

Spring 2008

Edition 32

Lakes & Ale



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



THE KINGS HEAD HOTEL



PROPERTY RATING

AA ♦♦♦♦

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THE KINGS HEAD HOTEL

Ravenstonedale, near Kirkby Stephen
Cumbria CA17 4NH

Editorial

Welcome to the Spring edition of Lakes & Ale. As the green starts to appear on the hedgerows let's hope that this year we shall have much better weather so that we can enjoy our wonderful Lake District to the full and sit outside for a pint in the sunshine more often.

As we go to press there has been depressing news from the Budget for Drinkers and the Pub Industry in general, (more in the Campaign Slot). In addition I read recently that the Government are now 'minded' to fall into line with the rest of Europe and lower the alcohol limit for drivers to 50 ml from the present 80ml. Whilst we all fully support the need for the current level of drink/drive laws this change will remove the ability to just enjoy a half a pint when taking out the family or even enjoy a late night drink at the 'local' before setting off early for work next day. This can only depress still further the turnover of many already struggling pubs. As one of our members found when he carried out his own survey of pubs in Westmorland, advertised on the internet as for sale, we see that he found 12, some 5 of which were in Kendal alone. How many more must follow given the present climate in which this Government seems to want to tackle 'binge drinking' by clobbering the majority of responsible drinkers with ever more restrictions whilst refusing to tackle one of the main sources - the cheap booze from irresponsible supermarket chains.

This edition has some great articles, including the first ever Good Beer Guide; the current state of the brewing industry; a warning from the Victorian Temperance movement on the evils of drink (tongue in cheek this one), plus the Pub of the Year Award and the Pub of the Season Award and the second part of the Bamberg adventure. Thanks to all who contributed and to those who support this Magazine by their advertising and I hope you enjoy the read.

Cheers ED

Front Cover: Our front cover shows the idyllic setting for the Old Dungeon Ghyll Hotel in Great Langdale, winner of the Westmorland Pub of the Year 2008. With the Pike and Harrison Stickle towering above, where better to sit on a warm sunny day and sip a pint of Real Ale, or to arrive after a wet day on the fells and dry out before the real fire.

COMPLAINT/COMMENT?

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CAMPAIGN SLOT For March 2008

Our Westmorland Branch of CAMRA has just topped the 200 mark for members. But as with many organisations the number of active members is very low. It is recognised that the population of the old Westmorland area is widely dispersed and so transport and travelling become a limiting factor which sometimes it is extremely difficult to overcome. But if, as a Westmorland Branch member you are reading this then we would love to see you at some of our meetings. We are actively considering our Transport policy following the loss last year of our long time transport provider Peter. We hope to agree a regular fixed price for all future visits of what ever length so that members and friends know the cost of attending meetings. We try to send regular communications to members to encourage more people to volunteer and get active in CAMRA by means of emails and our website www.westmorlandcamra.org. It is really important to get more members involved if we want to continue campaigning and to have an informed discussion and vote on such things as Pub of the Year; Good Beer Guide entries etc. If we haven't got your email address then please visit our website and contact

us with details.

Alcohol Health Alliance UK

CAMRA is establishing a long term strategy to react to the launch of the Alcohol Health Alliance. Key points in response to Alcohol Health Alliance demands are:

- If high taxes work, why does Britain with the highest beer tax in the EU have worse drinking behaviours compared to low tax countries?
- If high taxes work why do the high alcohol tax countries have a higher rate of binge drinking than low tax countries?
- That dramatic health warning labels such as "drinking kills" would be utterly misleading as moderate alcohol consumption can actually benefit people's health.

To promote the positive side of pubs and moderate alcohol consumption we propose to:

- Review and summarise medical research showing that those who consume moderate amounts of alcohol actually live longer than those who are teetotal.
- Promote the ways in which

(Continued on page 7)



For information or
Bookings contact:
Ed or Lee

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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.

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Hawkshead Brewery Ales always on tap
Coniston Brewery's Bluebird Bitter—CAMRA Champion Beer of Britain
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(Continued from page 4)

moderate alcohol consumption improves peoples quality of life.

- Promote the role of the pub as a force for bringing people and communities together.

Full Pints

The number of signatures on the full pints petition has now reached just over 21,500. The petition has been running for eight months. The full pints petition is intended to run until July 2008 which will mark the end of the first part of the campaign. The petition will then be delivered to the Prime Minister during the summer.

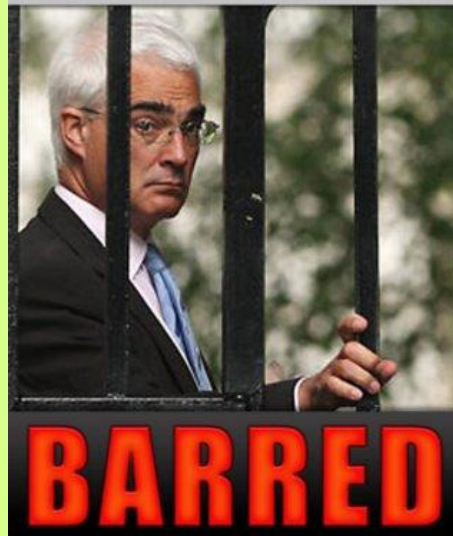
Stage two will consist of contacting those who have signed the petition, and others, to ask them to lobby their MP during the 2008/2009 Parliamentary session. Remember to always ask the Bar Staff to 'take it to the top.' You have paid for a pint so you should not be afraid to let the head settle and then ask for a top up.

Beer Tax Campaign

Despite 150,000 campaign postcards being printed to support CAMRA's call for a cut on beer duty by 1 penny a pint in this year's budget the reverse happened and 'Capt. Darling' increased beer by 4p a pint (13%); 3p on a pint of Cider (14%)

but only 10% on Wine & Spirits. The core of the argument for a beer duty cut is that high beer duty has resulted in falling beer consumption. By failing to cut duty Chancellor the decline in beer consumption will accelerate meaning the Government will lose future tax revenue.

We hereby give notice that Alastair Darling, Chancellor of the Exchequer, is barred from this pub until further notice.



Join the Campaign now.
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[www.morningadvertiser.co.uk/
news_detail.aspx?articleid=59148](http://www.morningadvertiser.co.uk/news_detail.aspx?articleid=59148)

It looks likely with other production increases in the pipeline as brewers struggle with price rises over all their costs that beer drinkers will be paying 20p more. CAMRA Chief Executive Mike Benner said that the

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

inflation busting increase was “a charter for ‘smugglers & cheap supermarket booze.”

He added that “The Chancellor fails to recognise that community pubs are the solution to Britain’s binge drinking problems. This budget will do nothing to stop binge drinking but it will lead to pub closures on a wide scale; widen the gap between pub & supermarket prices. Pubs are defined as public services under the new Sustainable Communities Act 2007, yet the tax rise alongside other market pressures will accelerate closures. The budget shows a disregard for our national drink and the 15 million people who enjoy it responsibly.”

Supermarket Alcohol Price Promotions

John Grogan MP secured a Parliamentary debate in December in which he called for curbs on alcohol price promotions in supermarkets, and described the boss of Tesco as the “godfather of binge” drinking. Health Minister Ben Bradshaw indicated that the Government would be prepared to act if a review due to be published in April showed a link between supermarket alcohol price promotions and binge drinking.

Alcohol Disorder Zones (England and Wales)

The Home Office are going ahead with the introduction of Alcohol Disorder Zones that will be in place within weeks.

Alcohol Disorder Zones allow Local Authorities to impose a charge on all pubs, bars, and clubs within the zone to pay for policing. The charge could be more than a £100 a week per pub and failure to pay would result in the revocation of the venue's premises licence. But who pays in the end????

Local Authorities can grant 90% discounts to premises that they deem not to be causing a problem. However as the purpose of the zones is to raise money to pay for policing Authorities may be reluctant to grant discounts. It will be up to individual Local Authorities to introduce the zones and current indications are that very few will do so. Prior to the imposition of any Alcohol Disorder Zone there needs to be a public consultation. In those areas where such a zone may be proposed then CAMRA intends to mount a strong local campaign.

The mouth of a perfectly happy man is filled with beer

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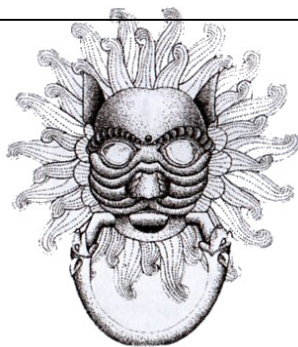
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THE 'FORGOTTEN' GOOD BEER GUIDE

It is assumed that the reader is at least vaguely familiar with the basics of the early days of CAMRA March 1971, four chaps on holiday in Ireland lamenting the poor quality and decreasing availability of Real Ale membership records kept in a shoe box etc. etc.

However, little has been published about the enormous effort which must have gone into production of a document dated 1972. It was the first ever attempt to produce a comprehensive list of recommended pubs selling real ale but which, for reasons outlined below, is not 'counted'.

Consider the logistical problems.

First, there were few members, probably not dotted conveniently around the country, to carry out the surveying.

Second, having gathered the hand written information no personal computers just typewriter(s) and an instant print shop around the corner to produce the pages

Third, manual collating, fixing together with staples, clips or glue and enclosing them in a miscellany of covers.

Finally how many copies to run off, who was going to sell them and to whom. Within a start to finish timetable of only six months and despite these seemingly

insurmountable difficulties (this small band of enthusiasts were no feint hearts) some 200 copies were assembled. It could have been a few more but an unequal number of each sheet had been printed – the first to run out therefore left varying sized piles of 'spare' sheets, it was apparently decided to dump them and run out to the pub!

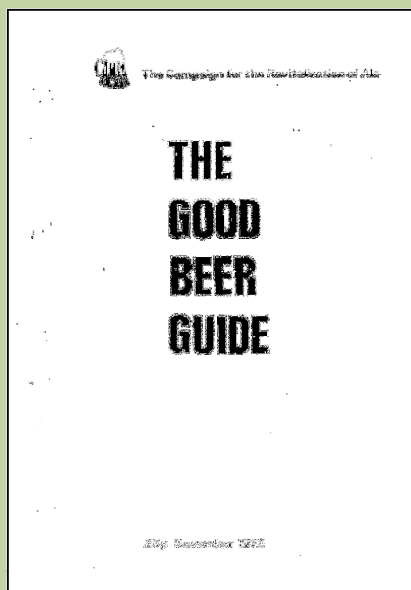
The contents deserve scrutiny. As mentioned, covers had been gleaned from various sources; they were of differing thickness and colour, some had rounded corners.

A single sided frontispiece showed a 'foaming pint mug' logo and 'The Campaign for the Revitalisation of Ale' across the top, the words 'The Good Beer Guide' printed underneath

each other in large upper case down the middle and '25p November 1972' at the bottom.

A double sided introductory sheet headed 'Where to find REAL DRAUGHT BEER' in a sloping hand written script with a sleeve and pointing hand symbol was divided into a number of paragraphs. First, the threat to real draught ale both from the promotion of keg and tank beers and the dispense of real beer by carbon dioxide pressure. Second, a definition of real draught beer and acceptable methods of its dispense. Third,

(Continued on page 12)



MANOR ARMS

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Andy & Jean welcome you to the

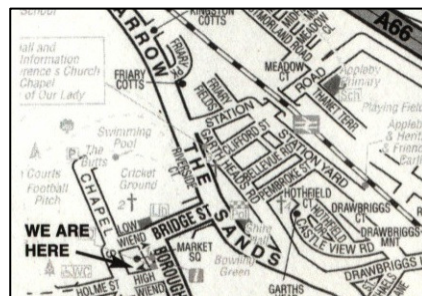
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- Offering Real Ales, Quality Lagers & Spirits
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(Continued from page 10)

a 'no guarantee' that every recommended pub conformed to those definitions reference to the form at the back for making a complaint or recommendation. Fourth, mention of the possibility of a 'commercial much more comprehensive' publication in 1973 and an apology for the 'many gaps' (Henley on Thames several entries, York none). A heading 'HOW TO USE THE LIST' needs no elaboration. A heading 'FINALLY' invited readers who were not members of CAMRA to use the application forms (sic) at the back. Both sides of the sheet included a couple of beer related 'caricature' drawings.

Six double and one single sided sheet of pub entries were arranged in two columns alphabetically by town. Each contained the name (where more than one, also in alphabetical order) and a secondary location where located in a small nearby village, a telephone number, opening hours, beer(s) available and, in most cases, a (very) brief description.

A single sided sheet headed 'RECOMMENDATIONS' was divided equally between an upper panel for up to four inclusions and one beneath for up to three complaints. A final single sided sheet was headed 'feeling bitter about your pint?' in large letters. In a smaller and different font (see 'typewriter(s)' above) and alongside a full length drawing of a gentleman in a blazer looking suitably fed up, was condemnation of the policies of the (especially larger) brewers producing and promoting an increasingly inferior product and ripping out handpumps from more and more of their pubs thereby threatening the very existence of favourite beers and pubs.

Something needed to be done, and done QUICKLY it proclaimed. There followed an outline of what CAMRA was doing -

campaigning vigorously as a beer drinkers union. It concluded by inviting readers to complete the cut off application form at the bottom of the sheet and send it with 25p to The Membership Secretary at CAMRA Headquarters, 207 Keats Court, Salford 7, Lancashire. That was it!

The 'bones' of the guide have now been entered onto a database which permits some of the logistical problems mentioned above to be examined in greater detail. Thus it can, for example, be resorted from location into county order. This enables some otherwise 'hidden' anomalies to become uncomfortably clear. Scotland, Northern Ireland, the Channel Islands and several English and Welsh counties have no entries, four have only one, etc.

On a more historical note, a further resort into beer order reveals that very few of the 299 listed pubs offered more than bitter and/or mild from a total of 77 breweries - of which 25 including a few no longer brewing real ale still survive today.

Additional research would be required to establish how many of the pubs listed remain, still sell real ale or have appeared in any (or how many) of the subsequent thirty five Good Beer Guides of which this was the precursor, but . . . that's another story which almost certainly deserves an article in its own right. (*A volunteer? Ed.*)

Despite all the limitations it was a courageous start. Let us, therefore, when next in our local, raise a glass of real draught ale in recognition of the efforts of those early 'warriors'. I'll certainly drink to that - cheers!.

Alan Risdon

Acknowledgement is made to Michael Hardman, the leading early warrior, for correcting several factual errors.



THE OLD DUNGEON GHYLL HOTEL GREAT LANGDALE

**CAMRA Westmorland
PUB OF THE YEAR
2008**

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
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PLEASE BOOK FOR DINNER IN
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- Accommodation
- 2 Open Fires
- Good Pub Guide 2007
- Good Beer Guide 2007
- Free House, Children Welcome
- Beer Garden

PUB OF THE SEASON WINTER 2007/8
THE RIFLEMAN'S ARMS,
GREENSIDE, KENDAL



After much local speculation about the future of many local pubs in Kendal, the Westmorland Branch are delighted to celebrate what they consider a local success story. We voted The Rifleman's Arms on Greenside the well-deserved winner of their Winter Pub of the Season 2008 award.

After a succession of tenants in recent years, The Rifleman's looked a likely candidate for closure when its owning company sold it off in a deal involving large numbers of similar outlets. However to the good fortune of local residents and CAMRA members alike, the new owners had the insight to put in John Roper as manager of the Rifleman's who in less than a year has

made it an example of everything that is to be treasured in a good community pub.

CAMRA has long maintained that pubs should be seen as a vital part of the community around them and has used the slogan "The Pub is the Hub" to promote this. The Rifleman's Arms is an excellent example in practice, with the added bonus that it serves a wide variety of real ales in excellent condition.

Both the Fellside Forum and Greenside Friends and Neighbours groups work together collaboratively with the Rifleman's Arms to put on local events within the pub and on the green in front

(Continued on page 17)

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BOWNESS-ON-WINDERMERE**

OPEN FROM 11, 7 DAYS A WEEK

FOUR REAL ALES, INCLUDING CONISTON BLUEBIRD

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FREEHOUSE


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from Noon—2 PM and 6—9 PM

- 8 Real Ales with at least 5 Guest Ales
- 4 Keg Alternatives,
- 3 Lagers including Draught Budweiser Budvar
- Large Wine Selection by the Glass
- Extensive Wine list by the Bottle
- Plenty for the driver
- As few Alcopops as possible

- Two Restaurants
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- 10 En-Suite letting rooms
- Games Room
- No Televisions in the Bar

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(Continued from page 14)

for the benefit of the local residents, and CAMRA values this as a positive step away from the image of pubs as places where irresponsible people drink to excess and behave antisocially.

Only recently a CAMRA survey showed that nearly sixty pubs are closing each month and that the rate of closure seems to be increasing. Whilst there may be many factors affecting the trend, the price of supermarket beers and the knock-on effect of people's drinking habits are thought to be major contributors.

The saying "Use it or lose it" is one that CAMRA locally likes to apply to our wonderful South Lakes hostelrys, as once they've closed it is rare for a pub to reopen.

Local branch Chairman, David Currington when presenting John with his Certificate, said "In the Westmorland branch area we are just so pleased that pubs like the Rifleman's Arms are showing the way it can be done."

Congratulations to John and why not pay the Pub a visit soon!



People who drink lager beer don't like the taste of beer;
they just like to pee a lot.
The Church is near by; the road is icy.
The bar is far away but I will walk carefully.

WESTMORLAND BRANCH OF CAMRA PUB OF THE YEAR 2008 OLD DUNGEON GYHLL LANGDALE

On a wet lunchtime in late March a small but select band of our Westmorland Branch members braved the elements by running all the way from the bus stop outside the ODG to assemble in the Climbers' Bar for the presentation of the Branch's Pub of the Year Award to the Old Dungeon Ghyll.

Back in 1989, in what may well have been the first national POTY awards the ODG was our Branch winner and went on to become one of the National finalists. Since then this iconic pub, known the world over

how, (and I'm not sure how), missed out on the Award. At last this has quite justifiably now been put right and in winning the Westmorland Award we hope that the ODG can progress through to the Cumbria Branches POTY and who knows get once more into the final reckoning for National recognition.

The pub was taken over some 24 years ago by Landlord Neil & Jane Walmsley who have steadfastly maintained it as a wonderful example of a traditional walker and climbers' pub, where boots make little impression on the flagstone

floor and there is plenty of space to cast off wet rucksacks.

There is a great range of well kept real ales and cider and for those who need warming up both inside and out there is normally always a good fire going to dry out clothes and lots of warming



Patio & Entrance to the Climber's Bar

by climbers and hikers, has some- soup and other good pub grub to



Neil Walmsley, Landlord of the ODG; CAMRA Branch Chairman David Currington, and Bar Manager Ivor Chittenden at the Bar after the presentation.

In those early days all the climbing clubs in the country came to the ODG for their club dinners and the Hotel soon became well known to many of the then famous names in

replace energy after a hard day's fell walking.

climbing such as, Mike Westmacott, Sir John Hunt, & Alf Gregory.

The quality and interesting range of beers is due in no small measure to the ODG's Bar Manager (and one of our long serving and active CAMRA Branch members), Ivor Chittenden.

Later the Climbers' Bar was frequently frequented by the younger up-and-coming climbers such as Dennis Davis, Joe Brown, Don Whillians, Ian MacNaught-Davis and Chris Bonnington.

Ivor has been at the Pub for many years and he and all the very helpful bar staff make for a good atmosphere in the bar..

The ODG, which was originally a farm as well as an Inn, has been a home and resting place to fell walkers for some 300 years. Originally called Middlefell

Inn it was extended a number of times and the Climbers' Bar was added to the Hotel in 1949 being a conversion of the 'shippon' or cow shed.



The main hotel entrance

So, in the coming months, whether you are fell walking, climbing, cycling or just out for a beautiful drive make sure that you call in at the Old Dudgeon Ghyll and see for yourself.

FACTS AND SUGGESTIONS FOR THE PEOPLE OF KENDAL

The following facts & suggestions are laid before the inhabitants of Kendal, with the request that each individual will attentively and seriously consider them.

There are in Kendal 73 houses licensed for the sale of intoxicating drinks, being about one for every 33 families. According to a paper read before the British Association for the Promotion of Science, & subsequently submitted to Government, it appears that the average expenditure (*by all customers*) in each public house in the Kingdom is a fraction over £10 per week. At this rate all Kendal inhabitants would together expend £730a-week, or £37,960 per year. To avoid exaggeration we will suppose our annual expenditure to be £30,000. Might not this sum be spent in a more advantageous manner? For instance it would purchase:-

	£
5,000 Stones of Flour at 3s.	750
20,000 lbs. of Beef at 6d.	500
124,800 Stones of Potatoes, or 1 stone per week for each family in Kendal, at 6d.	3,120
5,000 lbs. of Butter, at 1s.	250
20,000 Gallons of Milk, at 6d.	500
1,000 lbs. of Tea, at 4s.	200
2,000 lbs. of Coffee, at 1s. 6d.	150
10,000 lbs. of Sugar, at 6d.	250
6,000 Tons of Coal, or 50 cwt. for each family, at 15s.	4,500
1,000 Pairs of Men's Shoes, at 10s.	500
1,000 Pairs of Women's Shoes, at 6s.	300
2,000 Pairs of Stockings, at 1s. 9d.	175
2,000 Yards of Cloth, at 5s.	500
600 Hats, at 10s.	300
600 Bonnets, at 7s. 6d.	225
5,000 Yards of Print, at 6d.	125
10,000 Yards of Calico, at 3d.	125
2,000 Yards of Flannel, at 1s. 3d.	125
1,000 Pairs of Blankets, at 16s.	800
5,000 Yards of Carpeting, at 3s. 6d.	875
500 Railway Wrappers, at 14s.	350
4,000 Yards of Linsey, at 2s. 6d.	500

60 Old Men at 7s. per week	-	-	-	-	-	1,092
40 Orphan Children at 5s.	-	-	-	-	-	520
Also, 2,000 Children's Schooling at 9d. per week	-	-	-	-	-	3,900
Support of Sunday Schools	-	-	-	-	-	100
Gifts to Bible, Tract, and Missionary Societies	-	-	-	-	-	300
Erecting 40 Cottages every year, each £100	-	-	-	-	-	4,000
Erecting and support of Reading Room	-	-	-	-	-	1,000
For Sanitary purposes	-	-	-	-	-	1,000
For Lectures and support of Scientific Institutions	-	-	-	-	-	1,000
For Maintenance of Public Play Ground	-	-	-	-	-	100
Erecting and support of Public Bath and Wash-houses	-	-	-	-	-	1,000
Leaving for other useful purposes	-	-	-	-	-	868
						£30,000

For instance it would purchase:

The above sum, if converted into £5 notes, (*presumably the old white ones*), then it would:

- Suffice to paper a room 62feet long, 21 feet wide, and 10feet high.
- Or in sovereigns piled one upon another, would make a golden pillar 147 feet in height, that is almost half as high again as the highest chimney in Kendal
- Or in half crowns (25p) edge to edge, would extend nearly 5 miles.

Or it would give up to 649 families 18shillings (90p) per week throughout the year.

Some years ago a plan was formed for thoroughly and effectively draining the town; it has never been carried out on account of the expense. The estimated cost was £5,246. Nine weeks drink money would have sufficed to accomplish this object, and who can tell how large an amount of sickness and consequent poverty would have been spared. Need we remind our readers that

"Fever is a constant attendant on imperfect drainage"

To be continued.....

An extract from a mid Victorian temperance pamphlet, reproduced by the kind permission of Kendal Library.

The next instalment of Brendan Jameson's 'Old Inns of Kendal' has been delayed until the next Edition

**When I read about the evils of drinking,
I gave up reading.**



**VOTED
CAMRA Westmorland
PUB OF THE YEAR
2007**

*The FAMOUS
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- Staveley -*

5 Real ales always

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CONISTON BREWING CO.



EST. 1995

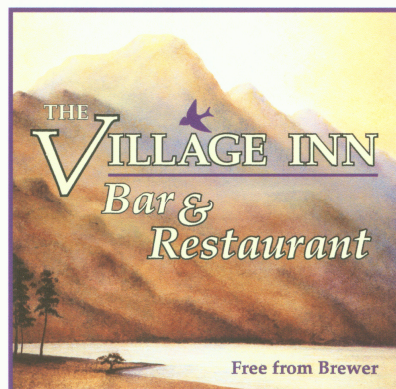
Coppermines Road, Coniston, Cumbria LA21 8HL
Email: info@conistonbrewery.com

Tel: (015394) 41133
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.



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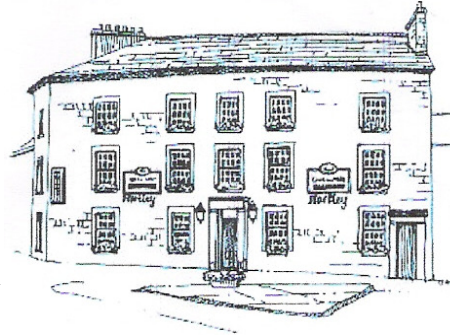
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2007

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* 2 BEDROOM COTTAGE SLEEPS 6

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* 2 TWIN ROOMS 4 DOUBLE
ROOMS

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THE RIFLEMANS ARMS

The village green pub at the top of the hill



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4-6 Greenside
Kendal
Cumbria
LA9 4LD
Tel: 07939 434341

Winter Opening Hours: 6pm—12midnight Monday to Friday;
12 noon -12midnight Saturday & Sunday

- Always a warm welcome from new landlord, John.
- Four real ales on hand pump, always in sparkling form
- Live folk music Thursday nights
- Meeting room available

The revolution in British brewing

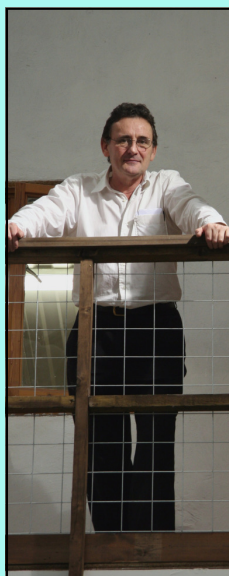
The founder of Hawkshead Brewery, Alex Brodie, celebrates the rescue of traditional British beer and explains the extraordinary boom in the craft brewing industry.

Next time you are enjoying a glass of fresh, hoppy, aromatic bitter beer made by your local brewery, raise a glass to the brewing revolution in Britain, which has made it possible for you to enjoy our national drink.

For the drink we now take for granted – cask conditioned beer – nearly died. The past three decades has been a long and hard, but successful, haul to save it. And the last five years, has seen an extraordinary boom in the number of small breweries -- there are now several hundred, where thirty years ago there were four.

When I started Hawkshead Brewery in 2002, there were about 250 independent breweries in the land, of all sizes. Today there are more than 600 – a revolution indeed!

It is a huge number. Most of them are small and most are making a living, giving the lie to what the international breweries, who do not specialise in cask beer, would have us believe – that real ale sales are declining. Theirs probably are, as what they sell does not excite. They are focussed on truly global brands



of lager, with truly global levels of profit. They have largely left the real ale market to specialist cask ale brewers, and we know that our sales are going up.

There are now more breweries making traditional cask beer than there have been for most of our lifetimes. Not since the 1940's have there been so many.

We are getting back to the days when every town, and many villages, had a brewery.

Our national drink was nearly killed off when the brewing conglomerates swallowed up

smaller breweries by the score and, in the 1960's, sought to replace traditional beer, which continues to ferment and mature in the cask, with keg beer which, like its modern counterpart, lager, is filtered, pasteurised and sterile.

But for the efforts of a few stubborn individuals among traditional family owned breweries, small craft breweries and outraged beer drinkers, they would have succeeded.

Among the latter, were four Northern lads, three of them journalists, who were not prepared to put up

(Continued on page 26)

(Continued from page 25)

with it, when hand pumps were torn out of their local pubs and replaced with gas taps. In 1971 they founded the Campaign for Real Ale, (CAMRA.)

One of them, Michael Hardman, now 60, said: "The lack of skill needed to serve keg beer compared with the loving care that has to be lavished on real ale made the new product attractive to both brewers and licensees."

Hardman who coined the term "real ale," now fights for it, as PR Manager of SIBA, the Society of Independent Brewers: "Keg beer was praised for its consistency but discerning drinkers began to discover that the only consistent thing about it was its mediocrity. Nevertheless all but a handful of brewers were determined to abandon the kind of beer that had slaked British thirsts for centuries."

CAMRA touched a nerve. It had 30,000 members within four years and the Good Beer Guide, telling you where to find rare real ale, became an immediate best seller.

The brewers who kept British beer alive then were the independent family owned breweries, dating back to the 19th century and earlier.

At that time the small brewing industry scarcely existed.

In the early 70's there were in fact four small breweries, in the whole country, all housed in pubs. (The All Nations at Madeley, Shropshire; the Blue Anchor at Helston, Cornwall; the Old Swan at Netherton,

West Midlands and the Three Tuns at Bishop's Castle, Shropshire.)

In thirty years those four have become more than five hundred, as the micro-brewing revolution has taken hold. In 1986, Cumbria's first micro-brewery was founded -Yates. Now there are more than twenty.

As the small brewing industry has grown, the traditional breweries have declined. Today there are fewer than three dozen independent family owned breweries.

Some like Jennings have lost their independence, many others, like Hartleys, Gales, Riddleys, King and Barnes, Ruddles, Vaux, Morrells, Mansfield, Morland, have been taken over and closed. Some of the real ale standard bearers survive, like Adnams, Shepherd Neame and Harveys, and other new breweries, like Black Sheep, a mere 15 years old, have grown to replace those lost. Also the two regionals, which have become national giants by takeover, Greene King and Marstons, do remain committed to real ale.

But it is the phenomenal growth of small breweries, which makes it possible to be optimistic about the revival of our national drink.

The number of micro-breweries grew gradually throughout the eighties and nineties, but surged in the last five years, as a result of the budget of 2002, when the then Chancellor of the Exchequer, Gordon Brown, cut by half, the beer

(Continued on page 29)

ALEXANDER'S

THE PUB



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

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LES BROWN, THE PUB MANAGER AND ALL HIS STAFF WELCOME ONE AND ALL TO THEIR FANTASTIC ESTABLISHMENT TO SAMPLE GOOD FOOD AND TRADITIONAL ALES IN A WARM AND FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE.

OPEN EVERYDAY FROM 12 AM
FOOD SERVED ALL DAY FROM 12 NOON UNTIL 9.30PM

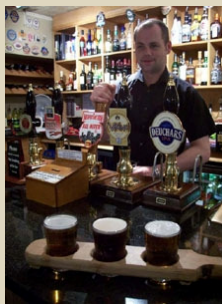
**ALEXANDER'S THE PUB, THE CASTLE GREEN HOTEL,
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Tweedies bar & restaurant

Whether rain or shine, why not relax by our traditional log stove or in one of Cumbria's largest lawned beer gardens. Tweedies bar is the perfect place for the exhausted fell walker and holidaymaker to unwind and enjoy some of our seven ever changing real ales as well as a vast selection of spirits, elegant wines and beers from all over the world. We also have a range of live music from talents local and afar.

A veritable feast for the discerning drinker but let us not forget the top quality gastro restaurant foods ranging from light snacks to hearty, warming meals, freshly made pizzas and a choice of evening specials to satisfy all palates. We serve food in the bar or if preferred in our separate elegantly furnished Lodge restaurant.

Tweedies bar offers a traditional pub atmosphere in modern surroundings and is an ever changing experience not to be missed. Please also feel free to enquire about our splendid accommodation.



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Email: enquiries@dalelodgehotel.co.uk

www.dalelodgehotel.co.uk

(Continued from page 26)

duty – the beer tax – paid by small breweries, producing up to 3,000 barrels per year (500,000 litres or 880,000 pints.)

If the revival of cask beer is to be permanent, the small brewing industry has to get better access to market. Only a quarter of pubs are genuine free houses. Most are owned by pub companies who prefer to make national deals with national brewers to supply cheap beer which they can make big profit out of, when they sell it on to their pubs. They make less profit from more expensive craft brewery beers. However SIBA, which represents more than 400 independent brewers has started to break this restrictive practice by negotiating national deals with small brewers as a group and pub companies are finally coming to realise that their customers demand local beers.

The other necessity is that we in the small brewing industry have to maintain high professional brewing standards. We have to invest and we have to convince more of the public of the quality of our modern version of British beer. It is amazing how many people still don't know what they are missing, still think beer has to be tasteless international fizz.

On a daily basis we enlighten visitors to The Beer Hall, which is the

bar and sampling room of our brewery at Staveley Mill Yard. Often, after their first sampling session, we hear the words: " I didn't realise beer could be like this."

The image of British beer is changing. Many of us in the small brewing industry are doing our best to help it along. We are brewing beers designed to complement various foods. We supply attractive glasses, we experiment with wonderful new varieties of aromatic hops. And it is working.

At our beer festivals (February and July) at The Beer Hall, when we display gold medal winners from the Society of Independent Brewers national and regional Beer Competitions, a majority of our customers are not archetypal male beer drinkers. More women, more young people, more non-pub going people are understanding that modern British brewing is giving us something to celebrate and of which to be proud.

The Beer Hall at Hawkshead Brewery, Mill Yard, Staveley is open from noon every day.

Brewery tours at weekends or by arrangement.

*www.hawksheadbrewery.co.uk
01539 822644*

What contemptible scoundrel has stolen the cork to my lunch?

A woman drove me to drink and I didn't even have the decency to thank her.

I drink with impunity...or anyone else who invites me.

• **Three from WC Fields**

STRICKLAND ARMS — SIZERGH

Manager Kerry Parsons and assistant manager Dan Schreiber welcome you to this newly-refurbished Cumbrian pub, with open log fires, reclaimed wooden and flag floors and an all-round cosy atmosphere. We pride ourselves on providing excellent-quality pub food and beverages, with service to match.

The pub is a free house of real ales, all locally-host a wide range of lager from across the globe. As with our real ales, our excellent-quality food is sourced locally. So why not pop in and sample some of our locally-sourced produce home-cooked daily or just enjoy a pint of real ale sat by our open log fires.

Dog friendly—Wheelchair access—Walking boot friendly



 **WATEREDGE INN**
on the lake at Ambleside

LOG FIRE~LAKESIDE BEER GARDEN~OPEN 10AM~11PM~015394 32332

Anti-pubco petition for MPs launched by local MP Tim Farron



Liberal Democrat MP Tim Farron has launched a petition calling for Government action to curb the power of pubcos.

Tim's new Early Day Motion (EDM) says the 1989 Beer Orders "failed" to increase competition in brewing – "and indeed have instead concentrated ownership of British pubs in the hands of pub companies or pubcos".

The EDM notes that pubs are closing at a rate of 27 a week "and that from 2006 to 2007 bankruptcies amongst pub landlords increased seven-fold and is set to get worse".

The EDM "notes with concern that pubcos have failed to adopt the recommendations of the Trade and Industry Select Committee, namely that rents should be sustainable".

It "further notes that tied tenants should not be financially worse off than if they were free of tie, that upward only rent reviews and the gaming machine tie must cease, and that utmost transparency in all rents and reviews is paramount."

Competition Commission

The petition "calls upon the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform to refer the matter of the supply tie and rent formulation to the Competition Commission with a view to addressing the dominance of the big pubcos in the pub market"..

The action follows meetings between Tim and Mike Bell of the Freedom for Pubs Association .

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Tales from Lagerland

Bamberg : Part 2 The South Bank



This is the second part of my visit to Bamberg. I covered the breweries that are north of the river in part 1, this time it will be those to the South.

Bamberg has two main waterways, the River Regnitz and the Main-Donau (Danube) canal. In fact the Regnitz flows into the River Main just to the west of the city. One of the most scenic buildings is the Old Town Hall which is built on a sandbank in the middle of the river, supposedly because that is the only place that the ruling Bishops would give the townsfolk anywhere else. Just to the south of this is the heart of the city centre with a warren of lanes with many medieval buildings along them.

One of these is the former Dominican priory that forms part of the Schlenkerla pub, which is the tape of the Heller brewery. This is a rauchbeer (smoked beer) brewery whose beers actually take the Schlenkerla name. They are dark and heavily smoked, probably too much for some. The basic marzen is the one that is shipped all over the

world, and would be unique except they also do a Weiss beer version! The pub itself is very much the ideal of a German pub, with beams and vaulted ceilings. It is also the main tourist pub in town, though the locals use it too. They only serve the marzen though, so if you don't like the smoke taste you may not



Schlenkerla & Ambräusianum

want to stay long.

Two doors down, is the modern Ambräusianum brewpub. This was also part of a monastery, though I am not sure if it is the same one as the Schlenkerla. The brew pub opened in 2004 and seems to cater for the younger crowd. The beers are unfiltered, and have more in common with the modern brew pubs in other German cities than the more traditional breweries of Bamberg. I have to be honest and say that I don't think their beers are very good, and I struggled to finish their Dunkel this time, which wasn't particularly dark.

Then it was onto the bus up the Kaulberg hill to the south of the city. This is the home of the Greifenklau brewery which is the smallest of the established



breweries in the city. They do a very nice lagerbier, and also have a no smoking room. Most German pubs are smokey, they don't have a smoking ban (yet), but some of the pubs including the Schlenkerla and Klosterbrau do have no smoking rooms.

Talking of Klosterbrau, this is a walk back down into town to the river. It is the oldest brewery in town dating from 1533, and brewing for 200 years before that. The pub is a traditional layout, but



Klosterbrau

was only reopened in 1988 after many years of disuse. Their signature beer is the Schwarzla, a very tasty black beer that is definitely not a stout. One of the hazards of going round the pubs of Bamberg during the day is that you will bump into fellow beer hunters and this was no exception. There was a party from Hull on a day trip would were having problems with their navigation (well it is a medieval city), but enjoying themselves and vowing to be back. There were also a few Americans revisiting after being stationed here, there is a large American base near Bamberg, and a large Eastern European group enjoying the pivo.

It was a 10 minute stagger over the river by the Old Town Hall and canal back to the Fässla where I was staying for a night cap, and then to bed to prepare for my last day in Bamberg.
DJB

"Without question, the greatest invention in the history of mankind is beer. Oh, I grant you that the wheel was also a fine invention, but the wheel does not go nearly as well with pizza"

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Free House

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CAMRA Westmorland Pub of the Season Summer 2004

Breakfast, coffee, teas served daily from 8am

Good value meals served daily 12 noon to 9.30pm

in the recently-refurbished bar.

Snack menu served 12 noon to 5.30pm

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Victoria's restaurant open for meals,

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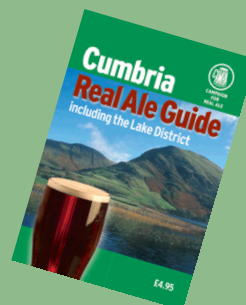
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The Cumbria Real Ale Guide (CRAG)

The new edition (2008) **Cumbria Real Ale Guide (Crag)** is for sale in shops and pubs at the cover price of £4.95. Discounts are available on larger purchases (details from the contact below).



The handy pocket sized (10.5 x 14.5cms) is arranged alphabetically by location with a brief description; within each are full details of each pub offering real ale; at the back is a full colour Cumbrian Breweries section and sectional colour county maps. It has been much improved by the addition of a ring binding and cover flap. As we do not have facilities at present for email cash transactions, if you wish to order a copy please send a cheque or postal order payable to **CAMRA Westmorland Branch** for £5.95 (to include post & packaging) to:

Alan Risdon
Westmorland Branch of CAMRA
4, St Anne's Court
How Head
Ambleside
Cumbria
LA22 9ED

Telephone: 015394 33912
Email:
alan@camrawestmorland.org

**Please ensure you include the following details with your payment:
Name and Address for Delivery and a contact Telephone Number.**

Branch Diary 2008

- 2nd -5th May Eagle & Child, Staveley Beer Festival
- 2nd -5th May Dent Brewery Beer Festival, George & Dragon, Dent
- 12th May - Westmorland Branch AGM, Eagle & Child, Staveley
- 24th - 27th July Hawkshead Brewery, Staveley Beer Festival.



Drip Tray

- A'vast behind! The Watermill is 21 years young on 10th May next; all CAMRA members invited by Brian & Denise to a Fancy Dress Pirate Convention that evening. Land ahoy! See you there for some grog & vitals!
- Derrick and Keith at The Greyhound Inn, Shap, our POTY for two years running, are sadly leaving around July, we wish them well and thank them for all their great work in providing terrific real ales over the years. Let us know if you return!

Join CAMRA today!

Complete the Direct Debit form below and you will receive three months' membership free and a fantastic discount on your membership subscription. Alternatively you can send a cheque payable to CAMRA Ltd. with your completed form; visit www.camra.org.uk or call 01727 867201. All forms should be addressed to Membership Secretary, CAMRA, 230 Hatfield Rd, St Albans, AL1 4LW. Membership costs £20 for single membership and £25 for joint membership (or £22 single and £27 joint if not paying by Direct Debit).

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Forename(s) _____	DOB _____
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Signed _____	
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WESTMORLAND BREWERY UPDATES

HAWKSHEAD BREWERY

As from 1st March the original Brewery outside Hawkshead was given up by the Brewery and all production now carried out on the tailor-made 20 barrel plant at Staveley. In 2008 Hawkshead expects to go through the 3,000 barrels p.a. barrier and thus will start paying higher beer duty, and under HM Customs and Revenue definitions Hawkshead will be classified not as a micro brewery but as a "local brewery." Latest news is:

- Damson Stout 2008, (4.5%) limited edition, in cask at mainly the Beer Hall and in bottles. Also possibility of a new Oatmeal Stout in near future. *i.e the Damson Stout with out the Damsons!*
- Lakeland Lager now upped to 5%, in 330cl. bottles and cask conditioned by mid April.
- UPA also coming back in the late spring.
- The bottled Gold has won best bottled beer at the SIBA North Competition for the third time!

DENT BREWERY

Three new beers have been brewed recently: Golden Fleece at 3.7% abv; it has been so popular that it is likely to become permanent. Dragons Gold at 3.7% abv is also selling well as is Windy Wether at 4.0% abv. April monthlies, all at 4.5% abv, are: April, Frolicking Good Ale, May, Rambrau and June, Rambler. Ramsbottom, Kami-kaze and T'Owd Tup are bottled by Thwaites. The brewery is absorbing the full budget increases, wholesale prices, therefore, remain unchanged. See www.camrawestmorland.org website for details of the May bank holiday beer festival at the Dent brewery pub the George & Dragon located in the village.

WATERMILL BREWING CO

The brewery hopes to have a Mild out by the time this edition comes out. Entitled 'Blackbeard', i(3.8%), t is named after the Cruft's winner.....

Beer & Food Matching (Part 2)

Continuing our short series of suggestions for matching food and drink, we come to some of the Main courses:

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| • Beef | Full-bodied bitters |
| • Pork | Pilsners; Bavarian wheat beers; strong dark lagers |
| • Lamb | Spicy malty ales; dark lagers |
| • Chicken | Lagers; wheat beers |
| • Turkey | Kriek |
| • Game | Malty ales; Trappist ales |

To be continued



HAWKSHEAD BREWERY

&

THE BEER HALL

A showcase for real ale.



Brewery tap, beer shop,
visitors' centre and function room for hire.

Bar open 7 days from noon.

Food all afternoon.

*BEER FROM THE HEART...
OF THE LAKES*



HAWKSHEAD BREWERY

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www.hawksheadbrewery.co.uk

Mill Yard, Staveley,
Cumbria LA8 9LR



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