

The Cleveland CAMRA Branch Committee ...

Chairwoman	Jill Day	camra@critchie.co.uk	
Pubs Officer	Campbell Ritchie	dancassidy@btinternet.com	01642 310003
It's Your Round Editor	Dan Cassidy	carol_lax2000@yahoo.com	01287 651896
Membership Secretary	Carol Lax	adbellcamra@f2s.com	01642 231351
Branch contact	Andy Bell	jo.powell2@ntlworld.com	
Treasurer	Jo Powell	beth_carss@hotmail.com	
Social Secretary	Beth Carss	denise.camra@ntlworld.com	
Secretary	Denise Powell		
	Alan Davies		
	Tony Doyle	tony.doyle4@ntlworld.com	



Issue No. 94

October / November 2006

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 in the Cleveland Branch area does not receive copies of this magazine directly, and wishes to do so, *free of charge*, please contact (01642) 654158

Real Ale in Cleveland

*The Birch Hall Inn, Beck Hole is voted
Cleveland CAMRA Summer Pub of the Season 2006*

A presentation will be made on Saturday 16th September 2006

Inside this issue:

The Three Horse Shoes at Cowpen Bewley

The Vane Arms at Thorpe Thewles

The Cleveland Bay at Yarm

Prize Real Ale Sudoku

The History of Brewing - Medieval Times

Local Autumn Beer Festivals



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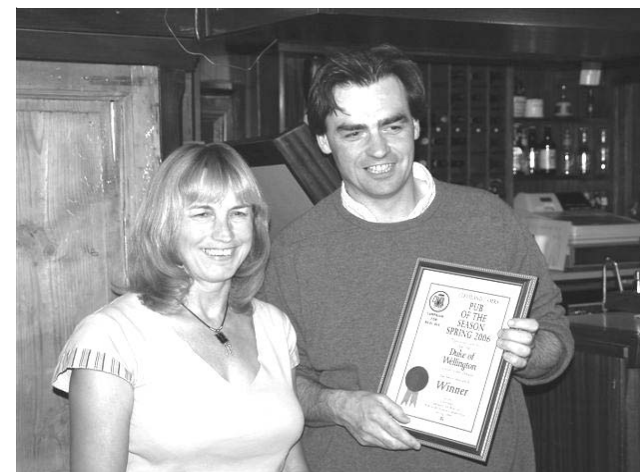
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It's Your Round is published by the Cleveland Branch of CAMRA. Views expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of CAMRA or the editor. Articles may be reproduced if source acknowledged. **If you have news or views, suggestions or complaints**, then Andy is our Branch contact on 01642 231351 or Email adbellcamra@f2s.com Please contact him if you want your news circulated.



The Duke of Wellington at Danby was presented with the Spring Pub of the Season award - photo shows Chair Jill presenting the award to licensee Grant Douglas.

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

September 14th - 16th (Thu - Sat) Darlington Rhythm & Brews Beer Festival at Darlington Arts Centre, Vane Terrace, Darlington.

September 16th (Sat) Summer Pub of the Season award at the Birch Hall Inn, Beck Hole - presentation to be made on the afternoon 2-3pm.

September 30th (Sat) Masham Brewery trip. Trip to Black Sheep Brewery, and possibly Theakstons, plus a few pubs. Discount booking being investigated. Please indicate if you are interested, to Beth as per below.

October 2nd (Mon) Committee meeting at the Fairfield, Stockton, followed by social meeting at 8:30pm.

October 7th (Sat) The Annual East Keswick Yorkshire Beer Festival, Featuring 15 or so Yorkshire Beers. Admission £5 including Festival Glass, programme and beer vouchers. Kids and toddlers accompanied by an adult, free entry, restricted to the Family Room. The festival will be held in East Keswick Village Hall and starts at 12 noon with last entry at 8pm, and closing at 10.30pm

October 13th - 15th (Fri - Sun) The 5th Annual Richmond Beer Festival at the Market Hall, Richmond. www.nwyorkscamra.org.uk

October 26th - 29th (Thu - Sun) Darlington Snooker Club Beer Festival.

October 27th - 28th (Fri & Sat) The 11th Annual Hartlepool Beer Festival. Taking place at the Borough Hall, Middlegate, Hartlepool. www.hartlepoolbeerfestival.org

November 2nd (Thu) To be confirmed - Committee meeting at the Globe, Guisborough, followed by social meeting at 8:30pm.

November 9th - 11th (Thu - Sat) York Beer Festival at the Priory Centre, off Middlegate, York.

CAMRA members can email Denise to be added to branch email list for additional / last minute activities. Branch website www.clevelandcamra.btinternet.co.uk

For more info, to book local events and transport needs, please contact Beth beth_carss@hotmail.com for details of latest social events, or see entry in 'What's Brewing'.

The Local Autumn Beer Festivals - We love them all !

As usual in this neck of the woods, the end of Summer and the start of Autumn heralds a minor flurry where beer festivals are concerned. Durham, Hartlepool, Darlington, Richmond. As for me, I generally try to get to them all. Durham by train from Middlesbrough, the nights getting dark, the venue the other side of town from the railway station, fast walking from station to Elvet is a must. Richmond Market Hall - a charming olde-world market town venue, organised by the North West Yorkshire branch of CAMRA. Hartlepool Headland in Autumn - atmospheric, historic, tribute bands setting up equipment early-on then blasting out great music later, the Round Table members busily preparing, welcoming the arrivees, making it a great place to be, and it's a great fundraising event for local charities. Darlington Arts Centre Rhythm & Blues - easy to get to by train, another case where it's a walk across town from the train station. Yes, despite the nights getting darker and the temperatures dropping, it's definitely a great time of year for us beer lovers in Cleveland. **The Editor**

THE BRANCH WEBSITE HAS MOVED TO www.clevelandcamra.org.uk

It is still under development so keep looking for latest features
Now has list of all real ale pubs in the Cleveland Area - mostly with photo

It takes all sorts to campaign for real ale



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Just fill in the form below and send, with a cheque (payable to CAMRA Ltd) or for Three Months Free membership (for those renewing or joining by Direct Debit) complete the Direct Debit Form. All forms should be addressed to membership secretary, CAMRA, 230 Hatfield Road, St Albans, Herts, AL1 4LW. Alternatively you can join online at www.camra.org.uk. Rates for single membership are £18 and joint £21. Concession rates are available on request.

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Rooney Puts The Boot In!

No, not Wayne, the poor misunderstood underpaid footballer, but Rooney Amand of Greene King - becoming better known as Greedy King. In a recent article in Camra's newspaper, What's Brewing, he stresses that he has an objective for cask ale to regain its rightful place as the most real example, the best ambassador for beer. Hear hear! And on brewery closures? "I don't want craft breweries to be stamped out." "I don't want to be a reincarnation of the big 6." Then comes the boot. "It's simply not viable for us to keep five or six breweries going." So, where does that leave Hardys & Hansons' Kimberley brewery? Much better to close the brewery and truck Greedy King beers all the way from Suffolk to the East Midlands, despite the increased fuel costs, pollution and traffic in the trunk roads. Why? "We have to deliver adequate rates of return to our stakeholders." So what's in it for the drinkers of the East Midlands? The usual package of job losses, higher prices and lack of consumer choice, which are the INEVITABLE result of brewery takeovers where the only asset wanted is the pub estate. Be nice to be proved wrong, though, wouldn't it?

Grumpy Old Man.

Birch Hall Inn, Beck Hole is Summer Pub of the Season 2006 ...

When The Birch Hall Inn won its first Pub of the Season award several years ago and I was asked to tell the landlord the good news, my first question was "Where is it?" and my second was "Where's Beck Hole?". Since then, it has become one of my favourite pubs, despite the fact that I only get to visit it about once every couple of months when I deliver this newsletter. For those of you who are still none the wiser as to its location, it's about a mile NW of Goathland (a.k.a. Aidensfield, a.k.a. Hogwarts station), just off the "Rail Trail" to Grosmont and consists of, to quote the web site: "9 cottages, 2 farms and a pub". Brother and sister Colin Jackson and Glenys Crampton took over the pub in 1981 after some

severe vetting by the previous owner Mrs. Schofield, who was retiring after 54 years! The pub was initially keg and bottled beer only, but after a cellar training course at the Theakstons Brewery in Masham, they started on the road to real ale in 1989. Since then, they've had guest beers from near and far alongside the regulars, which are currently Theakstons Black Bull and Black Sheep Bitter. As mentioned earlier, The Birch Hall first won Pub of the Season back in the 90's, and went on to win Pub of the Year. The award then went to Colin, who was licensee at the time. However, Colin retired in October 2004, but Glenys couldn't bear to leave, and since then has carried on with husband Neil, serving beer in the same excellent condition. Now, less than 2 years later, The Birch Hall Inn has deservedly won Pub of the Season for a second time, and Glenys has her own award which she can put alongside Colin's. For more information on the pub and Beck Hole, visit their web site:

www.beckholeweb.plus.com

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Quite difficult this month. **Why not get your local to include it as part of the Pub Quiz, and send in a bulk entry in one envelope?**

Real Ale Sudoku Logi-Place

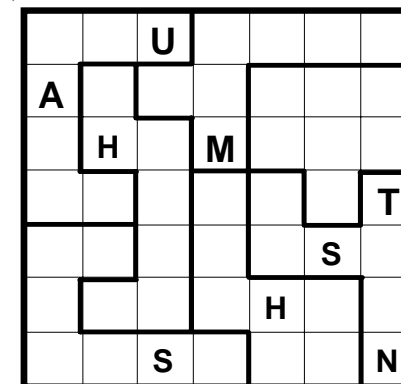
[Sorry Arthur B if this upsets your normal rhythm!] This one is a bit tricky, so good luck! Just keep thinking of malted barley steeped in hot water being converted into beautiful beer!

Fill in all the matrix so that each row, each column, and each shape contains all the characters in the word:

MASHTUN

Tip: concentrate on the letters U and H first, then S.

Winner of Competition 92 was regular entrant Arthur Barkley of Eaglescliffe. Only one entrant!! Come on, the rest of you! All entries to the address below, or email to jo.powell2@ntlworld.com by the end of November 2006. *Current Cleveland Camra committee may not enter!* Send to: **Competition 94, 10 Fairdene Avenue, Stockton-on-Tees, TS19 7NH.**



Another One Bites The Dust!

Regular readers of this interesting little publication may remember, in issue 90, an article headed "Old Hog's Almanac" in which certain dire prognostications were made:

March:

Another historic family brewery announces a slight fall in profits. A queue of 2 rapacious super-regionals forms to mount a takeover. The winner - Greene King. The loser - Nottinghamshire-based Hardys & Hansons, whose beers went down so well at Stockton Beer Festival. Other losers are their workforce, brewery and drinkers of their high quality real ales.

June:

Following a "Strategic Review", Fuller's announce the delisting of several Gale's beers not true! They've delisted all of them except for occasional appearances as guest beers. And oh dear! I see from What's Brewing that Thwaites of Blackburn, owner of 372 pubs, has reported a slight fall in profits. The axe is probably being sharpened in Bury St. Edmunds and Wolverhampton even as you read this.

Old Hog.

Star and Garter re-opening delayed

Our intelligence source tells us that the grand re-opening of the Sir John Fitzgeralds pub - the Star and Garter on Southfield Road, Middlesbrough has been put back from September to some time in October. Watch out for details. It has been closed since June for major refurbishment.

More choice now available at the Cleveland Bay, Eaglescliffe ...

Peter Rafferty of the Cleveland Bay, Yarm informs us that he has recently installed a second handpull which will allow them to have Timothy Taylors Landlord as a permanent ale. The other handpull will continue to rotate guest beers.

Also, they have recently received Cask Marque accreditation, and will be putting the plaques up shortly (probably done it by now!) And as if that's not enough, he has had installed Addlestons Cloudy Cider, a "real, living" cider, that continues to ferment in the cask like real ale.

Thanks Peter, and keep up the great work!

The Cleveland Bay

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Great Walk, Good Company, Excellent Beer ...

The summer CAMRAble took advantage of the Vane Arms, Thorpe Thewles, discounted Monday prices - so although the walk was due to start at 6.30 pm, it was some 20 minutes later when we set off, having consumed just enough Spitfire to keep us going for the trot across the fields of our Branch's north west area, taking in the villages of Witton, Redmarshall and Carlton, before returning to Thorpe Thewles. Four streams traversed and the same railway line twice, though the line in question was one of the first ever, so it was worth crossing twice. Weather beautiful, company even better, and before we new it, we were back in the Vane Arms, not only supping the ale, and which was on particularly good form, but also tucking into the hearty spread, and thanks to Pat for that. In an effort to promote real ale, Gordon is now selling pints at £1.20, but on Mondays only after 5 pm. See you at the Vane next Monday!

Jim S.

History of Brewing, Mediaeval Times; part 8.

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

Imagine the scene, it's 1450AD, Father Monk (we can't call him "Mr") is going to try a new idea with his brew today. A travelling Franciscan Friar had, when stopping at his monastery, explained how - in mainland Europe (though it wasn't called this then- no EU in those days) hops were used in the brewing of beer. They clarified the brew and helped to preserve the beer. Hops were also native to Britain, they grew wild in the hedgerows in some parts of the country. The monks were very knowledgeable about the use of herbs and wayside plants for curing ills as well as for cooking. Father Monk also had another new idea. Instead of using the malt to just produce one brew, he thought with a bit of "technology" (OK so that word hadn't been invented either!) he should be able to produce a second, albeit weaker, brew. Devising a double-bottomed vat did this. Thus the *cervisa sedilis*, the small beer, the drink of novices, poor pilgrims, serfs, peasants and, very often, nuns was produced. The monasteries were at their most numerous in Britain, at this time. It was the monks, who in all probability introduced hops into the brewing process. The date of this introduction varies according to where your source of information came from, some sources say 1400's, some later - by up to 200 years. What was noticed later, was that hopped brews made people slow down, hops do have a sedative effect - as used in hop pillows to help induce restful sleep - and therefore made the workers less productive. Many of the earlier ales had stimulating, not sedative qualities, although little was really known about the effects of some of the plants added to ale. Some of them were undoubtedly hallucinogenic like wormwood. People started calling the Brewsters (who had originally been women), witches. These witches must have cast spells on the beer, because it made people see things that weren't really there. (So they must have seen pink elephants on the way back from a good night's drinking as well!) Other people blamed the hops on stirring up revolts, not sedating drinkers. In 1450 Jack Cade, a Kent man launched an ill-fated rebellion against corruption. He had a hop- inspired victory over government forces at Sevenoaks, but was later hunted down. The Latin name for the hop is *Humulus lupulus* or wolf of the woods. It is a tall climbing plant and the male and female flowers are produced on separate plants. Only the female flowers are used in brewing. So there we are, hops have been introduced to the brewing process. It can now legitimately be called "beer". Half the population think the beer made with hops makes everyone who drinks it sedated and lazy, the other half thinks it stirs people up, causes revolts, arguments and unrest. So not many people think this new idea is good, mind you, lots of people think the older ales were bad, some being brewed by witches and being responsible for causing consumers to see things that weren't actually there. All things considered, it's a wonder the brewing process continued at all through the next few hundred years - but it did survive, as those of you sitting in a pub reading this are very well aware.

Cerridwen.

*So laugh, lads, and quaff, lads,
Twill make you stout and hale;
Through all my days, I'll sing the praise
of Brown October ale.
Song from light opera Robin Hood, 1891
by Reginald De Koven.*

The Causeway

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CAMRA
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Bricky's Bits ...

In the absence of local gems and Bricky having been off on his travels, bits from farther afield will have to suffice.

Gone for a Burton ...

A recent visit to Burton Bridge Brewery's excellent Brewery Tap, the GBG - listed Burton Bridge Inn, revealed the company's policy of placing a deliberate spelling mistake into the point-of-sale information. July's beer, Punk in Drublic, was named in honour of the "scolarly " (sic) Dr. Spooner, and a fine pint it was, too! Can't think how this fits the old saying, Punk isn't dead, it only smells like it!

August's offering is Captain Courageous. And the back label of the bottle-conditioned Empire Pale Ale refers to the role of India Pale Ales in helping to preserve social life!

Peel me a Grape ...

Calling into Bishop's Waltham, Hampshire's GBG ever-present Bunch of Grapes revealed that the locally made marmalade had all sold out. Fortuitously, Bricky was able to liaise with the manufacturer - Bricky's grey-haired mum, no less! Mind you, the Courage Best at £2.90 a pint soon saw off the pocket money.

Alfie knows his Onions ...

Long-serving regular Alfie Sawyer at the Wheatsheaf, Shedfield, Hants, has a neat sideline in added value. He grows onions and then pickles them to meet a huge demand. Only request is to return the empty jar for reuse. Shouldn't take long!

On the Cheap ...

Travellers abroad are all too familiar with life in Rip-off Britain. So where to go for a cheap beer? Well, the Vane Arms at Thorpe Thewles has cask ales at £1.20 a pint every Monday evening until the casks run dry. The Fairfield, in Stockton's suburbs has Theakston's Bitter at £1.65 a pint always. But the winner - Eurospar Supermarket in Austria's Badgastein, where Black Eagle wheatbeer, light or dark, and bottle-conditioned, sells for a whopping 34c a 500ml bottle. Translated into real money, that works out at a staggering 25p, or 50p a litre!

Little Bricky.

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Beer Taster's Summer session

Oh well! – Not the World Cup winners then. Hope you all enjoyed the Summer. All the moans about the hot weather so now Autumn seems to have come early. I do hope you managed to try some good beers over the summer. I've recently returned from a 3-night stay at the Hart's Head Inn at Giggleswick where I was doing some walking. The Inn is in the Good Beer Guide and serves excellent real ale and food. Well worth a visit if you are in the area. Whilst there I tried the following beers: Copper Dragon Scotts 1816 (OG1041 abv 4.1%) This is a copper coloured best bitter with a lot of body. The hops give it some fruity tones but it has a dry finish. It's an enjoyable beer for hot weather but I'd prefer something lighter as a session beer. Having said that I ordered it on two of the three evenings. Copper Dragon Golden Pippin (OG1037 abv 3.9%) A lighter coloured beer than the above with a strong citrus flavour which is a characteristic of American Cascade hops. This is a great session beer for a warm evening and the dry finish leads you back to the bar for more. An excellent beer; a close second to my favourite from Copper Dragon which is "Black Gold" which unfortunately wasn't on whilst I was there. I did however pick up a couple of bottles on my trip which I tried at home. Back to some bottles which you can pick up easily to try. (My son brought me back some interesting beers from Europe – so watch out for the next issue) Wychwood – Whirlygig (abv 4.5%, 2.3 units per bottle). This beer is made from the lighter malts with just a hint of black malt to give it a ruby colour. It is a malty best bitter with a fruity taste from the Fuggles and Goldings hops. I enjoy this cool (not fridge cold) on a warm summers evening. Sharp's Doom Bar (abv 4.3%, 2.2 units per bottle). The light colour of this beer should not give the idea that it is light in taste or strength, it isn't!. This has a sweet malt taste but you will note the taste of some roasted malt. It is recommended as serve chilled, which I did and it went down exceptionally well during the warm weather we have had. It's good to be able to pick up a Cornish beer in one of our local supermarkets. Innis & Gunn oak aged beer. (abv 6.6%) comes in a 330ml bottle. This is one of my sons favourites (not mine), but I made a point of sharing a couple of bottles with him; after all I purchased them. This is a very malty beer, too malty for me, but has won several awards. If you like very malty beer or oak aged wines then give this a try. If I mentioned aromas of toffee, vanilla and citrus, you would think I was talking of an oak aged Chardonnay. To finish, one that can really finish you off. This is a cracking beer that I would like to get my hands on at a beer festival. However, if you do, it should be the last beer you drink and only a half! Orkney Skull Splitter (abv 8.5%, 330ml bottle). Not a drink for the thirsty on a summers day, this beer should be idly sipped and enjoyed as it warms you. This is a robust beer with strong malt and fruit flavours. It has a lot of body; the fruity taste makes the malt flavours more enjoyable to me and this beer has sufficient hops to leave you with a dry finish that tempts you to go for more, which I would recommend you save for another day.

Beertaster.

Stockton Ale & Arty Beer Festival 2007

Put these dates in your diary as you buy the next diary - for 2007. You don't want to forget the dates of this "small but perfectly formed" Beer Festival.

At Arc, Dovecot Street, Stockton-on-Tees.

Open Thursday 15th, Friday 16th & Saturday 17th February 2007.

11am - 5.30pm & 6.30pm - 11pm each day.

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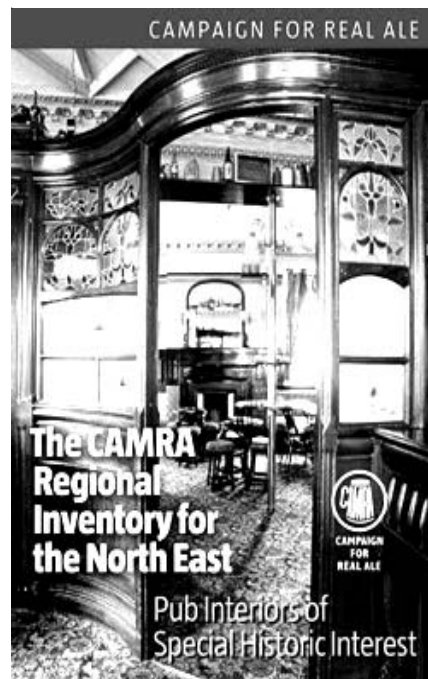
Further details to follow.

Pub Interiors of Special Historic Interest in the North East celebrated in new CAMRA guide ...

Despite more than 3,500 pubs serving the North East region, only 49 have preserved historical interiors worthy to have been included in the Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA) North East Regional Inventory. The organisation has compiled the North East Regional Inventory as a pioneering initiative to bring greater appreciation to the valuable yet endangered historic pub interiors in the region. CAMRA National Executive member John Holland, who compiled the entries, said: "The North East is a massive area covering over 3,000 square miles and is served by over 3,500 public houses. Yet just 49 have managed to conserve their unique heritage. This guide aims to list the best and most interesting historical interiors. However there are very few left because of the enormous amount of opening out, theming, and general modernisation that has taken place in recent decades. Safeguarding what is now left of the region's pub heritage has become a serious conservation challenge."

Among the entries are such rare pubs as the Millbank Arms at Barningham, Co. Durham which has no counter at all – drinks are brought up a flight of stairs from the cellar. A sophisticated gem is the Victoria in Durham which still keeps the original separate rooms and fittings almost exactly as they were when the pub was built in 1899, and the spectacular mirrored and tiled back room of the Zetland in Middlesbrough, that can usually only be viewed by appointment, is a sight to behold. The 36-page North East Regional Inventory was officially launched at the Cumberland Arms, Byker, Newcastle, Tyne & Wear on July 26th. To mark the event, the Wylam Brewery in Northumberland provided a beer named "True Heritage" in honour of the guide. John Holland concluded: "This guide is essential for anyone who is interested in the heritage and conservation of the North East's superb historical pubs."

The guide, priced at £2.00, is available from CAMRA at the website: www.camra.org.uk/books or by calling 01727 867201.



A Great occasion was had at the Duke of Wellington, Danby ...

A fine evening out was had by all as the Cleveland Branch of CAMRA presented the Duke of Wellington with their Spring Pub of the Season award. The licensee Grant Douglas showed us great hospitality and kindly arranged some discounted beer at £1 a pint (including a beer from the Copper Dragon brewery) as well as a splendid buffet - many thanks. The Duke of Wellington is an unspoilt pub with great charm situated in the North Yorks village of Danby, accessible by train on the Esk Valley line (limited timetable unfortunately, but the scenery is fantastic).

Three Horseshoes, Cowpen Bewley

On a recent trip to the Three Horseshoes I had a chat with landlady Michelle whilst landlord John was cooking my lunch. In the past I had always had a good pint of Strongarm at this pub and this was no exception. But I used to wonder why the pub had a Formica bar top, false wooden wall braces and black steel ceiling supports made to look like wooden beams. Michelle was able to enlighten me by showing me her copy of the North East Regional Inventory of pub interiors. Here it is all explained by compiler John Holland and text writer Geoff Brandwood. So I am indebted to these gentlemen for explaining that the Three Horseshoes was rebuilt in the 1960s deliberately to give a "brewers' Tudor effect". It was probably a Camerons pub in those days hence the ubiquitous Strongarm, and now it is a Pubmaster tenancy. The good thing I have to report is that since Michelle and John took over in January of this year (2006), not only does the pub again open lunchtime and evening every day, but they are now open all day every day!

Jim S.

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No Smoking
Room

Guisborough

We have 7 real ales on at any given time, constantly changing. Including Durham Magus, Caledonian Deuchars IPA, Timothy Taylor Landlord, Fullers London Pride, Adnams Broadside - plus beers from Jarrow, Mordue, Dent, Archers, Cropton, Copper Dragon, Ring O' Bells, and many more, far too many to list.

**Plus "Jazz on Tap" Live
Every other Sunday**

**Blues, Soul or Rock and Roll
Every Wednesday**

Telephone: 01287 632983 for details

There was a mini Real Ale Beer Festival in Saltburn !!! ...

The weekend of 12th & 13th August saw a mini Beer Festival at the Victoria in Saltburn. This was the first of its kind, 8 casks on gravity were available and 2 on handpulls from the following breweries; NYMoors, Cropton, Hambleton and Woldtop. The festival coincided with the annual Folk Festival which is a well established event. **The Cleveland Branch of CAMRA wish to commend the Victoria for holding a Beer Festival, and wish every success with such events in the future.**

September 1851 ...

Six commoners of the City of London are appointed as "hop searchers" by an act of the Lord Mayor. It is their job to seize and burn any hops they find, as hops are "not holsome for man's bodie".