

Winter 2007/8

Edition 31

# Lakes & Ale



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FREE Newsletter of the  
Westmorland Branch of  
The Campaign for Real Ale  
[www.camrawestmorland.org](http://www.camrawestmorland.org)



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**THE KINGS HEAD HOTEL** Ravenstonedale, near Kirkby Stephen  
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## Editorial

If you have just picked this magazine up just for a browse or perhaps a cover to cover read; whether you are local or visiting then welcome to the Westmorland CAMRA's Branch news letter for Winter 2008. We wish all our readers the very best for 2008.

What the year may bring, who knows? First there are dire warnings from the breweries of price increases due to the poor hop harvest and increasing costs of all other ingredients. Indeed the first are being notified as we go to press. Next, the government is being urged to price us all out of the market in order to stop the few irresponsible drinkers from harming themselves further. Then again will we be allowed, for Health & Safety reasons, to drink from glasses made of...glass!

There is already much to think about regarding the loss of pubs in the UK; and in Kendal we have seen the loss of the 'Kendal Bowman' and the 'The Phoenix'. Several more are temporarily closed and/or up for sale with no immediate takers. Is it the smoking ban? Is it the rise in mortgage rates? Do we prefer to drink at home with our ever increasing number of electronic machines (especially the TV) to entertain us? There is even more reason to remember - if we don't use our pubs, we will lose them. Happy but responsible drinking to you all. ED

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## CAMPAIGN SLOT

A new lobby group called Alcohol Health Alliance UK has been formed to coordinate a campaign against alcohol.

The Alliance will campaign for:

- Increased tax on alcohol
- A ban on alcohol advertising before 9.00 pm and in cinemas apart from 18 rated films
- Warning labels on alcohol
- A reduction in drink driving limit to 0.5g and near 0.0 for new drivers

CAMRA's response has been to urge support for the Government's current strategy of advice and education rather than the use of draconian methods. CAMRA believes that increasing beer tax would be unfair on the vast majority who drink responsibly, without achieving a reduction in alcohol related harm.

### Full Pints

The number of signatures on the full pints petition has now reached 21,000.

The UK Metric Association has asked whether CAMRA would support their campaign to allow metric measures alongside the pint measure in exchange for them support-

ing our full measure campaign. CAMRA's current position is that we do not support the use of metric measures and so we have declined this offer.

### Licensing

The Government has published the first set of licensing statistics following licensing reform. Key points are:

- 100,000 Temporary Event Notices issued last year
- Most 24 hour licenses are for hotel bars (3,300) and supermarkets (600)
- Fewer than 1% of pubs, clubs and nightclubs possess a 24 hour license

The Government was reported to be considering revoking 24 hour licensing but has changed its mind. A decision is yet to be made on whether licensing fees paid by pubs should be increased.

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport has announced that it will make the licensing system less bureaucratic by introducing a light touch approval system for minor alterations to licenses. At present any change, however small, results



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## Beer and Food Matching

**When** it comes to dining, beer is being given a major push by many brewers and beer writers as an accompaniment to food. With the variety of flavours derived from different hop strains and ingredients, different beers are able to contrast and complement a range of different tastes and dishes. Here are some suggested beer and food matches.

Soups	Vegetable	Pale bitters
	Meaty	Malty ales
Shellfish		Stouts; porters; Belgian wheat beers
Fish		German lagers; light bitters; Belgian wheat beers
Pâté		Milds; Strong dark lagers
Quiches/soufflés		Light bitters

**NEXT ISSUE - MAIN COURSES**

# BARNGATES BREWERY



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in pubs having to incur costs upwards of £500.

The Competition Commission has stated that it will take no action against supermarkets selling alcohol as a loss leader. In its view alcohol price promotions are good for competition.

The Department for Health has commissioned research into how alcohol price promotions impact on alcohol consumption patterns. CAMRA's expectation is that this research will show that large discounts on bulk purchases of alcohol do encourage people to drink less responsibly than they would otherwise do.

#### **Beer Tax and Budget 2008**

CAMRA is planning a short campaign in the New Year to support our call for a cut in beer tax. This is likely to consist of postcards sent to the Chancellor plus an email your MP facility. This will start as an internal CAMRA campaign and then be extended and launched externally during Community Pubs Week (see Below).

Key points are:

- Despite excise duty on beer increasing by 26.7% over the past 10 years the total tax raised as a result has increased by only 14%

- Beer has been disadvantaged compared to other alcoholic drinks
- Tax policy is driving drinkers away from low alcohol products, such as beer, to high alcohol products such as spirits.
- Beer sold in the off trade has become dramatically cheaper, while beer sold in the on trade has become more expensive.

CAMRA has also adopted several new policies which are summarised as follows:

- CAMRA believes brewers should be proud to publicise where their beers are brewed, and to display such information on point of sale publicity items.
- CAMRA believes that off licences should be required to abide by a code of conduct on alcohol pricing and promotion, similar to that followed by the on trade
- CAMRA defines real cider as cider that has been produced and stored in the traditional way, and is living in the container from which it is dispensed. Real cider must not be stored or dispensed using extraneous gas pressure

CAMRA also supports:

- The promotion of real ale as an environmentally friendly product
- The promotion of the provenance and local identity of real ale, brewers and pubs
- All real ale breweries, regardless of size, encouraging activities in line with CAMRA policies and campaigning against activities that are contrary to CAMRA policies
- The consumption of real ale in pubs

And finally, don't forget that 16th to 23rd February is Community Pubs week.

The objectives are:

- To raise the profile and impor-



tance of pubs in the community

- To encourage people of all ages and back grounds to use community pubs and visit the pub more often than they currently

do

- To encourage pubs to organise events during the week to entice more trade.

CAMRA's February 2007 Pub Watch Survey showed that 56 pubs were closing every month in Britain. This worrying figure highlights how important it is for CAMRA to continue promoting pubs through campaigns like Community Pubs Week

So it's as they say—"use it or maybe lose it"

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"I don't have a drinking problem, except when I can't find a drink"



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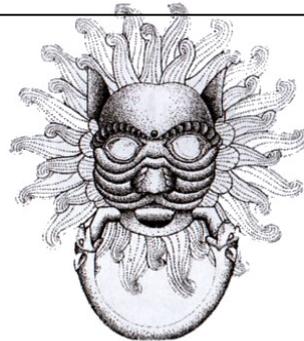
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## Fifty years of imbibing

### The second half

We have reached 1971, half way through my first fifty imbibing years when Real Ale was becoming increasingly difficult to find but with hope on the near horizon.

That hope was CAMRA the early history of which merits an article in its own right (*Do I detect a volunteer? - Ed.*). Suffice it to say here that recruitment commenced and a rudimentary Good Beer Guide, (which also merits an article), was produced in 1972 but the recent arrival of a son, though a cause of much rejoicing and celebration, diverted my attention from joining on day one but I recall originally having a three digit membership number. A fault in the first attempt by CAMRA to set up a system of subscription collection by bank standing order caused me, horror or horrors!, to lapse. Though immediate steps were taken to rectify the situation, a much higher number was allotted.

A brief move to Godalming offered the possibility of Gales and King & Barnes beers (neither brewery now existing). A further move to Danbury near Chelmsford in 1973 gave a regrettably brief experience of Grays beers (still operating but as a pub owning company) as well as those from Adnams and the then comparatively modest sized Greene King; Mc Mullens and Shepherd Neame could also be searched out.

An attempt to attend a meeting called to test support for a Chelms-

ford and mid-Essex Branch of CAMRA resulted in my standing on the pavement listening to the proceedings through an open window! An overflow meeting at another nearby pub saw my name entered onto a list of those interested. At more or less the same time a South East Essex Branch was formed. Living within the area of the former and working within that of the latter made for an interesting choice. In addition, the arrival of a daughter, whilst again a cause of further rejoicing and celebration, made it difficult to take an active part in either.

These were the days when a few pints at lunchtime was acceptable to employers and a like minded group of colleagues made best use of the gradually improving local availability of Real Ale including a visit to the first South East Beer Festival. I was hooked and became involved in the



*Alan doing what he does best, going in and out of great hostels. This the West Riding at Dewsbury in 2006*

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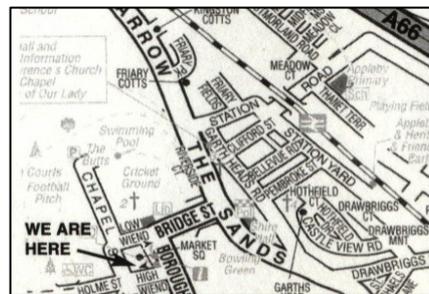
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organization of subsequent such festivals until 1989 when redundancy offered the opportunity of a move. Thus, armed with a PSV 1 licence (No CC 140968), I arrived in Ambleside on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November of that year.

My first attendance at a meeting of the then named Kendal and South Lakes Branch of CAMRA was in January 1990 at the Cock & Dolphin, Kendal; regrettably the December copy of What's Brewing redirected from Essex arrived after the Christmas social had come and gone.

A six month work break was then spent as a volunteer estate worker with The National Trust, a useful introduction to the local geography, pubs and people. An attempt to be employed by the NT on a paid basis failed so a change was needed. My real love was the pub trade which hardly fitted with bus driving. Thus an advertisement in the Westmorland Gazette for a barman (not politically incorrect then) at the Sun Hotel, Troutbeck Bridge was answered with generous reference to previous beer festival experience. It did the trick. Though a major refurbishment by Whitbread had just been completed, the beer offering was hardly adventurous but it was commercial experience (including serving Sam Whitbread himself with a half of lager!).

Somehow I had by now acquired the role of Secretary of the renamed South Lakeland Branch. Hand written minutes were produced until the 1991 Branch AGM minutes appeared to have been typed but were the

product of Mini Office Professional software.

The novelty of working for Whitbread lasted for only six months when by chance the Golden Rule in Ambleside needed a barman. Nearer home, no food orders, no accommodation bookings, no pool table, no keg beer and slightly better pay - perfect! Soon the job expanded to cellar work, the weekly brewery order, the staff rota then finance and the 'books'. Here a banking background proved useful if somewhat



*The Golden Rule Ambleside*

of a (non) busman's holiday.

The combination of 'The Rule', CAMRA at Branch, County and Regional levels, service on the Committee of Ambleside Civic Trust, a lengthy spell as a Trustee of a charity in Grasmere, Secretary then Treasurer (briefly both!) of the Kendal and South Lakeland District Licensed Victuallers Association and, more recently, Treasurer of Ambleside Sports Committee have kept me busy and out of mischief - but not out of pubs and there is hope for a good few more pints yet. Cheers!

*Alan Risdon*

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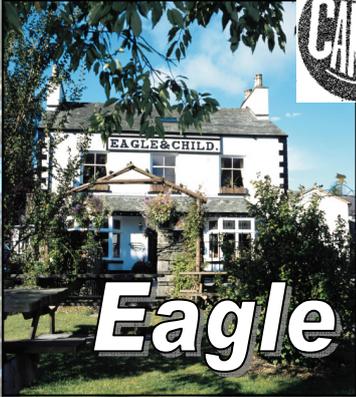
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## WESTMORLAND BREWERY UPDATES

### Dent Brewery

- Seasonal Beers are as last year. See their website for details ([www.camrawestmorland.org](http://www.camrawestmorland.org))

### Hawkshead Brewery

- Lakeland Lager now available in bottles (330ml)
- The Beer Hall has recently been accredited by Cask Marque and features in the 2008 CAMRA Good Beer Guide
- As a result of the success of their first beer festival last July they will be holding a second event at the Beer Hall this February. Dates have been confirmed as Thursday 7th - Sunday 10th February. (See Hawkshead website [www.hawksheadbrewery.co.uk](http://www.hawksheadbrewery.co.uk) for details of beers that will be available as they are uploaded).

### Tirril

- Since the successful move of the brewing operation to Long Marton from Brougham Hall last summer, a new beer Red Barn (4.4%) has been added to their original range.

### Watermill Brewing Co

- The Watermill have just introduced a new seasonal beer - Winters Ale (4.3%) - a medium/fruity dark beer. This will probably continue through to spring.
- Collywobbles has just gone for its second bottling run if you need to take some home and a new line in tee shirts is shortly to be available.

### Branch Diary 2008

<b>Saturday 9th February</b>	Branch Social (Away Day) - Lancaster City Pub Crawl. We are currently working out an itinerary in conjunction with the Local CAMRA Branch. Details are on the Branch Website
<b>Monday 10th March</b>	Branch Meeting - POTY 2009 Selection Venue is the Rifleman's in Kendal; Transport home will be arranged.
<b>Monday 14th April</b>	Social—Watermill brewery tba
<b>Monday 12th May</b>	Branch AGM; details to follow (email/web/What's Brewing)

*Beauty lies in the hands of the beerholder.*

## PUB OF THE SEASON AUTUMN 2007



*A*fter just missing the last issue we are very pleased to include our Pub of the Season for Autumn 2007. This was unanimously agreed by the Branch to be awarded to the Black Swan Hotel at Ravenstonedale.

*CAMRA Members gather to toast the award of the Westmorland CAMRA POTS Autumn 2007*



The Black Swan is a beautiful Victorian building, built from Lakeland stone, and is both a welcoming hotel and a village inn situated in an area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in the conservation village of Ravenstonedale. A perfect location for walking the Howgill fells or touring the Lakes and Yorkshire Dales, and it has a large riverside garden, with resident red squirrels.

The present management at the pub are Alan & Louise and Ken & Judith and this is their first venture into the pub business. They took over in July 2006 and have been working hard to make this free house into a real community pub which also offers first class ac-

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*CAMRA Branch Chairman David Currington presents Laura with the POTS Certificate*

which includes two changing guests.

Much of the success with the exceptionally well kept ales is down to Louise who, as Bar Manager takes a keen interest in the cellar side of the business.

The Black Swan has gained its Cask Marque accreditation and was a finalist in the Newcomer of the Year 2007 Food Awards run by "The Publican". They have

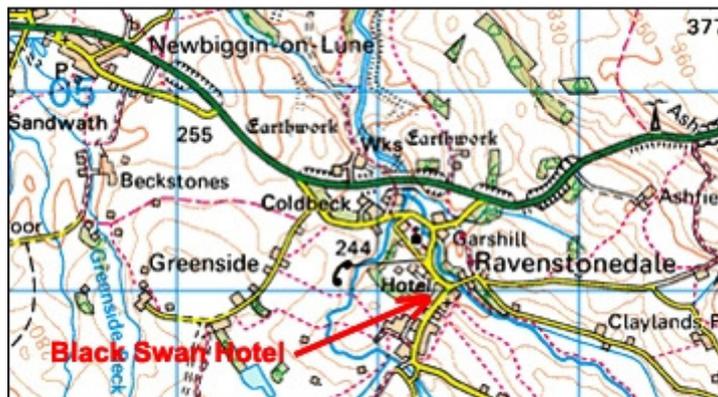
also been short listed in the Newcomers section of the Publican Awards for 2007. All as a result of offering what they describe as "good honest local food and beer".

So, if you are in the area, (and what a really beautiful area it is) then why not try for your self.

commodation rather than its previous long time classification as a Hotel which also had a bar.

They have also developed the local community aspect by opening a local shop adjacent to the bar which sells all the basic day to day items (and more) that both visitors and residents of Ravenstonedale might need without a long trip to town.

There has been a great effort to introduce a range of real local ales whilst retaining the long term favourites enjoyed by the locals. So there are up to five local real ales on offer,



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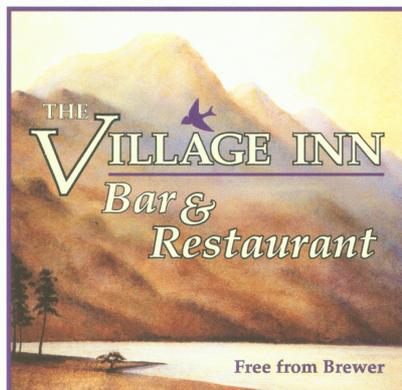
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## KENDAL INNS TO THE WEST OF HIGHGATE

By Brendan Jameson

**Working** from south to north, the first inn was the White Swan, set back from Highgate, it became a private residence before being demolished when Gillinggate was widened. Up Captain French Lane on the right-hand side before the footpath leading onto Garth Heads stands a dwelling that was once the Rock Tavern. These premises began life as a woollen and cloth mill and was only listed a beerhouse in 1834. Owned at one time by Robert Compston, the inn must have struggled to remain profitable, yet the 1874 Rate Book shows the Compston family to own over thirty cottages in the lane. The Rock Tavern ceased trading in 1911 but did not become a private residence for some time: a 1912 planning application to turn it into cottages was turned down.

Kendalians will be familiar with the ancient route from Beast Banks to Highgate known as Collin Croft. Here on a site recently converted into cottages stood a malt kiln, a brewery and the Malt Shovel beerhouse with a signboard of a wooden shovel of the type used by maltsters. The inn closed between 1906-10. There is also a mention of a Hare & Hounds in Collin Croft but no other information.

Allhallows Lane contained several inns. On the South side stands the Cask House, temporarily Last Orders Inn and previously the Roebuck Inn. Its original address was on Highgate

accessed from the yard south of Ladbrokes betting shop but with pub expansion a new entrance was created. Further up stands the Black Swan which has existed since at least 1775, when Geordie Wilson was licensee.

At the top of Beast Banks, just after the entrance to Bowling Fell stands a large house, that was once the Bowling Green Hotel. This offered accommodation, stabling for ten horses and other outhouses and was so extensive the owner had built three cottages on adjoining land. Although it may seem strange to have a hotel on top of Beast Banks, this was once the main route to Ulverston and the west. The Bowling Green closed around 1916. Across the road the Rifleman's Arms still successfully plies its trade. This is one of the four remaining beerhouses that sprung up after the introduction of the 1830 Beer Act, the others being Oddfellows Arms, the Feathers and the Castle Inn. The first owner listed was James Robinson in 1850s who also owned stabling and horses in the area. It probably gained its name from the Kendal Militia. The soldiers used to march past on their way to The Heights for target practice, before marching back down and falling out in front of the pub. No doubt, after enjoying sufficient refreshment, some riflemen would fall out once more from the front door!

On the north side of Allhallows Lane

## **The Cross Keys Hotel**

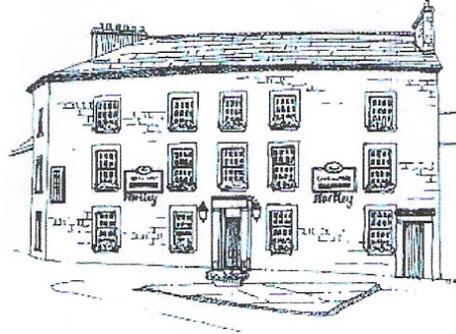
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\* 2 TWIN ROOMS 4 DOUBLE ROOMS

\* 2 FOUR POSTER DOUBLE ROOMS

## **THE RIFLEMANS ARMS**

The village green pub at the top of the hill



The Riflemans  
Arms

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 handpump, always in sparkling form
- Live folk music Thursday nights
- Meeting room available

stood the Golden Ball at No3, the Sun Inn at No 23 and the Forester's Arms.

To the north of the Fleece Inn on Highgate is the entrance to the Old Shambles, incorrectly called Fleece Inn Yard even today (the real Fleece Inn Yard is blocked off to the south of the inn). The Old Shambles was opened c. 1779 to accommodate the town's butchers shops



*Former Butchers Arms / Royal Oak  
In Old Shambles*

(Shambles is derived from the Old English word *sceamul*, meaning wooden bench or table and became the place where animals were slaughtered and prepared).

At the top of the yard stood the Butchers Arms, which had the Latin inscription on its signboard "Oves et Boves". Anyone who knows the topography of the yard will appreciate that it slopes upwards towards both ends from its midpoint causing drainage problems. The site was abandoned and the shops moved to the New Shambles in 1804. This coincided with the demolition of the Old Royal Oak, on the site of the

former Kendal Hotel, and the name was transferred to the Butchers Arms which continued to trade until at least 1866.

West of Highgate on Fellside existed abject poverty and serious wealth side by side. This area contained the Hyena, Gardeners Arms, Fountain Head, Rule and Square, Duke William IV, Black Cock Inn and the Woolpack. The Woolpack (See Cover) stood on Low Fellside but it is doubtful if it existed after 1950. At the foot of Fountain Brow stood the Rule and Square, owned in 1870 by Richard Medcalf, who was also owner of approximately 20 other properties on Fellside. As licensee of the Fountain Head he was fined £5 for "*having his house open for retailing beer at between 2 and 3 on Sunday morning*". At the same session John Parkinson was fined seven shillings for "*driving his cart without reins*"???. Undoubtedly the longest surviving inn on Fellside was the Hyena (pronounced locally as "Hyaina"). There are two accounts as to its origin: one stating that the present building was a rebuild in 1843 of an ancient inn on the same site. Another agrees to its age, but neglects to mention whether or not it was rebuilt. In 1850 an incident occurred when Thomas Park was walking past the Hyena when a volley of stones was thrown in his direction. As a result, Mary Fenton, a relative of the innkeeper, was confined to the town's "Black Hole" in the House of Correction. Although the area had a reputation for toughness, the Hyena was very successful as far as catering for passing trade



*Two views of the old  
"Hyena" on Fellside*

was concerned. In 1890s the inn had four drinking rooms, four bedrooms to

let, stabling and a dining room with seating for 80 people. The Police Returns of that time also describe the Hyena as middle class, hardly the type of clientele one would associate with Fellside at that time.

Finally, it must be said that the local press in those days were not slow to point out if they felt Magistrates were not strict enough. In 1830 they report that "Wm. Hodgson of

the King William and R. Fenton of the Hyena, both Tom and Jerry Shops,

were yesterday fined 40s each, and with costs, for permitting drinking in their houses at unseasonable hours. We are glad the officers are on the alert and PITCH IT INTO these nuisances". Fenton and three others were again fined in 1834. The comment at that time being "... the best law they can enact, will be that of abolishing and annihilating these nuisances forever".



## Some other 'lost' pubs around the Westside of Highgate



*Above:  
The old Greyhound  
Frigate Inn now  
Prontoprint*

*Below:  
The Old  
Roebuck  
Inn, now  
a vacant  
shop*



*A different view of the  
former Woolpack Inn,  
now a private dwell-  
ing Grandy Nook*

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Forename(s) \_\_\_\_\_ DOB \_\_\_\_\_

Partner (if joint membership) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_ Tel. no. \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to join the Campaign for Real Ale, and agree to abide by the Memorandum and articles of Association.  
I enclose a cheque for \_\_\_\_\_

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To the Manager		Bank or Building Society	9	2	6
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Postcode					
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			This is not part of the instruction to your Bank or Building Society		
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Branch Sort Code			Postcode		
			Instructions to your Bank or Building Society		
Reference Number			Please pay CAMRA Direct Debits from the account detailed on this instruction subject to the safeguards assured by the Direct Debit Guarantee. I understand that this instruction may remain with CAMRA and, if so will be passed electronically to my Bank/Building Society.		
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# Tweedies bar & restaurant

Relax by our traditional log fire or in our extensive lawned grounds. Tweedies is an excellent place in which to wind down after a hard day on the fells or simply soak up the Summer sun. Whatever the weather our five ever-changing guest ales can be sampled along with traditional Scrumpy cider. There is also a wide range of bottled beers from around the world and a great selection of excellent wines for the connoisseur.

Lots of choice for the discerning drinker but we also offer top quality gastro pub food from light meals to a hearty lunch, freshly-made pizzas and a full evening dinner menu. All can be taken either in the well-appointed bar area, in our separate non-smoking dining room or the Lodge restaurant.

Tweedies has a traditional pub atmosphere with a modern twist and is an experience to be enjoyed time and again. Please also feel free to pick up a leaflet about our splendid accommodation.



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Email: [enquiries@dalelodgehotel.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@dalelodgehotel.co.uk)

## WESTMORLAND BEER FESTIVAL AWARDS 2007

Following the successful 14th Westmorland Beer Festival at the Town Hall last October, the Branch was happy to present Awards to the successful Breweries in our Beer of the Festival competition voted for by members of the public attending.



### **BEER OF THE FESTIVAL**

*(Left) Chairman David Currington presents the Award of the Beer of The Festival to Anita Garnett of the Ulverston Brewery for their brew "**Lonesome Pine**"*

*Reality is an illusion that occurs due to the lack of alcohol*

*(Right) Vice Chairman Alan Risdon presents the award of joint runner up in the Beer of the Festival Competition to Brian Coulthwaite of the Watermill Brewing Co. for his brew **W'ruff Night***

*The other joint runner up was **Old Freddie Walker** from the Moor Brewery, Bridgewater, Somerset*



*A fine beer may be judged with only one sip, but it's better to be thoroughly sure.*

## 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 and serves a choice of real ales, all locally-brewed. We also host a wide range of bottled beers and 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—Children welcome**

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## HIGHLY COMMENDED CERTIFICATE The Strickland Arms, Sizergh

The Westmorland Branch decided to Award the Strickland Arms at Sizergh with one of our special certificates reserved for those relatively new establishments which, within a very short time, have introduced a good range of well kept real ales and also demonstrated empathy with CAMRA's aims and objectives. The Strickland Arms has certainly met all these requirements and has rapidly gained a well earned reputation for its quality food washed down if needed with some fine

beers.

It is also very pleased to welcome those whose quest is just for some liquid refreshment, so a visit at any time is recommended.

Located almost outside the entrance gates to Sizergh Castle and also not far from Levens Hall, it is ideal for visitors to the area and with these historical places to visit the Sizergh Arms is suitably owned by the National Trust. If you live locally and still haven't been then why not pop in to see for yourself.



*Chairman David Currington presenting Manger Kerry at the Strickland Arms with the Award*

## Tales from Lagerland Bamberg : Part 1 The North Bank



**Bamberg** is the centre of the Franconian brewing industry, and one of the main beer cities of the world. There is so much to do in terms of beer tourism here that I have had to split this report up, and this part deals with the breweries in the city that are north of the River Regnitz.

Bamberg itself is about the size of Carlisle and is around 40 miles north of Nuremberg in Bavaria in Germany. It suffered little in the way of bomb damage during the WWII, and as it was near the East German and Czech borders little in the way of modern building has taken place. This means that Bamberg has one of the best preserved city centres in Europe, and is rightly a World Heritage City. It also has long been home to a brewing heritage, and there are no less than 10 breweries within the town that have taps, plus at least another 80 just outside the city but within 15 miles of the city centre!

I used Bamberg as a stopover for 3 nights on the way back from a walking trip to the Alps (it is a little off the route but...). My first brewery was also my hotel, the Fässla (Little Barrel). It was founded in 1649, but by Bamberg terms this isn't old! The entrance leads to a corridor called a



*Fässla*

Schwemme, complete with serving hatch that enables customers to have a beer and correctly say they haven't been in the pub! The main bar is to the right with plenty of wood panelling, with a small courtyard at the end of the corridor with the brewery beyond. A Pils and Lagerbier are on draught with the rest of the range available in bottles. The beer is available in a few other pubs in town, but that is basically it. A lagerbier later (which is actually only a beer that has been stored for several weeks and tastes more like an Ale, the Pils is what most Brits would call lager), and it was off to visit the other 4 breweries that are north of the river.

The first is actually just a very short stagger, as the Spezial is opposite the Fässla. This picture-postcard pub dates from 1536, but it is still only the second oldest in the city.



The main bar is a classic for Bamberg, with long tables where the customers are encouraged to mix, with a small snug and an overflow. It is also one of the two Rauchbeer breweries in Bamberg. This is beer that is made with malt smoked over

beech wood, giving the beer a smoky flavour. The Spezial version is quite restrained and flavourful. Only three pubs are supplied.

Fifteen minutes walk from the Spezial is the suburb of Wunderberg. This is home to two more breweries, the first of which is Mahr's Brau.



This regional brewery's tap is another classic, with the main bar having low beams and a drinking corridor. It also has unfiltered Ungespedete lagerbier, known as "U", served directly from the barrel in the evening.

Almost opposite is Keesmann. This is a pub where I seem to always have more beers than I intend! I think their Pils, which is called Herren (Man's) Pils is the best Pils in Bamberg, and their Sternla beer is even better. It is a real local's bar with card games and the like being played on the long tables. There is also the tradition of the locals knocking on the table as they come in. Outside there is a courtyard at the back between the pub and the brewery.

# Queens Hotel

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The last brewery for the day is Maisel, which is a regional brewery and second largest in the city. The pub is 5 minutes walk from Wunderberg just the other side of the railway line. It is a modern (1934) building, and I must confess that I have never seen it with more than a couple of people in it.

The beer is good though, especially the Kellerbier and the Weissbier which is one of their specialities. Replete, I just had time to walk the 15 minutes back to the Fässla, and a nightcap with their stronger darker Zwergla beer before heading upstairs to bed.

DJB.

*Right: Town Hall*

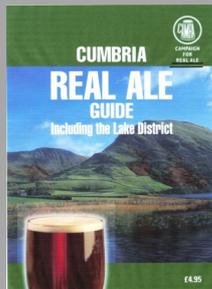


## DRIP TRAY

There is to be a reissue of the Cumbrian Real Ale Guide (CRAG) which has been getting a little outdated of late. It is to be re-issued around February time at £4.95 and will be in a ring binder form to stop it falling apart with use.

We will be distributing them to all the pubs in turn and they should be available from many bookshops.

Watch out for the distinctive new cover a pre production copy of which is illustrated



There are a number of pubs in Kendal either closed or up for sale including such great old premises the Ring O'Bells; & the Feathers; and the Cock & Dolphin is closed for some weeks for refurbishment. This reflects the problems faced by landlords in matching the increased rents and overheads against the prices customers are prepared to pay on a regular basis.

First Pennine express has issue with some help from our Branch, a Lakes Line Ale Trail, covering a selection of real ale pubs within easy access from stations along the line. There are strong indications that Stagecoach will be re-issuing an extended version of a similar guide for the 555 covering Kendal to Keswick.

Book Review

## The Carlisle State Management Scheme

by  
**Olive Seabury**

Revised Version to be Published by Bookcase, 19 Castle Street, Carlisle,

**I**n 1916, the pubs and breweries in the Carlisle area were taken over by the Government.

The aim was to civilize the drinking habits of this dissolute city. In many ways this bold attempt succeeded. Carlisle was left with some of England's best public houses that led the way for the rest of the country. Olive Seabury tells the full story of this unique experiment and describes many of the fine public houses built by Harry Redfern and his colleagues.

The Carlisle State Management Scheme was a unique intervention into the social and drinking habits of the British taking the brewers, victuallers and licensed trades into state ownership for more than fifty years. This first detailed and well-illustrated reference resource on the unique scheme was published in November, 2007. It has a wealth of information relating the history of the scheme, its ethos and unique architecture. The state appointed architect, Harry Redfern, was central to the attempt to permanently change drinking habits in Carlisle, the border city, adopting what was by the 1930s the backward looking but homely Arts & Crafts style.

Olive Seabury's book contains a lot of material that would otherwise be lost. It sets out many details of the design of Carlisle and district's New Model Inns, the design pioneered by Redfern. This was weakly paralleled only by those of

M&B in the English midlands. If the reader wants to understand either the context of the Scheme or Redfern's pub design paradigm then this is the definitive resource. The collection of images form a comprehensive documentation of the scheme. They deal mostly with the unique architecture and ethos.

This book has been many years in preparation due to the author's extensive research and attention to accuracy.

Paradoxically, she was mostly abstemious! Sadly, Olive died before she could finish the text and the final chapter, which deals with the abolition of the scheme, has been written by her son, Tom.

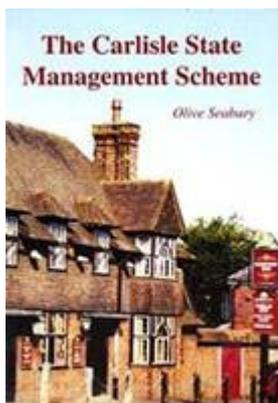
It would be wonderful if this book spurns a new interest in the political context of this scheme - the attempt to manage socially unaccepted levels of drinking and its effects. This book is an excellent resource on a unique period in the history of British drinking.

The story of the State Management Scheme can be augmented by readers' contributions to wikipedia at [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/State\\_Management\\_Scheme](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/State_Management_Scheme)

Olive Seabury's book is available on line from Bookcase Carlisle at [http://www.bookscumbria.com/cgi-bin/trolleyed\\_public.cgi?action=showprod\\_2886](http://www.bookscumbria.com/cgi-bin/trolleyed_public.cgi?action=showprod_2886)

### Red Spider

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





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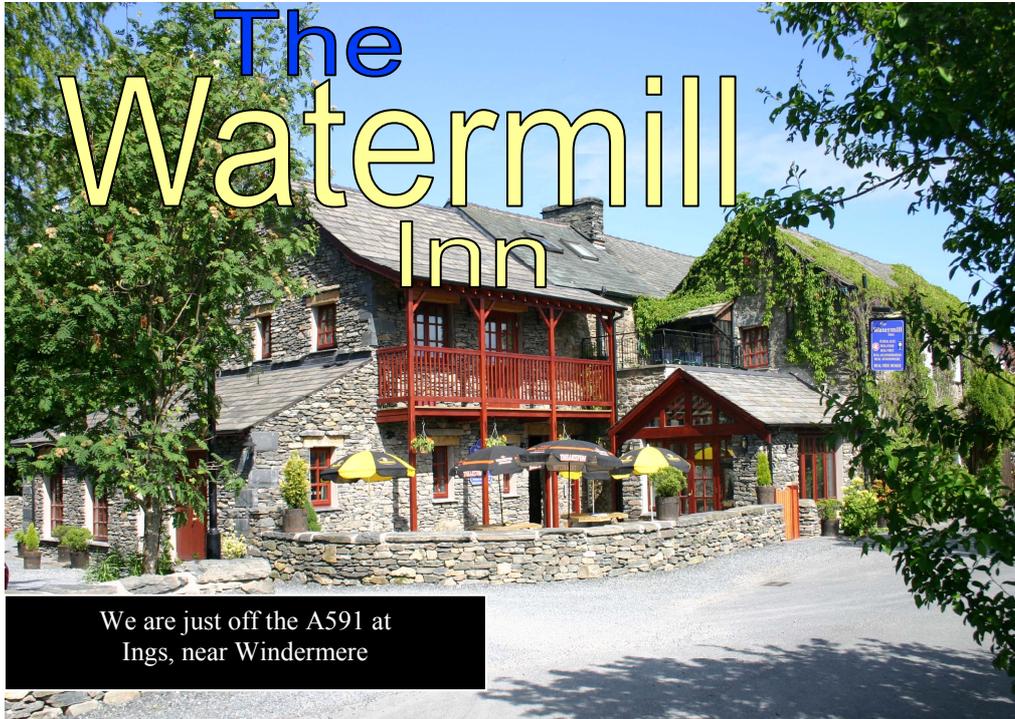
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