darlington Snooker Club, the Bay Horse, Heighington and the Crown at Manfield.

***INTERESTED** potential stockists for Mithril ales should ring (01325) 374817 or (07792) 093245. Read Pete's blog on www.mithrilales.co.uk. Cheers has a excellent website, including back issues, at www.cheersnortheast.co.uk

THE MORRITT hotel at Greta Bridge is the latest local venue to be awarded the Cask Marque for the quality of its ales.

Pubs and hotels that join the scheme are visited unannounced by an independent assessor twice a year, checking its cask ales for temperature, appearance, aroma and taste.

Morritt owner Barbara Johnson said: "We are very pleased to be awarded the Cask Marque. We had no idea that the assessor was coming and he was very thorough."

The scheme is operated by an independent body, the Cask Marque Trust. Its website (www.cask-marque.co.uk) describes the Cask Marque as 'a sign that appears outside pubs guaranteeing that inside you will get a great pint of cask ale'.



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27th-29th
August

24th-26th
September



29th-31st
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We have been awarded a place in the
GOOD BEER GUIDE 2010
– the guide to the best real ale pubs in Britain



wetherspoon is proud to support microbreweries and sell the best ales across the UK

“We Play On”

THE PROPRIETOR of the award winning **Darlington Snooker Club** has vowed to continue to fight its potential closure, following news that the freehold owner wants to renew a controversial planning permission.

Permission to convert the upper floor premises, above White Bros. motorcycle shop on the corner of Northgate and Corporation Road, into four flats was granted



by a planning inspector two years ago - in the face of vociferous protests. It was due to expire next summer but shop owner Derek White wants to extend the time limit for implementation.

Mr White told the Northern Echo: “We haven’t done anything yet with the permission and know we could extend it. We haven’t decided what to do yet. It depends on the state of the housing market.”

Peter Everett, who runs the club with his mother Rita and the help of other family members, said: “We never give up. Everyone is bouncing on with keeping the club. We will keep on trading but we are always waiting for that day for more news.”

Under Peter, who is also chairman of the Darlington branch of CAMRA, the club has won numerous awards as best real ale club in the region and features in the national Good Beer Guide.

The club was initially founded in 1915, with the premises purpose built to accommodate the heavy playing tables.



Face of Mystery



PU B SIGN enthusiast Ted Matthewson was taking photographs

in Darlington recently and came across the strange case of the ‘tender face’. He asks if DD readers can solve the mystery. Over to you, Ted...

“I took a photo of each side of the **Railway Tavern** sign in Northgate, where both sides feature the locomotive Mallard. I was surprised when I blew the pictures up to find a mysterious face painted into the centre of Mallard’s tender. It appears on the north-facing side of the sign only (circled on photos). The south facing tender is blank.

“It is clearly a human face, and appears to have been deliberately put in place of a railway logo which would have occupied that spot on the tender. From a distance and with the naked eye no one is likely to notice it.

“Did the painter have a little joke? Is it a self-portrait? Is it the Ghost of North Road Station?! Has it ever been noticed by anyone else? I would value any information.”

Any answers please to *DD* (contact details on back page) and we’ll be happy to pass them on to Ted, and other readers.

**TED’S collections, including Pubs and Pub Signs of London, feature on YouTube. He tells us Signs of the North East is coming soon.*

The Black Swan

Staindrop



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Real Ale Festival
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Traditional Sunday roast:

main meal £6.95

two courses £8.95

three courses £10.95

A Warm Welcome Awaits All!



The Black Swan
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Co Durham DL2 3NH
(01833) 660749



Miles of Smiles

A CELEBRATORY group of Darlington CAMRA members experienced three seasons in a day. And went the further Yard...

The occasion was a kind of Oscars on wheels: presenting a mass of awards on location, not en masse.

Three of presentations were to commemorate local free houses winning the branch's most recent pub of the season competitions.

First up, and representing North Yorkshire, was the idyllically-located **Shoulder of Mutton** at Kirby Hill, where Darlington CAMRA pubs officer Pete Fenwick handed over a framed certificate to Toni Bennett in return for a juicy smack on the cheek.

After refreshment it was back north of the Tees for the minibus, to the hamlet of Preston-le-Skerne, east of Newton Aycliffe. Here stands the 'Hammers' - the **Blacksmiths Arms**, where Pete showed rather more composure in handing Martin Whear his deserved accolade.

Later it was back to town and the **Old Yard Tapas Bar**, where delighted owner Pete Turnbull was the worthy recipient of the town category prize.

In the middle of all of these the inexhaustible group even found time to dash across to the Surtees Arms at Ferryhill Station for a different kind of presentation.

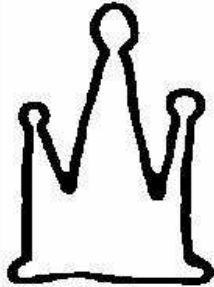
The back of the Surtees is the home of the Yard of Ale micro-brewery, run by publican Alan Hogg. Darlington beer festival organiser Paul Appleton presented a beaming Alan with a plaque to mark his **Spring Triple Tipple** being chosen as Beer of the Festival by visitors to March's Spring Thing.

Well done to all the winners. And to the itinerant MCs and audience...

**All photos by Ian Jackson.*



From top to bottom: Shoulder of Mutton, Blacksmiths Arms, Tapas Bar and Surtees Arms



The Crown Inn

Vicars Lane, Manfield
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Tel. 01325 374243

—o—
PETER & KAREN ('Licensed to Thrill')

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BEER FESTIVAL

with all the usual mayhem!!

3rd - 5th September

Varied Beer, Food and Live Music throughout
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Peter & Karen would like to thank the many hundreds of customers who made the July Cider Fest such a roaring success. (Sorry there was none left for our Sunday visitors!) Also many, many thanks to all the musicians who gave so freely of their time to aid St Teresa's Hospice

Darlington CAMRA Pub of the Year 2010

Normal range: Village Brewer White Boar and Bull, plus up to six
Guest Real Ales

Twelve wines by the bottle or glass

—o—
Normal opening hours: Monday to Friday 5-11.30pm, Sat & Sun noon-11.30pm
Heated smoking shelter. The Crown is dog-friendly pub.

<http://crowninn.villagebrewer.co.uk>

Hard Times?

AS WE ARRIVED, the chimes from the church bell ringers stopped and we had our first sup of the evening, in peace with great expectations.

No music or TV at the **Glittering Star**, or any Samuel Smith pub - another attraction beyond the prices. We had a pleasant greeting from the landlady. It was a Monday, we were stoney broke so were on an economy crawl. £1.49 for the Old Brewery Bitter here, although a touch cold for me.

Around the corner to Crown Street and the sound of a quizmaster at the **William Stead**, a pub on the site of a previous bleak house. Daleside's old Lubrication at £1.85 was our choice from the five real ales available.

An uphill walk took us to the **Tanners Hall**, in Skinnergate where there is more than one old curiosity shop. There were plenty of customers. I had brought along two Wetherspoon vouchers, thus getting a pint of Abbot at £1.25 and Ruddles for 95 pence. A pal kept us occupied with a tale of two cities before we had to move on, Gordon still wanting more, like Oliver Twist.

We reached **Arden Street (Central) Club** in time to be treated to Jennings's Snecklifer, at £2.10 the priciest of the night but a bargain. Last time I was here was to sing a Christmas carol. No music tonight.

Over the night we had three-and-a-half pints each, at a total cost of £10.98. *Malcolm Dunstone*

**DETECT a thread running through this? How many examples are there? First correct answer wins a real ale prize: call Malcolm on (013250 362462.*

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Every Day
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Middleton in
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Keep on Nagging

THE NAG'S Head in Darlington's Tubwell Row has been renamed the 'Joseph Pease' and proclaims 'Now Selling Real Ales'.

The Echo's Mike Amos found none on his visit but our bar-fly reports better luck - in spite of first appearances...

"The one handpump had the pump clip turned round but Michelle, a very helpful barmaid from Essex, said it was because the beer was Greene King IPA and they did not have a pumpclip for it, only for the previous ale on Black Sheep, which had proved popular.

"I told her she won't sell much beer if the clip is turned round - and she pointed to a chalk board stating 'Guest Beer Greene King IPA', which I had not noticed. The guests are all £2.40 a pint. Apart from the front two bars there is a 'family room at the back."

15
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Thursdays throughout September

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* Three Real Ales *

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- Mike Amos, Northern Echo

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Campaigning on behalf of lovers of real ale

*Enjoy our superb range of up to Thirteen Real Ales plus Nine Continental Beers
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Bike & Bottle

DARLINGTON READER Brian Dixon took early retirement recently and, "thinking about this massive thing about to happen to me", set himself a "little project" to see where in the town he could find British bottle-conditioned beers - real ale in a bottle. This is what he found in a few days surveying on his bike.

BACK IN 2006, the 'Real Ale in and around Darlington & Teesdale' guide included a clause, 'the following also usually stock some bottled real ales'. Since then, that section of the guide has been dominated by Binns (now a suit clearance department) and the Ale Cellar (also sadly gone). So, I set out to find the current truth. I was pleasantly surprised.

I found the following retailers to have these British bottle-conditioned beer for sale. Strengths are given in percentage alcohol-by-volume (abv):

- **Asda** at Whinfield - Shepherd Neame 1698 (6.5) and Brakspear Triple (7.2).
- **The Co-op** at both Cockerton and Mowden - Freeminer Gold Miner (5).
- **Ken Warne** in Cleveland Terrace - Shepherd Neame 1698.
- **Marks & Spencer**, Northgate - St. Austell Cornish IPA (5), Caimgorm Scottish Ale (4.5), Cropton Yorkshire Bitter (4.6), Hepworth Sussex Golden Ale (3.8); another ale was temporarily out of stock.
- **Majestic** in Grange Road - Young's Bitter (4.5); minimum purchase eight bottles.
- **Morrisons** at Morton Park - Hopback Summer Lightning (5), Young's Kew Gold (4.8), Worthington White Shield IPA (5.6) and Fuller's 1845 (6.3).
- **Oddbins**, Grange Road - four Hobsons beers: Manor Ale (4.2), Town Crier (4.5), Postmans Knock (4.8) and Old Henry (5.2).



THE BLACK SWAN at Staindrop changed hands a few weeks ago - and one of the first acts of new landlord Steve McLoughlin was to introduce real ale: Black Sheep Ale to be precise. This is Steve's first pub after a career as a salesman but his wife has experience of catering, previously at the Baltic arts centre. Steve is hoping to install a second hand pump soon. Early readers of DD can catch the pub's first ever beer festival over the August bank holiday.

THE VANE ARMS at Long Newton has been named the North regional winner of Innserve's Best Cellar competition. The Vane was closed for two half years and badly neglected before being bought by local couple Jill and Paul Jackson. Jill said: "Being from the village we knew how important the pub was to the community. Having never had a pub before, to win the Regional Best Cellar was unbelievable!"

● **Sainsbury's** in Victoria Road - Young's London Special Ale (6.4) and Brakspear Triple (7.2).

I'm sure I'll have missed someone's business out, sorry!*

In my experience, at this time, it is not worth trying Foodco, Lidl, Mills or Tesco Express. Nor do the Hop & Grape sell bottle-conditioned beers, although there's ingredients aplenty!

The breadth of the strengths on offer in this format was 3.8 to 7.2%, which looks like 'something for everyone'. And this was without looking at non-British beer.

So, if you can't get to the pub for whatever reason, keep encouraging these retailers to stick with, or improve, the choices they currently offer. Perhaps, like the local, if there's a bottle-conditioned ale seller near you, it's a case of 'use it or lose it'.

*The Editor adds: we're delighted to say you have, Brian! See page 17.

Celebrity Snooker Night
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Winner of more professional snooker titles than any other player.

Six times World Champion

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Saturday 27th November

Tickets now on sale £20.00

Exhibition frames

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Special commemorative bottled beer available



Opposite the Odeon, above the motorbike showroom

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Cheese & Beer

IT MAY SURPRISE some, writes the aptly-named Chris Cheeseman, that there is a specialist Cheese and Wine Shop in Darlington. But as owner Terry Farr says, he's only been here ten years, so is still a recent incomer.

The name, however, belies the range of produce on sale. Not just cheese and wine, but other quality foods, rare ports, madeiras and spirit and - since this is Darlington Drinker - more recently beer.

Although a small selection compared to some, there are some unusual bottled beers, and one or two coups. From Belgium, there are Orval and Rochefort 10 Trappists and a wide range of other styles: Celis White, Poperings Hommel, Boon Geuze and Belgian Guinness Export.

From the USA there's Goose Island. And more locally Richmond Ales and, occasionally, Durham Brewery's bottle-conditioned ales.

The shop is also currently the sole stockist in the North of beers from the Kernel Brewery of Bermondsey, south-east London (www.thekernelbrewery.com). This is a new brewery whose output is all hand-crafted, bottle-conditioned beers. You can see Evin on YouTube filling, crowning and printing every bottle!

Kernel concentrate on pale ales, India Pale Ales (IPAs) and porters left for at least three months to develop in the bottle. Every week the recipe is altered to try a different hop type or strength. My favourites are the IPAs. All over 5%, lots of hop flavour and, remarkably for a bottled beer, retaining their head all the way down the glass.

**The Cheese & Wine Shop, 8 Clark's Yard, off High Row, Darlington, DL3 7QH. Closed Mondays. Tel. (01325) 384803. www.cheeseandwineshop.co.uk.*



CHEESE AND BEER: Darlington's 'surprise' package selling rare bottled real ales is secreted away in Clark's Yard, between High

Blaze at Oak Tree was Arson

FIVE MEN have been jailed after pleading guilty to arson, or conspiracy to commit arson, at the Oak Tree near Middleton St George in August last year.

They were sent down for periods of up to three-and-a-half years by Teesside Crown Court

The blaze caused more than £118,000 of damage.

John Bew, of Middleton St George, apparently feared losing the £4,000 he had invested in the business and hired a gang to torch the premises in the hope of benefiting from an insurance claim.

The court heard that the gang broke in and stole a plasma TV and drinks optics before smashing the pub up and setting it alight in an attempt to make it look like a burglary.

However, an investigation by the fire service and police found the cause of the blaze to be arson.



Ale Mail

Darlington Drinker 178
 Deceit by the Handpull
 A HANDPUMP on a bar counter is the sign of real ale. A guarantee of independence, living, reforming, beer drawn from an unpressurised cask. Beer with no additives.
 It was that in what beer drinkers think and buy.
 That, because they are so often a hand pump (aka 'handpull') of the beer name that it causes equally to a certain degree that the profit dispensed from a real ale (or 'cask' or 'cask conditioned') that only a few every pubman or pubwoman or brewer or brewer's wife...

DECEIT BY THE HANDPULL:

We were amazed at the Traveller's Rest story (DD178). We went to the T.R. on 28 May to attend a gig

in the upstairs room and drank the stuff dispensed up there by handpump, which was sold to us without narrative.

I didn't take my reading glasses to the bar to read the pumpclip. My thinking was "How great is that - Heineken have responded to CAMRA and customer pressure and brought cask Magnet back!"

I am humiliated and do not want to be the laughing stock of CAMRA or Darlo but, as for the T.R., I'm not setting foot in again, despite only just discovering what a good music venue that upper room is.

There are enough good landlords, tenants and owners out there interested in my custom without me financing one who takes the mickey out of me, thanks.

Please give my support to Karen and Andy and good luck with any campaign you may pursue to get officials or Heineken to see the point.

[NAME SUPPLIED], Darlington

WHAT A SUPERB article about the Keg 'Cask' Con, and what superb campaigning, especially by Karen and Andy Maughan. It takes real guts to 'pub'-licly stand up and be counted like that. Well done to them both, and I hope your branch considers them when choosing its Campaigner of the Year.

CHRIS DE CORDOVA, Cumbria

I AM STAGGERED that with 40 years of CAMRA real ale under the nation's belts



we have an Ale Denier for a Trading Standards Officer. Like the Judge who asked 'who are the Beatles?' there is no place for the uninformed in such a job.

Where do we go to complain about Trading Standards? Time to abandon the Banana Republic of Darlo and join a proper county. Waste of space

JOHN WILSON, Middleton One Row

MORRITT ARMS: Called in here for the Morritt's own cask ale - 'Major Morritt' - as in the ad in Darlington Drinker 178, expecting to find that like many other pubs/hotels, they are now brewing their own. Not so - it is brewed by Thwaites - but the pump clip does not say so! Perhaps you might suggest they make their ad a bit less misleading next edition?

CHRIS DE CORDOVA, Cumbria
 (The Morritt replies: "The provenance was made clear in in the accompanying story. There was never any intention to mislead." The Editor adds: DD tried to make the matter clearer in the story on page nine where we quoted the owner as saying that the beer was 'based on Thwaites Original'. Perhaps it wasn't clear enough; sorry.)

COMMUNITY PUBS: Partly thanks to your item in DD178, I went to the official opening of the community-owned George & Dragon at Hudswell, near Richmond. Worth proclaiming as a triumph, all round the North!

There was a CAMRA speaker at the ceremony, who shared the platform with the local activists (what a success story) and the Foreign Secretary!

The three beers were on form, from Black Sheep, Daleside and Darwin. The Skeey [Travellers Rest] folk were prominent, in their bright orange campaign T-shirts, but I'm not sure whether Government support for their cause was instantly offered!

BRIAN DIXON, Darlington



THE QUAYS

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now being served!



Anne and Peter would like to invite customers old and new to sample our changing range of cask ales from around the country

Homemade food served daily
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www.the-quays.info



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www.thebuckinn.net

BREWS, NEWS AND VIEWS

THE BLACK BULL at Melsonby, near Scotch Corner, has been bought from Admiral Inns by Sally Williamson. She is increasing the number of real ales to two and intends to serve some basic, local pub grub when the Bull's kitchen has been refurbished. Sally plans to also continue running her bed and breakfast business at Lucy Cross, just outside Aldbrough St John.

OTHER local pubs to have increased their number of handpumps are the **Black Horse** at Ingleton (from three to four) and the **George Hotel** at Piercebridge (up from two to four).

THE BEESWING at East Cowton has reopened after a brief closure. It now opens Monday and Tuesday evenings and all day Wednesday to Sunday. The real ales are Caledonian Deuchar's IPA, John Smith's Cask Bitter and a guest chosen from the Punch pub-chain list. Food is served lunch-times and evenings.

DIARY DATES - DARLINGTON CAMRA - DIARY DATES

- Fri 3 Sep** - **Bus to Shoulder of Mutton**, Kirby Hill Beer festival. Depart Feethams (opp. Town Hall) 7pm; details/bookings: Pete Fenwick (01325) 374817; (07792) 093245.
- Tues 7 Sep** - **Darlington Snooker Club**, cnr Northgate/Corporation Rd (ring bell). Darlington branch meeting, 7.30pm. All welcome.
- Fri 10 Sep** - **Rural coach crawl** to Lower Teesdale. Depart Feethams (opp. Town Hall) 7pm; details/bookings via Pete as above.
- Tues 5 Oct** - **Tap & Spile**, Bondgate (upstairs). Darlington branch meeting, 7.30pm. All welcome.
- Fri 8 Oct** - **Rural coach crawl** to nearby Durham County pubs. Depart Feethams (opp. Town Hall) 7pm; details/bookings via Pete as above.
- Tues 2 Nov** - **Old Yard Tapas Bar**, Bondgate (upstairs). Darlington branch meeting, 7.30pm. All welcome.

Darlington Drinker is published by the Darlington branch of CAMRA, the Campaign for Real Ale. Circulation 3,500. News, articles and letters welcome. All items © Darlington CAMRA but may be reproduced if source acknowledged. Editor: Brendan Boyle, 6 Clareville Road, Darlington DL3 8NG; (01325) 362092; email dd@idnet.com. Additional contributors this issue: Chris Cheeseman, Brian Dixon, Malcolm Dunsstone, Pete Fenwick, David Hill, Ian Jackson, Ted Mathewson, Andy & Karen Maughan. Advertising: Peter Everett (01325) 241388. Ad rates a snip at quarter-page £30, half page £50, full page £80; sixth consecutive insertion free. Branch website: www.darlocamra.org.uk. For colour PDF versions of Darlington Drinker see www.adrianbell.co.uk. CAMRA HQ is at 230 Hatfield Road, St Albans, Herts AL1 4LW; (01727) 867201; see www.camra.org.uk for all other real ale information.

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