Edition 52

Magazine of the Westmorland Branch of CAMRA



The George & Dragon, Dent **West Pennines & Cumbria CIDER PUB OF THE YEAR - 2013**



Follow CAMRAWestmorland on Twitter @ CAMRAWESTMRLND



Find us on Facebook **CAMRAW**estmorland



Summer 2013



Alexander's The Pub



- Great ever changing real ales
- Great local food cooked to perfection
- Great view over Kendal and the hills
- Great place to park
- Great Hotel to stay if you are visiting

You can now find Alexander's on Facebook

www.facebook.com/AlexandersThe Pub

Open everyday from 12 Noon food served all day from 12 noon until 9.30pm



Alexander's the Pub,
Best Western Castle Green Hotel,
Castle Green Lane, Kendal, Cumbria, LA9 6RG
Tel (01539) 797017

From the Chair... David Prickett



I'll start off with a thank you to everybody who has been involved with the "Beer Escalator" campaign. We achieved the necessary 100,000 signatures to ensure that Parliament would have to take notice of the widespread concerns regarding the automatic increase in beer duty above inflation and the adverse effect that this has on the pub industry in this country and then to debate it in Parliament. Α mass lobby Parliament also took place with many concerned people seeing their own MP to discuss the problem face to face and even more of us were able to highlight the problem with our local MP by e-mail or letter. This did influence our representatives Parliament and the Chancellor on Budget Day not only stopped using the Beer Escalator but also reduced the tax on beer. I have heard it stated by many that this reduction was "only one penny" but I'd suggest that without this reduction the automatic increase could easily have led to an increase of another 10p or 20p per pint which would have further damaged our pubs and the hospitality trade. Is the job done, has the battle been completely won - unfortunately the answer is "no," the escalator still applies to strong beers and to cider and perry and it is always possible for escalators to be reintroduced; so

please watch out because there is still work to do. I will stress that this has been a great success story and it is because of the work and effort that we have all made – very well done to all concerned.

On a local level, we in CAMRA Westmorland set local campaigning objectives and the ones that we previously set ourselves were to increase the number of members in the branch, to lower the average age of the overall membership and to support our local pubs. We have been successful in this with a small but steady increase in members, with a slight reduction in the average age and with support being given to our local pubs by either direct support or by spreading the word about them by stories and advertising in our Lakes and Ale magazine or in our website.

We will always continue to welcome new members, both young and not quite so young, and will continue to look for members who want to help the branch out by going on our campaigning socials, attending our regular "business" meetings, helping out at our annual beer festival, or doing campaigning on line. So if you help out please join membership and local contact information can be found in this magazine or within our website. Are

(Continued on page 5)







A unique mix of bar, restaurant & four star inn, with the kind of comfortable informality and atmosphere that many attempt but few achieve.

At its heart is a great pub recently refurbished and extended across two floors with up to 8 real ales on tap and freshly prepared food using locally sourced ingredients.

bar, restaurant & 4 star inn

THE SUN CONISTON LA218HQ

t 015394 41248 f 015394 41219 e info@thesunconiston.com www.thesunconiston.com

Grey Walls Advert

(Continued from page 3)

you a budding writer? If you have a good story to tell about your local pub then please send it in to our editor, who is always on the look out for good stories. You are very welcome to join in.

By the time you read this our annual general meeting will have taken place and a new committee will be looking after our branch. My thanks go to all of the active branch members who enable our activities to continue, without your help and assistance the branch would not be as successful as it is; thank you again. It is the local CAMRA members that make the campaign what it is.

Watch out for real Cider and Perry, the weather has caused the producers

lots of problems and your support in searching out and trying out different types and flavours can and will help—and what an incredible difference in flavour and quality when compared with nationally produced "fizz" that is routinely available.

I also hope that you will be able to continue to visit your local and enjoy the atmosphere and the sociability; what a comparison with just having a tin of supermarket booze in the house.

Cheers and Good Health
David Prickett

NB This article was written by David prior to the news of Alan's death ED

Closing date for contributions to the next Issue is 15th July 2013

COMPLAINT/COMMENT?

The views expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Editors, CAMRA Ltd., Westmorland Branch or any other branch of CAMRA, but of the individual contributor. No part of this publication may be reproduced without prior permission.

Cumbria Trading Standards Office: County Hall, Kendal. Tel: 01539 773577.

Westmorland Branch of CAMRA : Editorial (01539) 732599.

Annual Subscription

To have a copy of Lakes & Ale sent to you quarterly by post, please send your contact details, together with £4 to cover the cost of postage for four issues to:

Cheque payable to: D Currington 12, Sedbergh Road Kendal ,Cumbria LA9 6AD

Advertising Rates

1/4 page £25 per edition
1/2 page £50 per edition
Full Page £90 per edition
1/2 page £160 for 4 paid up front
Full page £300 paid up front

ADVERTISING EDITOR CONTACT

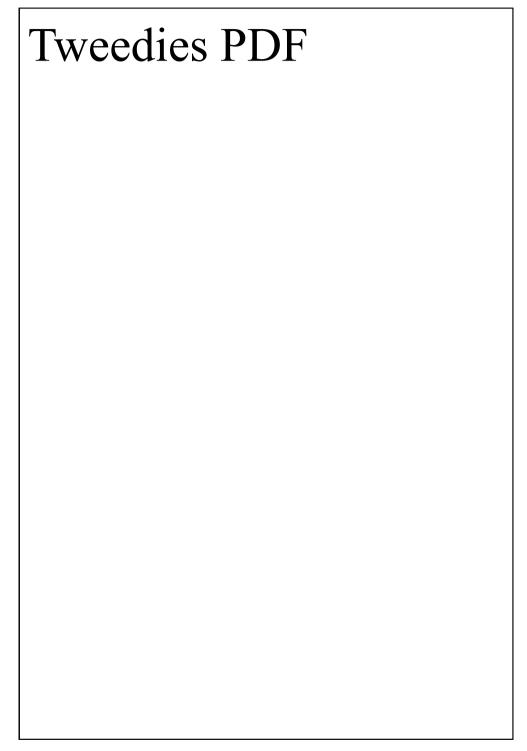
David Currington (01539) 732599 dadcurrington@hotmail.com



Timetables?

phone Traveline 0871 200 22 33 or visit www.cumbria.gov.uk/passengertransport A Bus or Train & A Beer - a safe combination





ALAN RISDON AN OBITUARY



It is with great sadness that Westmorland Branch has to report the death of our President Alan Risdon. Alan died in Royal Lancaster Infirmary on 15th May 2013 after a long battle against cancer. He remained very alert and focussed on CAMRA matters till the end. He will be very sorely missed. Our condolences go out to his family including his son Giles and daughter Ele.

What better Obituary could there be than to report the many, many tributes from his friends that the Branch has received so far. In particular, his dear friends Ray Jackson, Tony Jackson and Jim Chapple have penned their own memories. Over and over we see the term 'a true' gentleman. He certainly was!

From Ray Jackson, CAMRA West Pennines Regional Director

I knew Alan Risdon for over 20 years. I really got to know "No Socks," as he was affectionately known to his many friends both within and outside of CAMRA, when I became the West Pennines Regional Director in 1995.

I classed him as a great friend, a privilege to have known, and in those early days help and advise from him was always at hand. To me he was "Mr CAMRA" in CUMBRIA with a vast knowledge of the workings of CAMRA, both locally and nationally.

He was a true gentleman. Although Essex born he settled in his adopted CUMBRIA, particularly Ambleside, where he was briefly the licensee of his beloved "Golden Rule" now a Robinson's house, but in those early days was part of the Hartley's of Ulverston estate.

Alan was passionate about Hartley's brewery and its beers, fighting to the end to try and save it, as the brewery's BLO. He was well respected and highly thought of throughout Cumbria and further afield.

The highlight of his CAMRA membership was being selected as one of CAMRA's top 40 Campaigners in its fortieth year, which highly delighted him. I was honoured, last year, to be asked to present him with a self portrait which

included some of the highlights of his time in CAMRA and at the Golden Rule.

Sadly he passed away in the early hours of Wednesday morning 15th May 2013 aged 76.

"God Bless You Alan", you will be sadly missed.



Ray Jackson, Regional director West Pennines, presents Alan with his portrait, a tribute to his work for CAMRA.

Malcolm Harding CAMRA Head Office

Please pass on my condolences. Alan was a good friend, one of life's gentlemen, and always good company.'

(Continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 8)

From Jim Chapple

Alan was a great friend for many years and was wonderful company on many a "Cumbria Comeovers" visit to the Isle of Man, which he loved.

The Cumbria 'Comeovers'

Left to right:
Ros Berry (W Cumbria)
Dave Prickett (Westm'land)
Sheila Tuer (Solway)
Phil Tuer (Solway)
Bob Johnson (W Cumbria)
Lynne Pricket (Westm'land)
Jim Chapple (W Cumbria)
Alan Risdon (Westm'land)
Helen Walker (W Cumbria)
Stephen Walker (W Cumb)



Whilst his CAMRA pedigree and commitment had been long established and was known to me, I first became actively involved with Alan on CAMRA activities in 2004 when Cumbria Branches was reactivated after a period of being dormant. He represented Westmorland Branch at our meetings and was a driving force in getting Cumbria Branches up and running again. He played major roles in getting two very successful issues of the Cumbria Real Ale Guide published in 2005 and 2008 where he took on the financial control role, and both editions were a great financial success under his stewardship. He was also active in getting the "Ale Trail", and "Cumbria's Awash with Beer" publications printed and distributed, plus contributing to the annual Real Ale insert in the Stagecoach NW "Lakesrider" Bus Timetable and many other publicity opportunities for CAMRA. It was always a great pleasure and an inspiration to work with him..

No doubt much will be written about Alan and his passion for Real Ale, but I, and a few others were privileged to share two of his other loves in his company.

One love was the Isle of Man. He spent his early years in and around Essex commuting to work in the "Big Smoke". He had a passion for motor cycles, and had visited the Isle of Man (I believe with his father) a number of times to see the TT and other racing events. In 2005 I needed to travel to the Isle of Man to judge their Branch POTY in the West Pennines Regional competition. I

(Continued on page 11)

Strickland

3

Station Inn Oxenholme









www.stationinnoxenholme.co.uk Electric Bike Network Charge Point Accommodation available

4 Real ales & Real cider Dogs welcome, Large beer garden Large Children's Play area Home cooked food from £5.75 Also serving Tea and Coffee





(Continued from page 9)

remember that it was the Sidings in Castletown. I have a sister who lives on the Island, so I decided to make the trip a long weekend. I informed the members attending one of the Branches meetings, and immediately we had a "group", including Alan. The visit became an annual event, extending to three full days. Alan was a regular attendee up to 2011. His worsening health prevented him from taking part last year, but he remained on the "Cumbria Comeovers" list. We established a relationship with the Manx CAMRA Branch spending many an enjoyable pub visit with them around the Island, Alan being a great social catalyst. His favourite Island pub was the Whitehouse in Peel (although he always managed to spread his custom well throughout the Island, including tours of all three Manx breweries). On our first visit to the Whitehouse, Neil, the landlord, saw Alan outside in the garden, came across and said "You're 'No Sox', aren't you". This amused Alan. Neil explained that he knew Alan from frequent visits he had made to Ambleside and the "Rule". Each year he managed to visit most of the real ale pubs on the Island, using their superb public transport system (Horse trams, electric railway, mountain railway, steam trains and buses). He also went a couple of times to the Island under his own steam to see the motor-cycle racing.

His other love was the steam railway. Whilst he particularly enjoyed the buses and trams, he loved the steam railway. We regularly travelled down to

Port Erin on Sunday morning, usually to visit the Falcons Nest, and have lunch at the Bay Hotel, but the real attraction was the steam trains on the narrow gauge railway. This was an interest that he shared with Phil Tuer from Solway Branch. They would keep us amused and fearful they might not get back on, by getting off at each station en route from Douglas to Peel to check that the engine was still



check that the engine was still coupled to the front, and steaming! A rea situation of "big boys toys".

There are many more stories I can tell of my association with Alan, all of which demonstrate what a great inspiration and thoroughly committed person he was. He could also be highly amusing and very good company. I will

(Continued on page 12)

(Continued from page 11)

miss him greatly, as I know will the other "Comeovers".

My sister had often joined us on our visits and got to know Alan. Perhaps I best sum up the respect that he enjoyed by quoting her comment upon hearing of his sad passing. She said

"Thank you for letting me know about Alan, I'm glad I had the chance to meet him, a lovely man who I am sure will be missed by a lot of people".

A lovely man indeed.

From Tony Jackson

I first met Alan Risdon in 1993, when I joined Westmorland CAMRA. Ken Lowe was our chairman & Alan was Secretary. A more knowledgeable man about real ale I have yet to meet. After Ken departed our county to move to London, Alan was my main guiding light in my infancy as Chairman - the amount of work that this man put in for the cause of Westmorland Branch of CAMRA was staggering. Not content with being Secretary & original Editor of Lakes & Ale, he put in many miles delivering the L & As far & wide; very often with his daughter Ele as chauffer!

Alan was an original member of the Society for the Preservation of Beers from the Wood, a cause he also passionately believed in; was joint licensee for a time at his beloved Golden Rule Ambleside, where many of our beer festival planning meetings were held. He was one of the most respected life members in CAMRA, the award of being elected by his peers as one of the top 40 CAMRA campaigners over CAMRA's first 40 years being a true reflection of his popularity

Alan's last few years were unfortunately blighted by illness, but he remained alert throughout, & it was a real pleasure to see him at the few meetings he was able to attend. Two outstanding memories over the last year are of Alan attending our Beer Festival at Kendal Town Hall last October plus the fantastic presentation of his portrait at his 'home', the Golden Rule, Ambleside, where he was able to meet so many of his friends - he truly did enjoy that evening.

On behalf of all past & present members of Westmorland CAMRA, may I say it has been an honour to have known this remarkable man - hope he's relaxing in his clogs with a pint up there?

Plus overleaf a selection from the many replies the Branch has received to the news of Alan's Death

(Continued on page 13)

(Continued from page 12)

'Sad news indeed; a true gentleman, who will be sorely missed. Please pass on our sympathies to his friends and family.'

Nigel at White Hart Bouth

'Susan and myself send our thoughts to Alan's family; a great man with whom I had the pleasure to have the odd pint or two with and some heated debates'

Gary at George & Dragon

Thanks so much for letting me know this sad news - for us branch members from the early days we all know the immense effort and dedication Alan put in to promote Camra and real ale in our area (& beyond). Alan got me into CAMRA on a chance meeting when the Watermill first opened. Very many happy memories followed for which I will always be grateful.

I have always had the utmost respect for Alan - a true champion of the cause, an excellent spokesman and, most important, a very decent gentle man. I hope to raise a glass to him soon - a straight glass that is (as Alan would insist!).'

Simon Rose, Branch Member

'Sorry to hear the sad news'

Stuart Taylor Kirkby Lonsdale Brewery

'Very sad news and I am sure each of us is going to miss him in our own way."

Marilyn Molloy Branch Member

'Alan, with his immense and diverse knowledge and character will be sadly missed by many. Lynne and I got to know him best when we shared trips over to the Isle of Man, wonderful times, good memories. I was thinking as well of his commitment to CAMRA and to Westmorland - his insistence of coming to last years beer festival and seeing how we were getting on and having just a half or two. I'm also thinking of the evening that we were able to present his picture to him in his local, and the delight that he showed regarding it. He will be missed.'

David Prickett Westmorland Branch

'Very sorry to hear the news. I knew he hadn't been well for a while but certainly a one-off who'll be remembered fondly.....and although I only got to know him through the pub, ironically we discovered that we had both worked in the same building in Southend years ago - but at different times....he got out before I did!'

Alan Piper, The Sun, Coniston

'All at Hawkshead Brewery send condolences to the family and friends of Alan Risdon, the brewery's former BLO, supporter and friend. A real beer man, Alan will be missed.'

'Sad news indeed . He will be greatly missed both as a person and for his work for CAMRA 'Stephen Walker West Cumbria



CAMRA Westmorland **PUB OF THE YEAR** 2008

THE OLD DUNGEON GHYLL HOTEL

GREAT LANGDALE

UP TO 8 REAL ALES INCLUDING YATES BITTER

WESTON'S OLD ROSIE SCRUMPY CIDER **EVERY GOOD BEER GUIDE SINCE 1986** EVERY EDITION OF THE GOOD PUB

GUIDE

FOOD SERVED 12.00 to 2.00 & 6.00 to 9.00 EACH DAY PLEASE BOOK FOR DINNER IN THE HOTEL

1 015394 37272

WWW.ODG.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'

A Number of Issues Part 3

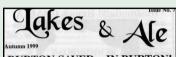


From Don Morris

You will probably relieved to read that this is the last episode in this saga for now. I shall conclude this chapter when the magazine enters the present century. I imagine many of you are fed up with this soliloguy. Anyway the first L&A to be considered is no. 7 for autumn 1999 which opened with an editorial the upheavals possibly the home of English brewing. There was talk about the demise of brewing on the Trent as Bass, who had

acquired the brewery from Ind Coope, were considering transferring production to their Tetley plant at Leeds (re Tetley and with recent hindsight that would have been an interesting decision). In the end the Burton brewery did not go for a Burton but was partly saved by a brewery from my own city (sic) Wolverhampton. Just don't mention the football. I'll have more to say about brewery takeovers later.

Who was, or hopefully is, 'Beerwolf'? The first article he penned for this rag is the opening article and is recommending us to meander down the Lancaster canal and sample the hostelries either en route or close to the towpath. My guess to the identity of Mr Beerwolf is Mike, hubby of Marilyn Molloy because she was the sober driver for this trip. I don't know the



BURTON SAVED - IN BURTON!

Some good news to open this Edition of 'Igdese & Afe. Since the sale by Carlsberg-Telley of the Ind Coope brewery at Burton Upon Trent to Bass, brewing of their prize winning Ind Coope's Burton Ale has continued under contract on the site where it originated. That contract has now ended and instead of transferring production to their Joshua Telley plant in Leeds, sa was first mooted, the contract has been awarded to Marstons, the well known and respected Burton Upon Trent based arm of Wolverhampton & Dudley Breweries. The liquor (water) must be (almost) identical and the same yeast is to be used. Let us hope that the ready availability of Marstons Pedigree will make it far easier for pubs in this area to obtain this fine ale. Get out threa and get asking for it!

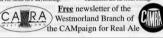
till with Bass in Burton and more tool news! A glossy colour insert in the trade press announced proudly at Bass is committed to real ale. Look at for some new advertising.

and more soid out to Scottish & reweasite ar insert in will now concentrate on Hotels did proudly Leisure Centres.

Leisure Centres.

dia le. Look At least the brewing and pub ow businesses are far from boring!

Free newsletter of the



alcoholic in & outs of the area very well and I cannot comment on the pubs sampled.

The next article was, to me, another boring article on the art of brewing. I did read it but could not get excited. The author was wisely anonymous. Moving quickly on, the POS was the ODG. I did not realise that Ivor Chittenden had worked there for nearly two decades. I can recall with some pleasure sharing a pint of OP at the ODG

with Pam at what seemed the outrageously early time of I0am before tackling the Crinkles. Apparently the ODG was CAMRA national Pub of the year runner up in 1989.

The Roy Plomley guest in this issue was Allan Beasty of Ambleside. I don't know the fellow but the Editor in the next issue pointed out that AB was a real person. His choice of beers was Yates Bitter, Harveys Sussex Best Bitter, Coniston Bluebird, Hook Norton Best Bitter, Banks Bitter, Youngs Bitter, Jennings Best Bitter, and Wadsworth 6X. I get the impression that Alan is a Bitter drinker. All to be served at The Golden Rule.

There was a lively article about the GBBF which included a discussion on the dearth

(Continued on page 17)



(Continued from page 15)

of Cumbrian ales on display. Yates chose their less well known XB rather than the normal bitter; this was a reinvention of Forest XB from the previous brewery that the Baxters of Yates owned. There was also a threnody, [now there's a word I had to look up! ED] for some Mitchell's beers (not really Cumbria!) that were disappearing. I learnt from the article about the existence of the European Beer Consumers' Union (EBCU). To serve at the festival you had to be in the ECBU or CAMRA. If the Westmorland branch is a local council, & CAMRA itself is the Government then ECBU must be the European Union. Any views on this Mr Farage (I know you are big on beer)?

The editorial in Issue 8 was all about the rise and rise of The Watermill as it reached the final four pubs in the National Pub competition. It had the stunning header' Watermill on the Final Ridge'. Well the pub did not quite make it but it did come very close. There are now a couple of comments which may have Brian banning me from his hostelry. The pub is not quite what it was. My wife and I were at one time exclusively OP drinkers but although still preferring dark beers we did see the light and now have eclectic tastes - and that was the great joy of the Watermill. 'Up to Sixteen Real Ales' went the slogan. Nowadays Brian's portfolio of ales is heavily dominated by the half dozen or so of his own beers. There's nothing wrong with that unless you still dream of the previous wonderful choice. Does it possibly just reflect the fact that Alan was a dedicated beer lover whereas Brian might be slightly less interested in the holy amber 'liquid'? Mind you, Brian is very generous to both CAMRA and to local residents and we are still very grateful that the pub is one of the foundation stones of Ings.

As this was the last edition of L&A of the millennium there was previous retrospective of the many take-overs of breweries and pub chains in its final year. Apparently some Landlords experienced four changes of ownership in 1999. I found the reading of the article rather depressing. It reminded me of the current situation in the football premier league (will I get sued for libel if don't say Barclays premier league?). The people who now own the majority of these clubs have no real interest in the game. In fact it has ceased to be a game but more of a business. These 'trophy' holdings are more concerned about profit than the product. The same argument can often be levelled at the current brewery owners. It was almost if we had gone full square and back to 1971 when CAMRA was formed. Halleluiah for both the independent and the micro breweries.

Following on from yet another article on 'the art of brewing' we arrived at the POS. Did the editor have a large say in the choice of the (golden) Golden Rule? By 1999 it had featured in 25 Good Beer Guides, more than any other pub in Cumbria.

Important Note: You do not have to have completed the Fairfield Horseshoe before entering this hostelry.

The penultimate essay was lifted from 'Pint in Hand' the journal of the Society for the Preservation of Beers from the Wood of which the then editor was a member. It concerned the pubs of Kirkby Lonsdale. The six pubs mentioned were The Royal, Snooty Fox, Red Dragon, Kings Arms, Sun, and finally the Orange Tree. Of these inns perhaps the Orange Tree (previously the Fleece) is probably the most CAMRA friendly. Again, I was unaware that the current name was taken

(Continued on page 49)



Restaurant and Tea Rooms

10 OF THE BEST

Great food to be enjoyed with the best bottled beers and ales from the local area, many award winners.

'Catch of the day' Fish menu (Tuesday) and Steak night (Thursday) every week.

Church Street, Ambleside. LA22 0PD

Email: eat@thepriesthole.co.uk

Tel: 015394 36219 Web: www.thepriesthole.co.uk





A WARM WELCOME FROM ADAM & ANGE

- Four Mostly Local Cask Ales available all year
- Discount on Cask Ales for card carrying CAMRA Members
- **♦** Dog friendly
- Locally sourced food available

Beer Festival advert	Midland Hotel

PDF K Lonsdale one above the other please



AN APPLE A DAY KEEPS THE DOCTOR AWAY BUT A PEAR IS BETTER AT NIGHT!

says Gary Kirkby
Branch Cider & Perry Organiser



CAMRA HQ News CAMRA names the UK's best Ciders and Perries

CAMRA, the Campaign for Real Ale, has today announced the winners of its National Cider and Perry Championships.

Cider

GOLD – Springfield Wobbly Munk, Monmouthshire SILVER – C.J.'s Surprise, Gwent BRONZE – West Milton, Dorset Perry

GOLD – Dunkertons, Herefordshire

SILVER – Gwynt Y Ddraig, Two Trees, Glamorgan

BRONZE – Raglan Cider Mill Snowy Owl, Monmouthshire.

This is the time of year we look forward to warm summer evenings sat outside our local pub with a nice glass of REAL Cider or Perry in Hand.

With REAL Cider and Perry consumption growing up to 40% in

some areas we are in great need of understanding just what is real Cider or Perry.

To help more people to become aware the George and Dragon, Dent, held their first Cider and Perry tasting night. Open to anyone; it was attended by about 10 people all looking to find out what the differences were between Ciders, from dry to sweet, and between a small selection of Perries. The event was run by Craft Cider Ltd., Halifax.





MANOR ARMS

NO JUKE BOX

NO PLASMA TV

JUST GOOD CONVERSATION

PUB of the YEAR 2008 CAMRA CUMBRIA



FREE HOUSE SINCE 1768

3 DIAMOND ENSUITE

ACCOMMODATION HOT SNACKS

SERVED TILL10pm

Family run traditional pub with 2 real fires, set in a quiet market town on the edge of the Lake District

Regular Beers are: Yates Bitter, Copper Dragon, Golden Pippin and another from Cumbria. Also up to 6 other countrywide Guest Beers

OPEN ALL DAY - EVERY DAY

Manor Arms, The Square, Broughton-in-Furness Tel: 01229 716286



Coppermines Road, Coniston, Cumbria LA21 8HL Tel: (015394) 41133 Email: info@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



Prestigious Cider Awards for George & Dragon

For the first time Westmorland Branch truly was snowed in with have decided to award a Cider/Perry Sue and Gary at The G&D, I Pub of the year. took the opportunity to



Gary (left) & Sue are presented with their Cider POTY Shield and personal Certificates by David Currington

Both cider & perry are becoming CAMRA HQ appointed adjudicators ale. No additives or such are allowed. the Year 2013 award. The Brews can vary tremendously This is a tremendous and well The award went unanimously to the when the adjudicators call yet again. all!

Hotel Branch Meeting, when yours Branch on the map nationally. DC

present Gary with the Shield for 2013 and also a Certificate he can

But it didn't stop there. As Westmorland CAMRA Cider Pub of the Year 2013 t h e George was automatically entered into Cider & Perry competition for the West Pennines Region, which includes all of Cumbria. After being visited

increasingly popular amongst festival The George & Dragon was then goers and this is rapidly expanding into awarded the coveted West Pennines the pub trade. In CAMRA we mean Cider Pub of 2013. The pub now goes real cider/perry just as we mean real forward to the National Cider Pub of

between dry, sweet & cloudy and deserved achievement by the pub and being made purely from the fruit each by Gary Kirby himself. We keep our year's harvest will yield a new taste. fingers crossed and wish him well George & Dragon at Dent where In the Branch we have had to listen to Gary, our Branch Cider Coordinator, Gary passionately standing up for his

is on one man mission to convert us beloved ciders and perries. Now it has proved very worthwhile both for So on the day of the recent Midland the Pub and for getting Westmorland

Clive, Manager at the Midland Hotel tells us that as a follow up to the Branch Pub of the Year Award the Midland Hotel is to be featured in the Cumbria Life Magazine in June. The CAMRA Westmorland Pub of the year award has also received a mention in the May issue, All hail the ale!

Queens PDF done

Over the last few years I have worked closely with CAMRA and it's members to support rural pubs and our brewers. We have some of the finest ales in the land brewed here, so we need to protect this fantastic asset.

The petitions we have done together and the campaigns we have run have started to make a difference. In the recent budget Ip was taken off a price of a pint. We need to go a lot further, but it makes a nice and encouraging change to see tax go down.

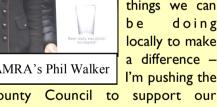
What was more even welcome was the news that h government has agreed to scrap the beer u t escalator. want to pay tribute Westmorland CAMRA

A comment on the removal of the Beer Escalator From our MP Tim Farron

meet with CAMRA member Phil Walker. Phil was extremely eloquent in lobbying Jo to provide extra support for our pubs and local breweries - and he gave credit where

> its due, praising Jo's backbone standing up to the Pubcos by backing the new pubs regulator.

> There are things we can bе doing locally to make a difference -I'm pushing the



County Council to support our brewers and give small grants to pubs to house community facilities like Post Offices, Internet Cafes or even small

With the beer duty escalator gone and the new pub regulator coming in to being, we can see that the government is genuinely responding to our campaigning. The door is slightly open. lets keep campaigning and push it wide! **Tim Farron MP**

Westmorland & Lonsdale



Tim (Left) with (far right) CAMRA's Phil Walker

members for all their work on this.

As we know the beer duty escalator massively favoured big supermarkets over smaller local pubs and breweries. Pubs provide an essential hub for our communities across the South Lakes and have not been given the support they need. I will keep fighting to protect our local pubs and attempt to be their voice in parliament.

Recently I asked Pubs Minister Io Swinson to come to Kendal and to

Dent Brewery

WESTMORLAND BRANCH OF CAMRA. PUB OF THE YEAR 2013 MIDLAND HOTEL, APPLEBY



CAMRA members from all parts of Westmorland met at The Midland Hotel, Appleby-in-Westmorland on March IIth for their Pub of the Year Presentation.

Presenting Pub of the Season and Pub of the Year awards to Clive and Aimee, Landlord and Landlady of the Midland Hotel, Branch Chairman, Dave Prickett, spoke of the aims of CAMRA and of the excellence of the manner in which the Midland upholds these ideals. In a time when pubs are closing at a rate of eighteen a week

because of difficult and changing trading conditions, Clive and Aimee have invested in their pub and given it a new life.

Clive Bisset, Landlord, accepting the awards, praised all his staff, and in particular wife Aimee, for all their efforts to ensure his high standards of welcome and hospitality are enjoyed by all.

Representatives of a dozen local businesses attended the presentation, acknowledging the fact that the

(Continued on page 29)



FAMILY RUN TRADITIONAL PUB WITH A FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE AND A REAL LOG FIRE SERVING HOME MADE LOCALLY PRODUCED FOOD & 3 REAL ALES FROM THE MARSTON'S GROUP SPECIALITIES ARE THE HOME MADE DESSERTS AND THE PORK PRODUCT'S ACCOMMODATION IS NOW AVAILABLE WITH OUR NEWLY REFURBISHED 8 EN-SUITE ROOMS WE ARE ON THE COAST TO COAST WALK AND WE WELCOME MUDDY BOOTS AND CHILDREN

FOOD SERVED DAILY FROM 12.00 TO 2.30 AND 6.00 TO 9.00PM
IN OUR 28 SEATER RESTAURANT, BAR AREA OR BEER GARDEN
FOR SPECIAL EVENTS AND OFFERS CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE
WWW.THEGEORGEHOTELORTON.CO.UK OR CONTACT US ON 015396 26046
EMAIL - THEGEORGEHOTELORTON@HOTMAIL.COM







Keswick PDF Adv, please insert pdf inside the gold edging. Thnxs

(Continued from page 27)

Midland, as well as being a focal point for any local residents, offers a

delight that visitors to Appleby have the opportunity to enjoy local produce in such comfortable



friendly welcome to visitors to Appleby, particularly those who arrive via the nearby Settle-Carlisle Railway – a delightful end to their memorable journey.

Maurice Walton, of Appleby Creamery, praised the hard work Clive and his team have made to welcome all to the Midland, adding his surroundings in the company of friendly locals.

Local butcher, Michael Dowding, whose products may be enjoyed with those of many other local producers at the Midland, said how pleased he was that such a prestigious award as CAMRA's Pub of the Year had been won by such a deserving pub. **KM**

WESTMORLAND CAMRA EVENTS DIARY

Contact Tony Jackson for more details, transport bookings etc. (015394) 47845 Email: a.jackson52@btinternet.com

June 10th Branch Meeting Strickland Arms, Sizergh

July 8th Wainwrights Chapel Stile

Aug I2th TBA

EDEN VALLEY SUB BRANCH EVENTS DIARY

June 19th Summer Pub of the Season Gate Yanwath

July 17th Brewery Tour Eden Brewery

For normal main Branch Events the pickup point can usually be agreed when booking but is usually the Bus Station in Kendal. For Eden Valley Branch contact Matt at mgregorycamra@yahoo.co.uk

Subsidised transport is now £4 per visit.

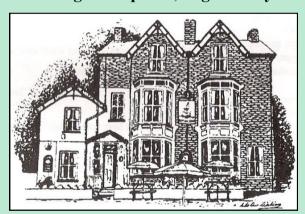


Brantfell Road BOWNESS-ON-WINDERMERE

OPEN FROM 11, 7 DAYS A WEEK

SIX REAL ALES, INCLUDING CONISTON BLUEBIRD

Children's licence, dining room
Games area with pool, TV etc.
Excellent home-cooked meals served all day
Warm, welcoming atmosphere; dog friendly + real fire!



Patio, car park and en-suite accommodation

For full details and bookings

Telephone 015394 43970; e-mail <u>info@royaloak-windermere.co.uk</u> Website www.royaloakwindermere.co.uk

Steve and Angie look forward to seeing you

WESTMORLAND BRANCH OF CAMRA. PUB OF THE YEAR 2013 - Runner Up RIFLEMAN'S ARMS, KENDAL



When the Westmorland Pub of the Year 2013 was decided it turned out to be a very close call - there being only a single vote between top spot The Midland Hotel and the runner up which was the Rifleman's Arms in Kendal. It was immediately agreed that both pubs should receive recognition and the Branch took the very unusual step of presenting a POTY Runners-Up Certificate.



This was duly presented to landlady Nita at a special social evening held at the pub in early March this year.

A good collection of local and CAMRA members gathered for the event and the Certificate was presented, together with flowing words of well earned praise, by our

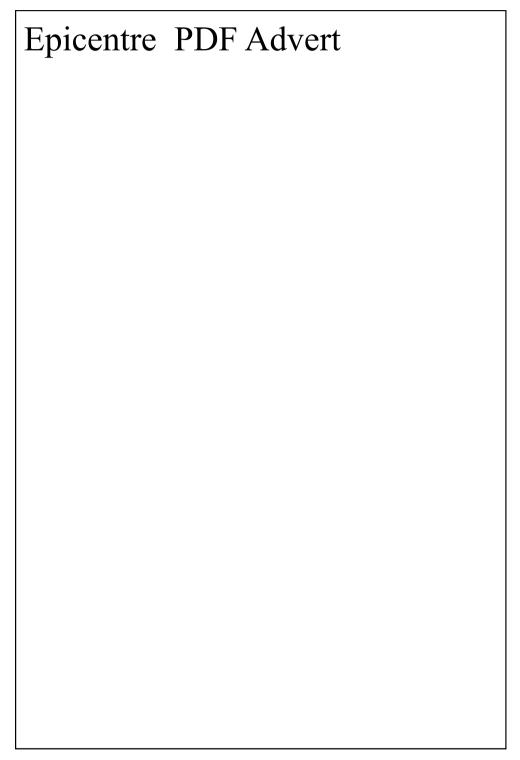
Chairman David Pricket. We all, both locals and CAMRA members alike, feel they are truly lucky that the Pub has been blessed with Nita as their Landlady. She has, in recent years, put new life into the pub and the surrounding community. A real 'The Pub is the Hub' that is one of

CAMRA's campaigning aims.

A quiet pub with **no** juke box but with quiz nights and knitting sessions, not to mention five varying local ales on tap, and an enviable folk music night every This is indeed a Thursday. remarkable place and a great success story. Well done to Nita and all her staff. DC



Then it's back to business for Nita Just look at those great beers!



Brewery Updates

Bowness Bay Brewing Co Ltd.

With a year of brewing under their belt and a small range of beers with which the Brewery are happy, Bowness Bay Brewing were delighted to be approached by Windermere Reflections through CAMRA's very own Chris Holland.

Insert pump clip please

The idea was to produce a great beer that combined with some local pub quizzes provided a mechanism for Windermere Reflections to encourage locals to get involved in improving the local environment and water quality of our lakes but on their turf and terms; as well as a good publicity opportunity for the brewery.

Our first attempt, Mere Beer, was not a bad pint as it goes and did sell well but it felt we could improve on it.

Brewing the following weekend, they substituted the light crystal malt for amber malt, beefed up the hop content and add plenty of flavouring hops towards the end of the boil.

The result - Mere Gold a 3.8% ABV golden ale, the amber malt gives it that golden hue and the flavouring hops give that tropical fruit tang whisking you away from the rain sodden landscape (at the moment) to the sun kissed shores of the Caribbean!

Mere Gold is available in casks and will shortly be available in bottles.

The official launch of Mere Gold will be at Windermere Reflections mid programme celebration event at the National Trust's Wray Castle on Wednesday 26 June. Mere Gold will be launched with an unusual boat

Teams of canoeists will race in relay along a stretch of Windermere with a pint of Mere Gold on board. The winner will be the first team back not to spill a drop.

The race will finish at Wray Castle where the rowers and quests will taste the beer for the first time.

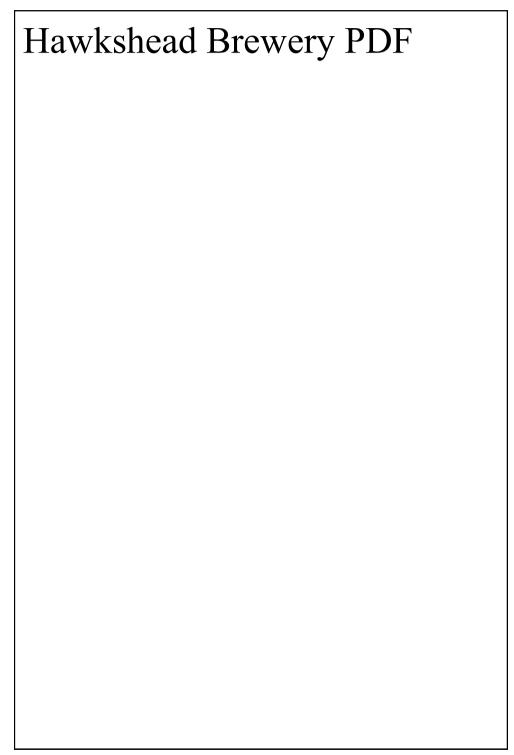
Windermere Reflections is a partnership programme supported by the



Heritage Lottery Fund running until August 2014. Their 19 projects offer exciting opportunities and long term benefit to the area, and increase understanding of environmental issues within the Windermere Catchment. From their Ambleside office the Windermere Reflections team, along with their delivery

Ronnie Mullin at work in his Bowness Bay, brewery

(Continued on page 35)



(Continued from page 33)

partners are rolling out a programme of wide ranging activities including tree planting and river restoration, heritage surveys, arts events and initiatives to help us all reduce our environmental impact. There are lots of opportunities to get involved see www.windermere-reflections.org.uk.

David Currington Temp BLO

Dent Brewery

Its all going on up at Dent. Simon Maverick Calvert, the former brewing assistant has been promoted to Head Brewer/Manager assisted by former Dray Simon Winder. They are also proud to introduce their new, keen, polite, and very professional Drayman Richard Davis. Fresh attitude and exciting ideas are making sure Dent is a brewery to be watching out for in the future.

With that long winter now just a memory its now the season for the Summer beers. This month sees the return of the sought after lager-style cask ale Rambrau 4.5%. Brewed with lager malts and hallertauer hops to create a clean and crisp refreshing lager-style beer, it was CAMRA 2009 North West Champion Speciality Beer and there is an increasingly popular new brew

Woolly Jumper 3.7%. A smooth finishing pale ale with a decent amount of East Kent Goldings thrown in to create a lovely floral nose and a hint of citrus as it hits the mouth. The Brewery say it tastes like summer is just around the corner. Follow the Brewery on twitter for more updates. @dentbreweryltd David Currington BLO

Eden Brewery

The first of this summer's special brews, Experiment 103, was very successful & was a sell .out. The second brew, North Down, (4.0%) is now available in outlets around Westmorland and selling very fast.

This will be followed by Eden Cascade (3.8%) in a few weeks time. Work is now well underway for the special Christmas Ale, a strong bitter which will be around 8 to 10%. It is to called 'Uncle Monty's Revenge' (a reference to Withnail & I) and is already nearly all pre-ordered.

Keith Baglee BLO

Hawkshead Brewery.

Limited Edition Brew for Booths

The brewery was delighted to be asked by Booths to brew a beer specifically for the supermarket's first ever beer festival. The 4% ABV pale ale, named Festival Ale, was a hit with customers, selling 330 cases in the first 5 days.

American Red

Brewed for JD Wetherspoon's spring beer festival the 4.2% American-hopped beer (piloted as Hoppy Red) received rave reviews from

(Continued on page 36)

(Continued from page 35)

Wetherspoon customers nationwide.

NZPA Wins Scots Beer of the Year Glasgow CAMRA voted NZPA their Beer of the Year – an award won for the first time in 24 years by an English brewery.

Damson Day Country Fair

The brewery served up two special

beers from their bar at the annual event in the Lyth Valley - Damson Stout 4.5% and Damson & Vanilla Stout 4.5%.

SIBA Festival.

The Beer Hall has been chosen by the brewers' society (SIBA) as the site for its annual North West beer festival in 2013. It is set to be Cumbria's biggest ever beer festival with 200 cask beers from up to 80 North Western breweries. The festival will run from 24 – 27 October. This is truly great news.

David Currington BLO

Kendal Brewing Company

A Summer Beer Festival, with all summer ales, is planned for weekend 18/19th August next., including live music & a BBQ.

Brewery working to full capacity

David Currington BLO

Kirkby Lonsdale Brewery

We have a new beer available very soon called 'Singletrack' 4% abv light summery ale with super fruity aromas.

We have also had delivery of more casks, the brewery continues to remain busy. Colin Ashton BLO

Nine Standards Brewery

No report available. Brewery not answering any calls over recent weeks, Croglin Castle often not open

David Prickett BLO

Tirril Brewery

No report available.

Keith Morgan, BLO

Watermill Brewing Co.

Collie Wobbles won the Micro Challenge at Burgundy's Jackson BLO

Winster Valley Brewery

The Brewery are launching a light hoppy beer to co-inside with their Beer Festival which is 26-29th July

Phil Walker BLO

Hawkshead Spring Beer Festival

The spring beer festival held in March was extremely successful

(Continued on page 37)

(Continued from page 36)

with 115 casks (80 guest, 35 Hawkshead) sold in just 22 hours. Planning is underway for the summer festival, which takes place on 18-21 July, the emphasis will be on beers from small, independent breweries nationwide.



pulling a 'Best Pint'
Above right: Gemma &
Katie, 'nuff said'
Right: Hannah, Chris &
Mark serving in the River
Bar.
Below: The first eager
customers at opening
time.



IMPORTANT CHANGES AGREED AT THE CAMRA WESTMORLAND BRANCH AGM

The geographical area of Westmorland Branch is relatively sparsely populated compared to other parts of the UK. There is also a somewhat natural divide between the South Lakes western side and the Eden Valley eastern side. We have been quite successful in recent years in gaining a sizeable active membership from the Appleby area but this makes for long and very late journeys for members depending on which side of the divide meeting are arranged.

We have therefore taken advantage of relevant CAMRA HQ guidelines and at the May AGM ratified a decision to create a Sub-Branch within Westmorland This is to be known as the Eden Valley Sub Branch, though it will remain an integral part of the full Westmorland Branch and all Westmorland CAMRA members are eligible to attend meeting of both groups.

The new Sub Branch has elected David Prickett as their Chairman and they need to hold an AGM very soon to confirm this and also to elect any other officers they might wish to have. However, the one exception is that they cannot have their own treasurer and all financial matters are to remain with Tony Jackson, the main Branch Treasurer.

We feel this decision will allow the following benefits to the Branch and CAMRA at large:

- the local area will be managed more closely by local people
- it will help with activating more local members to take part in activities
- it will reduced load and travelling time on parent branch members and visa versa.
- this will lead to better campaigning coverage for CAMRA
- it will allow better monitoring of pubs & in campaigning against closure if required.
- it will allow better/more regular distribution of membership forms, campaigning posters, parent branch newsletter etc.
- it will allow a more detailed knowledge to be applied when selecting Pubs of the Year, their own Pubs of the Season & Good Beer Guide entries.

Local Social trips/meetings can be held.

The Sub-Branch guide lines will be published in full on our website and all meetings of both the Main and Sub Branch will still be published in Lakes & Ale an on the Website.

D Currington. Acting Branch Secretary.

Camra Community Pubs Month April 2013

The Dent Football Club, way in the East of our Branch, was like so many other community groups, struggling for funds to keep the team going.

The local pub and Dent Brewery tap, the George & Dragon, which already sponsored the senior team with kit and other items, decided that things would come to a head if nothing was done and soon.

So after a meeting with the club and finding out that all the juniors were now being run by Dent FC and the cost was growing by the week, it was agreed that a "Sportsman's Dinner" should be arranged with all proceeds going to help secure the future of the Dales Juniors.

Planning started in June 2012. First they had to find a speaker for the night and looking at the prices some of the such guys were charging they hit a brick wall. The fees were anywhere from £1000 to



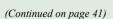
£5000. The Club did not have that kind of money so but they had plenty of time to arrange it as no date had yet been set.

In October 2012, they had a big stroke of luck. A famous gent and his wife were staying in the village and after spotting them both coming out of the Church Gary, the landlord of the George & Dragon, pounced and asked him and his wife into the Dragon for coffee.

There they talked about the village and life here and after about 5 minutes Gary asked the gent if he would he be interested in being the guest speaker at the sportsman's dinner as we had still not heard from anyone else.

And to my surprise Mr Graham Taylor OBE, (for he was the person exiting the

Church), agreed to be the speaker at the First Sportsman's Dinner at Dent and yes for free. He left after about 1/2 hour with numbers and addresses exchanged but no fixed date as he would get back later that month after he had check his commitments. After a few weeks an email arrived and the 20th April 2013 was set. Now the planning had to start for real.





Like Real Ale! Why not join us in CAMRA?

Step One—Fill in the details below

Name (s):	
	Post Code	
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 Payment: Rates

Single £22 Joint £27; Over 60/under 26 £19 (Joint must be at same address)

Send to: Membership Secretary, CAMRA, 230, Hatfield Road, St Albans, Herts., AL1 4LW.



THE RIFLEMAN'S ARMS, KENDAL The village green pub at the top of the hill



Opening Hours: Mon to Thurs: 6.30 till close Fri: 4.30 till close Sat& Sun: Noon till close 4-6 Greenside Kendal Cumbria LA9 4LD Telephone: 07722686249

Runner Up - Westmorland CAMRA
Pub of the Year 2013

You can always be sure of a warm & friendly welcome from Anita and her staff when you visit this great local pub

- Five handpumps serving superb local ales
- Cask Marque accreditation
 Live folk music Thursday nights, free refreshments, Quiz night every Sunday
- Meeting room available, Fairtrade tea & coffee
- Families, Walkers, & Dogs welcome
 - Quiet pub, no juke box;
 Separate Poolroom

(Continued from page 39)

Gary and Ian, (who runs Dent Juniors), both being chefs, could easily set the meal, but the big question was where to

have it. The Dragon was patently going to be too small for our target number of 100 people. Therefore, it was decided to use the village hall as it seats 100 and had a school kitchen in which to cook.

Time passed and ticket sales were slow to start but picked up in the 2 weeks before the date and by the day 73 tickets sold and paid for. Graham arrived on the Friday night and settled in at the Dragon. Ian and Gary putting the final touches to the food and getting

ready for the cooking the next day. The bar had been set up and the real ale tapped and the tables erected but not set, that's a job for Jill Mitchell (lan's mum) and team of helpers without whom, things would not have been done right (good work Ladies).

Whilst the Hall was being prepared, Graham and I walked down to the pitch to meet up with the Dales Juniors who were playing. I left him with the young players and their dads ,who were more surprised to see an ex England manger there than the kids. We did not win that day.

At 2pm the seniors played a cup match and Graham, Ian, Dave (asst Manger Dent) and Gary went back to the pitch to watch and again we did not win. How can a Ref run a game without linesman? Then it was team photos and back to the hall to

start cooking the food and to get ready for the night.

6pm soon arrived fast and the first guests arrived. Graham arrived at 6.15pm and

the hall started to fill with people, all by 6.45pm. Dinner served at 7pm and by 9.15pm puddings and quiz done .Graham Taylor started to speak, then a question and answer session, with quite a variety of different questions being asked. At 10.45pm after a very informative and amusing talk, Graham sat down, but not before lan and Gary presented him with a Dent FC shirt with his name on.

So all in all it had been a good night. Sunday involved much cleaning of the hall and moving all the

equipment back to the Dragon.

The final total raised was £1700

Pubs working in the Community's should be the name of the game together with the customers who support the local pub. Gary wishes to thank all those that helped and the biggest thanks go to Graham Taylor for giving up his time for the folks in a small village in Cumbria .Thanks

Gary J Kirby

Our current Pub of the Season,

The Red Lion at Sedbergh was recently awarded Runner-up in Marston's Community Pub of the North Congratulations to all!

Brown horse Beer Fest Advert

A Grand Day Out

By Tony Whittaker

"Come along to the Cumbria Pub of the Year day trip...it's a grand day out". These were the wise words of the Westmorland CAMRA Chairman Dave Prickett when I first met him at the Westmorland Beer Festival in

October last year. As new CAMRA members my wife and I were keen to ease our way into the Westmorland CAMRA scene. Rather than going along to a committee meeting this seemed a good introduction.

Fast forward six months to a sunny Kendal morning in April when the mini-bus arrived on time at 10.30.

After picking up Dave and his wife Lynne in Appleby our party of 14 people and two dogs was complete. There appeared to be an unwritten rule for male members that you must be called Dave or Tony but this proved to be unfounded. As it was we had 3 Daves, 3 Tonys and an Andrew. No chance of any confusion after several beers then!

Our task for the day was to vote towards selection of the CAMRA Cumbria Pub of the Year. Here's how it works: each of the four Cumbria CAMRA branches selects its own pub of the year from within its own patch (the Westmorland choice being the Midland at Appleby). Each branch then

visits each of the other three branch winners and votes for each one. Votes are based on a number of categories such as atmosphere, value for money and (most importantly) beer quality.



We arrived at our first destination, the Agricultural Hotel in Penrith (winner of the Solway branch). After a quick briefing from Dave (or it might have been Dave) we entered the 'Agi'. We found a full selection of Jennings (always a favourite of mine) and a reasonably busy bar. I took the opportunity to remind Chairman Dave of his encouraging words at the Westmorland Beer Festival. He seemed quite amazed that anyone would remember! After a nice pint of Sneck Lifter we were back on the mini-bus.

Our next stop was the West Cumbria winner Middle Ruddings at

(Continued on page 44)

(Continued from page 43)

Braithwaite near Keswick. On the face of it this seemed a strange choice; it being a country house hotel. However, it soon became apparent

Boat) I couldn't help but think that they are missing a trick by not including trips to several pubs on their itineraries! With the sun still out, majestic views around every bend and

the thought of the Kirkstile Inn at Loweswater to come this was one of the day's highlights for me.

The Kirkstile wasn't on our official itinerary but given the relatively



why this rated so highly - a good selection of beers (and a real cider) and fantastic views of the Skiddaw massif. We all took advantage of the sunshine by sitting outside and thinking winter was finally behind us. After a pint and some decent food (Woody the Labrador can vouch for the chips) we were ready to move on. However, Chairman Dave came back out from the bar and announced that the landlord had just put on a 25th anniversary ale from Hesket Newmarket and encouraged a quick additional half. Well it would have been rude not too have stayed a little longer!

Driver Dave then came into his own with his route-selection and driving skills with navigation of the Newlands pass. Passing a well-known Cumbrian tourist mini-bus operator (think Cockney rhyming slang for Fountain



short-trip from Braithwaite (on the map if not in practice) this seemed an opportunity too good to miss. Well known for its Cumbria Legendary Ales it didn't disappoint.

Coming out of the Kirkstile it was clear that the weather was making a turn for the worse. I suppose asking for a full day of good weather whilst travelling around the Lake District was too much to ask. The long journey to Broughton-in-Furness was one to test the strongest of stomachs with twisting wet B roads and beer consumed. Once there the Manor Arms (the Furness branch winner)

(Continued on page 46)

Drowned villages & Beer the way it was!

By Roger Davies

The revelation came to me as I drank my pint in the Prince of Wales in Kenfig. This is near Porthcawl and opposite is a pool beneath which it is rumoured there is a village. So a sort of South Wales Haweswater but with sand dunes not mountains. Anyway, not the point, it was the beer that caused said revelation, it was Bass direct from the barrel and it

and pence (except pounds never came into it). But it was still lovely and awakened a memory from way back of a description of UK beer as being "warm and flat as ink" and that is how it should be. By warm I don't mean you have to let it cool down, I mean not cold.



The Prince of Wales, Kenfig, Nr Porthcawl, Wales, with bus and in great weather.

was lovely. This, I thought, is what it has been about all these years. I doubt the Bass was a good at that provided at the Barley Mow in Kirk Ireton in Derbyshire in the mid 70's when the landlady was the amazing Mrs Ford, at 90 able to accept decimal

Haweswater, there is a village under here

money but give change in pounds, shillings

(Continued on page 47)

(Continued from page 44)

proved a welcoming place with its real fire and wide selection of real ales. This place was really buzzing for a teatime which just goes to show if you run a good pub the people will come. The quality of the porter on offer clinched my vote for the best of the three pubs we were judging.

Despite the voting task been completed the day would not have been complete without a visit to the nearby Prince of Wales at Foxfield. If we thought the Manor Arms was busy this was put into context with the thriving scene at the Prince of Wales. The only downside of the day for me was the fact that they stopped serving food at 7 and we had arrived at 7.15.

It was agony seeing the giant Yorkshire puddings with sausages been served up! At least I had the comfort of Foxfield's own dark mild; well they say beer is food!

It was then back to Kendal and an evening take-away to soak up the beer.

One of the great things about the trip was meeting new friends. I'd encourage anyone to get involved with the Westmorland CAMRA branch; they are a really friendly, welcoming bunch. I'm looking forward to the 2014 trip already!

Tony Whittaker

At the time of going to press the Cumbria Winner had not been announced Ed



(Continued from page 45)

And here's an area where things have gone awry. No doubt the boom in holidays to the sun stared it all. A cold San Miguel in Malaga or a Singha in Samui is entirely in place. When the Bristol Channel is crashing on rocks or the windows of the George & Dragon at Clifton are rattling with a blizzard hurtling over Shap, neither is. Sadly, many folk don't agree with that, the end result, in my view, is that far too much ale is served too cold. And this has a bad effect on the taste of it. Making it fizzy does too although in the bad old days of awful keg beers that was a bit of a blessing. Could anything taste worse than Watney's Red Barrel? Well yes actually, relaunched Watney's Red Barrel, the Red Revolution. So, cold beer destroys the flavour, hence the point about warm, sort of the equivalent of wine's "room temperature". But what of the flatness and the head or no head argument? Well, I'm afraid this is a bit of fashion nonsense, regional preference, and no bad thing for that. But the perpetuation of "weak southern beers" is as much of a myth as to suggest we all run around in flat caps with a whippet under an arm. We used to go to a little pub in a back lane in Lancaster serving Yates & Jacksons and ask for a pint of flat. The landlord obliged untightening the tap but did ask that we sat in the corner so no one would see us. But it just doesn't come better than straight from the cask and I know all the problems that can cause in keeping it well. One day in 1975, I decided to follow the little wooden arrow on the Hawkshead road saying "Drunken Duck Inn". Carefully I peered into the then gloomy interior to spy a barrel on the bar. I was in the Inn like a shot, Theakston's Old Peculier, and 38p a pint. set the Duck firmly on our drinking routes.

Which is another thing, the method of dispense was a clear indication of real or no real. There was a pub in suburban Ulverston that knocked out Whitbread's ghastly Salmesbury produced bitter in those dinky electric pumps. Remember those, clear plastic things where a diaphragm moved across dispensing half pints. Never quite worked it out but the beer was pretty dreadful. But those days are gone. Because, these days, we are blessed with a huge profusion of tastes, spearheaded by the mass of enterprising US craft brewers. To argue about minor differences in dispense, what you call it or what the stuff looks like it to cloud the true victory over all these years. The taste of a good pint.

Roger Davies 5/13

Stop press Eden Valley Sub Branch

The formation of the new Eden Valley Sub Branch, was reported elsewhere in this edition. On 22nd May, it held its inaugural meeting at the Stag, Dufton. The guidance issued by CAMRA HQ regarding the formation and operation of Sub Branches was discussed and accepted.

The Meeting confirmed the election of

David Pricket as Chairman and also elected Matt Gregory as the new Sub Branch Secretary. The duties of Branch Contact were to be shared between Stephen Charlton and Seamus Import. Further posts may be considered in the future as the need arises

The Gate at Yanwath was elected as Pub of the Season for summer 2013, & a Brewery visit to Eden brewery has been arranged. (For details see page 29).

Eagle & Child pdf

2013 Beer and Cider Festivals			
June			
6/9 June	Boot	Boot Beer Festival, the pubs of Boot	
7/8 June	Keswick	Keswick Beer Festival, Keswick Rugby Club,	
27/30 June	Underbarrow	Punchbowl Beer Festival	
27/30 June	Milnthorpe	Cross Keys Beer Festival	
28/29 June	Tirril	Queens Head Beer and Sausage Festival	
28/30 June	Dent	Dent Music And Beer Festival	
28/30 June	Appleby	Golden Ball Beer Festival	
July			
5/7July	Kirkoswald	Featherstone Inn & Crown Beer Festival	
6/7July	Sizergh	Strickland Arms Beer Festival	
12/14 July	Foxfield	Prince Of Wales Cider And Perry Festival	
18/21 July	Staveley	Hawkshead Summer Beer Festival	
19/21 July	Kings Meaburn White Horse Summer Beer Festival		
26/28 July	Lowther Park	Kendal Calling, Lowther Deer Park. This music	
festival features a Beer Festival Tent			
26/28 July	Winster	Brown Horse. Winster	
August			
2/4 Aug	Dufton	Stagg Inn Beer Festival	
13/17Aug	Olympia London	Great British Beer Festival	
16/18 Aug	Appleby	Midland Hotel Beer & Cumbrian Food Festival	
23/25 Aug	Brampton/Appleby	Brampton Beer Festival	
24/26 Aug	Dent	George & Dragon Cider Festival with Cider Tasting I	
September			
5/7 Sept	Ulverston	Coronation Hall Beer Festival	
6/8 Sept	Grasmere	7th Annual Grasmere Guzzler Beer Festival	
26/28 Sept	Keighley	Venue To Be Arranged	
No Date yet	Windermere	Elleray Hotel Beer Festival	

(Continued from page 17)

from a Twickenham pub near the rugby ground. Now I understand the photos on the wall.

It is perhaps most appropriate that the final Desert Island Beers in this edition highlights the choice of the late Alan Coulthwaite. No landlord did more in this area to further the causes of CAMRA and of real ale than Alan in this period. And goodness me those 'lockins' were memorable. Thanks Alan. His selection of beers was 4.5% Cornish Knocker Ale, 6.6% Dark island (good choice), 4.8% Ind Coope Burton Ale (now brewed by Marston's), 5.7% Old Peculiar (now

5.6%?), 5.2% Pale Rider, 5.0% Summer Lightening, 5.0% Tanglewood, and 4.8% Batemans XXXB. His luxury for the island was the kit etc. for a micro brewery. I suspect he would be delighted at the success of his Watermill pub in its venture in this field.

The next copy of L&A came out in the Spring of 2000. Although purists may not agree, this is the generally accepted first year of our present millennium. That's where I shall stop. Readers may read issues from number 30 to the present day on our website, http://www.camrawestmorland.org/.

Happy reading and drinking. Don Morris

Branch Officers and Contacts

Chairman Gary Kirby (015396) 25256

Email: mail@thegeorgeanddragondent.co.uk

Vice Chairman David Prickett (01768) 352548 or 07801036295

Email: davidmichael@dmprickett.plus.com

Acting Secretary David Currington (01539) 732599

Email: dadcurrington@hotmail.com

Lakes & Ale Editor David Currington (01539) 732599

Email: dadcurrington@hotmail.com

Treasurer: Tony Jackson (015394) 47845

Email: a.jackson52@btinternet.com

Membership Secretary & Pubs Data Base Officer

Ivor Chittenden (015394) 37272

Email: i-e-chittenden@hotmail.co.uk

Social Secretary David Currington (01539) 732599

Email: dadcurrington@hotmail.com

Branch Contact & Kendal Transport

Tony Jackson (015394) 47845

Email: a.jackson52@btinternet.com

Webmaster David Brown Email: davidj_brown@hotmail.com

Cider & Perry Organiser Gary Kirkby (015396) 25256

Email: mail@thegeorgeanddragondent.co.uk

Press& Publicity Rik Still 07973625045

Email: rik@stillthere.co.uk

Branch Young Members Co-ordinator

Phil Walker

Email: philwalkercamrawest@live.com

Beer Festival Organiser

Dave Welch Email: hengispod@live.co.uk

CAMRA BEER DISCOUNT SCHEME

The following Westmorland Pubs are currently known to be offering discounts to card carrying

Badger Bar, Rydal Elleray Hotel, Windermo Miles Thompson (Wetherspoons), Kendal George & Dragon, Dent

Croglin Castle Hotel,

Kirkby Stephen

Elleray Hotel, Windermere George & Dragon, Dent Midland Hotel, Appleby Wheatsheaf, Kendal Romney's Kendal Strickland Arms, Sizergh

G&D DENT



Printed by Kent Valley Colour Printers-Kendal (01539) 741344