

InnQuirer

FREE

CAMRA Furness Branch Magazine Issue 61 - Winter 2016/17



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BRANCH



In this issue:

Articles:

- When things don't go according to plan
- Allgates Brewery Trip
- A pre-CAMRA Ramble
- Meet the Brewer - Healey's Brewery
- Champion Bottled Beer of Britain

Plus regular content:

- The Crossword
- From the Chair
- CAMRA discounts and Beer Scoring tips
- Furness CAMRA Diary

and more...



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InnQuirer

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The opinions expressed in InnQuirer
are not necessarily those of the Editor,
the Furness Branch of CAMRA or
CAMRA itself

Welcome to the InnQuirer

You may have noticed that this
issue is available slightly earlier
than last year. We did this so
that it will be in the pubs in
good time for Christmas and
New Year. Thanks to the
Cumbrian weather, I was able
to capture some snow scenes for
the front cover and to maybe
make you think that a nice
warm pub would be the ideal
place to pass those dark winter
evenings.

Once again, I have persuaded
some of our members to submit
articles for this issue and it
never ceases to amaze me what
a well travelled lot we have,
which is no doubt why all of
the articles are worth a read.

The CAMRA revitalisation
project is still well under way
and the third member survey

has now been completed so it
is anybody's guess as to what
the outcome will be. I know
CAMRA members have strong
feelings about where they think
we should go so I am sure it is
all in good hands. In the
meantime, keep on enjoying
the beer and visiting our pubs.
They need you.

I recently had a chat with
Doug Riley and Darran
Healey from Healey's Brewery
in Loppergarth. The result was
a 'Meet the Brewer' article on
page 17.

With loads of interesting
articles and all the usual
content, I hope you will enjoy
this winter issue.

Jack Summers-Glass
Editor

Pub and Brewery Craic

Pub Craic

Townhouse in Dalton Road, Barrow has just opened with 4
handpumps including **Loweswater Gold**, **Esthwaite Bitter** and
Swan Blonde. Run by the same family that runs the **Stagger Inn**
at **Stainton-with-Adgarley**.

The **High Cross Inn, Broughton** closed at the end of October.
No information as to why but their Facebook page has been
taken down so presumably it is a long-term closure.

Brewery Craic

Stringers Mutiny Double Stout has won **Gold** in CAMRA's
Champion Bottled Beer of Britain.

Healey's Brewery at **The Wellington** in **Loppergarth** now has a
Chocolate Stout amongst their own-brewed beers.

*If you have some interesting news about one of the pubs or
breweries in the Furness region, particularly if you are the
publican or brewer, email the editor. We'd love to hear from you.*



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From the Chair

by Dave Stubbins - Furness Branch Chairman

Whilst this magazine is produced by members of Furness branch and therefore covers matters in our local area, I would like to point out that our branch is one of four active Cumbrian branches in the West Pennines region of CAMRA. The West Pennines region encompasses branches in Lancashire and the Isle of Man as well as Cumbria. At the Coronation Hall in Ulverston we held the most recent half-yearly West Pennines meeting which brings together representatives from all branches in the region, primarily to discuss matters relating to the region, but also to meet up with other branch members. I'm delighted to report that the meeting was well attended, the meeting was considered a success and I would like to thank the Coronation Hall for making the venue available and Kirsty and Scott Mackenzie for providing four excellent local beers and making all the arrangements.

Several awards have been forthcoming to West Pennines organisations recently. Our West Pennines Pub of the Year, the Swan with Two Necks in Pendleton, near Clitheroe, has been voted one of the best four pubs in the United Kingdom and now goes forward to the final competition to find the national Pub of the Year. Westmorland branch received the award of West Pennines Magazine of the Year, which is a tribute to all the hard work done over many years by editor David Currington. Our own Millom Rugby Union Club has been awarded the title of West Pennines Club of the Year, and at the recent BBC Good Food Show the CAMRA national award for best Real Ale in a Bottle went to Stringers in Ulverston for their Mutiny Double Stout. Jon Kyme

and Becky Stringer have been producing superb beers in their Ulverston brewery for some years now and this is an excellent award for them.

I mentioned last month that our neighbouring branches Solway and Westmorland were holding beer festivals. I attended both and was very impressed with the organisation and range of beers available.

Last month I was invited to a forum for Public Affairs Officers in CAMRA held in the Palace of Westminster in London. The day started with a tour of both Houses of Parliament and, because the event was held on a Monday and the business of the houses does not commence until 2.30pm on that day (to allow time for MPs to arrive from their constituencies) we were able to visit the chambers themselves. The day then offered us the chance to meet MPs and talk to them about CAMRA's aims and objectives and how they could best be achieved. In the subsequent Autumn Statement the Chancellor kept the duty on beer unchanged so hopefully our input was helpful.

We are meeting for our Christmas social event on Saturday December 10th at the Prince of Wales in Foxfield from around 2pm and we would be delighted to welcome anyone who wishes to join us on the day.

It only remains for me to wish you all a wonderful festive season and I look forward to further communication in 2017.

Dave Stubbins

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When things don't go according to plan

by Ken Parr - Furness CAMRA member

After reading in our recent Furness InnQuirer magazine Ron Smith's excellent article on his trip to Glasgow, friend and fellow Camra member Colin said to me – fancy doing that Ken? Always open to visiting new pubs I was more than happy to do so. The tickets were purchased, excellent value at £15.20 return (with a railcard), and after consulting Google Maps and the Good Beer Guide I planned a route, taking in hopefully seven GBG pubs, train times permitting.

Things looked good, the weather forecast for Glasgow on the day was excellent, especially with it being November. We caught the 8:09 train out of Barrow changing at Lancaster where we had about a 40 minute wait. We planned to have a coffee in the station café but it was **closed** for refurbishment – we should have spotted the omens then!!

Our train to Glasgow arrived on time and off we went but within a short time slowed down and pulled into Oxenholme where it stopped – funny, we thought – not a scheduled stop. We were then informed by the train manager over the on-board sound system that a freight train had broken down ahead of us but hopefully we should be on our way soon and to his credit he did give us updates on progress, or lack of it, up until we eventually got moving nearly two hours behind schedule. This had an obvious impact on our planned day and our friendly train manager then announced that due to the delay this train would not be Glasgow bound and would end its journey in Carlisle. We then had to decide whether to continue on to Glasgow or change plans. We made the decision rather than rush our Glasgow trip, we would leave it

for another day and change tack.

We decided to stop in Carlisle and visit a couple of pubs before heading back to Lancaster and a beer there. We headed for the **Kings Head** situated right in the heart of the town centre on Fisher Street, which is behind the Town Hall and next to the Guildhall. This part of the city dates back to medieval times, and ale is reputed to have been available on the site of The Kings Head as early as the 10th century! We also decided to have some lunch here and the food turned out to be of good quality and very reasonably priced. The beer was in excellent condition and we sampled a superb pint of Cumbrian Legendary Ales Pacific Voyage at 4.5%. This New Zealand hopped Pale Ale commemorates the last voyage of Cumbria born Fletcher Christian, of Mutiny on the Bounty fame, who died on the tiny Pitcairn Islands in the Pacific. I finished with a pint of Heart & Soul from the Vocation Brewery which started up in Hebden Bridge in 2015. I had never tried the brewery before but this strong citrus golden beer was really nice. Also a bonus was the 10% discount on beer for Camra members.

After consulting the Good Beer Guide app on my phone there was a new pub, The Moo Bar, that looked the part in its description, especially with its choice of 18 handpumps. Being on the way to the station it seemed perfect - or so we thought - We got there to find it **closed**. Looking through the window it appeared all the furnishings had gone and the handpumps were lying desolate on the floor. Apparently this popular Carlisle bar had closed suddenly during the summer

continued on page 9 ...

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When things don't go according to plan - continued

by Ken Parr - Furness CAMRA member

after the landlords took back possession. A dispute over unpaid rent has meant the landlord took ownership of the building and changing the locks to prevent the Moo Bar owners returning. A spokesman for the bar said it ran into difficulty at the end of 2015, when the owner became seriously ill. He also cited the December floods as having an impact on the company's trading. The spokesman continued: "We, like many people and businesses in Carlisle, have suffered as a result of the Carlisle flooding. Most in the licensed trade rely on the Christmas trade to see us through the darker months. "This Christmas, the trade didn't happen and we saw our business eradicated to over 80 per cent down on the previous festive period". Sad story for all concerned.

With our planned train to Lancaster within the hour we opted to visit Wetherspoons the **William Rufus** whose name is taken from the son of William the Conqueror who restored Carlisle to the English kingdom. The pub being only a 5 minute walk from the station fitted the bill and while the choice of beer was slim, we had a very nice pint of Hawkshead Windermere Pale, a very tasty hoppy beer and only 3.5 %. It was then back to the station heading south to Lancaster.

Both Colin and I are fans of the **Robert Gillow** in Lancaster and with it being close to the station we decided this would be an ideal stop upon our return to Lancaster. Over the last five years the Robert Gillow pub has built up a strong reputation as a community hub and music venue. Musicians perform there seven days a week, there's free food on offer for all, and it is used as a base for many different projects that benefit the

community in the city.

Upon arriving there we couldn't believe it, it was **closed** with workmen inside looking as if it would be completely refurbished. Apparently earlier this year the owner, Hydes Brewery, announced it would be taking the lease back from landlord Mark Cutter and installing a new manager, with changes to the style of the pub to follow. Mark, who has been landlord at the King Street pub for five years, said there was nothing he could do, but vowed to set up a similar pub venue elsewhere in the city. So it's watch this space for which direction the Robert Gillow will follow and the best of luck to Mark Cutter and hope his new venture is as successful as his last.

I suggested we go to a nearby pub that was new to Colin, and I had not entered for a number of years. It was always a big favourite of mine but when it dropped out of the Good Beer Guide, I never got there which was more by accident than design. It is called **Ye Olde John O'Gaunt** and is a cosy pub less than a hundred metres from the Robert Gillow. When I went in a number of years ago it used to sell Draught Burton Ale, sadly brewed no more but up there as one of the best beers I have ever had the pleasure to taste. As we walked through the doors a jazz band were playing and it had a great teatime atmosphere. There was a choice of 6 beers on handpump and we decided to go for the excellent Cross Bay Brewery's Sunset Blonde at 4.2% which was in excellent condition. The beer was good and the pub very welcoming. It will definitely be back on my radar for future visits to Lancaster.

continued on page 11 ...

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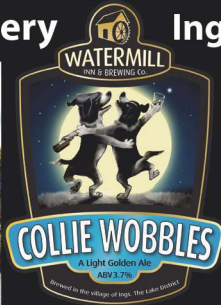
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When things don't go according to plan - continued

by Ken Parr - Furness CAMRA member

We decided it would be rude not to stop off at **The Snug** at Carnforth station on our way home and it proved a good decision. Opening the doors there was a buzz of bar conversation plus it was cosy and warm inside. The two beers we tried were from Breweries unknown to me and were excellent. The first was from Squawk Brewing Co. in Manchester, an eight barrel plant opened in 2014 under a railway arch in Ardwick. The beer was Squawk Pale Ale at 4.2% made with Cascade and Polish Junga hops. It was excellent. The 2nd beer was from Lister's Brewery in Ford, West Sussex, which expanded in 2014 from a 0.25 to 5 barrel plant. The beer was Lister's Best Bitter (3.9%) which was a traditional English ale in style and because it is triple hopped has a depth of flavour that's not often found in beers of this strength. But when you are enjoying yourself time goes quickly and unfortunately it was time for our train home which coincidentally was the one we would have caught if our original plans had not been curtailed.

Arriving in Barrow we decided to call in

the **Duke of Edinburgh** and had a pint of Wainwright Golden Bitter whilst sitting next to the fire which was burning away impressively. If you were like me and had tried Wainwright a number of years ago and was not a fan, and you are in a pub that has Wainwright on the handpump and they keep their beer well, and the Duke of Edinburgh certainly does, - give it a try - it is an excellent beer now.

Catching the bus home we had a final pit stop at the **Kings Arms** Hawcoat where we rounded the day off with a nice refreshing well-kept pint of Cross Bay Halo English Pale Ale at 3.6%. A couple of the locals asked how our trip to Glasgow went. **Glasgow we said? We never even made the Scottish Border!!** In spite of the delays and closures along the way we had an excellent day and the bonus was we still have Glasgow to come. One thing I did learn is that if you are planning to visit a pub in the Good Beer Guide that you are not familiar with, crosscheck with the "What Pub" website to confirm if it is still open.

Ken Parr

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Allgates Brewery Trip - Wigan, 8th Oct 2016

By Dave Wilson - Furness Branch Member

Most of the group gathered at Barrow Station to catch the train to Wigan. We thought the platform looked busy, and it turned out Wigan were playing Warrington in the Playoff Final at Old Trafford!! It was definitely standing room only. We changed at Lancaster for the London train and that was just as busy. Arrived in Wigan about 12.00 and walked up the main street in the lovely sunshine to Doc's Symposium (looking for a pie shop on the way).

Doc's Symposium is an ex cafe turned into a small bar with 4 real ales on and nice little snacks and a friendly welcome. Well my name is Dave and I like hoppy beers so choosing mine was easy, I went for "Dave's Hoppy Beer" from Facers Brewery in Flint, which is run by Dave Facer, ex brewer at Boddingtons (when it was proper beer from Strangeways Brewery). We shared a pork pie and bowl of chilli to help us along.

We then strolled to Docherty's which was shut for no reason we could ascertain. At this point the party split, with one group going to the Tap and Barrel, brewery tap for Martland's Brewery. Six beers on all from Martland's so we sampled 3, Clogmaker, Spinners Gold and Bombers Blonde, all were pleasant if not outstanding. A short walk took us to the Allgates Brewery for our 2.00 pm tour.

The Brewery is a Grade II listed Tower brewery which restarted as a brewery in 2006

after 40 years absence as Moorfields brewery closed on the 70's. We were met by David Mayhall the owner who immediately offered us all a pint. On offer were Pretoria, a 3.9% Golden Ale and Patchcroft a 4.2% IPA brewed with Mosaic hops. All his beers are "Brewed with Northern Soul". Both were very nice and easy drinking. (Too easy in fact).

David then chatted about the brewery and his beers and gave us a tour of the brewery which was a vertical trip up and down steep staircases. The talk was very interesting as it wasn't too technical but offered an insight into the business side of running a brewery. Some comments were that he used only pelleted hops as technological advances mean they are as good as leaf now and easier to use and take up much less space. Hop prices have gone up by a factor of 3 making beer more expensive to produce. He has resisted the temptation to go for cheaper hops and still only used the best quality ingredients.

He also said he is lucky to have 8 pubs as well as the brewery so has a guaranteed outlet for his beer.

He reckons it must be difficult to not have your own pub as an outlet and



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continued on page 15 ...



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Allgates Brewery Trip - Wigan, 8th Oct 2016

By Dave Wilson - Furness Branch Member

trying to sell all your beer.

As competition increases it drives prices down when production costs are going up making it a tough market. We were treated to a very nice spread of sandwiches as we drank and talked.

At about 4.30 we finally left with the group again heading off in different directions. Some went to The Anvil, an Allgates pub just round the corner while we went back down to Wigan Central, under the arches at the railway station. A very knowledgeable staff served us with another fine selection of ales, including very tasty

Saison Ale.

Time for the train. We got on but nobody else made it so we got off at Lancaster and went in The Merchants and had a pint, (memory getting a little vague by now), then back on the train back to Barrow. Some of the others got a later train and stopped off at the Snug in Carnforth.

All in all a very pleasant day out with a very good tour and plenty of interesting pubs to visit. All well organised by Ken thanks!!!

Dave Wilson

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Meet the Brewer - Healey's Brewery in Loppergarth

by The Editor

Since **The Wellington**, in **Loppergarth** - Home of **Healey's Brewery**, is just a mile away from me, I thought I would go along and have a chat to Darran Healey and Doug Riley about the Brewery. I talked to Doug Riley who does most of the brewing.

When did you start brewing here?

3 ½ years ago in the July

So, when Blonde won Beer of the Festival in Ulverston, it was at the start?

Yes, we won it twice, but sadly not last time

What size plant is it?

2 ½ barrels, custom made in stainless steel

Do you have any plans to expand?

There are plans, we could if we wanted to. It's configured so that we could but doubling the barrels means 3 times the work for Darran, what with cleaning and filling the barrels, selling and delivering the beer. It is a lot of extra effort so plans have been put on ice, it is a possibility for the future if Darran's children want to take over.

Darran told me that he saw the brewery as a way of helping profits

When he first came to me he said that he couldn't make ends meet and he would have to close unless we could do something. Could we install a brewery to reduce costs so I went around a few micro-breweries looking at plants then Darran rang me and said that he had found an engineering firm in Luton. We piled in the car and had a day out there and went around a few small breweries where they had installations and Darran decided to go ahead.

The standard vessels would not have gone through the door so rather than have to knock the building about, he decided to go for a custom-made plant that would fit. The only mistake that we made was that the plant was the wrong way around – the pipes were coming out the wrong way as we wanted to start at the hot water end. We didn't know you could specify right- or left-handed plant so we converted it ourselves.

That must have been difficult

No, not really. Darran was a pipe-fitter/welder/fabricator so we just sawed off the pipes, turned them round and re-welded them.

I know the plant is 2 1/2 barrel but how many barrels do you actually produce in a week?

Each brew is 90 gallons and we brew twice so we produce 20 x 9 gallons a week.

That would be a variety of beers?

Yes, we can't do more than that as we are a traditional plant and have to let the beer settle in the fermenter then fill the barrels directly from there. We don't condition in a separate tank so the landlords need to understand that the beer is cloudy (there is still some yeast left in it) out of the fermenter and needs to settle in the barrel before serving.

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I'm going to take you on a trip back in time to the decade before the formation of CAMRA, or to be a little more precise, the years of the early to mid- sixties.

I was in my early 20s at the time and far from unacquainted with the 'hot spots' of Barrow and the Furness peninsula, and we Furness drinkers were just beginning to wake up to the reality that we were hovering on the brink of an era that would radically change the face of brewing throughout the U.K.

At the beginning of the 60s the process of consolidation that the major brewers of the time would be busily engaged in for the rest of the decade and beyond was in its initial stages, and although the signs were there for those who cared to notice them, it seemed that many were either indifferent to them and their implications for our national tittle, or overcome by a sense of powerlessness.

In this climate that I begin my journey, with the very real threat of a small group of expansion-minded brewers about to start out on a nation-wide takeover rampage that would see the decimation of so many local and small regional breweries across the length and breadth of the land.

Prior to the demolition of the old heart of Barrow in the late 60s, a process that saw the disappearance of several much-loved, if somewhat care-worn town centre pubs, it was possible to take in the products of all seven of the brewers then supplying the town in a relatively small area. Of course, that amount of variety can often be found under one roof nowadays, but back then almost all pubs were brewery-tied, and so in order to take them all in it was necessary to visit their individual houses.

The brewers supplying the borough of

Barrow at the time, as I recall, were as follows: Case's and Thompson's (Barrow), Hartley's (Ulverston), Catterall & Swarbrick (Blackpool), Truman's (Burton-upon-Trent), William Younger (Edinburgh), and the eponymous Workington Brewery. A short trip to Dalton or Ulverston would net you Matthew Brown, Dutton's and Thwaites beers, all brewed in Blackburn.

It is perhaps worth noting that of those ten breweries then supplying the Furness peninsula only two still exist, and their beers are currently brewed by other companies.

I understand that two of the Younger's brands are now brewed (along with two formerly of Courage), by Charles Wells of Bedford, while two of Thwaites best-selling beers are currently brewed by Marston's of Burton-upon-Trent, who I understand, are now the owners of the brands.

Probably the quickest way to sample all seven of the brewers' beers within the smaller borough boundary as it was then, you could start out at the 'Robin Hood', on the Crellin and School Street corner. Here you could sample Hartley's Ulverston-brewed ales. To this day the pub still stands, and is outwardly the same as it was back then. Come out of there, across Dalton Road, and into the 'Travellers Rest' for William Younger beers. The location of this house, a casualty of the town centre demolition, was on the Dalton Road and Forshaw Street corner. The exact location would be on your left as you face down what is now Portland Walk.

Then you could walk down the above street until you arrive at the left hand turning into Market Square. More or less at that point you would find the 'Masons Arms', a Thompson's house. Out of there and

diagonally across the road and you would be able to sample Case's ales in the 'Market Tavern', on the William and Forshaw Street corner. The Debenham's store occupies the site today.

From there you could continue down Forshaw Street to where it made a 'T' junction with Duke Street, and into a building that outwardly looks almost exactly the same as it did back then. This was the 'Hartington', a C&S of Blackpool pub which is now part of 'Jefferson's Hotel'.

From there you could turn left and cross the expanse of the long-demolished Cavendish Square, then across Sneider Square and into the 'Albion'. This pub looks about the same as it did back then on the outside, and would have served you a choice of Workington Brewery beers.

Out of there, across the square and into the 'Britannia' on Church Street for a drink of the highly-prized Truman's beers from Burton-on-Trent.

Now although the route I have picked out would be the shortest way to sample all the brewers' wares, it was not one I personally ever took.

This was simply because the favourite routes came into being as a result of their popularity with the young people of the day, and were constantly evolving.

For instance, I would start out on Truman's at the 'Derby', a very definite 'in' place in the early 60s, and almost at the Abbey Road end of Dalton Road. The lads went there because the girls went there. It was ever thus!

From there we would almost invariably progress to the 'Barrow Arms' on Cavendish Street, another very busy place in the early 60s, for Case's ales, and then

nip round the corner into William Street and the 'Cross Keys', a C&S house.

It has to be said that C&S beers didn't always enjoy the best of reputations, but like ale generally back then, if you got it right on the night it was up there with the best of the rest. Sometimes, in the earlier years of the decade, a diversion into the 'Big Cav' as it was known would be made in order to quaff a jar... or maybe two... of Thompson's Best Bitter. This popular 'singing house', where punters would get up and warble the time-honoured renditions of the day, stood on what is now the 'Poundworld' discount store site.

Back in the mid-sixties, our final stop was almost always at the 'Albion' for a pint of 'Golden Best Bitter' before trotting (trotting? more like wobbling on reflection) down to the Rink dance hall. I recall that yours truly was once refused entry due to this 'wobbly' state, but hey ho, such was life back then.

Now then, CAMRA stalwarts, I should point out that the aforementioned 'Golden Best', one of the legendary brews of yesteryear, was among the very earliest keg beers to arrive on our patch if my memory serves me well, and yet I can't recall many who weren't mad-keen to get their tonsils around the stuff.

It really was that lip-smacking good, if a little potent at around 4.2% I think, and consistent, in an era when beers generally were anything but consistent!

Perhaps, if the emerging giants of the brewing world, keen to foist their tasteless and over-carbonated apologies for beer on us back then, had taken a good, hard look at the long-vanished Workington Brewery's flagship brew, 'Golden Best Bitter', noted

continued on page 21 ...



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A Pre-CAMRA Ramble - continued

By GA Purcell - Furness Branch President

its popularity, and used it as a bench mark for their products then things may have been very different today. They didn't of course, and the rest is history.

As I've said in earlier articles, beer back then was extremely variable, since the technology that we take for granted today simply hadn't come into existence.

I'm more than happy to celebrate the best beers of the past, and when they were on form they could be as good as any available today. However, just because they were good on one occasion and in

one particular place, that didn't mean they would be as good in the same place on another occasion or even in another spot on the same session.

We lived with this inconsistency as part of our regular drinking experience back then, whereas today it simply wouldn't be tolerated.

As we now know, CAMRA came onto the scene a few years later and slowly began to make the very real difference that we see all around us today.

Cheers, G.A. Purcell

Meet the Brewer - Healey's Brewery in Loppergarth - continued

by The Editor

I believe that you learnt the skills at the Prince of Wales in Foxfield?

Yes, I went down there for a week and Stuart gave me all the dirty jobs like cleaning out the vessels so I learnt it from the basics. He came up and helped with the first brew too.

How many pubs take your beer?

Over 15 including those on an occasional basis. They contact us when they want the beer now. Some barrels have even gone over to Manchester and Shrewsbury.

What about hops?

We started out with a single selection but it getting more difficult to get hops so we moved to English hops and we use those in all our beers. We can tweak the beers to allow for the variation in hops and malts to make sure the beers are consistent.

You do a variety of beer types

Yes, we brew mild, golden, pale and stout on a rotational basis.

Any major plans for a new beer?

Not really. Occasionally Darran wants to brew something different so I have to work out a plan and get the ingredients to do it. We get hops from around the world but we don't use different yeasts as that would be too complicated.

What about previous brews?

I do keep all the records so if we wanted to, I could revive a previous brew.

Thanks – that was fascinating, particularly since we are sitting in the pub in front of the brewery plant.

Jack Summers-Glass

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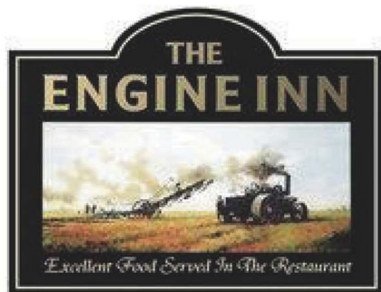
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CAMRA Good Beer Guide listed 2010 - 2015 and 2017

Furness CAMRA Pub of the Season Winter 2011

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CAMRA Discounts

by Dave Stubbins - Furness Branch Chairman

Those of you who are CAMRA members will already be aware of the extensive range of benefits available on membership. Of these, probably the most widely used are the 50p off a pint vouchers issued by Wetherspoons.

However, we are aware that a number of pubs in our area offer discounts on beer and accommodation so have put together a list of such establishments. Details will also be on our web site - www.furness.camra.org.uk.

Discounts are available to CAMRA members on production of their membership card.

Please accept our apologies if we have missed you off our list and let us have the details which we will publish in the next issue and record on our WhatPub database.

In order for this list to be as complete as possible we are asking all pubs that offer discounts to get in touch and let us know the discount offered, whether or not you think we already know.

The information we are seeking is:

The discount on a pint of real ale, whether % or in pence.

The period during which this discount is available (if not at all times).

Current Discounts

The Kings Arms, Cartmel
The Royal Oak, Cartmel
Unsworth's Yard Brewery, Cartmel
The Engine Inn, Cark
The Yewdale Hotel, Coniston
The Tower Bank Arms, Near Sawrey
The Sun Hotel, Ulverston

These are, of course, in addition to the **Furness Railway** in Barrow-in-Furness which, being a **Wetherspoons** pub, offers the voucher discount of 50 pence off a pint available in all **Wetherspoons** outlets.

The **Prince of Wales** at Foxfield offers discounted accommodation to CAMRA members.

Please respond to us at:
stubbins.dl@btinternet.com or to the
Furness web site at:
furnesscamra@btinternet.com

Many thanks



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National Beer Scoring System

Have you ever wondered how CAMRA members select pubs for the CAMRA Good Beer Guide?

The National Beer Scoring System (NBSS) is a 0-5 (0 No cask ale available) point scale for judging beer quality in pubs. It is an easy to use system that has been designed to assist CAMRA branches in selecting pubs for the Good Beer Guide and also monitor beer quality by encouraging CAMRA members from any part of the world to report beer quality on any pub in the UK.

If you are a CAMRA member, we want you to tell us about the quality of beer in the pubs you visit.

If you are not a member, why not join Europe's most successful consumer organisation?

How do I take part?

To submit your scores please visit whatpub.com/beerscoring

Log in to the site using your CAMRA membership number and password.

Once you have agreed to the terms and conditions and found a pub on the site, you can start scoring.

For more information on the National Beer Scoring System, please email: brett.laniosh@camra.org.uk

What do I need to record?

- Your name & Membership No.
- The date you visited the pub
- The Name of the Pub
- Where the pub is located
- A score out of 5
- The name of the beer

What do the scores mean?

0. No cask ale available.

1. Poor

Beer that is anything from barely drinkable to drinkable with considerable resentment.

2. Average

Competently kept, drinkable pint but doesn't inspire in any way, not worth moving to another pub but you drink the beer without really noticing.

3. Good

Good beer in good form. You may cancel plans to move to the next pub. You want to stay for another pint and may seek out the beer again.

4. Very Good

Excellent beer in excellent condition.

5. Perfect

Probably the best you are ever likely to find. A seasoned drinker will award this score very rarely.



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CAMRA Good Beer Guide 2009 - 2017

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The Sun (above) Coniston - Designed for beer drinkers



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Do you know of any other pubs or clubs in Furness Branch area which always sell LocAle? If so, please let us know so that we can sign them up and give them a mention.

Promoting pubs that sell locally brewed real ale, reducing the number of ‘beer miles’, and supporting local breweries.

CAMRA LocAle is an initiative that promotes pubs stocking locally-brewed real ale. The scheme builds on a growing consumer demand for quality local produce and an increased awareness of ‘green’ issues. There are currently over 125 CAMRA branches participating in the **LocAle** scheme which have accredited hundreds of pubs as **LocAle** pubs which regularly sell at least one locally brewed real ale.

Definition of Local

The Sustainable Communities Act, which CAMRA strongly supports, provides a definition of local as up to 30 miles from the point of sale. CAMRA recommends that the distance is calculated from the pub to the brewery and should be based on the shortest driving distance. Real ales from regional and national breweries as well as from microbreweries can be regarded as ‘local’ if they are brewed within what the branch has decided as being the local area. The Furness Branch definition is as follows: *“All beers brewed within Cumbria, plus those in North Lancashire as far south as Lancaster and Morecambe”*

This definition more accurately reflects our low density population. In reality, the vast majority of our **LocAle** pubs serve beers which are brewed very close to home - especially from our own 15 branch breweries!

The following pubs are listed in WhatPub as serving local ale on a regular basis:

Allithwaite - Pheasant	Hawkshead - Red Lion
Askam - Railway	Hawkshead - Sun
Askam - London House	High Newton - The Crown
Bardsea - Ship	Holmes Green - Black Dog
Barnegates - Drunken Duck	Kirkby - Burlington
Barrow - Ambrose Hotel	Kirksanton - King William
Barrow - Duke of Edinburgh	Lindal - The Railway
Barrow - Furness Railway	Loppergarth - Wellington
Barrow - Kings Arms, Hawcoat	Lowick Bridge - Red Lion
Barrow - Ship, Piel Island	Millom - Devonshire
Bouth - White Hart	Millom - Bear in the Square
Broughton - Black Cock	Near Sawrey - Tower Bank
Broughton - High Cross	Newby Bridge - Lakeside
Broughton - Manor Arms	Newton - Village Inn
Broughton - Old Kings Head	Penny Bridge - Britannia
Cark - Engine	Piel Island - The Ship
Cartmel - Kings Arms	Rusland - Rusland Pool
Cartmel - Royal Oak	Seathwaite - Newfield Inn
Cartmel - Uplands Hotel	Silecroft - Miners Arms
Cartmel - Unsworth's Yard	Stainton - Stagger Inn
Coniston - Black Bull	Strawberry Bank - Masons
Coniston - Sun	The Green - Punchbowl
Coniston - Yewdale	Torver - Church House
Dalton - Brown Cow	Torver - Wilson Arms
Dalton - Chequers	Ulverston - Devonshire
Dalton - Red Lion	Ulverston - Farmers Arms
Far Sawrey - Cuckoo Brow	Ulverston - King's Head
Foxfield - Prince of Wales	Ulverston - Mill
Greenodd - Ship	Ulverston - Old Farmhouse
Grizebeck - Greyhound	Ulverston - Old Friends
Haverthwaite - Anglers	Ulverston - Stan Laurel
Hawkshead - Kings Arms	Ulverston - Sun
	Ulverston - Swan
	Walney - Queens, Biggar

The above list was compiled November 2016. If you think something needs changing, please let the Editor know.

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Historic Ale 7 - Ale and Gruit

By Alastair Kirk - Furness Branch Member and Brewer

In previous InnQuirer magazines we have had articles identifying the differences between Ale and Beer. Ale was the malt based alcoholic drink brewed before the arrival of hops into the UK. From the 1400s Hops started to be used in brewing which assisted in not only flavouring beer but also as a preservative which is presumably why Hops became so popular with brewers. When referring to Cask ales in the UK today they are without exception as far as I am aware Hopped to some extent. Before the decline in Alehouse home brewing and country estates that made their own ales in the 19th and 20th Centuries, there was a distinction between the drinks available in the city's and those in the country.

As John Grove splendidly wrote in 1630:

WINE: I, generous wine, am for the Court

BEER: The City calls for Beer

ALE: But ale, bonny ale, like a lord of the soil in the Country shall domineer.

Instead of Hops, Ale used Gruit for flavouring and bittering. Gruit was the name given to the mix of herbs, plants, spices or the like that were used to

flavour the boiling wort (sugar rich liquid extracted from malted grains by Mashing)

Typical core ingredients of a Gruit were Sweet Gale or Bogmyrtle (Myrica gale),



BOGMYRTLE

Yarrow (*Achillea millifolium*), and Rosemary (*Ledum Palustre*) which were foraged by the Brewster or Alewife.



YARROW

Sweet Gale is a distant relative of the hop and has a pine like aroma, nettles are also a relative of the hop and similarly were used in brewing.

In upland areas

Heather was a popular ingredient of Gruit, while in coastal areas seaweed was used in the mix. Other flavourings commonly used were pine and spruce, usually from new growth tips or resin. As world trade developed ingredients from afar were added to the Gruit such as ginger and **long pepper** (*Cocculus Indicus*) becoming common in many ales.

Interestingly, Ales in the 15th century were thought to stimulate mind and body aid relaxation and improve amorous relations.



LONG PEPPER

Long pepper is now known to be a source of picrotoxin, a poisonous alkaloid with stimulant properties.

The brewers ledgers and recipe books from Country houses also provide some weird and wonderful ale recipes, the most unusual read by the writer being Rook ale made from two de-flea pummelled rooks, water and malt.

Alastair Kirk

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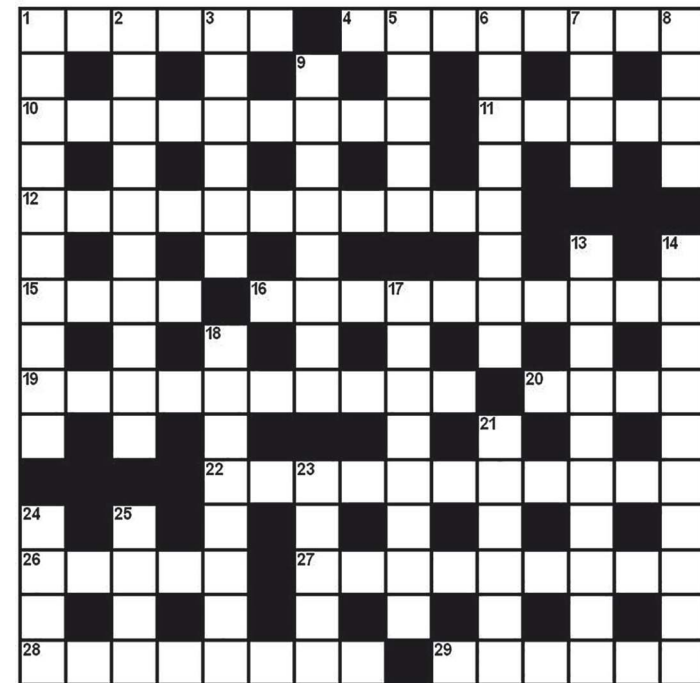
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Please visit www.camra.org.uk/membership-rates for more information.

Crossword No. 19

by PeeGee - Furness Branch Member



Across

- 1 Was fortified wine, left for sending abroad (6)
- 4 A big bird turned crazy by barrier on the Nile (5,3)
- 10 PS won slow manufacture of American machines to shift the white stuff (9)
- 11,15 In a manner of speaking, charity, they say, leads you to a Broughton ale house (5,4)
- 12 Adding fizz by shaking bran coating (11)
- 15 (See 11 across)
- 16 Roman mistress with so-called deceptions takes the whip hand (10)
- 19 I hear you and he are involved in risky making of bourbon (3,7)
- 20 Crumble reduces oddly to square block (4)
- 22 ET involved in con on assaulting (7,4)
- 26 Will a 100°C oven be the place to find this group of cauldron cooks? (5)
- 27 Yell loudly, we are told, after squeezing lemon for item of fruit salad (5,4)
- 28 Sluggish addition of mixed lot to record (8)
- 29 In part he began to attempt an overhead frame (6)

Down

- 1 Chase Syria from rearranged lounge seats (4,6)
- 2 Professional gamer mixed up with manuscript schedules (10)
- 3 Rubbish level returned to a bird of prey? (6)
- 5 Oddly, sours Thai food for Japanese (5)
- 6 CAMRA returns to embrace silver (noun) for this type of brandy (8)
- 7 Did the downing of several kamikaze aviators suggest the name for this brewery? (4)
- 8 Me, I am open to alternative extra (4)
- 9 Marijuana + oooooooo. Vegetables sounding like big brass instruments (8)
- 13 Hot for cold, I can't join President Elect, particularly with this, his attitude (10)
- 14 On the surface, friend supporting an erstwhile sea bird (10)
- 17 Dine inappropriately? Churned up bile follows if you attempt this type of food (8)
- 18 Shunt, etcetera, shortly rehashed as old joke (8)
- 21 I say, You, Mr Goose; is this your country? (6)
- 23 Return part of remittance to stopwatch holder (5)
- 24 Many a cider exhibits a flavour that is sour and sharp-tasting (4)
- 25 The face of Otto V, a Landgrave of Hesse, has a shape like a squashed circle (4)

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Furness CAMRA Diary

Branch Meetings

January 2017

9th The Railway, Askam Branch Meeting
7:00pm

February 2017

6th The Sun, Ulverston Branch AGM
6:30pm

Socials and Festivals

December 2016

10th Prince of Wales - Foxfield Christmas Branch Social
from 1:00pm

February 2017

2nd to 4th Atherton Roller Rink Atherton Festival of Beer and Winter Ales

Thu 18:00-23:00
Fri 16:00-23:00
Sat 12:00-21:00

3rd Coronation Hall, Ulverston "Currynation Hall"
5pm to 10pm In aid of St Mary's Hospice
19th to 21st Manchester Central Manchester Beer and Cider Festival

Thu 12:00-10:30pm
Fri 12:00-10:30pm
Sat 12:00-7:00pm

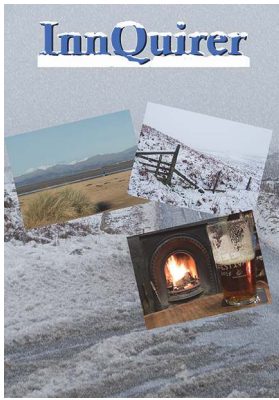
Have you just moved into the Furness area?

If you have recently moved, did you remember to let CAMRA know of your change of address?

Have a look at your CAMRA membership card and if it does not say 'FURNESS' then you probably haven't. It really helps if our branch has your details to that we can keep in touch with information about local events.

(Of course if you have recently moved out of our area, the same applies for your new branch).

Don't forget that as a CAMRA member you can join in our socials and meetings and see what a friendly lot we are.



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If you wish to place an advertisement, you should contact **Dave Stubbins** or the **Editor** by email on fcw@sugla.uk

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Deadlines for receiving advertising/content for 2017/8 are:

Spring: 21st March 2017

Summer: 21st June 2017

Autumn: 21st September 2017

Winter: 10th January 2018

Answers to Crossword no.19

Across

- 1 **Export** - Was + fortified wine or left
 4 **Aswan Dam** - **A** + **swan** (big bird) + **mad** (crazy) backwards (turned)
 10 **Snowplows** - Anag (manufacture) of **PS** won slow. American spelling of snowploughs
 11,15 **Manor Arms** - Homophone of **manner** (manner of speaking) + homophone (they say) of **alms** (charity)
 12 **Carbonating**
 15 (See 11 across)
 16 **Dominatrix** - (Latin for master (feminine)) + homophone (so-called) of tricks (deceptions)
 19 **Rye whiskey** - **yew** (homophone of you) + **h** + **e** slotted into (involved in) **risky**
 20 **Cube** - every odd letter (oddly) of **Crumble**
 22 **Setting upon** - **ET** in **sting** (con) + **upon** (on)
 26 **Coven** - Hidden word (the place to find) in 100°C **oven**
 27 **Melon ball** - Anag (squeezing) of **lemon** + homophone (we are told) of bawl (yell...)
 28 **Dilatory** - Anag (mixed) of **lot** added to **diary** record
 29 **Gantry** - Hidden part word (in part) in he began + **try** (attempt)

Down

- 1 **Easy chairs** - Anag (rearranged) of **Chase Syria**
 2 **Programmes** - Professional + anag (mixed up) of **gamer** with **ms** (manuscript)
 3 **Raptor** - **Rot** + **par** backwards (returned)
 5 **Sushi** - Every odd letter (oddly) of **sours Thai**
 6 **Armagnac** - **ag** (silver) + **n** (noun) in (embrace) **CAMRA** backwards (returns)
 7 **Dent**
 8 **More** - **or** (alternative) in **Me**
 9 **Pot + atoes** - Homophone of 8 **os**. Leading to tubers (homophone of tubas (big brass...))
 13 **Triumphant** - **ihant** (hot replacing cold in I can't) slotted into (join) **Trump**
 14 **Externally** - **ally** (friend) below (supporting) **Ex** (erstwhile) **tern** (sea bird)
 17 **Inedible** - Anag (inappropriately) of **Dine** + anag (churned up) of **bile**
 18 **Chestnut** - Anag (rehashed) of **Shunt** etc (short for etcetera)
 21 **Uganda** - Homophones (I say) of **You** and **gander** (Mr Goose)
 23 **Remit** - Hidden word (part of) in **remittance** backwards (return)
 24 **Acid** - Hidden word (exhibits) in .. **a cider**
 25 **Oval** - Hidden word (has) in **Otto V a Land..**

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