



# Darlington Drinker 175

FREE

Newsletter of the Darlington Campaign for Real Ale

Autumn 2009

## Pub Covenants Scrapped

**R**ESTRICTIVE COVENANTS have been dropped by Britain's two main pub companies following local and national campaigning by CAMRA.

Enterprise Inns and Punch Taverns have bowed to pressure to abandon the legal agreements which prevented a pub being used as licensed premises once sold.

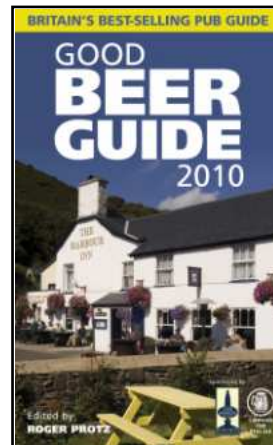
We revealed in our last edition how Enterprise Inns had been ensuring that Darlington pubs it had been selling off, such as the Brown Trout at Cockerton and previously the Caledonian and the Bridge Inn in Northgate, were not being allowed to trade as such ever again, whatever prospective owners and local communities wished.

Punch Partnerships managing director Roger Whiteside said the company would no longer apply restrictive covenants to sales and would reverse covenants already in place if requested.

Enterprise followed suit, making the commitment in a list of measures sent to Business Secretary Lord Mandelson in an effort to head off a threatened Competition Commission inquiry into pub companies.

Enterprise's chief executive Ted Tuppen had only shortly before robustly defended the covenants in front of a parliamentary committee, arguing that having too many pubs in an area would make it tougher for those that remain to compete. The remaining pubs were, of course, very often

### The Best-Selling Independent Guide to Good British Beer and Pubs

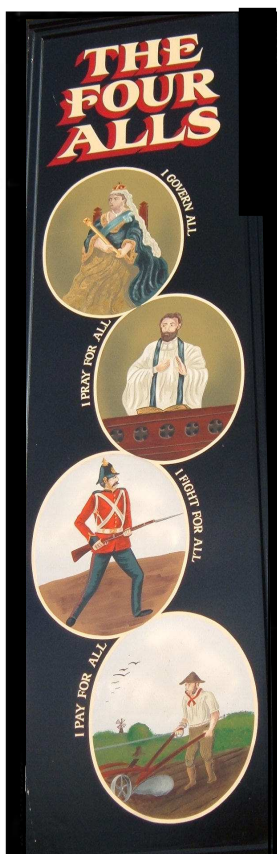


Featuring 4,500 pubs and 700 breweries selling real ale. Now 888 pages and expanded format. £15.99 from bookshops, or from CAMRA on (01727) 867201, [www.camra.org.uk](http://www.camra.org.uk).

other Enterprise pubs.

Campaigner Peter Bridle warned pub companies that CAMRA would be vigilant for other "underhand tactics" when pubs are sold and would continue to work hard to ensure they came on the market at realistic prices.

He added: "Time again we see pubs, run by national brewers or pubcos, closed because they believe they are unviable. However, in the right hands they can become thriving locals."



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Brand New Extension opened Spring 2009

## Quaker Goes Free

**I**N GREAT news for Darlington ale lovers, Brian Dourish and Garry Hewitt have been successful in their bid to buy the freehold of the Quaker House, local CAMRA members' reigning pub of the year.

Brian and Garry, who were lessees, submitted an offer as soon as Scottish & Newcastle Pub Enterprises (SNPE) - now part of Heineken - placed the Quaker on the market. The legalities are about to be concluded as we go to press.

SNPE have had less interest, it seems, for two, once-bustling, village pubs up for sale for some time in our area. Both have stood empty for months since their tenants left, unable to cope with the leases.

The price of the **Travellers Rest** at Skeeby, near Richmond, has been reduced for a second time, down to £175,000 for the freehold and contents. It was originally billed as a 'star buy' by agents Fleurets and valued at £225,000.

SNPE's asking price for the **Bay Horse**



## Darlington Drinker

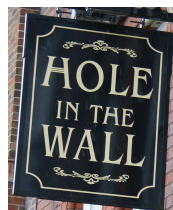
....Twenty-Five Years Ago

"**THE** Hole in the Wall could be the first Darlington John Smith's pub to regain cask beer, after a lapse of 10 years or more.

The basic boozier - which at present aptly lives up to its name - is about to be given a £70,000 refit by Smiths' managed house subsidiary, Imperial Inns. A smart, youthful image is aimed for, with meals at lunchtime, music on an evening - and handpulled John Smith's Bitter at all times. An October launch date is planned.

The Golden Cock, Tubwell Row, is also to receive £78,000 worth of improvements. We don't know if real ale will go on sale there."

**Darlington Drinker 28, September 1984**



## The Hole in the Wall

Horsemarket,  
Darlington

Tel. 01325 466720

*An Ancient Hostelry in the Old Market Square*

### Real Ales:

**John Smith's handpulled Magnet  
Greene King Abbot**

*plus now Black Sheep Best Bitter*

**Food served Mon-Sat 12-2pm,  
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### *Special Offer:*

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at Great Smeaton, on the way to Northallerton, has also been dropped for a second time, to £200,000 from a starting valuation of £250,000.

Happily, the **Black Bull** at Melsonby is still open for business, but £225,000 will buy you the freehold.

Meanwhile, Colliers are struggling to dispose of the **Slaters Arms** in Bondgate, Darlington on behalf of Punch Taverns. "All offers considered" has been slapped on the saleboard. The guide price is £200,000 on a property which Punch spent £145,000 restoring in 2006.

Punch have, however, managed to sell the vacant **Old Dunn Cow** in Post House Wynd, possibly to a local person as a 'To Let' board bearing the number of a firm of Darlington letting agents has appeared.

Finally, Colliers have the **Station** at Hurworth Place 'under offer' - we would hope for re-occupation as a pub. Its guide price was £250,000.



The  
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+

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Fosters, Amstel, lagers,  
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28<sup>th</sup> Animate

**November**

4<sup>th</sup> The Whole Hog

11<sup>th</sup> Last Minute

18<sup>th</sup> Graham Russell

25<sup>th</sup> Straight Shooter

**December**

2<sup>nd</sup> Paul Liddell

9<sup>th</sup> Eddie Miller

16<sup>th</sup> 101

23<sup>rd</sup> Sundance

**www.quakerhouse.net**

**Ale-Counter:**

**433**

different Real  
Ales this year,  
as of 5<sup>th</sup> Oct

*Courtesy  
John Reed*

## Good Clubbing

**C**LUBS ARE at the fore of good news for lovers of traditional beer this edition.

A decline in cask ale availability in Hurworth pubs - the new landlord of the Comet, Hurworth Place has surprisingly taken the handpumps out - has been countered at nearby clubs.

Up the hill from the Comet along Hurworth Road, a regularly-changing guest



beer is the attraction in the fine Victorian setting of Hurworth community association's **Hurworth Grange Social Club**

Occasional beer festivals are also organised; see [www.hurworth.org.uk](http://www.hurworth.org.uk).

Meanwhile, we mentioned last edition that ritzy new **Rockcliffe Hall Golf Clubhouse** is stocking a real ale but omitted to say what it was. The answer is Old Speckled Hen from Greene King, at £3.10 a pint in both the lounge-restaurant and adjacent Spikes bar. The clubhouse is open to non-members.

A few days paddling up the Tees towards the upper dale would bring you **Middleton in Teesdale Sports & Social Club**, the former Working Mens Club in Rose Terrace. That's the impressive 18th-century mansion on the bend in the B6277 heading uphill.



Committee member Michael Firth tells us that cask Caledonian's Deuchars IPA is being sold here. Opening times are 7-11.30pm.

**T**HE LORD NELSON at Gainford has reopened, and it's now a free-house having been bought outright from Punch Taverns by villager David Hardy.



**T**HE CAMPAIGN for Real Ale has passed the 100,000 mark in membership.

CAMRA was founded in 1971 as the 'Campaign for the Revitalisation of Ale' and by the end of 1973 had 5,000 members. The first branches were formed in 1974. Today there are over 200 branches, Darlington CAMRA being a late-comer in 1982.

From a dire, and declining, real ale base in the early '70s, there are now 700 breweries in Britain, brewing more than 2,500 cask-conditioned beers. And for CAMRA and its volunteer campaigners that is the greatest, although not only, success.

Darlington CAMRA branch's membership growth is matching that nationally. From just 30 people in 1982 it is close to breaking the 300 barrier following the recruitment of another batch of new members at the recent Rhythm 'n' Brews festival.

If you are not already a CAMRA member fill in the form on page 15 and you'll receive £20-worth of Wetherspoon's beer vouchers as well as the usual benefits.

David has separated the bar off from the eating area and is working three hand-pulls. These were serving Timothy Taylors Golden Best, Thwaites



Lancaster Bomber and Thwaites Ribbler on our visit. The pub opens from 12 'til 12 (or when last person leaves) and food should be available from the late October.



# THE BRITANNIA INN

**“A Bastion of Cask Beer for over 150 years”**  
- *Good Beer Guide 2010*

**Cameron’s Strongarm,  
John Smiths Cask,  
Four Guest Ales**

*Winner: Town Community Pub of the Year 2007 & 2008*

*Runner-up: Darlington Town Pub of the Year 2007 & 2008*

**Open: Mon - Wed 11.30-3 & 5.30-11; Thu - Sat 11.30-11; Sun 12-10.30**

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[www.blacksheepbrewery.co.uk](http://www.blacksheepbrewery.co.uk)

## GG Rides Again

**T**HE BARRACUDA bar (once Humphry's), on the corner of Blackwellgate and Grange Road in Darlington town centre, has been converted by the owning group of the same name into a more traditional-style pub.

It now goes under the name of **Hoskins**, after the influential Victorian Darlington architect GG Hoskins.



The 'Smith & Jones' format under which it trades is said to comprise 'upmarket, authentic pubs offering an appealing menu, excellent range of wine and beer delivered through top quality service in classic, comfortable surroundings'.

And sure enough, for the first time in years, the pub now serves cask beer and impressed our chief scout:

"I called in the Hoskins last night to find two real ales on the bar. They were Black Sheep bitter at £2 and Wells Bombardier at £1.95 per pint. There was also a nice, polite barmaid, a good-looking menu, including two main meals (some) for £6.50, a knowledgeable manageress - but rubbish music. I'd say worth a visit."

**GG, GEORGE GORDON**, Hoskins (1837-1911) was almost single-handedly responsible for the appearance of Victorian Darlington.

His works included Queen Elizabeth Grammar School (now sixth form college), Crown Street library, the King's Head, the frontage of the Red Lion, the building opposite 'his' pub today occupied by Lloyd's Bank, and numerous red-

brick villas across the town.

But the Hoskins pub has no associations with GG. The building dates only from 1956 when the then-County was rebuilt with a curved frontage to allow for the increasing traffic flows on what was - hard to believe now - the A1, Great North Road.

## Tapas Triumphs

**D**ARLINGTON CAMRA branch members selected as their Town Pub of the Season winner the **Old Yard Tapas Bar**, on Bondgate.

Along with an excellent offering of Spanish and Greek fayre, it is 'simply perfect to pop in for a pint'. The Tapas stocks up to three guest beers in addition to the regularly-stocked Theakston Old Peculier (the only pub for miles to always stock the famous Masham 'looney juice') and John Smith's Magnet.



On the night of the presentation the brews included Holt's Humdinger and Caledonian's Great Knock. The presentation was made to licensee Pete Turnbull (right in picture) by branch Pubs Officer Pete Fenwick.

Runner-up was the Wetherspoon chain's Tanners Hall on Skinnergate, while third was the Hole in the Wall in the Market Place.

*\*STOP PRESS: The Red Lion at Cothelstone has just been voted the latest branch Pub of the Season winner, for Teesdale. A presentation will be made to licensee Richard Robinson any day now. The Old Well, Barnard Castle was runner-up and the Three Tuns, Eggleston placed third.*

*no. 1 for real ales*  
**wetherspoon**

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Lloyds Bar



# The Tanners Hall

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**GOOD BEER GUIDE 2010**

— the guide to the best real ale pubs in Britain



wetherspoon is proud to support microbreweries and sell the best ales across the UK

## Closure Capers

**T**HE LANDLORD/owner of the Grey Horse at West Rounton, near Northallerton, has applied for permission for a change of use to residential accommodation, sparking dozens of objections from villagers and one from Darlington CAMRA.

Stephen Greening has run the pub for nine years but says it is not financially viable and that he has to supplement his income with other jobs.

The pub's accounts - which apparently show a "relatively limited" profit in 2007 and 2008 - have been submitted to Hambleton District Council but, understandably, not made public. A claim by Mr Greening's agents that "the darts and dominos leagues have also recently ended which has had a significant impact on takings" doesn't, however, sound the most convincing of arguments.

Nor does the one that the pub is used by "only" around 30% of households in the village, as it sounds like a fair proportion.

The pub was on the market from May 2006 to March 2007, during which the price was reduced but there were only two viewings, not followed up.

Hambleton planners want Mr Greening to mount another marketing campaign, which he wants to be excused from as "there is an extremely strong likelihood the business would attract less interest".

The case is made more complex as West Rounton has two pubs, the other of which - the Horseshoe - has been closed for some years due to the ill health of the landlady and has just been put up for sale at £150,000.

There could, conceivably, be a race between the two to get change of use consent first, as councils are generally much more reluctant to allow the last pub in a

A fine Selection of  
Real Ales  
available

Open All Day  
Tues to Sun  
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**FOREST-IN-TEESDALE**

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Middleton in  
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village to be lost.

Mr Greening is, naturally, claiming the Horseshoe should be the pub to remain, even though it is closed - and according to its vendors in need of refurbishment - and his is open.

Mr Greening's agents argue that the Horseshoe provides "better car parking facilities ... has larger public areas and a more practical layout ... enough external space to facilitate the provision of a beer garden and dedicated smoking area ... would provide a more attractive proposition to potential investors ... and would therefore be better placed to meet community need in the village in the long term".

*\*THE NEARBY Monks Table - former Duke of Wellington - at Welbury is on the market at £675,000. The owners for the past 18 months wish to sell due to ill health.*

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*Locally sourced cask ales  
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**Country pub, Restaurant  
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*Draught Banks's £2 a pint*

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**Food available  
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*Number Twenty 2*

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**Traditional Ale House and Canteen**

**Darlington CAMRA Pub of the Year 2008**

**Campaigning on behalf of lovers of real ale**

*Enjoy our superb range of up to Thirteen Real Ales plus Nine Continental Beers  
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**Tel. 01325 354 590**

## Worst in Britain? Get Real!

**A** LETTER in CAMRA's national newspaper, *What's Brewing*, recently asked if Barnard Castle was the 'Worst Real Ale Town In The British Isles?' It came from a visitor who had failed to find cask beer in any of the four pubs he went into. The knocking story was swiftly picked up by the *Teesdale Mercury* and *Northern Echo*.

Local resident Adrian Hobbs, a member of CAMRA since 1976, looked forward to some scientific research to discover the facts for himself. So, with a few quid in his pocket, he started at the top end of town. This is the very different picture he found.

“ON THE northern edge of town lies the **Red Well** in Harmire Road. It's a small hotel near Glaxo, and two or three real ales were on sale when I visited. Score: real ale 1-0 up.

The **Beaconsfield** is a community focused local at the top of Galgate. A couple of real ales were on sale. Real ale 2-0 up.

Further down Galgate we come to the four pubs our unfortunate fell-walking hero came upon. First up was the **Cricketers** which sure enough did not sell any of the real stuff. 'No real ale' pulls one back.

Next was the **Coach and Horses**. A long and narrow Jenning's pub selling one of their real ales. 3-1 to real ale then.

A short wander brought us to the Commercial. Not a handpump in sight, so I swiftly left and headed across the road.

The **Three Horseshoes** recently reopened and always used to sell Black Sheep, and sure enough it still did.

At the halfway mark hunger reared its head so, with the score 4-2 to real ale, I stopped off for a pie at McFarlane's.

The **Golden Lion** in the Market Place has nice views of the castle to the rear which can be enjoyed with a pint of real ale. So the score was now real ale 5, no real ale 2.

Across the road is the large and lively **Turks Head** which sported a couple of handpumps amongst the numerous other fonts. We're on a roll: 6-2!

The Raby Arms was closed and I nearly missed the **Black Horse** around the corner on Newgate. It didn't matter much because as it turned out it didn't sell any of the real stuff.

On the Bank is the **Old Well**. I knew this pub always had a fine variety of real ales available so I didn't really need to pop in to check, but in the interests of completeness... Real ale now in an unassailable lead: 7-3!

The next port of call was a real surprise: **Blagraves Restaurant** on the Bank is the oldest house in town and sports a hand-pump dispensing real ale in the reception area. I booked a restaurant table for the weekend and carried on, quite rapidly now, down the Bank. Score 8-3 in favour of real ale.

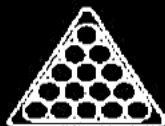
The **Blue Bell** looked like a nice pub but I could not detect any real ale so headed back to the **Old Well** to mull over my findings.

The final score was 8 real ale establishments against 4, and that probably reflects the picture nationwide.

It's a shame that one 'non-real' Barney landlord in the Mercury branded people who like real ale as 'crackpots'. Another suggested that only the 'over-50s and tourists' drink the stuff. I would suggest that if they sold cask beer then Barney's thousands of older tourists - and younger 'crackpots' too - may be tempted to part with cash in their pubs.

A two-thirds majority in favour of real ale does not entitle Barney to be branded 'The Worst Real Ale Town In The British Isles'. I hope our intrepid walker, when he visits next, will take time out to explore a little further.”

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*CAMRA North East Club of the Year 2004-2008*

*IN CAMRA GOOD BEER GUIDE 2005/ '06/ '07/ '08/ '09/ '10*

*FIRST Snooker Club to get CAMRA club of the year*

*FIRST Snooker Club to get in CAMRA Good Beer Guide*

*FIRST Snooker Club to have its own major Beer Festival*

**\* MINI BEER FESTIVAL \***

**\* 19TH-22ND NOVEMBER \***

Comfortable TV Lounge

Buffets can be supplied to fit every budget. Parties catered for

Junior Classes Sunday 9-11am

School Groups Welcomed, Professional Coach Available.

CAMRA members free entry on production of card

## Hitting the Heights

**D**ARLINGTON'S RHYTHM 'n' Brews Festival 2009, organised by Darlington CAMRA and the Arts Centre R'n'B Club, hit the high notes once again.

Despite not quite selling out of ale over the weekend - little more than a flagon-full of pints went unsupped - the choice of 56 beers, from new breweries and local and established brewers, once again proved popular.

CAMRA received many positive comments from the questionnaires which were distributed. They included 'excellent choice and quality', 'relaxed atmosphere' and 'beer choice and the brewing group stand' - a reference to the Darlington Traditional Brewing Group, run by people who brew in backyards and sheds on a small scale.

Asked how the festival now in its 30th year - could be improved, drinkers responded with comments such as 'Don't change it!', 'Can we have more festivals?' and 'None - great choice and venue!'

The winning **Beer of the Festival** was one with a short journey to Darlington - the amber, 5% Beach from Redscar brewery of Redcar, founded at the Cleveland Hotel in the town just last year.

Voted second - and the first cask to be drunk dry - was Hedgehog (3.7%) from Roosters of Knaresborough. Third place went to the mighty Artic Ale (10%) from Elveden in Norfolk. The winning voter was John Clark of Darlington.

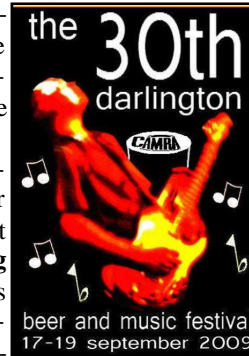
The top-rated cider was Broadoak Perry from Clutton, Somerset

The organisers have thanked everyone who donated their unspent beercards towards this year's chosen charity. A generous £226.50 was raised for the Great

North Air Ambulance, and the ceremonial presentation will be made soon.

The next Darlington CAMRA beer festival will be part of **Spring Thing 2010** at the Arts Centre, from Thursday 18th to Saturday 20th March. Make that a date.

*\*THE R'n'B Festival may have sold a fraction less beer than last year's sell-out but even Munich's Oktoberfest saw a fall in visitor numbers, from 6 million last year to a mere 5.7 million this. Mind you, the Darlington events' 1400 drinkers had a far wider range of brews to choose from - the Oktoberfest stocks only beers from the city's six breweries...*



### Foresters Arms

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### - New Menu - Real Ale - Real Fire

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**Opening Hours:**  
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Tues closed  
Wed-Sun 12-midnight

**Food served:**  
Wed-Sat 12-9pm,  
Sunday 12 noon-5pm

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Celebrate New Year With Us!**

\*\* Always a Great Welcome \*\*

## Marque One

**T**HE OLD FARMHOUSE at Morton Palms, on the A67 between Darlington and Middleton St George, is the latest pub in our area to gain the beer industry's Cask Marque accreditation for the quality of its real ale.

Manager Kevin Young says the award has been great for the pub and the staff:

"It recognises the hard work we have put in for the last year. It has taken all this time to increase sales on our casks, as when we started out we sold less than two barrels in a week on two handpulls."

At that time, Kevin tells us, they came close to dropping down to a single hand-pump. Now: "we have three real ales on all the time - one regular, Harviestoun Bitter & Twisted, and two guest ales. We alternate between these, trying to find the ones our guests enjoy the most. We are happy to listen to any request."



Throughout autumn the Mitchells & Butlers Vintage Inn is participating in the company's Cask Ale Festival, stocking specially-produced ales.

Kevin would like the Farmhouse to get more involved with micro-breweries which are local to the pub - "more interesting for our guests" - but these will have to go through Mitchells & Butlers to agree prices first.

"Hopefully", he adds, we will continue to grow awareness of our product and the possibility of more handpulls."

## Turbinia Newton Aycliffe 01325 319700

**"The" Venue for Real Ale and Live Music**  
Bands Every Saturday and Black Sheep Bitter Always Available

### Gig Dates For Your Diary:

7th Nov - SKIN FLINK,  
*stars of Stormin '07*

14th Nov - SABATTICA,  
*No1 Black Sabbath tribute*

21st Nov - WYCH KRAFT  
*CLASSIC, '70s, '80s, '90s rock*

28th Nov - ALCATRAZ  
*stars of Farmyard '07 & Stormin '07*

5th Dec - GRAHAM RUSSELL,  
*NE guitar & vocals*

12th Dec - FM,  
*NE rock legends*

19th Dec - CAPTAIN ROCK,  
*Turbinia Xmas party night*

20th Dec - THYN LIZZIE,  
*top NE Thin Lizzie tribute*

*More Info: [turbiniapub.co.uk](http://turbiniapub.co.uk)*

**Parsons Centre, Sid Chaplin Drive, Newton Aycliffe**

## It takes all sorts to campaign for real ale

# Join CAMRA today...

Complete the Direct Debit form below and you will receive three months membership free and a fantastic discount on your membership subscription. Alternatively you can send a cheque payable to CAMRA Ltd with your completed form, visit [www.camra.org.uk](http://www.camra.org.uk) or call 01727 867201. All forms should be addressed to Membership Secretary, CAMRA, 230 Hatfield Road, St Albans, AL1 4LW.

**Your Details**

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Forename(s) .....

Date of Birth (dd/mm/yyyy) .....

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I wish to join the Campaign for Real Ale, and agree to abide by the Memorandum and Articles of Association.

I enclose a cheque for .....

Signed ..... Date .....

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Please fill in the form and send to: Campaign for Real Ale Ltd, 230 Hatfield Road, St Albans, Herts AL1 4LW

**Name and full postal address of your Bank or Building Society**

To the Manager:  Bank or Building Society

Address:

Postcode:

**Name(s) of Account Holder (s)**

**Bank or Building Society Account Number**

**Branch Sort Code**

**Reference Number**

Banks and Building Societies may not accept Direct Debit Instructions for some types of account.

**Originators Identification Number**

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FOR CAMRA OFFICIAL USE ONLY

This is not part of the instruction to your Bank or Building Society

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Signature(s):

Date:

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- If the amounts to be paid or the payment dates change CAMRA will notify you 10 working days in advance of your account being debited or as otherwise agreed.
- If an error is made by CAMRA or your Bank or Building Society you are guaranteed a full and immediate refund from your branch of the amount paid.
- You can cancel a Direct Debit at any time by writing to your Bank or Building Society. Please also send a copy of your letter to us.

## The Buck Inn

Thornton Watlass, Bedale



**COUNTRY INN OVERLOOKING  
THE VILLAGE GREEN**  
*Five real ales always on pump, including  
local independents*

**Quality home-cooked meals, lunch and  
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**BEER GARDEN - CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA -  
EN-SUITE ACCOMMODATION - FUNCTION ROOM**

**Sunday lunchtime jazz:**

Oct 25 Brian Carrick & the Heritage Hall  
Stompers, Nov 8 Mike Dal'y's Rhythm Kings,  
Nov 29 La Harpe Street Jazzmen

*\*Plus Nov 22 acoustic night: all welcome\**

**Tel. Bedale 01677 422461**  
**www.thebuckinn.net**

## BREWS, NEWS AND VIEWS

**THE HOLE IN THE WALL** in Darlington Market Place has widened its range of cask ales to three with the introduction of Black Sheep Best Bitter alongside the long-established John Smith's Magnet and Greene King Abbot.

**THE BRIDGE** at Whorlton also now has three real ales, spanning the strength range with what landlord Paul O'Hara calls "a strong, middle and light". All are £2.50 pint. Paul's intention is to put another two cask beers in by Christmas. The pub-restaurant has picked up a good few awards from newly-published guides. It's listed in the 2010 AA Pubs Guide as one of the 'pick of the pubs' in County Durham, features in that organisation's Britain's Best Pubs 2010 and is an "inspector's favourite", no less, in the Michelin's Eating Out in Pubs 2009/2010.

## DIARY DATES - DARLINGTON CAMRA - DIARY DATES

- Tue 10 Nov - Old Yard Tapas Bar**, Bondgate (upstairs). Darlington CAMRA branch meeting, 8pm. All welcome.
- Fri 13 Nov - Rural coach crawl** to Middridge, Newton Aycliffe, Aycliffe Village, Coatham Mundeville, Gt Stainton, Preston-le-Skerne. Dep Feethams (opp. Town Hall) 7pm. Details/bookings: Pete Fenwick (01325) 374817; (07792) 093245.
- Tue 8 Dec - Quaker House**, Mechanics' Yard, off High Row. Darlington CAMRA branch meeting, 8pm. All welcome. (To be confirmed.)
- Fri 11 Dec - Rural coach crawl** to Low Coniscliffe, Heighington Station and Heighington village. Dep Feethams (opp. Town Hall) 7pm. Details/bookings: Pete as above.

**Darlington Drinker** is published by the Darlington branch of CAMRA, the Campaign for Real Ale. Circulation 3,500. News, articles and letters welcome. All items © Darlington CAMRA but may be reproduced if source acknowledged. Editor: Brendan Boyle, 6 Clareville Road, Darlington DL3 8NG; (01325) 362092; email dd@idnet.com. Additional contributors this issue: Malcolm Dunstone, Pete Fenwick, Adrian Hobbs, Ian Jackson. Advertising: Peter Everett (01325) 241388. Ad rates a snip at quarter-page £30, half page £50, full page £80, sixth consecutive insertion free. Branch website: www.darlocamra.org.uk. CAMRA HQ is at 230 Hatfield Road, St Albans, Herts AL1 4LW; (01727) 867201; see www.camra.org.uk for all other real ale information.

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