

Spring 2009

Edition 36

LAKES & ALE



**WATERMILL INN, INGS
CAMRA WESTMORLAND PUB OF THE YEAR 2009**



**Newsletter of the
Westmorland Branch of
The Campaign for Real Ale**

www.camrawestmorland.org



Hawkshead pdf done

Editorial

This edition of Lakes & Ale as a slightly redesigned cover with a change of font, but it still contains all the usual reports and articles that regularly appear.

Congratulations to the Watermill, Ings for being voted Pub of the Year 2009 and to Tweedies Bar, Grasmere for gaining the runner-up place. Both awards, voted for by Branch Members, are very well deserved.

As summer???? approaches there are a good number of Beer Festivals (page 35) so lets hope the weather treats them all kindly.

The Branch AGM was well attended, (report page 7) and most officers were return unopposed. We should give our thanks to all concerned for their past efforts. Without such volunteers we would have no beer festival; no social trips, no one to help support & promote our wonderful local real ale outlets. There is much to do and we could do with a few more active volunteers to help out, so do contact us if you can spare some time to help maintain CAMRA's aims in Westmorland. Enjoy reading this Spring Edition. If you have any particular views, some moans, groans or interesting real ale stories please do send them in for publication. (contact details below).

Finally an apology from the last issue when in the Station Hotel article I missed out the name on one of the pictures so here it is again, with Vicky (not ????) in the middle at the POTS presentation.

Cheers ED



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From The Chair.....

Dear Reader

We thought you might like to know about Westmorland CAMRA's current news and future events.

Ale by Rail (Oxenholme to Windermere) and Beer by Bus (Ambleside - Langdale Valley) leaflets; take advantage of discounts on food and beer that 11 of 15 pubs featured are providing until 31/03/10. Available at www.camrawestmorland.org local Tourist Information Centres or send a stamped addressed envelope to Westmorland CAMRA C/O 84 Shap Road Kendal Cumbria LA8 9LN

- Our Westmorland membership has increased to 230. We are keen to recruit more real ale drinkers and to receive fresh ideas and interest from new and existing members.
- We now transport ourselves using Community Transport minibuses and have a set charge of £3 per trip, we are looking for someone to act as Transport Co-ordinator, if you are interested please telephone branch contact David 01539 732599
- Recent increase in CAMRA activity in the Appleby area has raised the potential for a sub-group; the Midland Hotel and members are organising a Beer Festival 19th to 21st June promoting 18 Ales and 2 Ciders.
- Interested in Brewing, as in 2007 we are going to brew a Festival Beer at the Prince of Wales Foxfield 15/16 August, this will be a fun / educative event, we will be able to taste the results at the above.

- Westmorland Beer Festival Kendal Town Hall 14th -17th Oct, over 50 Ales and 10 + Ciders/Perries help us by volunteering to make this years event an even greater success. We begin setting-up Sun 11th Oct.
- Cumbria Real Ale Guide (CRAG), you may already know Cumbria is a real gem for real ale pubs and local breweries. If you would like to visit more great pubs and also find out about the 23 breweries plus, we have in the County, then buy a copy of the Cumbria Real Ale Guide (CRAG). Available from many good real ale pubs or by contacting the editor, by post: Jim Chapple, 33 Castlegate Drive, Cockermouth CA13 9HD (Cheque for £5.95, incl. P&P, payable to "CAMRA Local Guide")
- As an income generator for the Cumbrian Branches and HQ we are developing an attractive Cumbrian Breweries Poster, look out for this on sale June onwards.

For more information on CAMRA meetings, Social Calendar, Beer Festivals please refer to our web site www.camrawestmorland.org

We are keen to increase activity in Westmorland CAMRA, if you have any ideas or would like to gain more information please contact me by phone on 01539 733859 or by email chrisjudith@yahoo.co.uk

Hoping to hear from you or see you at one of the above events,

Chris Holland

Westmorland CAMRA Chair

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 - Good Pub Guide 2009 listed
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DRIP TRAY NOTICE BOARD

The Ring O'Bells Kendal has reopened. There are up to four real ales all at £2.00 a pint as at publication date. Open from 7.00pm for large good value breakfasts. Give it a try!
The Eltermere Hotel, Elterwater, is in new ownership ; has been renovated and is still serving Cumbrian real ales.

The Landlord of the Oddfellows in Kendal has purchased the freehold and now serves real ale

The Ship at Sandside has new tenants (see page 33)

Following news on closures:
New Inn, Hoff & Bay Horse, Winton both still up for auction
The Golden Fleece, Brough is closed.
The Cross Keys, Tebay is up for sale.

Beers
New Hawkshead Beer (see p 42)
Dent Brewery Rambrau wins North West award (see p 39)



Westmorland Branch of CAMRA Annual General Meeting 11th May 2009

What a turn out!

The Branch AGM was enthusiastically attended including the energetic Appleby chapter and Ravenstonedale locals. The AGM followed by a regular branch meeting was hosted by the Black Swan in Ravenstonedale and the size of the turn out kept CAMRA committee members, other members and hotel staff busy, collecting extra chairs

A year of notable achievements

Chairman Chris Holland reported on a year of notable achievements including a record breaking 2008 Westmorland Beer Festival (re-designed bar area, soft drinks for the first time, an increased charitable donation and a major boost from sponsors to the festival funds). The surge in Appleby activity was encouraging and Lakes and Ales readers in the Appleby area who want to get involved including the forthcoming beer festival at the Midland (by the Station 20th June) should contact David Prickett on davidprickett@btinternet.com or 01768352548

A new Westmorland brewery

Kirkby Lonsdale's 'Orange Brewery' has



just opened and AGM/Branch meeting delegates who have had the opportunity to try the beers spoke warmly in support of this new venture. More on this exciting new Brewery next issue.

News from established brewers is generally encouraging with Tirril and others reporting growth and Dent reporting an award winning track record - try Ram-

brau the NW regional winner! - there are now 27 micro breweries in the county.

A Cumbrian breweries poster is in development - which will raise awareness of the excellent diversity of county brewed ale and raise funds for the group.

Membership up, Publicity programme increasing

Membership continues to grow, up to 228 (10% growth!) members and the overall goal to continue to grow our membership is stimulated by the impressive publicity programme which has developed two new leaflets - Ale by Rail and Beer by Bus (plus posters promoting the leaflets), increasing frequency of newsletters and publicity to promote beer festivals including the new 'Langdale' festival (focused around the number 516 bus) and the recent Westmorland Shopping centre Festival.

All hard working officers on the committee have demonstrated their continuing commitment and accepted re-election to their posts plus the committee welcomes a new worker Duncan Crabtree who will begin work as the Branch Contact. Volunteers are always needed to help spread the workload - so if Lake and Ales readers would like to be part of the branch success do please contact Duncan (d.p.crabtree@btinternet.com) or our Branch Chairman Chris Holland on chrisjudith@yahoo.co.uk

to see how your talents can be put to best use!

Heroic

A great programme of 2009 events is planned (see page 35) and a very



(Continued on page 33)

Route A66



On the day before the spring equinox a party of intrepid CAMRA members set off to explore the north eastern area of the Branch using the A66 Penrith to Scotch Corner road as a guide. There were several pubs just off that road that we had not visited for sometime and now was the time we put that right.

We started out at Brough, now officially bypassed by the main A66 but the old road still goes through this market town



The Castle Hotel; Brough

with its well known castle and wide main street.

We alighted outside the **Golden Fleece** which has recently had a bit of a make-



The Golden Fleece; Brough

over and where Damien, the landlord, gave us a friendly welcome. The pub, with its large L-shaped bar, was not too busy it being a Monday night but the two beers on that evening, Wychwood Hobgoblin and Marston's Pedigree were very acceptable .

A few of us then crossed the road to visit the **Castle Hotel**. Being a hotel it had a variety of rooms downstairs the business ones being the cosy bar of the entrance hall from which there is access to a large bar with its separate street entrance. We arrived at just the wrong time as there was only one of the



The Chamley Arms; Warcop

two hand pumps on—this serving Black Sheep Bitter. The pub was quite busy with a dominoes game underway.

No time to spare as there was a long way still to go, so off we went to the **Chamley Arms** at Warcop arriving as darkness set in. A smallish pub, it has one L-shaped bar area and is evidently well used by the personnel from the

(Continued on page 10)

THE SUN @ CONISTON

(first stop after Coniston Old Man)

5 BREWS AND A VIEW

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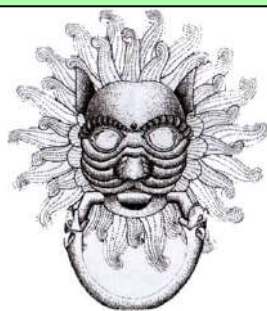
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(Continued from page 8)

Army Based very near by. Being a tied Thwaites pub the beers on offer were Thwaites Bomber and Thwaites Original both acceptable.

Then all piled back in the minibus so capably driven by our Chairman Chris to



Ken, Chris, Ivor, Alan & Jenny enjoying a pint in the Sandford Arms

the hamlet of Sandford, on the old Roman Road from Appleby to Brough. There we called into the appropriately named **Sandford Arms**. This was a beautifully refurbished pub run by a CAMRA member, Stephen Porter.

The beers on offer were Lancaster Amber, Tirril Amber Ale & Black Sheep Bitter. The beer quality was terrific as you would expect from a pub with Cask



The entrance through the court yard to the Sandford Arms glows warmly as we arrive late into the evening



Chairman Chris Holland with John at the bar in the George & Dragon

Marque accreditation. Stephen told us that he gets his guest beers in pins (four & a half gallons) instead of the normal 9 gallon firkin so that his beers were always on form. This pub we all agreed was a great new find. It has two bar areas and a one of these leads into a spacious dining room. The range of food looked excellent and we watched in envy at the eight young diners finishing their delicious smelling meal. A pet parrot sat in a corner cage but was not inclined to speak to us at all!

Time was now quite late and on dashing further north along the A66 we arrived at the next pub, The Bridge, to find it shut no doubt being very quiet at that time on a Monday night. So, to make up, we continued up the Penrith and cut back down the A6 (well it is nearly the same number!) to arrive at the George & Dragon at Clifton. This pub has recently had a complete, (and we mean complete) renovation. All new fittings and everywhere sparkling in new paint, yet still full of character. The Bar was open and we found Lancaster Blonde and Hawkshead Red available. John the bar supervisor told us that they hope to soon have another hand pump in operation with a rotating Cumbrian Ale. Again another real 'find'.

(Continued on page 14)

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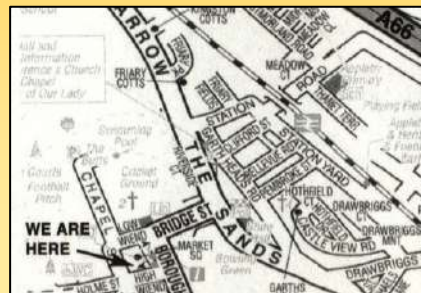
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PUB OF THE YEAR 2009 THE WATERMILL INN, INGS

Easter Saturday was a busy day for CAMRA Westmorland. We have been blessed with a wonderful array of beer festivals within our area throughout the year, but it turned out that the new kid on the block: The Westmorland Shopping Centre beer festival coincided with presentation day for our branch's worthy winner of the Pub of the Year (POTY) award – The Watermill Inn at Ings whose own beer festival was being held over Easter.

Many branch stalwarts felt themselves duty-bound to attend both! That brought the dilemma of whether to make the presentation to Brian Coulthwaite, owner and brewer at The Watermill, in the afternoon or the evening. With a little lateral thinking it was decided to make two POTY presentations – one in the afternoon for those members from the outer areas of our branch to attend,

and another in the evening when their beer festival would be in full swing. Simple!

Voting for Pub of the Year is quite a



Above: Brian Coulthwaite receives his POTY 2009 Certificate from Westmorland CAMRA Branch President Alan Risdon in company with Juan Kinley.



Brian & Denise behind some of the many pumps on the bar

precise activity using a very fair set of criteria to judge all contenders. This means that pubs with merely a good following from branch members but with few attributes recognised by national criteria could not unfairly win against the odds. We are proud as a branch to have a fair few pubs in our area that stand out when judged by national standards – and pre-eminent among them is the Watermill. This village inn hits all the right notes for us (and hopefully will win through as the overall Cumbria winner to go forward to Region).

Brian and his late father, Alan – a former president of CAMRA Westmorland set up this Inn over eighteen years ago

(Continued on page 14)




THE OLD DUNGEON GHYLL HOTEL GREAT LANGDALE

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(Continued from page 12)

with an outstanding permanent range of sixteen real ales on sale at any one time. In recent years Brian has been able to achieve his father's longstanding wish for the Watermill to brew its own range of beers on site. All "doggie" themed beers – four permanent with additional seasonal ales supporting – have been well received by locals and visitors alike and the number of awards they have received from CAMRA beers festivals around the country testifies to their quality.



The Watermill's Brewery



Above: congratulations to Brian from CAMRA Members Tony Jackson; Steve Walker; Alan Risdon; Juan Kinley and Duncan Crabtree

If you are impressed by "green" credentials, then check out the Watermill. It brews on site (cutting down its carbon footprint for supply); it has its own herd of cattle reared locally and fed on the spent grains from brewing - who in turn appear on the menu as prime local beef! The Watermill also supports CAMRA national campaigns and initiatives, like ensuring a full pint measure by using over-sized glasses. All this and a warm and welcoming atmosphere make the Watermill "beer heaven". We wish them all the best for the national recognition they deserve. MM

(Continued from page 10)



The George & Dragon; Clifton

So with midnight fast approaching the dedicated small band of members 'forced' to go and drink beer in the name of CAMRA surveying boarded their minibus back to Kendal and Am-

bleside. Well somebody has to do it!



Ken Bates looking for his way home!

CONISTON BREWING CO.



EST. 1995

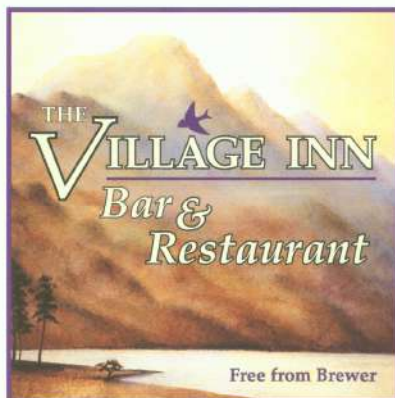
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Steve and Angie look forward to seeing you

Return to Kendal

We moved to Kendal at the end of last year and for me it was a return as I'd lived here in the mid 70s. Cumbria and the Lake District in particular, remain much the same but there is one major improvement, the range of beers. What a fantastic selection of excellent brews we have to chose from, if ever CAMRA's efforts need demonstrating, this is it.

I arrived in 1975 from Derby, a recent convert and CAMRA member, to work for the Ribble bus company. My new friends were keen to show me the lovely pubs on offer and it took some diplomacy to get over that most of their beers were dreadful. Many places, like the Punch Bowl at Crosthwaite served up an unspeakable product churned out by Whitbread at Salmesbury. I recall some pubs, the Lancastrian in Ulverston I think was one, that served it up by electric pumps which calmed it down a bit but revealed its true horror. It is testament to real ales of the day that, as I pursued my missionary work, the message was enthusiastically received. The end result was that we drove miles for a real pint.

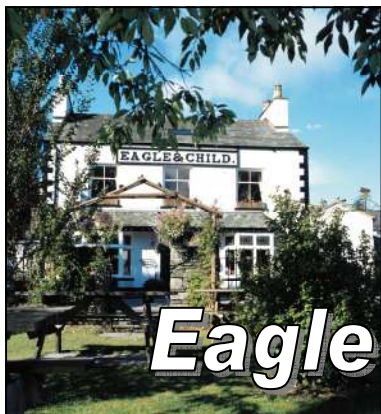
A particular favourite lunch stop on the way to Ulverston was the Outgate Inn, a Hartley's house. Well that's the way I went anyway. A sandwich and a pint of XB, probably my favourite of all time, set me up for whatever came along. I kept noticing a sign to the Drunken Duck and one day decided to investigate. As I drove slowly past, there was a barrel on the bar. In a trice I was in to discover it was Old Peculiar, then probably the most revered beer in the UK, at 38p a pint, and it soon became a firm favourite. It had a slightly scruffy interior. How times change.

We could drink in Kendal. The White Hart was then a cosy little pub serving excellent Hartley's XB. As it was all in wooden barrels the occasional one would mature the beer to a high degree. I remember the landlord one night greeting us with " Lads, its Hartley's Old Peculiar tonight ". It was gorgeous. The Ring O' Bells, sadly now closed, was another splendid place. You sat in the lounge and rang a bell set on the table and either Ernie Nightingale's identical brother or his twin brother would appear to take your order for Vaux's Lorimer's Best Scotch. Ernie was in charge of our delightful slate built bus depot in Ambleside and after work was usually found in the famous Golden Rule, then as now almost the perfect pub. Many years after leaving Kendal, I called into the Golden Rule and there was Ernie. " How are you ? " I asked. " Nicely Roger " came the reply, it was as if I'd never been away.

The Queen's Head at Troutbeck was another popular haunt, It's four poster was a feature then too but it was legendary for its chip butties, consumed with glee in front of the every day of the year log fire. Food's moved on a bit. As has the Gents.

I know its a bit out of the area but mention must be made of Carlisle. Here the famous state brewery had ceased in 1970 and its pubs taken over by Courage and Greenall Whitley. Locals started complaining that the beer wasn't so good so in a move typical of brewers of the day, all the handpumps were ripped out and the city became almost total fizz. My regular visits were only made bearable by a tiny backstreet local, the only outpost of Jennings in the city. More exotically, holidaying in Barbados

(Continued on page 19)



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www.eaglechildinn.co.uk

(Continued from page 17)

in 1981, I was delighted to find a Hartleys barrel symbol on a bar wall. How I miss that brewery's identity.

But, wipe away the tear, despite that, they were not the good old days in many ways and now, think how lucky we are. I'm able to visit pubs like the Brotherswater, the Kirkstone, the Mason's Arms at Strawberry Bank, and many more, and know I will enjoy a decent pint of local ale.

It doesn't end there.

After leaving Kendal, I moved to Chat-ham, swapping the River Kent for the County. Thankfully Shepherd Neame ales were widely available but it was still a bit dire. So were relationships between my new bus company and a ma-

jor local authority and I arranged my first meeting with them with some trepidation. On my desk was my Kendal horn pen holder, a clock set in slate and a Hartley's beer mat. The senior council man came in, looked at the beer mat and asked where I'd got it. I explained. He then said " You probably don't know the place, but we go to the Lakes frequently and stay in a little pub called the Outgate Inn ". Relationships improved immediately.

Roger Davies 5/09

(Roger is a new member to this Branch but not new to CAMRA having joined much earlier. Roger, who has just returned from a spell in the USA, may well be able to contribute some future articles on Kendal days and a look at the beer scene in the USA ED.)

The Cumbria Real Ale Guide (CRAG)

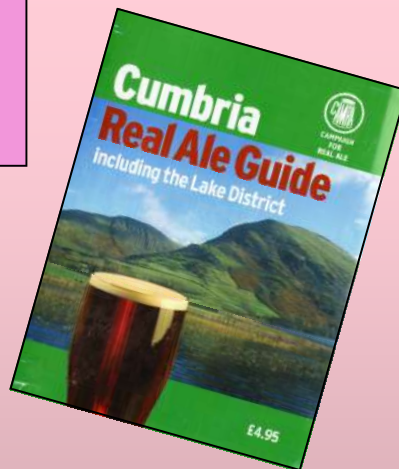
The perfect birthday present for those with summer birthdays and an essential coffee table item for all B and B's, Hotels, Pubs and tourist attractions anticipating the much forecast super summer.

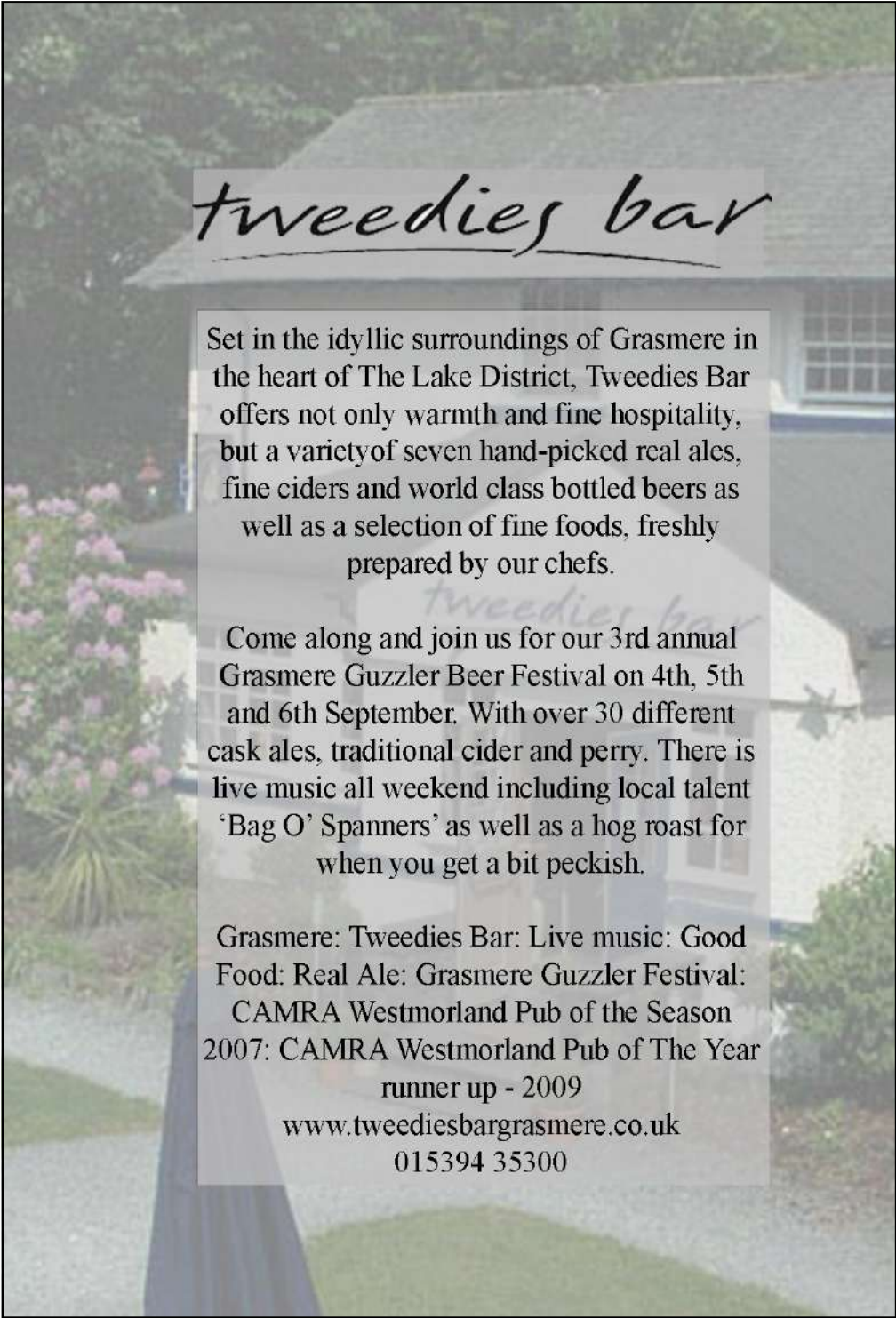
The CRAG guide (voted best CAMRA local Guide noted for it's design) is the only comprehensive guide to real ale pubs in Cumbria.

With 27 microbrewers in the county, creating unique Cumbrian ales to slake the thirst of walkers, cyclists and other holiday makers - the Cumbrian holiday experience will now be complete with a copy of the guide in every tourist pocket.

And the good news is that there are still some copies available - so here is a special appeal to B and B's, Hotels and Tourist venue's to order a stock of the CRAG now while stocks last - your visitors will be very grateful when they find the summer pub they want with the refreshing ale they need after a hot days holiday making! An if as a beer lover you want your own copy contact us on our website

www.camrawestmorland.org





tweedies bar

Set in the idyllic surroundings of Grasmere in the heart of The Lake District, Tweedies Bar offers not only warmth and fine hospitality, but a variety of seven hand-picked real ales, fine ciders and world class bottled beers as well as a selection of fine foods, freshly prepared by our chefs.

Come along and join us for our 3rd annual Grasmere Guzzler Beer Festival on 4th, 5th and 6th September. With over 30 different cask ales, traditional cider and perry. There is live music all weekend including local talent 'Bag O' Spanners' as well as a hog roast for when you get a bit peckish.

Grasmere: Tweedies Bar: Live music: Good Food: Real Ale: Grasmere Guzzler Festival: CAMRA Westmorland Pub of the Season 2007: CAMRA Westmorland Pub of The Year runner up - 2009

www.tweediesbargrasmere.co.uk
015394 35300

Westmorland CAMRA Runner Up Pub of the year 2009 Tweedies Bar, Grasmere

The Runner-up in the Westmorland CAMRA Branch Pub of the Year Award was the excellent Tweedies Bar, which is part of the Dale Lodge Hotel situated in Grasmere.

When presenting the award Branch President Alan Risdon to Alex Goodall & Laura recognised the continuing support of Tweedies to the CAMRA in promoting all that was best in providing an excellent range of real ales.

Tweedies has been noted in the past for its association with good Scottish real ale, and hoped that despite some supplier problems such a range of ales



could continue. Tweedies is looking forward to its 3rd Annual Grasmere Guzzler beer festival in early September with over 30 guest ales on offer



Congratulations to all who help make Tweedies an excellent real ale bar and a great advert for all that CAMRA stands for.

WESTMORLAND BREWERIES 2—Tirril Brewery

The second in our series of reports on the Breweries of Westmorland focuses this time on the Tirril Brewery run by Chris Tomlinson.

felt that a real ale brewery should have a certain feel & look about it which was in sympathy with the products being brewed. So, reluctantly Chris sold the Queens Head (what



The Tirril Brewery located in the restored 'Red Barn'

Originally Chris was the owner and Head Chef of the very successful Queen's Head Hotel located in the small Lakeland village of Tirril which is near Pooley Bridge at the southern end of Ullswater.

In September 1999, Chris decided to resurrect a brewery in Tirril after the previous one had been closed for exactly 100 years. At first the brewery was erected at the rear of the Queens Head but so popular was the beers produced that a move to bigger premises at Brougham Hall nearby.

But the business continued to grow and eventually Chris decided that a new purpose built Brewery was required. He did not want to move to some ubiquitous factory unit on a trading estate as he

a loss!) and bought the current premises in Long Mar-

ton. Here both the house and big barn at the rear were in need of considerable restoration and improvement work, but Chris has worked very hard to restore the Grade II

listed red sandstone barn but with made to measure brewery equipment from Canada installed inside and also he has worked to make the house at



Brewery side entrance

(Continued on page 23)

least habitable for his young family.

In July 2007 production commenced at the new state of art Brewery. The brew plant can produce 20 barrels or 2160 pints of beer each week all mostly delivered to Cumbria and north Lancashire. English hops are sourced from Worcestershire. Ably assisted by 'Flash' and James the Brewery is making steady progress despite the recession and has just introduced a brand new bitter which has received a very warm welcome. Called Wainwright knew my father..... It is a pale, amber gently hopped bitter at 3.8% Why the name you might ask?

This ale is actually brewed by Chris's wife Alyson to ensure the truth behind the name is correct, for it was Alison's father Peter who did indeed know AW. The famous author and walker we all probably know by now started work in Blackburn and it was here that Alyson's granddad, (Peter's father), worked alongside AW. So the brewer, Alison, can indeed say Wainwright Knew my Father.....

The Tirril logo of a big brass knocker derives from the 'Monster' door knocker on Brougham Hall, which themselves were a matching pair to Durham Cathedral's sanctuary knockers

There is a good portfolio of beer styles in being, namely:

- John Bewsher's Best Bitter 3.8%
- Thomas Slee's Academy Ale 4.2% a dark malty ale
- Charles Gough's Old Faithful 4.0% pale well hopped summer ale
- Brougham Ale 3.9% an amber bitter
- 1823 full-bodied session bitter
- Red Barn 4.4% Strong red ruby ale
- Amber's ale 4.2% Golden seasonal summer ale.

We wish Tirril Brewery every success, they are helping to keep the flag flying for Westmorland Ales!



Above: Chris in the Brewery
Right: James filling casks full of Academy ale



DOWN YOUR WAY - ARNSIDE & SANDSIDE

There is a part of old Westmorland that is tucked right away from the main highways yet is only a relative stones throw from the hear of the southern lakes. It is by-passed by many visitors as they rush from the south to get to their Mecca -the Lakes.

But if you just turn down the B5282 from Milnthorpe you will soon be alongside the estuary where the Kent flows into Morecambe Bay and where the incoming tide is said to be faster than man or horse can run.

Soon you are approaching the picturesque village that is Arnside. It lies just a mile or so from the Lancashire border and after bearing right under the railway bridge you will soon approach the first of two well kept pubs that are on the estuary front. Unfortunately they are both ties Thwaites pubs and whilst Thwaites do provide excellent ales, (especially their Wainwright's) it would have been nice to have a wider choice of real ales.



The jetty & sands at Arnside



Jenny at the Fighting Cocks bar



The Fighting Cocks

The first pub is the **Fighting Cocks**. It has a large imposing frontage with a good sized high level beer garden to the south west with a children's play area and from which there are very good views of the sands and the railway viaduct. Inside there is a large pleasant bar with a good sized restaurant off to one side in the white building. The pub has been run by Lesley & Mike for almost five years now and they always have two Thwaites cask ales on sale. On this visit it

(Continued on page 26)

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(Continued from page 24)

was Thwaites Original and Thwaites Wainwrights although Bomber does also



The view from the Fighting Cocks

figure now & then.

There is live music every Saturday night and sometimes on a Friday; the pub has good accommodation available for visitors to the area.

But a few hundred yards along the promenade, and past the little row of very local shops, (including an excellent baker), is the second pub in Arnside.

This pub also has excellent estuary views. Called **The Albion** and facing more towards Morecambe Bay the incoming tide is noticed earlier from the well placed front beer garden high up above the roadside. You can start a pint with the tide out and fin-



The view from the beer garden at the Albion

ish with the tide well in if you get there just at the right time and sup slowly.

John & Lynn have managed the pub for nine years and have built up, in that



Lorraine is a long time fixture behind the Albion bar

time, an enviable reputation with local people in respect of their charity work. Unfortunately this may well soon come



The Albion and its Beer Garden

to an end. The lease is up for sale at a price that John & Lynn can't really afford in present circumstances. So, despite a well publicised appeal to Thwaites it looks very much that as usual the big breweries will not listen to local views and change, (for better or worse) may well take place.

The pub was refurbished in 2001 and boasts on the right a typical lounge bar and on the left a bar/restaurant area. The excellent beers were as to be expected from the Thwaites being

(Continued on page 33)

ALEXANDER'S

THE PUB



ALEXANDER'S PUB WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1997 AND IS SITUATED IN THE GROUNDS OF THE CASTLE GREEN HOTEL IN KENDAL. BUILT FROM AN OLD BARN WITH A LARGE CONSERVATORY OVERLOOKING KENDAL CASTLE AND THE LAKELAND FELS, THE PUB BOASTS A TRADITIONAL PUB MENU AND A SPECIAL STEAK BOARD WITH FOOD SOURCED LOCALLY.

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Supported by CAMRA (Westmorland branch)

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11am -11pm	11am -11pm	11am-10:30pm

15 Real Ales + 2 Ciders + 1 Lager

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(Including Local Cheese Counter)

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Situated adjacent to Appleby Railway Station on the scenic Carlisle to Settle line

ON THE FRINGES.....

The village of Nateby stands about a mile south of Kirkby Stephen at the meeting point of the roads leading down to Swaledale and Garsdale. Opposite the junction sits the

BLACK BULL, NATEBY

with its old AA Village sign on the wall.



It is ideal as a base for exploring both the Yorkshire Dales and the Lake District national Parks, as five refurbished

bedrooms are now open.

For the past eighteen months or so the pub has been managed by Rebecca and Richard together with his brother Robert. They are very ably assisted by Charlotte who has been working there for some five years.

Entering through the front door you are welcomed into the snug bar from which, on the right, is the main lounge bar. When using the lounge or snug you really do have to take a pew since the seating consists of old pews recovered from a Chapel in Dent.



The Lounge Bar with its reclaimed pews.

Rebecca told me that they are very keen to supply local ales from Cumbria and the North West and in addition to Tetley cask for the locals they usually have two changing guest real ales, one of which is normally from Tirril. The beer on my visit was in excellent condition and it was washed down a fabulous BLT sandwich with all the trimmings; great value for money!

A good selection of bar snacks was complemented by lunchtime and evening meals



Charlotte pulling an excellent pint

which were available during opening hours, all using local produce wherever possible.

The pub opens all day on Saturdays and Sundays but from noon until 2pm and then 6pm till closing for the rest of the

week. Rebecca allows dogs to bring their owners providing they behave themselves. So if you are passing near to Kirkby Stephen why not take the small detour out to Nateby for a visit to the Black Bull It will be worth the effort

The extreme north eastern border of old Westmorland includes the western edge of the Pennine range of mountains. One of the last inhabited outposts in this area is the picturesque village of

(Continued on page 30)

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Duften, resplendent in the beautiful red sandstone so redolent of this part of Westmorland. A traditional Methodist village, it never the less possesses a gem of a pub,

THE STAG, DUFTON



The Stag at Duften

The pub was built in 1703 and has always been a hostelry. It stands in the heart of Duften on the edge of its wide and well groomed village green and nestle under the appropriately named Duften Pike. The original Pennine Way passes across the back of the pub though most walkers no doubt detour to sample the well stocked bar and extensive food menu. The front entrance leads you into a L-shaped lounge bar



Andrea behind the lounge bar

with its two cosy fires, one a splendid example of a blacked cast iron range.



The village green, water pump and the Stag

From the bar you pass through the dining room of some two dozen covers, and a

patio door leads to a large and well maintained beer garden will ample seating and terrific views of the Pennines. The food is all local and prepared to order.

For the past five years the Stag, a free house, has been owned and managed by Andr a and David together with family members Mike & Tracey. They fully



The Beer Garden

support CAMRA and real ale and normally have 3 real ale hand pumps in summer and one in the quieter winter period. The Stag holds annual beer festivals in the beer garden and the next is due on 31st July to 2nd August.2009. Whilst a visit to Duften and the surrounding area is worthwhile in itself you would be foolish indeed if you failed to stop at the Stag.

Titus O,Newt



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THE RIFLEMAN'S ARMS

The village green pub at the top of the hill



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Cumbria

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Email: johnliroper@hotmail.co.uk

- Opening Hours: 6pm - midnight
Mon to Fri; 12 noon - 12midnight Sat & Sun
- Four real ales on hand pump,
always in sparkling form
- Live folk music Thursday nights
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- Always a warm welcome from landlord John

CAMRA
Pub of the Season
Winter 2007/8

Queens PDF done

Thwaites Original; Bomber & Wainwrights.

On returning to Milnthorpe, just after the turning to Storth village is the area known as Sandside which again fronts onto the estuary front and which before Beeching had its own little station on the now closed line from Arnside to Oxenholme. At the apex of a bend in the road sits the distinctive **Ship Inn**. Originally this article was just going to relate to Arnside since the Ship Inn had recently appeared to be in trouble and may not have been trading. So a stop was made to find out if this once popular pub was going to be yet another casualty of the high Beer Taxes and current recession.

What a welcome surprise was awaiting; the pub was indeed still running and for the time of day quite busy.

It transpires that the Ship Inn has changed hands and has just opened un-



der new Landlords Tracy Fielding and her daughter Alexandra. They have had experience of a real ale pubs in the past and have some great visions for the future development of The Ship. The pub, we were told, was to be refurbished, including the bedroom accommodation and the restaurant was to specialise in fish dishes. Another area of the bar was to be refitted with comfortable & up-to-date modern seating.

It is early day yet but this was a good piece of news for real ale drinkers and hopefully another great pub is to arise on the fringes of old Westmorland. CAMRA Westmorland wishes them well in their venture.

So that is the scene along the B5282. It is a beautiful area of Westmorland much different from the visions of lakes and hill that is conjured up. It is well worth a visit, if only to see which of the three pubs **you** prefer. DC

special vote of thanks was expressed for the 'driving heroes' who volunteer to get their fellow members to events in the community transport - an essential component of each social evening's success. And the AGM/Branch meeting was such an evening!

Table of officers

<u>Chairman</u>	Chris Holland
<u>Vice Chairman</u>	David Butler
<u>Treasurer</u>	Tony Jackson
<u>Secretary; Webmaster & L&A Editor</u>	David Currington
<u>Branch Contact</u>	Duncan Crabtree
<u>Membership Secretary & Pubs Officer</u>	Ivor Chittenden
<u>Press, Publicity & Public Affairs</u>	Marion Molloy

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O'Neil & Petrie pdf done



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an imaginary
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Available from
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(dadcurrington@hotmail.com)



EVENTS DIARY & BEER FESTIVALS

4th to 7th June Boot Beer Festival, in the Pubs of Boot. More details at:
<http://www.bootbeer.co.uk/>

8th June, Brch Social; Pub Surveys, Underbarrow to Levens via Lyth Valley. Minibus leaves Kendal Bus Stn 7.30pm. Contact David (01539) 732599
dadcurrington@hotmail.com

5th and 6th June Keswick Beer Festival, at a Marquee at Keswick Rugby Club. More details at: <http://www.keswickbeerfestival.co.uk/>

17th - 23rd June 1st Beer Festival Midland Hotel Appleby

12th to 14th June Brewers Weekend, at Prince of Wales, Foxfield. More Details at: <http://www.princeofwalesfoxfield.co.uk/events.html>

13th July Brch Meeting Sandford Arms, Sandford, Brough. 8pm
minibus leaves Kendal bus station 7.00pm. **23rd to 26th July** Hawkshead Brewery Sumer Beer Festival, at the Beer Hall, Staveley. More details at :
<http://www.hawksheadbrewery.co.uk/>

31st July to 2nd August Beer Festival at The Stag Dufton.

10th August Social Visit; Kirkby Lonsdale Brewery. Bus leaves Kendal 7.15pm Contact David (01539) 732599 dadcurrington@hotmail.com

4th to 6th September Tweedies Bar Grasmere go to <http://www.tweediesbargrasmere.co.uk>



For information or
Bookings contact:

Ed or Lee

Tel: (015394) 36372

www.kingsarmshawkshead.co.uk

HAWKSHEAD, AMBLESIDE, CUMBRIA

This traditional Lakeland Inn with oak beams and open fire in the bar, offers a warm welcome to all. Light snacks and bar meals are served between 12-2.30 and 6-9.30 daily and are complimented by a choice of 4 cask ales. Situated in the delightful village of Hawkshead, the Kings Arms makes an ideal base to tour the surrounding National Park. Accommodation either Bed and Breakfast or in one of 3 Self Catering Cottages, available all year round.

☆☆☆ SPECIAL MID-WEEK BREAKS ☆☆☆

Hawkshead Brewery Ales always on tap
Coniston Brewery's Bluebird Bitter—CAMRA Champion Beer of Britain
regularly available here at the 'Kings'

Keswick PDF Adv done

Visit to Sportsman, Cowgill; Dent Brewery & George & Dragon, Dent.

Approximately ^{t w o} ^{d o z e n} local people and visitors for the surrounding area. The pub has been owned for many years by Ron & Sandra and they have certainly provided a brilliant watering hole for weary hikers in the valley as can be seen from the picture of CAMRA members on a Hike & Pint walk a couple of years ago!



Whilst we were in the Dent area we decided to meet at the 17th century Sportsman's Inn at Cowgill, the hamlet at the bottom of the hill that leads up to Dent Station. Several of our members had visited the pub in the recent past and remarked on the great quality of the beers on offer. The Sportsman is a free house and a true village local serving as a focal point for all the needs of

where Bob Dobson showed us around, all very interesting but we were all really



Above: Ron & Sandra at their bar.
Above right: David Butler, Mike & Marilyn Molloy supping at The Sportsman.
Right: Bob Dobson at Dent Brewery.



(Continued on page 39)

A Brief History of the Pub

"There is nothing which has yet been contrived by man, by which so much happiness is produced as by a good tavern or inn" Samuel Johnson

Pubs have been a vital element of British community life for many hundreds of years. Pubs have been in existence since at least the eleventh century when almost every other household welcomed passers-by to drop in and refresh themselves with a tankard of the local brew.

Like the church, pubs were central to the life of a community. Indeed many early public houses came into being because of the need to provide church builders with a place of relaxation. As time moved on, the responsibility of inn keeping passed to local lords of the manor. This partly explains why many inn signs and names reflect important local or national aristocratic names or heraldic symbols. 'The Red Lion' remains the most common pub name, and many of these date back to the sixteenth century.

Coaching inns, many of which still exist on key routes, declined in importance in the nineteenth century when the railways became the most prominent form of transport. In the Victorian era, large extravagant pubs became the norm and thousands of examples of these fine buildings still exist on the street corners of most towns and cities. The industrial revolution also marked the creation of large regional brewers which bought up pubs in their area and began to supply them with their own beer. Publicans became tenants, paying low levels of rent to brewer landlords and agreeing, in return, to exclusively sell their beer. The pub 'tie' was born and this remains an important aspect of the pub scene today.

But not all was rosy for the future of the pub. During the end of the last century and throughout the First World War, drinking alcohol became a major social and moral issue and this led to the creation of controls and licensing laws to protect the British public from the evils of alcohol abuse. Indeed the licensing hours which resulted from this have only recently been changed in the new Licensing Act in England and Wales.

During the inter-war period methods of transport continued to influence the type and

style of new pubs. As the motor car grew in importance, so too did the popularity of roadside inns reflecting the art-deco design preference of the time. During the late 1960s and early 1970's 'merger fever' led to the creation of six huge national companies which spelled the end of many regional and family brewers. Companies like Bass and Whitbread began to merge with and buy out other brewers and their pub estates in a quest for market power.

Throughout the 1980's the majority of pubs were in the control of a handful of companies. Many of the traditional names and regional pub identities began to disappear as companies tried to segment the market. The themed or concept pub was born and establishing corporate identity on a national scale changed the face of the pub scene forever. Pubs no longer existed only to serve local communities, but became 'destination pubs' offering a similar experience to an increasingly sophisticated customer.

At the end of the 1980's the extent of the market power of the big brewers led to a government investigation which aimed to restrict this power. But the resulting legislation was a watered down version of the recommendations of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission report. Restricting the number of pubs big brewers could own and tie meant that many thousands of pubs were put up for sale in the early 1990's. This led to the creation of several large non-brewing pub-companies which invariably signed supply deals with the selling brewers. It did not lead to more choice for consumers as initially intended and served only to accelerate the move towards managed concept pubs.

A pub can never serve to meet the needs of all people. But modern investment trends have led to our high streets becoming saturated with large themed pubs which are often aimed at the high-spending under 25 year old group. Lack of investment in local community pubs continues to threaten their survival, as owning companies plough millions into the development of short-term concepts to please a fickle group of customers who will soon move onto the next popular theme..

Acknowledgement to CAMRA members Website

(Continued from page 37)

more bothered about getting to the next port of call at the George and Dragon in Dent. There Gary had very kindly arranged some excellent hot & cold snacks and most importantly of all had on his pumps each of the current Dent Beers plus two new ones. One of these new ones was the Dent Station Porter which was very popular. An great night out was had by all and it was especially pleasing to have the chance to meet our CAMRA colleagues from the Appleby area, we must do it again!



Appleby members David Prickett & Ralph Wood testing the brews at the bar



Above: Gary Kirkby, manager of the George & Dragon gets ready to serve some of great selection of Dent ales . Below: Westmorland Branch President Alan Risdon presents Bob & Gary with a Branch Certificate of appreciation for the hospitality shown.



A POSTSCRIPT.....

In early May the Branch were informed by CAMRA West Pennines Region that Dent's Rambrau had been voted

Champion Speciality Beer of the North West 2009

This is a tremendous and well deserved result for Dent Brewery; the longest running Brewery in our Branch. We therefore returned soon afterwards to present the award to Paul Goodyear (Head Brewer) and Judith Beeley (Brewery Owner). A great well done from CAMRA Westmorland and another shot in the arm for the great beers that are produced in Westmorland!



Above Alan Risdon presents th Award to Head Brewer Paul Goodyear

The poster features a light blue background with a repeating pattern of the festival's logo. At the top, the word 'DENTDALE' is written in a large, stylized font, with 'DENT' in black and 'DALE' in blue. Below this is a central crest containing two beer mugs. A banner across the crest reads 'MUSIC & BEER FESTIVAL 2009'. The dates '26TH - 28TH JUNE 2009' are printed below the crest. Further down, the text 'MORE THAN 25 CASK ALES FROM CRAFT BREWERIES IN THE YORKSHIRE DALES, NORTHERN ENGLAND AND SCOTLAND.' is displayed. Below that, it says 'FREE ENTRY • CAMPING • LOCAL FOOD'. A paragraph of text provides directions to the festival. At the bottom left is the website 'www.dentmusicandbeer.com'. At the bottom right is the Dent Brewery logo, which includes a dog's head.

DENTDALE

**MUSIC & BEER
FESTIVAL
2009**

26TH - 28TH JUNE 2009

**MORE THAN 25 CASK ALES FROM CRAFT BREWERIES
IN THE YORKSHIRE DALES, NORTHERN ENGLAND
AND SCOTLAND.**

FREE ENTRY • CAMPING • LOCAL FOOD

Dent is easily reached by road from M6 (J37) & A624 via
Sedbergh, or by direct rail link from Leeds and Carlisle
to Dent Station (with festival bus to Dent village).

www.dentmusicandbeer.com

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Join CAMRA today!

Complete the Direct Debit mandate below; alternatively send a cheque payable to CAMRA Ltd with your completed form; visit www.camra.org.uk or call 01727 86701 All forms should be addressed to Membership Secretary, CAMEA 230, Hatfield road, St Albans AL1 4LW. Membership costs £20 single & £25 double (£22 single or £27 if not paying by D/D. Concessionary Rates are £14 under 26 and £14 over £60. Life Membership £594.

Title _____ Surname _____

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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 _____

Signed _____

(Applications will be processed within 21 days)



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	
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Originators Identification Number

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Branch Sort Code

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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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Brewery Updates



Dent Brewery

Please refer to the article on page 37 Also *Golden Fleece* is now for sale in bottles. Dent *Station Porter* is to stay as a regular Beer, The new version of Dent Bitter is to be known as *Dentdale*. Geddit! Finally new Dent logo clothes are available.



Left: Members of Dent Brewery receive their award for the Champion Special Bitter

(see article p37)

L-r Richard Lowes, Bob Dobson, Alan Risdon (CAMRA), Paul Goodyear and Judith Beeley

Hawkshead

New beer: Windermere Blonde 3.5% a VPA = Very Pale Ale, low gravity summer ale, made with all English hops – a medley of traditional and modern English hops.

On the lines of UPA (Ulverston Pale Ale) but not as strong.

On the bar at The Beer Hall, weekend of 5/6 June and in pubs the following week.

Organic Stout, 4.5%.

Pilot brew was a success, so first full brew for cask available at the end of June. In bottle, the unfiltered, pure brewed version (think the old fashioned bottled Guinness) now selling.

Lakeland Lager, 5%, cask conditioned lager in time for Beer Festival, July 23-26.

Beer Festival: as well as the usual SIBA national Champions, we will be featuring beers from the family brewers, who saved proper beer. The likes of Harveys, Hall and Woodhouse, Hook Norton, Palmers, Arkells etc etc.

Beer Festival will be bigger. Big marquee this time. And something new on the food front.

Kirkby Lonsdale

Kirkby Lonsdale are now brewing 3 ales which are beginning to appear around the area.

Monumental 4.5%ABV golden ale using Maris Otter malted extra pale barley with Golding hops. Distinct floral mouth nose feel

Jubilee 5.5% Stout using chocolate & black malts with hint of roasted barley. A smooth stout allowing hints of pale malt and liquorice to come through.

Ruskins 3.9% Bitter Maris Otter barley with Magnum & Brewer's Gold hops give a fruity, spicy characteristic leading to a lasting dry finish.

Tirril

For full details see Westmorland Brewery article on page 22

Watermill Brewing Co. No update received.



THE GEORGE & DRAGON DENT



DENT BREWERY TAP HOUSE

- SET IN THE HEART OF PICTURESQUE DENT VILLAGE.
- FRIENDLY & WELCOMING INN
- WITH EN-SUITE ACCOMMODATION IN ALL ROOMS (FAMILY ROOMS AVAILABLE)
- REAL LOG FIRES COMPLEMENT THE LOCALLY SOURCED PRODUCE FOR OUR MAIN MEALS AND BAR SNACKS ALIKE
- OUR OWN BREWED REAL CASK ALES ARE A MUST.
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