



**WRITTEN BY & FOR DISCERNING BEER  
DRINKERS IN & AROUND NEWARK**

<http://www.prima.net/philthy/BGP/>



# Beer Gutter Press

Issue 9 - February '98

## Time to act on tax

**CAMRA urges  
Brown to get  
tough on unfair  
beer tax**

**T**he Campaign for Real Ale is calling on Chancellor **Gordon Brown** to make March's Budget a day of celebration for Britain's 15 million beer drinkers by cutting beer duty.

A recent submission to the Treasury **CAMRA** calls for:

A staged reduction of beer duty down to the EU median level starting with a 5 pence cut in March.

The introduction of a temporary maximum indicative limit (MIL) until moves towards beer tax harmonisation with the EU are complete.

**Mike Benner**, Head of Cam-

paigns said, "Each year the problem of personal cross-border shopping and smuggling gets worse, but the government is failing to act. The beer and pubs industry supports some 900,000 British jobs but Britain's high beer tax policy is putting thousands of these at risk. In 1998 one in twenty pints drunk in Britain are shipped in from France - that's a staggering 1.4 million pints a day."

"We are urging Mr. Brown to become the beer drinker's champion and do something about this problem. The Treasury's own economic model has been used to show that a 20% reduction in beer tax would be self-financing over two years. There is no economic argument against cutting tax. The industry would gain, the consumer would gain and the government would gain."

"Now is the time for action. Our streets are flooding with cheap French beer sold illegally on housing estates from the back of vans. This high tax policy is no doubt leading to increased problems with street drinking, under-age drinking and

other alcohol related problems. Pubs provide a socially controlled environment where adults can enjoy drinking, but they don't have a level playing field on which to compete."

### *IN THIS ISSUE:*

- ⇒ Springhead expand
- ⇒ CAMRA introduce U-26 category
- ⇒ Festival report
- ⇒ Branch diary
- ⇒ Bob Boozley returns
- ⇒ Anorak's guide
- ⇒ Bradford beer & balti report
- ⇒ New committee elected
- ⇒ Jenning's brewery visit

The **Beer Gutter Press** will consider any short beer-related items for publication. If you have any news, stories, gossip, jokes or even photo's, send them to the BGP at:

27 Kingsnorth Close, Newark, NG24 1PS. Tel: 687013

**LIMITED COPIES ~ PLEASE RETURN WHEN READ**

## COMPETITION

### Springhead in a bottle

Last issue, we gave you the chance to win one of two 1998 Good Beer guides, each worth £10.99.

The answer: The Mansfield pub is run by Dave and Doris is married to Stan. First two correct answers out of the editor's tankard were:

Bob Smith, of Ashworth Close and Bridget Jex, of Boundary Road.

Well done, and thanks to all those who entered.

## MISTAKES!

A couple of mistakes crept into last issue.

We reported that the Beehive at Maplebeck was selling beers from Mallard. It should have been Maypole. We also spelled Tina's (Horse & Gears) surname incorrectly. It should have read Peagam. Apologies all round.

That's what you get with editing the BGP after closing time!



ADVERTISE IN BEER GUTTER PRESS & BE SEEN IN OVER 80 PUBS LOCALLY

Beer Gutter Press is published by the Newark-on-Trent branch of CAMRA. We welcome short, beer related articles, puzzles or letters for publication. Our advertising rates are incredibly cheap and you can be sure of your message reaching a huge proportion of imbibers in East Notts. Contact us now to book your space in the next issue. All material should be sent to:

Phil Ayling, 27 Kingsnorth Close, Newark, Notts, NG24 1PS. Tel: 01636 687013

Opinions expressed within Beer Gutter Press are not necessarily those held by the editorial staff or by CAMRA at a local or national level.

BGP is created with MS Publisher and printed by Ian Loftus Printers

©CAMRA 1998



### Advertising rates

2500 copies of the BGP are distributed freely to about 90 pubs in and around the Newark area. They tend to be read, placed back in the dispensers and re-read, so reaching a huge proportion of the imbibing public. The advertising rates are therefore extremely reasonable at:

£75 per full page

£50 per half page

£35 per quarter page

We have to be self-financing and therefore rely on ads. Please help us to help you and place an ad in the next issue by phoning: 01636 687013

## ~ QUICK 'ALVES ~

### Cider drinkers

will be pleased to hear that a real cider off-licence will soon be opening on Barnbygate.

### Pub of the Season

for Spring has been awarded to the Horse & Gears, Portland St, a no-nonsense boozier offering a good pint of Mansfield in lined

glasses at the right price.

### The Fox & Crown

on Appletongate are holding their first beer festival in March, featuring around 16 beers.

### Draught mild

has disappeared from the bars of the Wheatsheaf and the Fox & Crown due to low turnover.

### U-26 recruitment drive launched

The Campaign for Real Ale recently launched a new membership category aimed at beer drinkers under 26.

Mike Benner, Head of Campaigns said, "The all-male beards and beer bellies image has always been a myth and we want to make sure it stays that way. We're offering young drinkers, who care about what they drink and the pubs they use, the chance to give us a try and get involved. We want their views to be heard."

"In a recent survey, 27% of younger drinkers related the work of CAMRA with promoting 'choice and diversity', but an alarming 19% of the same 16-24 year olds didn't know what we do. We intend to change all that. Our members don't just campaign on serious issues, they also enjoy a range of social activities in their local branches."

CAMRA members enjoy a host of benefits including a lively monthly newspaper, discounts on books, information on beer festivals, brewery visits, beer tastings and pub socials.

Mike Benner added, "It's fair to say that CAMRA has saved real beer in this country, but we've had many other successes which have protected consumers including saving the popular guest beer law in 1997. The message to younger beer drinkers and pub goers is clear - Join CAMRA and help protect great beer and pubs for the future - and have fun doing it"

The new U-26 rates are £8 single and £11 joint.



Fox & Crown  
4/6 Appletongate  
Newark  
NG24 1JT

Telephone  
01636 605820

### MID-LENT BEER FESTIVAL

Thursday March 12th  
to Sunday 15th.

Open all day.

Up to 16 real ales including some old favourites, plus a special festival brew.

### Back to school for festival

The third annual Newark CAMRA beer festival will be held this year on the Mount School playing field on May 22nd to 24th.

The change of venue has been forced on the organisers due to the landscaping of the castle grounds, where the festival has previously been held. However, it will be no less of an event, expanding on last year's success with more beers, more entertainment, and larger tents.

## ~ DIARY ~

### Socials:

Night out at the Mallard, Workshop - date TBA.

Joint social with Lincoln branch - Fri 20th March, 8pm start at the Fox & Crown, Newark.

Tynemill tour - TBA.

### Brewery visits:

Hook Norton - date TBA.

Everards - date TBA.

Bateman's - October.

### Next branch meetings:

Thurs, Mar 5th, Great Northern, Carlton-on-Trent. Thurs, Apr 2nd, Malt Shovel, Newark. Commence 8pm, all welcome.

## Protect your pleasure JOIN CAMRA NOW

Just fill in the form below and send, with a cheque (payable to CAMRA Ltd) to Membership Secretary, CAMRA, 230 Hatfield Road, St Albans, Herts. AL1 4LW. Rates are Single £14, OAP £8, Joint £17, Overseas single £18, Overseas joint £21, U26 single £8 and U26 joint £11

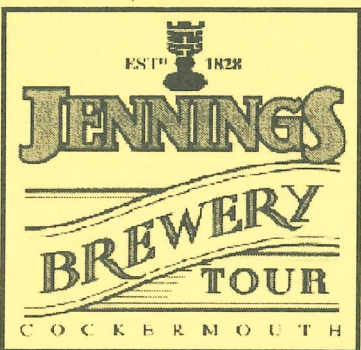
Name.....Address.....  
.....Post Code.....  
I wish to join the Campaign for Real Ale, and agree to abide by the Memorandum and Articles of Association. I enclose a cheque for.....  
Signed.....Date.....(NEK)

## Bob's Beery Breaks Around Britain, Pt.2

By Bob Boozley, 'The Beer Punter'

So, the Boozley family were off to Penrith – Well, a little village near Penrith called Gamblesby to be precise, but nevertheless it was still Cumbria, and that was Jennings country, which meant one thing... **Sneck Lifter!**

Our cottage for the week just happened to be owned by a couple who ran a pub in the next village. So where better to start



than a pub lunch and a pint or two at the **Shepherd's Inn**, Melmerby. With perfect timing we arrived at the Shepherd's just as they were opening for lunch the time session... Let's get stuck in!

Was the first pint of the holiday going to be **Sneck Lifter**? Er... no, but it was **Jenning's Cumberland Ale** which was in fine form, and sat there along side it was **Black Sheep Riggwelter** which was also in tip-top condition.

"It's strong is that one, you know" said the landlord obligingly. "Yes, I know – I'll have another" I replied with a grin! So

it was a good start to the holiday, but no **Sneck Lifter** today. "Never mind" said Mrs. Boozley, "There's always tomorrow".

Sunday dawned and we boarded the 'Boozley bus' and drove to a little Lake District village called Near Sawrey - Where? I hear some of you ask! Well, if you are a fan of Beatrix Potter, you'll know that she once lived in the village at Hill Top. But if your literary expertise doesn't stretch any further than the **1998 GBG** you'll probably be more interested in the smashing little village pub called the **Tower Bank Arms**. The **Sneck Lifter** was again missing from the line-up of handpumps on the bar. Not to worry, the pint of **Jenning's New Season Ale** was a most acceptable alternative. After a touristy visit to Lake Windermere we returned to the Shepherds for a consolation pint or two of **Riggwelter**. By heck! It's a hard life being a 'beer punter'!

MONDAY – Drastic action was needed. We were going to have to go all the way to Cockerthorpe, where the **Sneck Lifter** is brewed.

So the Boozley bus arrived at **Jenning's** brewery. Too early for a brewery tour, but the brewery shop was open and well worth a visit. The purchase of a few bottles of **Sneck Lifter** was some compensation, but it's just not the same as having your **Snecklifter** handpulled! "Watch it!", said Mrs. B. "Philthy Phil will ban you from the pages of the Beer Gutter Press".

But it was now time for the most important decision of the day – where to have a pint. Obviously it had to be a Jennings pub and after consulting the 'Bible', we selected the **Lake Road Inn** at Keswick, a fine

choice as it turned out. As we entered the compact, but very pleasant hostelry, I couldn't believe my eyes. Was it a trick of the light? Was I dreaming? No, there in front of me was a handpump which said '**Sneck Lifter**' on its pump clip – Oh joyous day!

"I'm sorry, sir" said the barkeep, "the **Sneck Lifter** has just gone off. Would you like something else?". Not really, I thought. But if I must "I'll have a pint of **Cocker Hoop**, please" I replied grudgingly.

Although I wasn't particularly cocker-hoop about missing out on the **Sneck Lifter**, it nevertheless went down extremely well and after another pint I was feeling a lot happier. So with the keys to the Boozley bus in the capable hands of Mrs. B, it was back to the cottage to sample a bottle or two of the **Sneck Lifter**. "Don't worry, dear", said Mrs. Boozley. "I'm sure we'll find some draught **Sneck Lifter** before the end of the week".

I wasn't so sure.....TBC

### ~ ADDRESSES ~

For complaints about short pints etc, contact: The **Trading Standards Department** (Consumer Protection), Notts County Council Advice Centre, 15 Middle Pavement, Nottingham.

For complaints about deceptive advertising, write to: **Advertising Standards Authority**, Brook House, 2-16 Torrington Place, London, WC1E 7HN

For complaints about proposed pub alterations etc, contact: **The Planning Department**, N&SDC, Kelham Hall, Newark, NG23 5QX

## Anorak's guide to beer drinking Pt.5

by Blodwin

Hi! Blod here.

Well, we're into another New Year and I am still eating Turkey. It is saving me a fortune on my food bills. We've had the New Year Honours farce again, and what about Sir Elton John? Chuffing 'ell, the rate their going I reckon I should be Sir Blod by the year 2005 because they will have run out of tossers to give it to.

Back to the beer. In this issue I would like to enlighten you goodselves to this issue of full measures. This is an issue very close to my heart, or my wallet to be more precise, basically cause I'm a tight git. Seriously though, many people do not even realise that this is a problem. In fact, some people are making a tidy profit by deliberately ripping off the customer.

The next time you go for a pint, just check what glass your beer is served in. Most pubs serve beer in unlined glasses. These glasses are a pint when full right to the very brim. This means a pint of liquid, not an inch of froth on the top. This is where the unscrupulous landlord does his biz. The landlord and his staff will pull hard on the handpump to introduce the maximum amount of air into the beer, which creates a large amount of froth on the top of your pint. This froth is just air when all said and done, and you, the customer, are paying for this. The landlord can make a nice profit from this exercise, since 12mm on the top of a £1.60 pint of beer can equate to 20p. Say 100 pints are sold in an evening, that's £20 in

his back pocket. Not a bad little earner.

Most landlords if questioned will state that you only have to ask and you can have a top-up, but *why* should you have to ask? It naturally makes the customer feel uncomfortable, as though you are actually asking for something you are not entitled to. Also putting too much air into the pint actually affects the flavour. Only beers that are brewed specifically to have a tight creamy head should be pulled in this manner. When they are not, the beer becomes bland.

**CAMRA** have been campaigning for several years now for full measures. The way to ensure that you are getting a full pint of beer is to use oversized glasses. These can be easily spotted by the line about 15mm from the top of the glass. This allows a full pint of liquid and accommodates the head. A bill presently going through Parliament is expected to become law around June of this year. If then, the bar staff do not fill the glass to the line it will be quite clear that they are breaking the law,

and Trading Standards will have the power to prosecute offenders.

Of course there is a down side to this exercise - well isn't there always? The breweries will tell you that this will cost the drinker money, so expect the cost of your pint to increase. The breweries, and no doubt the landlords will also use this as an opportunity to hike up their prices, which is really annoying when they whinge on about the affects on their business from cheap foreign imports and the unfair tax on alcohol and expect sympathy from us drinkers.

Now, I am not suggesting that all landlords and brewers be tarred with the same brush, but could it be that those who are making the most noise against lined glasses are those with the most to lose? I must sign off now or our editor will be having kittens. My column is getting so long he will have to go through his usual slashing exercise... well I think that's what he meant when he said he was going for a quick slash!

Blod out.

## Wootton Joinery Services

64 Fosse Road, Farndon, Newark, NG24 4ST  
Telephone: 01636 686487 (24 hours)

All types of building work undertaken:

Doors ~ Windows ~ Floors ~ Roofs

Plumbing ~ Fitted Kitchens

No job too small

ALL ESTIMATES FREE

## Beer 'n' balti - Bradford bliss!

*Stan Tyne was there*

It is obligatory for members of CAMRA, when exploring far-flung parts, to leave their mark, much like a tomcat would do but with less damage to the furniture. We Newark drinkers may occasionally be accused of misguided spraying but on the whole a discarded copy of the **Beer Gutter Press** is sufficient evidence for locals to realise we've passed through their patch.

The last issue was subtly left lying on tables and bars in Bradford when most of our number hit the city for a 'Beer & Balti' trip. The West Yorkshire destination has, for as long as I can remember, been good for a decent pint and, with its strong Asian culture, it's difficult to get a duff curry too.

Today, with the riding spawning many new breweries, Bradford pubs find themselves spoilt for choice of local brews. This in

turn has created interest in other micro breweries, resulting in bars displaying exciting arrays of pump clips from around the UK. One such display confronted our thirsty crowd at the first port of call, **The Corn Dolly**. A great two-room boozery with that 'post Saturday morning kick about, pre Saturday afternoon supporters' atmosphere.

Next door is another **GBG98** entry, **The Goldsborough**, quieter but no less welcoming and home that particular lunchtime to the Chairman of Bradford **CAMRA**, Mick Farrar. Newsletters were exchanged with our Phil without too much hissing and scratching.

The city centre, like many, is now devoid of decent watering holes. Bucking the trend, though, is a new establishment, **The Old Bank**. Formerly, believe it or not, a bank, now with liquid assets more palatable than before. It does seem the sort of place that would have monkeys on the door at night but is a welcome haven for shoppers with a thirst for real ale in the afternoon.

Tucked away and worth seeking out is **The Tap & Spile**. Three cosy rooms, though fairly empty at 4pm when we arrived. The group by now had become fragmented and only Stevie D and myself were in evidence, so no one noticed us just having halves in here. We were saving ourselves.

The jewel in Bradford's licenced crown from both an historian's and imbibers' viewpoint has to be **The New Beehive**. A 1901 creation, built by the council to replace pubs lost to road widening, it's still lit by gas and holds the most atmospheric environment experienced by discerning drinkers from anywhere you care to mention. Four rooms of dimly lit drinkers, some watching rugby, some quietly mulling over the price of peas in Morrison's and others closing their eyes and concentrating on the variety of flavours served to them by the real ale enthusiasts behind the bar. Sadly the 90 minutes in here were not enough. Balti beckoned.

For some unapparent reason our tour guide chose a quality balti house without a licence. Did he think we'd have had enough by 7.30 or was it that **The Mumtaz Paan House** came so highly recommended that we wouldn't mind forgoing the beer for superb curry? Have you ever been to a curry house where a queue stretches into the street for a place at a table? Imagine such a place in Britain's curry capital and you have our final port of call. Wonderful food from a very simple menu. And so filling we slept all the way home without the traditional pee and pint halfway to mark more territory!



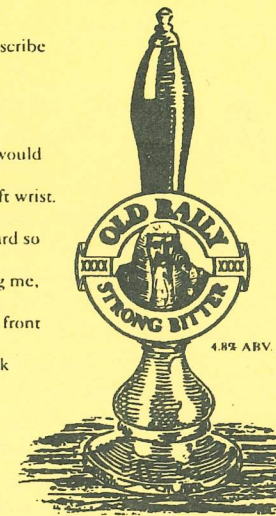
## Tales from THE BAR

## The simple truth

*The Judge* Would you lift it so I can describe it for the record?

'The sergeant is pointing to an area, oh, I would say about two or three inches above his left wrist. He is holding his left arm extended outward so the left side of his arm and hand are facing me, and it would be just at the spot where the front of the arm becomes the right side and back of the arm.

Is that clear enough for everybody?



## Judge it for yourself

### New committee elected

The Newark CAMRA AGM at the Watermill saw a committee reshuffle. Positions are:

- Chairman...**  
Phil Ayling
  - Secretary...**  
Peter Colin
  - Social Secretary...**  
Neil Raynor
  - Membership Secretary...**  
Sandra Rowley
  - Treasurer...**  
Steve Armstrong
  - PR Officer...**  
Steve Darke
  - Newsletter Editor...**  
Phil Ayling
  - General Member...**  
Malc Scrimshaw
- Contact CAMRA on 687013 or e-mail [philthy@bigfoot.com](mailto:philthy@bigfoot.com)

### Local lass does good

Angela Postle, pictured below, who is from Southwell has recently received an award from a conservation society.

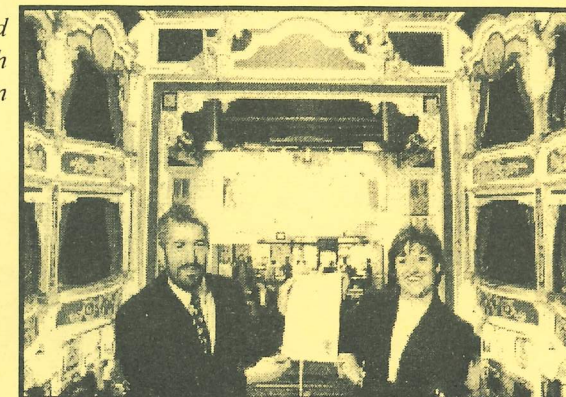
Angela, who jointly manages the **Opera House**, a **Wetherspoon's** pub in Royal Tun-

bridge Wells received the award less than six months after it reopened upon completion of its £1.5m re-conversion from a 60's bingo hall to a theatre.

**Wetherspoon** retained and restored all the features of the original building, and were praised for their work, together with the architects and builders.

The pub chain will shortly start work on a Newark pub.

*Reproduced with permission*



*Our punters cash in at The Old Bank*



# A Cumbrian brewery visit

*Bob & Sarah Smith visit  
Jennings brewery*

**A**s frequent visitors to the Lake District, Sarah & I usually brave all weathers to get out onto the hills for a day's walking. However, if you've ever been to the Lakes, you'll know that there isn't anything very exciting to do on a wet day. So, not being greatly drawn to the Cumberland Pencil Museum or The Keswick Motor Museum we plumped for The Jennings Brewery Tour.

Cockermouth lies just outside the main tourist area of Lakeland. The **CAMRA 'Concise Guide to Lakeland Pubs'** which is on sale in...er..... most Lakeland pubs price £2.00, lists 13 real ale establishments in the town. Sadly, we only had time to visit one of them. More on that shortly.

We drove into the town centre and parked up without too much hassle. Then, clutching our guide to Cockermouth, we proceeded to the **Jennings** brewery. Situated below the crumbling ramparts of Cockermouth Castle the Brewery stands, unchanged for the most part since it was built. We gravitated to the only hospitable looking point - the Brewery Shop and enquired about getting on a tour. We booked onto the next available tour which gave us about an hour and a half to kill. Who's round?

We stumbled across a pub called **The Bitter End**, which has the smallest brewery in Cumbria on its premises and serves 6

real ales, 3 of which are brewed on site:- **Cocker Snoot**, **Skinners Old Strong** & another one which escapes our memory. At the rear of the-lounge bar is the brewery, which is viewable through large windows.

The rain held off for the short walk back to the Jennings Brothers brewery where we had been instructed to assemble for 2.00 p.m. We paid our £2.90 tour fee (each). The tour started in the sample room, where we watched a video about the history of the company. We then moved into the brewery for the tour proper (with a promise of a return visit to the sampling room). Our guide led us through the brewing process from start to finish.

We peered into various large brewing vessels, tasted the malt, reeled at the overpowering aroma in the hops store and grimaced at the scum floating on

the top in the fermentation vessels. At each stage our guide gave a short talk about the building, the process, the history etc. before moving on to the next point via one of the many stairways, gantries and corridors (a bit like being the ball bearing in Mousetrap!) finally ending up back in the sample room. Yippee!

We were treated to samples of all four of the available beers; **Bitter** (3.5%), **Cumberland Ale** (4.0%), **Cocker Hoop** (4.8%) and **Sneek Lifter** (5.1%). Two hours after we had arrived, we reluctantly bade farewell to our host and The Jennings Brothers brewery having thoroughly enjoyed our day.

**Contact Info:**

**The Bitter End Brew Pub - 15  
Kirkgate, Cockermouth, Cum-  
bria Tel: 01900 828993**

