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**Life membership is still a bargain!**

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# It's Your Round!!

Bi-Monthly FREE

2700 copies of this magazine are distributed to over 200 real ale pubs and other Campaign supporters. If any real ale licensee does not receive copies of this magazine directly, and wishes to do so, *free of charge*, please contact (01642) 829032

**Sell Out! Yes, we did it. For the first time ever, Cleveland Camra had a sell out beer festival.** It has taken 11 festivals and 18 years to do it – the first one being held in 1988. At Ale & Arty, held in Arc, Dovecot St., Stockton the last half pint of the last remaining cask was drained into a glass at 10pm on Saturday night. Earlier in the evening, those turning up without tickets were sadly told there were no more tickets being sold. Even though on Friday and Saturday, extra deliveries of beer were made, we ran out. Ideally we shouldn't have run out until 11pm on Saturday, but organising a festival isn't an exact science. What a fantastic festival; 49 cask beers from 14 breweries, 4 ciders, 1 perry and bottle conditioned beer from Durham and Darwin breweries. The legendary Cleveland branch Tombola with its 200+ prizes kept the customers happy and winning throughout the festival. Saturday, during the day, between 11am and 5.30pm we made Ale & Arty into Ale & Party to celebrate the beginning of National Pubs Week – which ran from 18<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> February. Each hour, on the hour, there was a free prize draw and customers were given party poppers, squeakers, noisy flying balloons and streamers to help them enter into the spirit of things. The evening entertainment bands played to packed houses and customers came down to join the festival to buy their beers when they needed to. It all made for a really fantastic event. There have been emails, phone calls and personal comments about how good it was, what a terrific selection of beers, how well kept they all were (thank you David), how friendly all the staff were (Camra and Arc's) and how much everyone enjoyed themselves. Loads and loads of people have asked me the same question – will there be another one next year? Well, when I saw Kevin Parker, Arc's director during the festival, we talked about how it was going and he said he's put us in for 2007. So it looks like we'll be back next year. One wag told me he'd give me 2 weeks off for R & R, then I had to begin organising next year's festival! I'd like to end with a huge

"Thank You" to everyone who was involved in every aspect of the beer festival. If you know someone in Camra who worked at the festival, say "thank you" to them, if you enjoyed it, they are all unpaid volunteers and many worked very long hours to make it possible. Hope to see you all again in February 2007.

**Denise Powell,  
Festival Organiser.**

Photo, right, shows Tim, Dave and Jill at the fest.



**Diary Dates ... Committee Meetings commence at 7.30 pm and Branch Meetings/Socials commence at 8.30 pm on the 1st Tuesday (or sometimes Monday) of each month, and are held throughout the Cleveland Branch area.**

**Mar 9-12 (Thu - Sun) Darlington Snooker Club 2nd Beer Festival** - 1 Corporation Road, Darlington. 20+ real ales from all around the country. Contact number 01325 241388.

**Mar 11th (Sat) Cleveland CAMRA branch AGM** - in the hospitality room at Camerons Brewery, Hartlepool. All Cleveland CAMRA branch members are welcome. If you intend attending, please let Denise know for catering and fire regulations. 01642 654158 or email [denise.p@ntlworld.com](mailto:denise.p@ntlworld.com).

**Apr 5-8 (Wed - Sat) 30th Newcastle Beer Festival** to be held at the Students Union, Kings Walk, Newcastle Upon Tyne.

**Apr 29 - 1st May (Sat - Mon) Yorkshire Dales Real Ale Festival, Leyburn.** Sponsored by Daleside Brewery. A beer tent promoting beers from the region.

CAMRA members can email Denise to be added to branch email list for additional / last minute activities.

Branch website [www.clevelandcamra.btinternet.co.uk](http://www.clevelandcamra.btinternet.co.uk)

**For more info, to book local events and transport needs, please contact Denise 01287 622444 or [denise.p@ntlworld.com](mailto:denise.p@ntlworld.com) for details of latest social events, or see entry in 'What's Brewing'.**

### ***Don't waste the beer...***

We sometimes see a pint of beer pulled and not drunk, and think it is a waste. But that's a mistake. It is done to get rid of the ale which has been standing in the pump for hours and hours, and would taste all stale if drunk. It is actually a sign that the bar staff know what they are doing, serving ale in decent condition. At several pubs, they take the real ale off for a few weeks in winter, because too few people drink it. That is far better than having half a cask of beer turn to vinegar in the cellar and go to waste. At one place I was told there was one person who was particularly fond of the real ale and they took it off while he was ill and couldn't drink. We hope he is better now, and able to enjoy his favourite tippie. But would it be easier to keep the real ale on in winter if it were available in the smallest casks, called pins (4½ gallons).

### ***Darlington Snooker club to hold it's 2nd beer festival ...***

Darlington Snooker Club is holding another beer festival following last year's success. 20+ real ales from around the country - see Diary Dates above. It helps compensate a little for the fact that there's no Darlington Art Centre CAMRA Spring thing beer festival this spring due to refurbishment plans at the Art's Centre.

### ***The one-year rule...***

There is a rule at CAMRA telling us not to nominate a pub for the Good Beer Guide until the licensee has been there for a year. It may cause annoyance if somebody has run a pub successfully for a long time, and we are sorry if we do annoy anybody, but the rule is there for a reason. Some licensees produce a great improvement when they move into a pub which has been neglected, whilst others seem promising at first, but have no interest in real ale. If we don't know the licensee, we have to wait and see how the facilities of the pub develop before nominating it.

### ***Durham Brewery news ...***

Readers are invited by the Durham Brewery to subscribe to their enjoyable newsletter by clicking on [www.durham-brewery.co.uk](http://www.durham-brewery.co.uk) The latest issue describes the upgrading of the bottling facility in the light of the success of winning best bottled beer (Evensong) at the Great British beer Festival. Also mentioned is their development of Brewery Management Software, which they have developed themselves, and are now putting on the market.

*Andy C - get rid of this frame and stick the same old CAMRA membership form here thanks.*

*It makes the size of the PMD file email-able.*

*.....Dan.*

## *Beer Festival Thank you*

Cleveland Camra would like to thank the following for their help and support with the Ale & Arty beer festival.

Camerons Brewery Co. (sponsor), Anderson Barrowcliff, Chartered Accountants (sponsor), Billingham Lifting Gear Hire, British Polythene Industries (Visqueen), Hartlepool Round Table, Derek Wheatley (East Durham Engineering Co.), Marks & Spencer, Stockton. The following breweries, for supplying their beers, some brought beers from other breweries, helped with donations to our Camra stall and Tombola and rushed in with last minute supplies when stocks got low. Beartown, Burton Bridge, Camerons, Captain Cook, Copper Dragon, Darwin, Durham, Hardys & Hansons, Jarrow and Wensleydale. We would also like to thank, BBC Radio Cleveland staff and presenters; Julie Donaldson, Bob Fischer and Neil Green, Tiffany Royce at Tyne Tees TV, The Northern Echo and Evening Gazette. My personal thanks to Kevin Parker, Director of Arc, who made it happen and of course, all the staff from all the departments at Arc who have helped to make this event possible and run smoothly. I would also like to add personal thanks to every Camra member who came along, often working very long hours, day after day, to set up, run the festival and then knock down and pack away. Without these hard-working people it couldn't have happened.

**Denise Powell, Festival Organiser.**

### *Mild Choice...*

Britain's drinkers are being asked to name their top three milds as part of this May's Mild Month activities. And everyone who enters will be put in a draw to win a seat on the mild tasting panel in this year's Champion Beer of Britain competition. The Drinker's choice challenge is one of a number of activities planned for this year's event. Also available are licensee packs to help promote cask milds. Entry forms and licensee packs are available at CAMRA HQ now - to order, ring 01727 867201.

### *CAMRA's Big Book Of Beer...*

This CAMRA book talks of the beauties of beer as the drink of the moment, beer in its rightful place on the dinner table, as celebration, as innovation, and as a hand-crafted drink produced by passionate people. It shows how beer begins in a sun-drenched field of barley, before beginning its journey through maltings and breweries to emerge lightly sparkling, thirst quenching, and satisfying. Beautifully Illustrated in full colour, it is a book destined to make you thirsty. Price: £15.99 [www.camra.co.uk](http://www.camra.co.uk).

## *Half Moon*

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Too easy to believe! **Why not get your local to include it as part of the Pub Quiz, and send in a bulk entry in one envelope?**

1. Where is Stockton Beer Festival Held?
2. Which famous brewer is closing at the end of March?
3. Which pub in Hartlepool is renowned for live music?
4. Which pub in Staithes features a different mild every weekend?

Congratulations to the winners of Competition 89, Geoff Reed of Eaglescliffe and Michael Dallin of Marske. All entries to the address below, or email to [jo.powell2@ntlworld.com](mailto:jo.powell2@ntlworld.com) by the end of May 2006. *Current Cleveland Camra committee may not enter!*

Send to: **Competition 91, 10 Faidene Avenue, Stockton-on-Tees, TS19 7NH.**

Entries can also be made on the website - [www.clevelandcamra.btinternet.co.uk](http://www.clevelandcamra.btinternet.co.uk).

### *Lord Stones Cafe...*

One of our members reliably informs us that the Lord Stones Cafe near Carlton in Cleveland, an unusual subterranean tea shop / cafe, now serves Theakston's Old Peculiar - and insists on wooden barrels from Masham. Hence he collects them himself! [Ed. Well done that man.]

### *Fair Enough!*

The Fairfield, on Fairfield Road, Stockton has just been remodelled as the first Juniper Inns community pub for owners Barracuda. The policy is to feature three real ales in each Juniper Inn. The Fairfield has a house ale, Fairfield Bitter, brewed by Darwin of Sunderland and also currently features as guest ales, Theakston's Black Bull and Courage Directors. This is a development much to be applauded, so well done Barracuda. The next pubs lined up for remodelling, we hear, are the Stapylton, Eston; The Griffin, Thornaby and the Yellow Rose in Middlesbrough.

## *The Duke of Wellington DANBY*

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## Bricky's Bits

### On Your Marques!

Congratulations to Dave McCann of the Beckfields, Ingleby Barwick on attaining Cask Marque accreditation. Nice pint of Bombardier, too!

### Fox Cleans Up

Sue Neil, licensee at the uniquely-named Fox Covert at High Leven, is the latest to declare the pub smoke free. The decision follows much heart - searching and discussion with customers. Well done, Sue. Brave move and well before the news broke of the Government's ban.

### Late Again!

Belated greetings to Christine & Chas. Wrightson, who have taken over at the King's Head, Hutton Rudby. Their ladies' darts team has raised £200 for the Yorkshire Cancer Research Fund, and also supports the Great North Air Ambulance and the Wishes & Dreams Trust.

### More Dosh!

Well done to Rebecca May, barmaid at the Stockton Arms in Hartburn, raising funds for the Strongbones Appeal by taking part in a tandem Free - fall. More bottle than Bricky, that's for sure!

### It's That Man Again!

Congratulations to Eric Short, licensee of the Good Beer Guide listed Parkwood Hotel at Hartburn on becoming one of the first licensees in the country to receive the Investors in People award for quality of staff training.

### Shining Example

Well done to the father & son team of Dennis and John Eddy at the Masham in Hartburn, regional winners of Punch Taverns' Shine awards and now through to the National final. The award is for excellence and experience in drinks retailing. Next time I'll tell you how your vote can help. Oh, yes - the Masham's another no -smoking pub.

### Running a Pub?

Got something YOU want to shout about? Thought so! Contact Bricky on 01642 654158 or email jo.powell2@ntlworld.com.

### Quote of the Week

"History flows forward on rivers of beer!"  
Anon, courtesy of E.malt.com

### Little Bricky

### Cleveland Camra Roll of Honour ...

2004 Spring POTS & POTY: **Horseshoe Hotel**,  
Egton Bridge.

2004 Summer POTS: **Capt. Cook**, Staithes.

2004 Autumn POTS: **Spread Eagle**, Stokesley.

2004 Winter POTS: **White House**, Hartlepool.

2005 Spring POTS: **Dolphin**, Robin Hoods Bay.

2005 Summer POTS: **Cross Keys**, Upsall.

2005 Autumn POTS: **Crathorne Arms**,

Crathorne.

2005 Winter POTS: **Causeway, Hartlepool**.

## History of Brewing part 5. The Romans.

### A light-hearted look at brewing, through the ages, to cut out and keep.

Imagine the scene, it's 140AD, the Romans are well settled in Britain, although I'm sure they think the weather leaves a lot to be desired, it sure as Caesar isn't warm. Hadrian's Wall had been completed and the Legions were pushing forward into what is now Scotland where another defensive wall, the Antonine Wall would be built. Anyway, Mrs Centurion, who is a native of Britain, doesn't feel the cold as her husband does, begins the beer making routine. Those of you who have been following these articles will have got the picture by now. Make the bread, lightly bake it, and put it into the brewing vessel to start the fermentation off. Make the beer, scoop off some of the yeast in order to make the next batch of bread, which will be used to start the next brew off. A bit like going round in circles, although probably not ever decreasing ones! Those very senior officers in the Roman army still had wine brought from Italy in large quantities, but the lower ranks would have consumed beer rather than wine. The Romans learnt the art of making beer from the Greeks, and then passed it on to the tribes of Britain when they conquered these shores - some historians believe. Personally I think the Brits were already into beer, mind you, trust the Italians to take the credit! Beer was made from either wheat or barley. Mrs Centurion was thinking about converting to this new Christianity that was beginning to reach our shores, although her Roman soldier husband still went to the Temple to worship Mithras, the Roman soldiers' god. The Romans didn't worship just one god and in Britain at that time, a mixture of Roman and Pagan gods were worshipped, with people changing from worshipping one to another - as the occasion required. Christianity had arrived in Britain with the traders and artisans bringing their goods and skills to trade with both Romans and Native British alike. The story of Jesus was told alongside the stories of other gods and amazing happenings. The Romans didn't really like the exclusivity of Christianity, they were used to having a more laid back attitude towards which god was worshipped when. Come to think of it, the attitude of not worrying about things (like Venice being flooded - and that tower that looks like it's about to fall over!) has always

been a speciality of the Italian people, then as now. Italy in Roman times did not have the current boundaries; the Roman Empire stretched across all of Western Europe, Northern parts of Africa, Egypt and most of the Middle East. Ah, but thanks to Christianity, the world of brewing in Britain was about to be improved, as were the beers being produced. Watch this space for the next exciting instalment...

### CERRIDWEN.

### Who are CAMRA ?

The Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA), one of the world's most successful consumer rights groups, was formed in the 1970's to campaign and fight for real ale and drinkers' rights. The nature of the campaign has changed and diversified over the years but there are still battles to fight. We campaign to save historic pubs and humble locals, breweries great and small, to be served a Full Measure of 100% liquid and real beer. CAMRA is not a small group of enthusiasts but a nationwide movement numbering almost 80,000 and growing. Come and join us in the fight for a better deal for drinkers.

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## The Salutation

### ***Beer Taster at the ARC Beer Festival...***

An excellent festival with a great range of beers, lager, Cider and Perry. With 54 to choose from not all were tried, but here is a premier league selection. I like darker beers so you will find more detail on those. Out of four milds, two stood out; the Hardy & Hansons Mild at 3.1% had a very fruity taste with the chocolate malt coming through. It was very well balanced and you could happily drink it all evening. The Rowley Mild from Wensleydale brewery had an impressive amount of taste for its strength with chocolate and toffee aromas and quite rich to the taste (some milds can taste a bit thin). The only Porter I came across was Burton Dark Porter 4.5% from Burton Bridge brewery, this was a very fruity beer, dark but not black, very drinkable with a bitter finish. Three stouts were on offer, but I only tried two, unfortunately missing the Dam Dog Stout from Burton Bridge (shame!). The O'Hanlons Port Stout at 4.8% is a dry stout with an excellent flavour, you could drink it all day. The bottled version is nice but you can't beat a good pint (or two or three) served from the cask. Three Barley wines were on offer with abv's of 10%, 8.4% and 6%. I didn't try the 10%er although I did serve a couple people pints! of it. The Barley wine by Wensleydale at 6% was very smooth and drinkable and not discovered by many until Saturday, which was great for me. The other was Benedictus from Durham at 8.4%. Very smooth and strong to the taste. You can see the pearl drop effect on the glass from the

alcohol. However, at this strength it is one to sip and savour. The festival also had some excellent light ales, most of which sold out quite quickly. Names to look out for if you like well balanced session beers are:- Foresters Bitter – Wensleydale, Ghost Ale – Darwin, White Gold – Durham. There were a few others that were recommended to me but I didn't get round to trying them. The first beer to be finished was Coverdale Gamekeeper by Wensleydale at 4.3%. Some may say this was due to underhand technique by the staff member who had it in the sweep to be the first beer on handpull to run out. I believe the reason it ran out first is that it was a very well balanced beer with excellent taste that left you wanting a another pint. I'll finish by mentioning a strong ale that is a prize winning old ale. Cauldron Snout by Darwin is a dark beer with a lot of body. The bitternes IS perfectly matched to the dark malts, which give a rich spicy finish, at 5.6% this old ale is far too drinkable and I do hope it is available next time.

**Beer Taster**

Best Village  
Pub 2004

Beer Guide  
2004, 2005

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### ***Yorkshire Dales Real Ale Festival***

***Leyburn 29<sup>th</sup> April – 1<sup>st</sup> May, 2006***

Following the success of last year's event Daleside Brewery are once again sponsoring and organising the Yorkshire Dales Real Ale Festival, which will be one of the major attractions at The Dales Festival of Food and Drink. Local and Regional Breweries from Yorkshire and County Durham are being invited to enter the Festival and Eric Lucas, Managing Director of Daleside Brewery is hoping that over 20 breweries will be represented. The Yorkshire Dales Real Ale Festival will continue throughout the weekend in The Daleside Brewery marquee but the highlight of the event will be the announcement from the panel of judges of the overall "Ale of the Festival" on the Saturday lunchtime. The Real Ale Festival will give visitors the opportunity to sample the wide variety of high quality beer styles and flavours that are locally brewed.

## **The Captain Cook Staithes**

### ***Joke corner...***

A Camra member is waiting for his wife to give birth. The doctor comes in and informs the dad that his son was born without a torso, arms or legs. The son is just a head. But the dad loves his son and raises him as well as he can, with love and real ale. Dad takes him to the bar, tearfully tells the son he is proud of him and orders up the biggest, strongest pint of real ale for his boy. With all the bar patrons looking on curiously and the bartender shaking his head in disbelief, the boy takes his first sip of a real pint of ale. Swoooop! A torso pops out! The bar is dead silent; then bursts into a whoop of joy. The father, shocked, begs his son to drink again. The patrons chant "Take another drink"! The bartender still shakes his head in dismay. Swoooop! Two arms pop out! The bar goes wild. The father, crying and wailing, begs his son to drink again. The patrons chant "Take another drink"! The bartender ignores the whole affair. By now the boy is getting tipsy, and with his new hands he reaches down, grabs his drink and guzzles the last of it. Swoooooop! Two legs pop out. The bar is in chaos. The father falls to his knees and tearfully thanks God. The boy stands up on his new legs and stumbles to the left...then to the right... right through the front door, into the street, where a truck runs over him and kills him instantly. The bar falls silent. The father moans in grief. The bartender sighs and says..... He should have quit while he was a head.

### **HELP CHARITY**

We make no charge for It's Your Round, but if you enjoy reading it and/or take a copy home, then please consider putting a donation in the Pub's charity box.

## The Tap & Spile Guisbrough

### *Told You So!*

Last issue, Bricky was lamenting the takeover of Gales of Horndean in Hampshire by London brewer Fullers. I said that such takeovers ALWAYS lead to job losses and lack of consumer choice. At the end of January, the first 31 job losses were announced. Latest news is that the historic Gales brewery, established nearly 160 years ago, will close at the end of March. Where once the heady aromas of malt and hops hung over the town, all that will be left is the stench of hypocrisy and the bitter aftertaste that follows a once - proud company and its loyal customers and sold down the river just so that Fullers can get their greedy snout into more pubs.

### **Little Bricky**

### *Nightmare's dream result*

North Yorkshire's Hambleton Ales has won the Champion Beer award in the Society of Independent Brewers' northern competition, with Hambleton Nightmare defeating 106 other beers from 87 brewers. Brewers from as far afield as Berwick and Sheffield gathered at the Scarisbrick Hotel, Southport - a mecca for real ale in the North-West - to compete in the 12th annual challenge. The 5 per cent ABV Nightmare joined six other category winners in the final by winning the Porter, Stout & Mild class. Brewery boss Nick Stafford said: "We are honoured to receive this accolade from the brewing community. To be judged by your peers in such a definitive fashion is high praise indeed, especially for our head brewer Peter Wesley. Peter leads a small but able and experienced team, obviously to great effect!".

**From "What's Brewing".**

## Senators

### *Cleveland Camra would like to thank the following for their donations to our Tombola for this beer festival.*

Camerons Brewery, Hardys & Hansons Brewery, Captain Cook Brewery, Darwin Brewery, Andy Bell, Andy Collinson, David Boyce, Gill Broome, Chris and Jill Day, Carol Lax, Sue Moppett, Petra Morgan, Alan Powell, Jo Powell, Mike Powell, Bert Smallwood, Phil & Leigh Tate, Birch Hall Inn, Beck Hole, Blacksmiths Arms, Hartlepool, Camerons Brewery Tap, Corus Northern Engineering Services, Causeway, Hartlepool, Cleveland Bay, Redcar, Dolphin, Robin Hoods Bay, Fox Covert, High Leven, Grapes, Scaling, Half Moon, Lazenby, Henry's Bar, Whitby, Jacksons Arms, Hartlepool, Little Angel, Whitby, Marske Cricket Club, Masham, Hartburn Village, Parkwood, Stockton, Queen Victoria, Stockton, Saltburn Cricket Club, Salutation, Billingham, Senators, Stockton, Ship, Redmarshall, Ship, Wolviston, Smiths, Carlton, The Fleece, Whitby, The Granby, Whitby, The Pier, Whitby, The Shambles, Whitby, Turners Mill, Redcar, Vane Arms, Thorpe Thewles, Whistle Stop Wines, Saltburn, and the White House, Hartlepool.

### **BRANCH WEBSITE**

[www.clevelandcamra.btinternet.co.uk](http://www.clevelandcamra.btinternet.co.uk)

For all the latest news about beer festivals, pubs etc.

### *Good Beer Guide Winner.*

One of the aims of having a beer festival is to recruit new members to the Campaign for Real Ale. At the ARC festival we recruited quite a few. The names of all the new Camra members who joined there went into the hat and the winner of a 2006 Good Beer Guide was Simon Gdaniec. If you read this Simon, please let us know how best to get this book to you. Tel; 01642 654158.

### *Help required delivering the IYR newsletter...*

If anyone is interested in helping deliver this newsletter to Real Ale pubs in the Cleveland area, please contact a committee member or come along to a meeting. Particular areas that would be a help are the Stockton villages areas and southern end of branch area (whitby villages etc.).

## The Vane Arms

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**Selection of 5 superb cask ales.**

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