

Summer 2011

Edition 44

LAKES & ALE



Newsletter of the
Westmorland Branch
of
The Campaign for Real Ale
www.camrawestmorland.org



Hawkshead pdf

Editorial

A warm welcome to all our readers.

We have another full 48 page magazine for our readers and we must thank all our advertisers for their support which makes the whole thing possible.

We are well into the summer beer festival programme and there are some great treats in store for real ale lovers in all parts of old Westmorland and beyond. It is great to see so many new ones 'popping up' and by all reports they are all successful.

This edition contains a very interesting look back on the Cumbrian beer scene of the early '80's by Roger Davies and Don Morris has an excellent report on the 2011 Cumbrian 'Pub of the Year' beer stakes.

We must also congratulate the Orange Tree pub in Kirkby Lonsdale on being chosen as Pub of the Year 2011 by our Branch members. There is a report inside but the good news is that at this POTY presentation we were very presently surprised to see our much 'beloved' President Alan 'No Socks' Risdon in attendance. From being virtually housebound for many weeks has made a remarkable recovery and is reasonably able to get about, albeit very slowly - nice to see you Alan!

We hope you enjoy the Magazine & remember to drink sensibly at all times. ED

Are you on the email list? If you would like to receive information from The Westmorland Branch please email the Secretary, Dave Welch at hengispod@live.co.uk We will keep you informed of all forthcoming meetings and events.

Front: CAMRA POTY presentation outside the Orange Tree, Kirkby Lonsdale.

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From the Chair...



Hello everyone and welcome to the latest copy of CAMRA Westmorland's "Lakes and Ale" magazine.

A lot is happening within the branch and you will find many interesting articles which will expand on some of the items that I'll be mentioning.

We have recently had our branch Annual General Meeting, which had a very good turnout of members both new and old. With some existing branch officers being unable to stand for re-election, the new branch committee was democratically voted in. It must be said that the guidance, expertise, knowledge and patience of the previous committee members have greatly assisted in making the Westmorland branch as successful as it is today and the good news is that they are both willing and able to continue to support the branch. My and the branch's thanks go out to them for the hard, unsung, work that they carried out.

Regarding "The Cumbrian Pub of The Year," some of us have taken the time to visit the other three Cumbrian branches individual Pub of The Year and have passed on our comments so that the views of all the Cumbrian branches can be collated with an overall winner being found. Our Cumbrian pub will then be looked at in conjunction with other regional winners.

For a pub to be awarded a branch "Pub of The Season" shows that excellent standards are maintained. To be awarded a branch "Pub of The Year" or "Cumbrian Pub of The Year" shows that even more people have recognised excellence when it is in direct competition against other excellent establishments. Well done to all of the pubs so far awarded and good luck to them as well as they move forward in the competition that will end up with a national "Pub of The Year."

Westmorland's Beer Festival will be taking place from 12th to 15th October in its usual Town Hall venue in Kendal and planning meetings have already been taking place; there is always a lot to do!

Branch socials and meetings are regularly taking place and you can find out more about them in this magazine, in "What's Brewing," or on the CAMRA Westmorland website. All CAMRA members are welcome.

Branch membership is steadily increasing. We are always looking for new members, young or not quite so young, who enjoy real ale, cider and perry. There are increasing benefits when you join and you will be made welcome whether you want, possibly a bit more information and knowledge, to

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

join in with social activities, or to become more active within the branch.

Thinking nationally: The British Beer and Pub Association has recently published statistics covering 2010. It confirms that 1,300 pubs closed across Britain with a direct loss of 13,000 jobs. Often it is the case that the pub IS the hub of local activities of all sorts and the heart of a community can be ripped out when "The Local" shuts forever.

CAMRA is launching a national campaign to protect pubs. Our national chairman, Colin Valentine, has written to the Prime Minister David Cameron and to the community pubs minister Bob Neil stressing the crisis situation that pubs are in and urging them to help. Regular budgets increase the duty on beer. In the region of 25 pubs a week are closing. Presently surviving pubs support over 900,000 jobs. About 800 independent breweries presently supply surviving pubs. The government has pledged to be pub-friendly. Some positive movement has taken place and now is the time to build on this. CAMRA is calling for

- a ban on the sale of alcohol below cost,
- a review of alcohol taxation,
- community pub business rate review,
- planning permission to be required before change of use,
- introduction of a Code of Practice covering free of tie options and guest beers,
- and VAT reduction on pub meals and drinks.

Plenty to go at! Anything that all of us can do to support our local pubs and the new campaign will be worthwhile.

Almost finally, a few dates for the diary: Great British Beer Festival 2nd to 6th August. National Cask Ale Week 1st to 9th October, lots of events locally (see separate page in this issue) and Westmorland Beer Festival 12th to 15th October.

Finally, have you got any stories of the pubs that you enjoy now or previously; have you found new and interesting beer, cider or perry on offer; have you tried a different style of beer - mild, bitter, golden ale, old ale, porter, stout or "unclassified" - how was it for you, do you feel strongly about what is happening to your local? If you have any stories or reminiscences that you would like to share, then please send them to our editor for publication in a future issue of Lakes and Ale

I hope you all have a good time in whatever sort of Summer we have and that you can enjoy some of the myriad number of different beers and beer styles from numerous breweries at many diverse pubs and festivals throughout Westmorland and beyond. Here's to sensible and enjoyable drinking with stimulating conversation in good surroundings. Cheers

David Prickett

Westmorland CAMRA Chair

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**CAMRA WESTMORLAND
PUB OF THE YEAR 2011
THE ORANGE TREE, KIRKBY
LONSDALE
13TH JUNE 2011**



CAMRA
Westmorland
Branch
President
Alan Risdon
presents the
Certificate to
'Plug' Taylor
& his
daughter
Katie
Riddings

A good number of Branch members descended on the Orange Tree for the official presentation of our Pub of the Year award 2011.

The pub was packed, not just for the presentation of the Award, but also for viewing the latest episode of 'the Dales' on ITV which by coincidence featured this week the pub and brewery. Some Branch members (modesty forbids me to say who) had also been there earlier in the year when filming took place.

The pub and brewery received a good airing and there was much jollification when the Taylor family

appeared doing their bit to consume lots of their own ale!

We would like to thank the whole establishment for a great evening complete with refreshments. The award was presented by our President Alan Risdon and everyone was very pleased to see him up and about again. We hope his recovery continues.

This award was very well deserved and both the pub & the brewery, with a great range of beers, are to be congratulated on winning this coveted award. Well done all! **DC**

(Continued on page 9)

THE SUN

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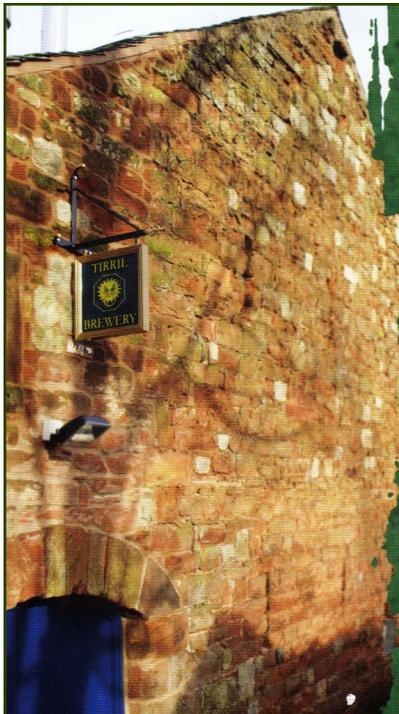
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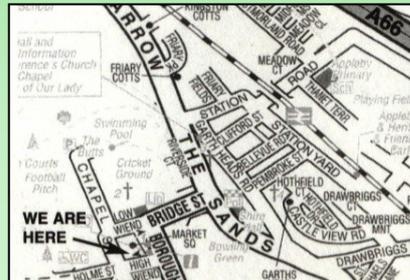
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Croglin Brewery

(Continued from page 6)

**CAMRA
WESTMORLAND
PUB OF THE YEAR
2011
THE ORANGE TREE,
KIRKBY LONSDALE
13TH JUNE 2011**



Above: CAMRA Members
enjoying the festivities

Left: Stuart Taylor (Brewer at
Kirkby Lonsdale brewery),
Judith & Roger Taylor enjoy
there own products at the bar



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GOING BACK

By Roger Davies

I'm in the midst of a turf out of the bag and baggage you accumulate as you make your way along life's trail. The further along you go, the more of it there is. So I'm being brutal, some of the stuff I haven't seen for years and haven't missed, so, why keep it?

However one document leapt out at me, the CAMRA Real Ale in Cumbria guide from 1982. "More than a mere list of pubs" it says, "an essential handbook to England's most popular county."

In the last L&A, Chairman Chris gave us a fascinating insight into the compilation of the annual Good Beer Guide. Apparently we can only submit 22 pub entries and Branch officials had a task in front of them as they felt there were 50 worth considering.

So I thought I'd have a look back to 1982 and see what was going on then, just 11 years into CAMRA's existence. Now, I'll not try and kid you, I'm a bit vague on our Branch's boundaries, but a pretty

much accurate shot at the number of pubs in the Westmorland area in 1982 is exactly 100. Kendal alone has 11. The 3 that appear in the 2011 GBG don't feature at all. And there's some fascinating entries.

The Derby Arms at Witherslack is referred to as "a comfortable roadside inn, a local's pub, busy in the tourist season, ask to see Pip's little houses in the village..." What is that all about? Can it be Pip the weather girl on ITV Border News? (Sorry Pip, not in 1982!)

The Croglin Castle Hotel in Kirkby Steven is described as a "large unchanged town pub". The town also boasts an entry for its working men's club with the cryptic comment "a recent convert, it's a shame more WMCs don't take such an enlightened view on beer".

The Strickland Arms, phone Sedgwick 60239, is briefly dismissed as "roomy pub with separate building for children". Now there's an idea. The 2011 GBG entry is "the handsome exterior of this road house is matched by the well furnished wood floored bar area." Well read it for yourself, what an incredible change.

But if the pubs have changed the beer is frankly astonishing. There is a 1982 brewery section. Now let us remember that in the 2011 GBG we are the proud, and pretty high up

(Continued on page 13)

REAL ALE IN CUMBRIA

MATTHEW BROWN YATES &
JACKSON McEWANS MITCH
ELLS VAUX JENNINGS DUT
TONS JENNINGS THWAITES
THEAKSTONS VAUX LORIM
ERS SAMUEL SMITHS HART
LEYS WESTMORLAND JEN
NINGS MATTHEW BROWN
MARSTONS THEAKSTONS
MITCHELLS BASS TETLEY
HARTLEYS THEAKSTONS
BASS JENNINGS McEWA
NS DUTTONS WILSONS
THWAITES MARSTONS
MATTHEW BROWN HA
RTLEYS TETLEY BASS
WESTMORLAND JEN
NINGS McEWANS DUTT
ONS MARSTONS HAR
TLEYS JENNINGS Mc
EWANS YOUNGERS
DRYBROUGHS BASS
YOUNGERS WILSON



Another CAMRA guide from a similar era.



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(Continued from page 11)

the charts, recipients in Cumbria of 26 real ale breweries in the county and there are more since publication. In 1982, there were 20 breweries listed as serving real ale in the county of which but two are Cumbria based. They were **Jennings** and the much mourned **Hartley's**. The latter is described as brewing "nothing but real ale and all their 56 tied houses sell the real stuff". We learn that Hartley's prize ales were available in some **Whitbread** (remember



them?) houses in south Cumbria, this dating back to a trading agreement made in 1932 with James Thompsons of Barrow who were taken over by "Twitbread", in early CAMRA speak, in 1966.

The entry rather forlornly ends with "CAMRA hope that Whitbreads will extend the area in which their pubs take Hartleys". As for Jennings we learn they fought off a takeover bid by **Watney's** ("Grotneys" if you remember) in 1973 and the year previously they took on the "highly skilled services of Mr Bill Monk the former head brewer of the State Brewery in Carlisle." It was claimed Jennings could be obtained as far away as London and Lissiemouth.

OK, so you want to know don't you, who the brewers were. Well here they are and see what you remember. From the top, **Bass** of Burton, **Dryborough** of Edinburgh, **Greenall Whitley** of Warrington, **Hartley's** of Ulverston, Jennings of Cockermouth, **Lorimers** of

Edinburgh, **Matthew Brown** of Blackburn, **Marstons** of Burton, **Mitchells** of Lancaster, **Scottish & Newcastle** of Edinburgh, **John Smiths** of Tadcaster, **Samuel Smiths** of Tadcaster, **Tetleys** of Leeds, **Theakstons** of Masham and, yes at, Carlisle (they took over the state brewery in 1974 for £90,000), **Thwaites** of Blackburn, **Vaux** of Sunderland, **Westmorland** of Lancaster (interesting one, it was Slater's Bitter from Appleby), Whitbread (doesn't brew but markets **Duttons, Castle Eden** and **Hartleys**), then **Wilson's** of Manchester and **Yates & Jacksons** of Lancaster. However it should be noted that the entries for Greenall Whitley & John Smith's also state "people who prefer cask conditioned ale should avoid all their outlets."

So where could you buy this stuff? Well, the **Drunken Duck** at Barngates was pretty good, you'd get Bass,

(Continued on page 15)



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(Continued from page 13)

Jennings, Tetleys, Theakstons and Westmorland there. **The Plough** at Lupton, a “pleasant country coaching inn”, had, like so many, Lorimers Best Scotch. Lorimers Scotch Bitter, or 70 shilling was to be had at the **Ring O’ Bells** in Kendal, hand delivered to you in the lounge if you rang a little bell. I recall it being a lovely pint.

The Sun Inn at Crook dispensed Vaux Samson Ale and the **Britannia** at Elterwater, Bass, Tetleys and handpumped Bulmers cider. Milnthorpe, being a bit down south, boasted both Lancaster brewers, Mitchells in the **Coach & Horses** and Yates & Jacksons in the **Station Hotel**. The dreaded S&N in the guise of Wm Youngers and the strange beardie guy in the top hat proudly trumpeted where you could get its traditional ale in Cumbria, **The Shakespeare** and **Fleece** in Kendal, **The Strickland Arms** and **The Punchbowl** at Barrows Green around here.

CAMRA was pretty kind to them commenting that “All five of their cask beers are available and appearing in more and more S&N pubs.” Hmmm.

But my favourite was always Hartley’s XB. Perhaps the most astonishing entry in the 1982 guide gives a place where this could be enjoyed. It was the **Coxswains Cabin** in Lake Road Windermere open evenings only from Easter to the end of November and described as a “unique wine cellar”. In terms of look who’s here, the Golden Rule at Ambleside is there, but of the

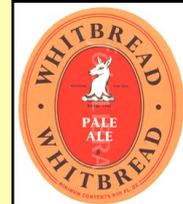
Eagle & Child at Staveley, not a mention.

There are more lessons to learn from this book, but the overriding one is the very simple message. We have far more choice of beers, and particularly local

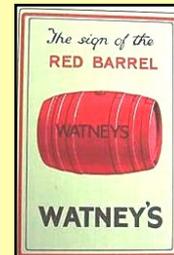
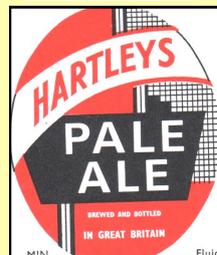
ones, where the figures are quite stunning. If you add in out of Cumbria brewers today, the range is breathtaking. But we have far fewer places to enjoy them. Here’s a frightening statistic from just over the Furness border. In the 1982 Cumbria guide there are 45 pubs in Barrow. In the 2011 GBG, there’s two.



Roger Davies



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**THE CAMRA
CUMBRIAN
PUB OF THE YEAR
STAKES
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As far as the Westmorland Branch was concerned there were three horses in this event to find the CAMRA CUMBRIA Pub of the Year (POTY) 2011. They were:-

The Cumberland, Alston (Solway Branch)

The Brook, Cleator (West Lakes Branch)

Prince of Wales, Foxfield (Furness Branch)

Our own 'nag' the **Orange Tree** (Kirkby Lonsdale) cannot be judged by our good selves. We must leave that to the other Cumbria Branches.

Altogether there were 10 jockeys involved; Andy (golden boy), Colin (Oldham boy), Dave E (ace driver), Dave P (dear leader), Dave W (evangelising democrat), Don (your correspondent), Duncan (Redruth Branch?), Linda (Oldham lass), Pam (toper), and Tony (local lad!). Harvey and Topsy were the two canine representatives. Dave B was a late withdrawal.

The Kendal mob assembled at

Blackhall Rd at 10am on a typical April day on the 14th May. Good views en route to Appleby via Tebay and Orton (Farmers' market Day). This allowed us fill up the bus with a handful of miscreants at 11am outside The Golden Ball. Can you believe this?



The Cumberland Inn, Alston

They had already started dinking the amber nectar (which on this occasion was dark). We ran the risk of arriving in Alston before the opening time and we decided to visit the Melmerby Bakery Café to indulge in a mid morning non alcoholic session. Dave E was to be our overall coffee assessor for the day.

After the very twisty ascent to Hartside and the long drop to Alston we arrived at The Cumberland at 12.15. Business was already brisk with both drinkers and diners. Yates Bitter, Mordue Northumbrian Blonde, and both Black Dub and Cumberland from Geltsdale were on offer. We were given a warm welcome and the beers I tried were most acceptable. It was sad

(Continued on page 19)



THE OLD DUNGEON GHYLL HOTEL GREAT LANGDALE

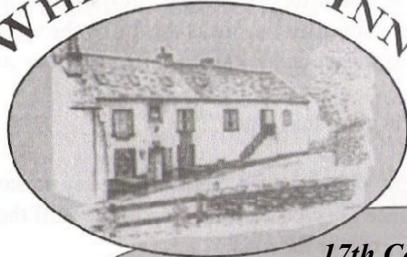
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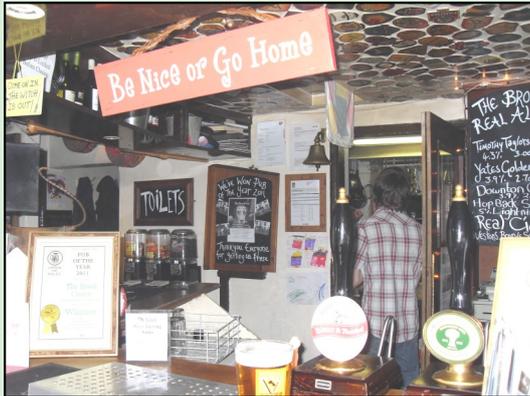
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(Continued from page 17)

to see the property opposite which had once been The Bluebell. We must

satisfactory. Dog lovers take note; Harvey and Topsy were fed BEEF not your regular mundane dog biscuits as a pub treat.

Another warm welcome kept us there longer than intended and it was 5.45 before we were again on our way. It was sad to again see an ex pub, this time The Three Tuns in Cleator. A shorter journey on this third leg saw us entering The Prince Of Wales just on 6.30. The pub was in full swing and the plethora of



Brook Inn, Cleator

have enjoyed our stay in Alston because it was 2.15 before Dave shepherded us into the bus for the long ride to Cleator.

Remarkably none of the riders had ever been to The Brook before. This fact along with impromptu toilets stops, the distance between pubs, and getting slightly lost for a few minutes explained why it was 4.15

before we entered the pub. It was cup final day. City were drawing when we arrived but managed to scrape a win by the time we left. Someone told me that Wigan had also beaten Arsenal heavily that day but I was unable to confirm this result. The fairly small bar had an open fire which contributed to a cosy atmosphere. Beers on offer included Cocker Hoop, Helvellyn Gold, Yates Golden Ale, and Timothy Taylors Landlord. Some riders also ate here and pronounced the food as



Prince of Wales ,Foxfield

beers on offer, and possibly my state of inebriation, made it impossible to record the full range. I tried four beers including two very acceptable fruit beers. One fruit beer was a wheat grapefruit concoction(5.2%) and the other had a strawberry base. It was interesting to note that instead of Landlord which The Brook was selling the Timothy Taylor offering here was their Dark Mild. A lot of

(Continued on page 31)

*Kings Arms
Kirkby Stephen
Music and Beer
Festival
29th to 31st July 2011.*



CAMRA members from Appleby were staffing the new festival bar on the Friday night and it was continually busy, as were the bars inside. The Friday night was a great

When you used to look at the map of Cumbria in the Good Beer Guide there was a large geographical blank area around Kirkby Stephen. When we visited the town, many moons ago, we were delighted to find a pub that sold a variety of good quality real ales, many of which were from local breweries. They were selling excellent "Locales" when they hadn't even heard of the scheme!

Building on the success of the real ale and having a great interest in music, Jeff and Janet Cross decided to put on their first Music and Beer Festival in 2010. We have revisited them to find out what comments they had on the festival. It had been a step into the unknown because not only did the musicians, from far and wide, have to be booked (and paid), but also a large stock of real ales and ciders, as well as locally sourced festival food, had to be found and purchased.

All members of staff worked long and hard setting up the festival and worked even harder at the festival.

Jeff told us that when the festival opened on Friday night he didn't know whether there would only be a few people in or a reasonable crowd.

success and the rest of the weekend built on that success. Jeff was delighted with the way that everything went and that Kirkby Stephen had been "put on the map," for music and real ale.

Because of the success of the event it is going to become an annual event, but it will be bigger and better in 2011, with a wide range of all styles of music and an increased range of real ales, ciders and perries. The dates for your diary are the 29th to 31st July.

Don't just wait for the festival though, call into The Kings if you are travelling through Kirkby Stephen as you will be assured of a variety of good real ales, with usually at least one Dent Brewery beer on offer as well as regular offerings from Kirkby Lonsdale Brewery and Copper Dragon Brewery. There is also excellent, locally sourced, freshly cooked food. If this doesn't tempt you there are over twenty single malts to tempt you as well.

David Prickett





**Kirkby
Lonsdale
Rugby Club**

**Weekend Beer
Festival
11 - 13 March
2011**

This was the first beer festival put on by Kirkby Lonsdale Rugby Club and they were keen to make it a good'un.

The Taylor family of Kirkby Lonsdale Brewery and Orange Tree Hotel (brewery tap) were prime movers in the event. As with everything they do, it was well organised, and provided punters with a really good value-for-money experience. There were options to buy drinks individually at the bar, or pay £5 for a commemorative tankard with 4 x 1/3 pint tokens.

From this a donation was being made to the Christchurch earthquake appeal (as three of the club team members were Kiwis and had relatives caught up in the disaster). Also included in the weekend event were "meet the brewer" sessions, ale trail and tasting sessions. Also excellent steak & ale pies were on offer at £3 each.

They focussed on Westmorland beers, and luckily we have an ever-increasing number of absolute beltors to chose from. Naturally Kirkby

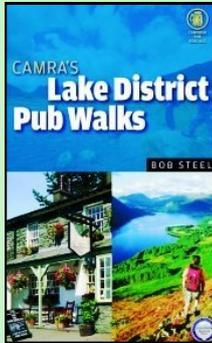
Lonsdale beers featured strongly here. Monumental, Ruskin Bitter, Tiffin Gold, Jubilee and the extra special Mac Jubilee were great representatives of their craft. The latter (limited edition) being matured in whiskey casks and at 6% is a giant among stouts.

The other breweries on offer were: Brown Horse, Winster, which is quickly establishing its reputation locally with Old School & Best Bitter. Dent Brewery, brought along three of their best standards: Aviator, Golden Fleece and Station Porter. Tirril Brewery had Brewsher's Bitter and Old Faithful on offer. Hawkshead's supplied their outstanding Windermere Pale, Lakeland Lager and Organic Stout brews. The Watermill Brewing Co. sent their terrific standards in Collie Wobbles, A Bit'er Ruff and W'ruff Night and finally a newcomer which proved very popular, Croglin Brewery from Kirkby Stephen with their Gylden Ringer.

A couple of us from the Cumbria Tasting Panel were there on the Friday night to offer groups of up to ten at a time the chance to learn about tasting, and where the separate flavours within a variety of beer styles come from. This proved a popular attraction, and we worked with groups of ten tasters at a time. Our Westmorland Branch are quite committed to helping enthusiasts understand what is going on when tasting beer and what makes it possible to have so many different styles.

Many of those taking part found it changed the way they viewed beers and could appreciate styles they didn't normally go for. Another valuable

(Continued on page 23)



The country walks vary from 3.7 to 9.5 miles but are generally 5 to 6 miles long. Bob's only concession to the avid fell walker is a walk from Langdale to Wasdale Head, which is not for the faint hearted! The maps of the routes are taken from Ordnance Survey maps, are clearly described and therefore on most occasions you don't need to take an extra map with you. The walks are primarily circular but if linear there is regular public transport to get you back to the start of the walk (other than the Langdale to Wasdale walk). Also included are points of historical interest and a series of links, which allow more serious walkers to join two of the walks together. Town walks of Ulverston, Kendal and Cockermouth are also included and there are thirty walks included.

As you would expect from a CAMRA publication, the pubs on the routes are well described. Most of the walks include at least two stopping off points, which makes the book ideal for someone like me who enjoys a decent walk to a pub followed by a bit of thirst quenching. The book is sponsored by Coniston Brewing Company who I'm sure are delighted to have their name associated with such a high quality publication. It retails at £9.99 (£7.99 for CAMRA members) and is available via the on line shop on the CAMRA web site .

Dave Stubbins
4 March 2011

CONISTON BREWING CO.



EST. 1995

Coppermines Road, Coniston, Cumbria LA21 8HL
Tel: (015394) 41133
Email: info@conistonbrewery.com
Website: www.conistonbrewery.com

Hidden away behind the Black Bull in Coniston is the Coniston Brewing Company.

This outstanding brewery, run by Ian Bradley, is where Bluebird Bitter is made. This 3.6% session beer won Supreme Champion Beer of Britain 1998 at the Great British Beer Festival in London.

Coniston Brewery use only the finest ingredients in their brewing process. The water used by the brewery comes from high up on the fells surrounding Coniston.



Great British Beer Festival 2011 August 2nd – 6th Earls Court, London



The Great British Beer Festival 2011 (GBBF) at Earls Court is drawing ever closer, with CAMRA hoping for another record-breaking event!

In 2010, over 66,000 people attended the 5-day extravaganza, with over 1,000 CAMRA volunteers giving up their time to make the Festival the biggest to date.

This year, Festival-goers should expect 700+ real ales, ciders, perries and foreign beers from around the world, with CAMRA claiming to have something to suit every drinker's taste buds! To accompany this heady range, the Festival offers a great choice of food from traditional cuisine to classic pub snacks, unforgettable live music, a wide variety of pub games to occupy your time, and an array of tutored tastings from some of the leading authorities in the beer world.

Tickets for the event are now available and can be pre-ordered for a discounted price from the ticketing website at www.seetickets.com/gbbf. With such demand at the door of Earls Court for tickets, pre-ordering is a great way of ensuring you do not miss out on the Festival fun!

Festival opening times-

Tuesday August 2nd - 5pm – 10:30pm;

Wednesday August 3rd – Friday August 5th – 12pm – 10:30pm

Saturday August 6th – 11am – 7pm

For further information on the Festival, visit www.gbbf.org.uk

(Continued from page 21)

thing we find by doing tasting sessions is that we can promote our local Westmorland beers to CAMRA members and highlight the importance of voting for the Champion Beer of Britain (CBOB) – if we don't vote for our own excellent beers then we can't expect them to do well at national level – it's up to us!

To sum up then, a great first venture from the Rugby Club and if you missed it this time round, we think you won't be disappointed next!

Marilyn Molloy

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Brewery Updates

Croglin Brewery

Dark Drover - a very dark ruby ale with biscuit and malt flavours with bitterness in the finish, is now being regularly brewed. The Loki Original recipe is being looked at with the possibility of an increase in hop flavour and aroma complete with a slight increase in gravity. Brewery expansion and bottling or contract bottling of Croglin Beers being actively looked at. *David Prickett Brewery Liaison Officer* .

Dent Brewery

The Brewery continues to work flat out so that's good news. The Seasonal 'Baars & Stripes' has been withdrawn for now, but may be back later in year. 'Premium Ale' has been withdrawn for a possible revamp, but not certain. The Brewery are looking at instead producing a new bitter, made they say with good traditional English hops. The Brewery now works in conjunction with Dales Butchers, Kirkby Lonsdale, and their beers are used in pies, black pudding etc. Their Rambrau beer, for one special brew, has been given an extended cool lagering and has been bottled for sale at 4.5% Abv, in the G&D Brewery tap only.

David Currington BLO

Hawkshead Brewery.

Cumbrian 5 Hop (which was the pilot brew Citrillo) was voted best beer at the Wetherspoons spring beer festival, for which it was brewed as a one off. By demand it's still going and joins Windermere Pale and Lakeland Gold as the third big hopped pale. The five hops are Fuggles, Goldings, Bramling Cross, Amarillo and Citra.

All 500 bottles of the 2011 XXX Brodie's Prime, 8.5%, aged 6 months in whisky barrels, on sale only at The Beer Hall, have been sold.

Pure Brewed Organic Stout, in bottle, has won a contract to export to the USA. The first shipment has gone to New York and the East Coast.

Lakeland Lager is now in keg at a few selected outlets. The brewery says real ale drinkers have shown they want local ale. Why shouldn't keg drinkers have a local alternative to international fizz. Hawkshead Bitter is the new CAMRA Champion Bitter of the North West.

The brewery's new bar and extra brewing plant at its Staveley HQ have been opened by the local MP and by the Chairman of the Society of Independent Brewers.

There are now two bars, able to run 54 hand pulls, and "the beer shop"

(Continued on page 27)



*Just to prove I do make my
Brewery visits*

Anita welcomes you to

THE RIFLEMAN'S ARMS, KENDAL

The village green pub at the top of the hill



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The Rifleman's Arms
4-6 Greenside
Kendal
Cumbria
LA9 4LD
Telephone: 07722686249

Cross Keys adv PDF

(Continued from page 25)

and “the beer kitchen.”

The Beer Hall, under manager Katie Rome (who learned her beer from Linda and Stuart at the Prince of Wales) has joined forces with eminent chef, Steven Doherty, to do something a bit different and very beer related, foodwise. The kitchen is specialising in “beer tapas” to address “the lamentable British tradition of drinking to excess without food and eating without beer.”

New vessels, rising through the first floor of the two floor bar, have increased brewing capacity to about 8,000 barrels a year, and improved conditioning and “lagering” capability.

David Currington, BLO

Kirkby Lonsdale Brewery

Brewery working flat out, & have had to order more casks. They currently have ‘Cherkby’ and ‘Monumental’ maturing in two more full whiskey barrels which longer period will give a higher ABV than normal. They will sell only on draught in the Orange Tree but hopefully they will also bottle some. They have been too busy to think of changes just yet.

Colin Ashton BLO

Tirril Brewery

Brewery working to capacity. With the Appleby Horse Show in in full swing at time of writing and all the local pubs open, is all god news for Tirril.

Keith Morgan, BLO

Watermill Brewing Co.

Still very busy with eight brews, six of which are available at most times. Collie Wobbles, Ruff Night & Bitter Ruff are the 3 most available with Dogth Vader, Blackbeard & Isle Of Dogs when available. Winters Tale is brewed between Nov & Feb with Ruff Justice an occasional brew.

Planning permission is currently being sought for the brewery extension plus 8 further bedrooms plus extra car parking space & storage areas with possibly a shop in the offing; Brian is hoping for a decision this week; brewery tours will be planned if successful.

A pirates night was held on 7th May for Alzheimer's Society with £500 raised.

The Watermill has been included as a winner in the Good Pub Guide 2011 No beer festivals planned for the near future.

Tony Jackson BLO

Winster Valley Brewery

Winster have introduced an new seasonal summer golden ale called ‘Hurdler’ brewed initially for the recent Cartmel Race weekend. It is described as a golden ale, with floral notes, strong yet athletic and extremely smooth and with an ABV of 3.5% . The Brewery remains extremely busy

Phil Walker BLO

Queens PDF done

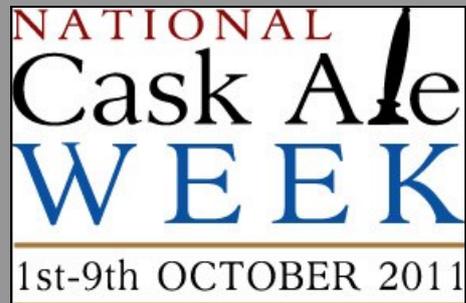
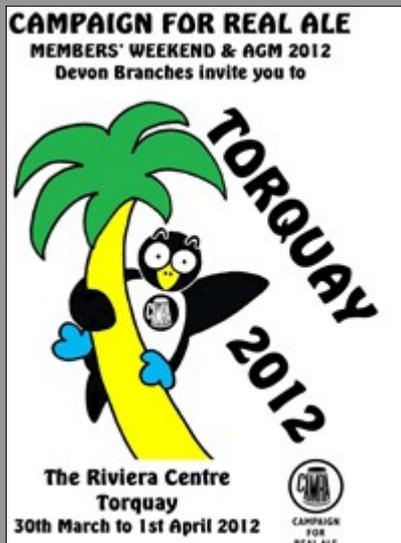
DRIP TRAY NOTICE BOARD

The Midland Hotel near Apple Railway Station has reopened and the new owners are committed to serving Cask Ale. Many members have visited and are very happy with the refurbishment. There will be more next edition.

Butchers Arms at Maulds Meaburn is reopening imminently as a community pub and selling cask ales.

The New Inn at Hoff has been refurbished and is up for sale. The George at Orton is being refurbished. Should soon be open with new staff serving up to three cask ales.

The Chamley Arms at Warcop has been refurbished. They are selling real ale in sacks, an idea originating in Norfolk and apparently approved by CAMRA. We are to look into this via Head Office to get their view. Sacked, air tight beer is supposed to last over a year and they will have up to 80 brews available at any one time. Watch this space!



Westmorland Branch has picked the Cumbria Wildlife Trust as its chosen charity for its October 2011 Beer Fest at the Town Hall Kendal. More news next edition

PDF K Lonsdale one
above the other please

More News from CAMRA HQ.

In the Budget in March, the Government put beer prices up by another 7.2% - or 10p on a pint. This takes the typical duty and VAT bill on a pub pint of a standard bitter to 90p. In many parts of the country and for stronger beers the combined duty and VAT bill is well over £1 per pub pint. The total VAT and duty cost varies, of course, depending on the strength of the beer and the price at which it is being sold.

The Chancellor has refused to remove the damaging beer duty escalator introduced by the last Government, so beer duty is set to continue increasing 2% above inflation each year. The duty escalator remains in place despite 3200 CAMRA members contacting their MPs through an email lobbying campaign calling for no further increases in beer duty.

Supermarkets can afford to and are willing to absorb beer duty increases so they can continue selling alcohol at rock bottom prices. However, this option is not open



to struggling community pubs meaning continual price rises for pub goers. The difference in prices between pubs and supermarkets continues to widen, which will encourage drinkers to stay at home rather than enjoy a pint with friends in their local.

It was also recently announced that beer duty will be halved for beers at 2.8% ABV or below. CAMRA will be calling on the Government to push the EU to increase the 2.8% threshold for beers eligible for the lower duty rate to 3.5% ABV so a wider range of beers can benefit. The good news on a duty cut at or below 2.8% is heavily tempered by tax increases for beers above 7.5%. CAMRA campaigned against higher tax on strong beers due to the potential harm to speciality beers and traditional beer styles

To find out more, please see CAMRA's tax briefing at www.camra.org.uk/taxbriefing

(Continued from page 19)

food was also eaten; my beef sandwich on home made bread was magnificent.

We finally tore ourselves away around 8pm and, after an exciting ride over Corney Fell Road, Dave finally dropped me off at Ings just on 9pm. Dave Emery, the driver, did a superb job transporting us safely over the 180 mile course. On the separate coffee stakes he reported that at the four establishments we visited the coffee

was good, good, slightly less good, and instant. Which pub will finally be the *Victor Ludorum*? The three contenders each have a very different 'atmosphere' but all have a justifiable claim to the title. Watch this space.

Don Morris

WESTMORLAND CAMRA EVENTS DIARY

**Contact Duncan Crabtree for more details,
bookings etc. (01539)735739**

For normal Branch Events the pickup point can usually be agreed when booking but is usually the Bus Station in Kendal. There is also often a bus leaving from the Golden Ball in Appleby in Westmorland. For Beer Festivals under your own team please look at the Beer Festivals page.

Forthcoming Events

Where shown the CAMRA events below have transport provided by the branch. Standard cost £3.00. Please book via Duncan Crabtree [d.p.crabtree@btinternet.com] or tel 01539 735739. For the Appleby Bus please contact Chris Morris.

11th July Branch Meeting at The Punchbowl Askham. 8pm. Buses leave both Kendal & Appleby at 7.15pm.

18th July Beer Festival meeting. The Elleray in Windermere.
Bookings as above

15th August Beer Festival meeting. Venue to be advised.

19th September Beer Festival organisation meeting. Venue to be advised.

1st to 9th October National Cask Ale Week. Details to follow .

12th to 15th October 15th Westmorland Beer Festival at Kendal Town Hall,

CAMRA BEER DISCOUNT SCHEME

We are pleased to report that the following Westmorland Pubs are currently known to be offering beer discounts to card carrying CAMRA members:

Badger Bar, Rydal
Miles Thompson, (Wetherspoons), Kendal
Golden Ball, Appleby
Croglin Castle Hotel, Kirkby Stephen
Elleray Hotel, Windermere
George & Dragon, Dent
The Midland Hotel, Appleby
The Orange Tree, Kirkby Lonsdale



If I've missed one let me know ED

To find a discount pub in the UK go to <http://www.camra.org.uk/page.aspx?>

Punchbowl Askham



Following on from the welcome news in the Drip Tray that several pubs in our branch area have reopened or been refurbished

there comes the news that the Punchbowl at Askham has been reopened since early March after being closed for some eleven months.

It is good to see this great pub back in business & doing what it was meant to do, serve great real ale. Askham is now back to its two pubs again.

The Punchbowl is to be operated by J&G Inns based in Carlisle. They also operate the Brackenrigg Inn on

Ullswater & the refurbished Bull at Sedbergh.

The Manger is Rachael Smith and she tells us that they will be serving four real ales from the Enterprise range but hopefully always with Black Sheep and a regular Hawkshead brew. The Pub is dog friendly. Food is served. (see their advert below).

CAMRA wish them well!

punchbowl



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IMAGE COURTESY OF DAVE WILLIS, CUMBRIA TOURISM

J&G Inns Ltd reserves the right to withdraw offers at any time. Offer excludes Sunday Lunch. Booking in advance is preferable, although not essential.

Punchbowl Inn | Askham | Penrith | Cumbria | CA10 2PF punchbowl@jandginns.co.uk
punchbowlaskham@blogspot.com

Kendal Rugby Club advert PDF

Letter from our Webmaster - David Brown.

In an idle moment I thought it might be a good idea to put the roll of honour of Westmorland Pub of Year winners at the bottom of the POTY page on the website. As I am sure there are members both ancient & modern who know better than I do, can anyone check that the following is correct, and possibly take it back further, please? I have: so far:

2011 : Orange Tree, Kirkby Lonsdale	2006 : Watermill, Ings	1997 : Watermill, Ings
2010 : White Horse, Kings Meaburn	2005 : Greyhound, Shap	1996 : Watermill, Ings
2009 : Watermill, Ings	2004 : Greyhound, Shap	1995 : Watermill, Ings
2008 : Old Dungeon Ghyll, Great Langdale	2003 : Watermill, Ings	1994 : Watermill, Ings
2007 : Eagle & Child, Staveley	2002 : Watermill, Ings	1993 : Watermill, Ings
	2001 : Watermill, Ings	1992 :
	2000 : Watermill, Ings	1991 : Watermill, Ings
	1999 : Watermill, Ings	
	1998 : Watermill, Ings	

Any comments, ideas please.. If so please email David Brown on
davidj_brown@hotmail.com



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Beer Festivals throughout the Year.

In order to give festival goers the full picture it is intended to publish a full list of all such Beer Festivals that we know about and that also meet CAMRA aims.

This list will enable festival visitors to plan ahead and also will especially help the increasing number of Landlords who are seeking to start a new festival. They will be able, if they want, to run their festival at a time which does not clash with neighbouring events.

19/22 Jan	Manchester	Nat Winter Ales Fest
10/12 Feb	Fleetwood	Marine Hall
10/13 March	Foxfield	Stout, Porters, Milds & Strong Beer Fest
18/19 March	Whitehaven	Whitehaven Beer & Cider Fest
18/20 March	Staveley	Hawkshead Winter Beer Fest
18/20 March	Haverthwaite	Anglers Arms Beer Fest
1/2/3 April	Windermere	Elleray Hotel. Beer Fest
14/17 April	Kendal	Burgundy's Cumbrian Challenge
22/24 April	Kings Meaburn	White Horse Spring Beer Fest
29/30 April	Staveley	Eagle & Child Beer Fest
19/21 May	Skipton	Town Hall Beer Fest
27/30 May	Bowland Bridge	Hare & hounds Beer Fest.
3/4 June	Keswick	Rugby Club, Keswick
10/12 June	Sizergh	Strickland Arms Beer Fest
18/19 June	Gt Asby	Three Grey hounds Beer Fest
22/26 June	Sedbergh	Dent Music & Beer Fest
23/24/26 June	Underbarrow	Punch Bowl
24/26 June	Appleby	Golden Ball Beer Fest
1/3 July	Kirkoswald	Featherstone Inn Beer Fest
8/10 July	Foxfield	Ciders and Perries Beer Fest
15/16 July	Dumfries	Ale & Music Festival
21/24 July	Staveley	Hawkshead Summer Beer Fest
22/24 July	Kings Meaburn	White Horse Summer Beer Fest
29/31 July	Kirkby Stephen	Kings Arms Music & Beer Fest
2/6 August	Earls Ct. London	GBBF Great British Beer Fest
5/7 August	Duften	Stag inn Beer Fest
12/14 August	Tirril	Queens Head Beer & Sausage Fest
1/3 Sept	Ulverston	Furness Branch Beer Fest

(Continued on page 37)

(Continued from page 36)

16/18 Sept	Foxfield	Foreign Beer Styles
22/24 Sept	Keighley	Keighley Beer Fest
30/Sept & 1/2 Oct	Milnthorpe	Cross Keys Hotel
6/8 October	Carlisle	Solway Beer Fest, Lakes Ct Hotel
7/9 October	Broughton	Broughton Festival of Beers & Bangers
12/15 October	Kendal	Westmorland Beer Fest, Town Hall.
11/13 Nov	Tirril	Pie & Beer Fest

Dentdale
Music and Beer
Festival
24th - 26th June
find out more...



go to: <http://www.dentmusicandbeer.com/>

YOUNG CAMRA

Young CAMRA is for members aged 18 - 30 and currently has 11,200 members out of 123,000 members which gives young CAMRA around 9% of membership.

The young CAMRA committee that runs along side the membership committee meets 4 times a year in various locations in the UK. At the meetings we try to find ways to gain new young CAMRA members and come up with events to attract the younger people to CAMRA.

The main campaign at the moment is the CAMRA and University Real Ale Society Affiliation Scheme, where Real Ale Societies can become affiliated members of CAMRA.

Within this Branch, due to the Kendal Calling Festival which has its own Real Ale Festival, we are hoping to continue our success from last year, where we recruited 27 new young CAMRA members. Also living in an area where there are so many micro brewery's it is hoped more younger people will be tempted to start drinking Real Ale, and with events being planned in the Westmorland Branch for younger people there will be an opportunity to recruit new members.

Phil Walker, West Pennines, Young Persons Coordinator

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Steve and Angie look forward to seeing you

WESTMORLAND BREWERIES HAWKSHEAD BREWERY MILL YARD, STAVELEY

Continuing our occasional series on our Branch's own independent breweries we have turned our spotlight this edition onto the very well known Hawkshead Brewery.

The brain child of ex-BBC man Alex Brodie, the brewery was first set up in an old C17th barn on the edge of Hawkshead in 2002, hence the name.

Good beer and good marketing was quickly rewarded with expansion and new larger premises were needed. These were found in 2006 in Mill Yard, Staveley. At first Alex established a 20 barrel plant with the ability to carry out 5 brews. An adjacent Beer Hall was also opened to provide brewery viewing & tours & to showcase his full range of beers. It also had a link through to the well known Wilf's café.

The Brewery continued to expand to the point that it became the largest independent brewery in Cumbria. More capacity was needed and Alex was able to move into to vacant premises next door. Two new 60 barrel holding vessels were installed and they can now brew twice a



Alex Brodie and Head Brewer Matt Clarke in the new Beer Hall alongside the gleaming conditioning tanks

day if required giving a total capacity of some 180 barrels.

This has given much more flexibility to brew for an expanding bottling operation. The latest development is to ship bottled Organic Stout over to the States in specially labelled bottles to meet the different

US legislation. Looking at the label below it is nice to see that in the US you can still buy a good old fashioned PINT.

The Range of beers has expanded over the years and regularly picks up awards from many sources, including from the Society of Independent Brewers Association (SIBA) of whom the Brewery is a very active member.

Hawkshead Bitter is the north west Champion Bitter; Brodie's Prime north west Champion Porter; Windermere Pale won silver at the Brewing Industry International Awards 2011.

So if you want to sample some good beers from a great range plus the chance to have a look around the Brewery then why not pay a visit to the Beer Hall brewery tap. **DC**



How to Brew an Excellent Pint!

An irreverent look!



1

First, get two expensive shiny kettles
& some guys from the Green Cross
Code advert*

Boil it all up then stir
it about for a while.
*Unlike a chef you can't
have quick sip!*



3



2

Tip in some malted barley.*



4

Strain into the other shiny
kettle, then tip in some hops.*



* photographs by Steven Barber



**When its finished
fizzing keep it a bit
longer in an even
larger shiny tank**

THE CAST
Matt Clarke
Dave Buxton
Mark Jackson
Martin Haworth
Robin Cousins
Ben Ray
Anne Jones

And Finally...
find a great
Sales team to
get it to the
customers*



**Then squirt it into casks from
yet more shiny tanks**



**Get the 'marigolds' on and do the
washing up***
(boots by Jimminy Shoo)

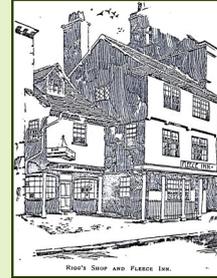




Olde Fleece Inn

(Reputedly Established 1654)

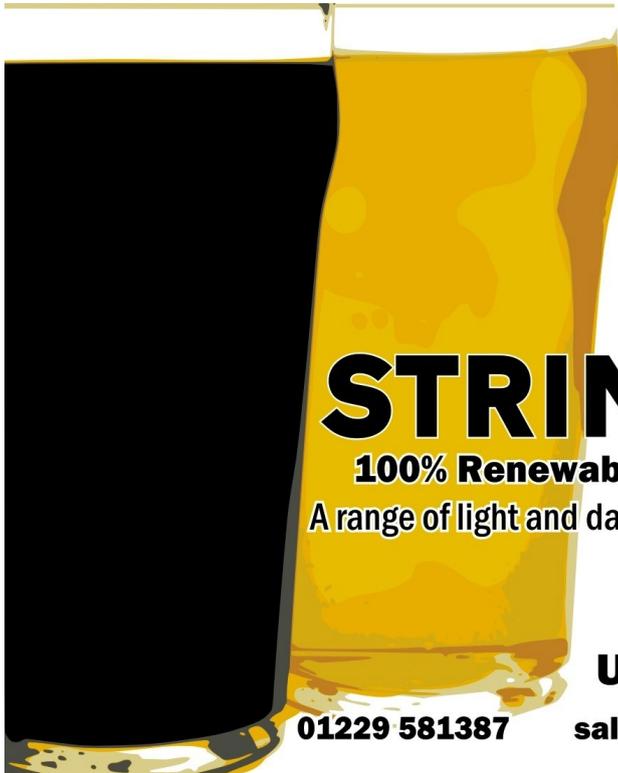
"is one of ancient standing for previous to the year 1772 a four-horsed coach started from this house..... The Fleece Inn even today is of quaint style and represents well the old architecture of Kendal." (Westmorland Gazette 1881)



Michael & Leanne invite you to their ancient 17th Century Coaching Inn, reputedly the first such Inn in Kendal

- ◆ You will find 3 real ales normally available.
- ◆ Opening Times are 11 to 11 Mon-Thurs; 11 to 12 Friday-Saturday & 12 to 11pm Sunday
 - ◆ Good home cooked food, using local produce, is available from: 12 to 9 Mon to Thurs; 12 to 6pm Fri & Saturday; Sunday Roast 12 to 4pm
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Burgundy's Cumbrian Challenge 2011



Having visited and enjoyed Burgundy's Cumbrian Challenge 2010 Beer and Sausage Festival a small, but select, group of CAMRA members from Appleby decided to return to take up the 2011 challenge and to try out some of the more than twenty Cumbrian Beers on offer.

An excellent time was had by all and each of us found numerous good quality real ales that suited us. A wide variety of beers were on offer, from mild to old ale styles, via golden bitters, porters, stouts and IPA's, a thoroughly excellent range. We also met some old friends and made some new

ones as well. With such a variety of different styles and strengths it was extremely difficult to sort out individual favourites, it was a hard job, but we did succeed in doing it! Almost all of the beers on offer scored highly and my own top six beers were, in reverse order:

6. Stringers brewery "Yellow Lorry,"
5. Winster Valley Brewery "Old School,"
4. Kirkby Lonsdale Brewery "Tiffin Gold,"
3. Hesketh Newmarket Brewery "Black Sail,"
2. Hawkshead Brewery "Citrillo,"
1. Hardknott Brewery "Continuum."

The complex depth of flavours, combined with an excellent overall taste, with a really good mouth feel and lingering aftertaste made the Continuum "The Beer of the Festival" for me. All of the people at the challenge could vote for their favoured beer and it will be interesting to see which beer comes out as overall favourite of the festival.

I have not mentioned the sausages; when we went through last year sadly they were not available. Learning from this we checked beforehand this time and we were assured that they would be available! So we were even more disappointed to find them missing again!

So, thinking about it, if you fancy some really excellent sausages, it could be worth while going to a really excellent butchers; but if you want some excellent beers and want to visit an excellent, sociable, Cumbrian Micro Beer Festival then watch out for the 2012 Beer Challenge at Burgundy's, which you will find in Lowther Street in Kendal.

I'm sure that you will find an excellent range of well kept, good quality real ales.

David Prickett May 2011

(Continued on page 45)

Like Real Ale! Why not join us in CAMRA?

Step One— Fill in the details below

Name(s):

Address:

.....Post Code

E mail:

I/We wish to join CAMRA & will abide by the CAMRA Rules

Signed: Date:

If under 26 or over 80 please add Date of Birth:/...../.....

Step Two: Cut Out and send to CAMRA with Membership Payment:

Send to: Membership Secretary,

CAMRA,

230, Hatfield Road, St Albans,

Herts., AL1 4LW.

Rates Single £22

Joint £27;

Over 60/under 26 £19

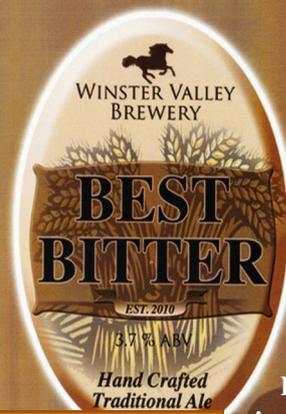
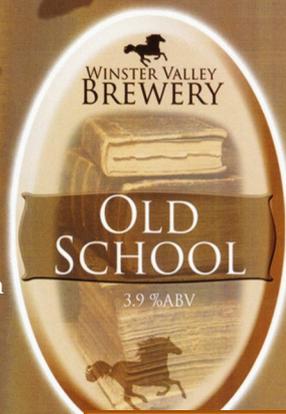
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(Continued from page 43)

(Ed: Readers may wish to know the Result and see how accurate was the forecast from our worthy Chairman so here is the report received from one of the Organisers, Derek Kingwell.)

**Burgundy's Wine Bar
Cumbrian Challenge Micro-Beer Festival
2011 Report/Results**

For the 15th successive year a flood of thirsty real ale drinkers flowed through Burgundy's Wine Bar in Lowther Street Kendal to be part of The Cumbrian Challenge Micro-Beer Festival.

Their quest as always was to taste and determine the county's top ale by entering their choice on the public voting forms.

First started in 1997 this pint-size "Taste of Cumbria" offers a sample of beers from the small independent brewers of the county side by side under one roof.

A very close result saw

1. Coniston as champions and winners of the shield for the third time with their new brew '**Mr Whoppit**' IPA at 4.8%. Only one vote behind (recount three times)
2. In second place was Cumberland Legendary Ales with their **American Invasion** at 5%
3. Hesket Newmarket took third with **Black Sail** 4%. DK

(Well he did get third spot on but..... 'Nough said Ed)

18TH WESTMORLAND BEER AND CIDER FESTIVAL

It doesn't seem like 8 months ago since the last Westmorland Beer and Cider Festival, but here we are again preparing for this years event which will take place on

12th - 15th October 2011 at Kendal Town Hall.

As usual, the event will showcase around 55 local and national beers and around 10 ciders & perries. New to this year's festival will be a foreign beers bar with beers from Europe and the USA.

On Wednesday evening there will be events to promote CAMRA and real ale to younger people.

We will once more be holding tutored beer tasting sessions throughout the festival and again there will be live entertainment on Friday evening.

As always the festival requires a lot of volunteers, the set up will start on Sunday 9th October 2011 and the take down is on the 16th October 2011. If you would like to volunteer please contact the Branch.

PW Vice-Chair

Branch Officers and Contacts

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Membership Secretary & Pubs Officer Ivor Chittenden	(015394) 37272 Email: i-e-chittenden@hotmail.co.uk
Branch Contact & Transport Duncan Crabtree	(01539) 735739 Email: d.p.crabtree@btinternet.com
Webmaster David Brown	Email: davidj_brown@hotmail.com

Are you on the email list? If you would like to receive information from The CAMRA Westmorland Branch please email The Secretary, Dave Welch (see above) We will then keep you informed of all forthcoming meetings and events.

The Ellera

015394 88464
info@elleraywindermere.co.uk



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015396 25256

Web site: www.thegeorgeanddragondent.co.uk
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