

What's yours then?



CAMRA Highlands & Western Isles FREE Newsletter | Autumn 2012



- Highland Brewing achieves a Scottish 1, 2
 - Orkney Visit
 - Over the Bridge to Skye
- A Highlands and Islands Diary - Drumnadrochit and Lewiston
 - Aberdeen and North East Beer Festival
- New tenant into Clachnaharry Inn



CAMPAIGN
FOR
REAL ALE



Good things brewing in the Highlands



AWARD WINNING BEERS

Camra Highlands Beer of the Year 2010 - 2012

PERMANENT BEERS



Cairngorm Brewery is based in the Cairngorms National Park. With a full range of permanent and seasonal cask beers to suit all tastes, eight of its products are available throughout the year in 500ml bottles.

SPECIAL ALES FOR 2012

(July - December)



Why not visit the Brewery Shop.
Open Monday to Friday.
Booking Essential.



Dalraber Aviemore The Highlands PH22 1ST
T: +44 01479 812222 F: +44 01479 812719
E: info@cairngormbrewery.com

www.cairngormbrewery.com

What's yours then?

Welcome to the Autumn issue of our quarterly newsletter.

In this Autumn edition we have:

- ◆ Socials, tastings and outings - reports
- ◆ Your emails (lots)
- ◆ Drumnadrochit and Lewiston review
- ◆ Focus on Dixie Taylor
- ◆ Real Cider News
- ◆ Pub and Brewery News
- ◆ Updated Real Ale Pubs list
- ◆ Updated Branch Diary

If you would like to place an advert, please contact one of our branch officers listed on page 39.

Advertising rates

Full page	£58.00 (£87.00 colour)
Half page	£33.50 (£49.00 colour)
Quarter page	£18.00 (£27.00 colour)

There is a discount on placement of your fourth consecutive advert. Adverts are accepted on the condition that inclusion does not necessarily imply endorsement or approval of content.

We can help in the preparation of your advert if you wish.

An average of 3,500+ copies are distributed to CAMRA branch members, to Highlands & Islands brewers, to Good Beer Guide listed and Real Ale pubs; plus extra copies to advertisers.

We welcome your letters, news, views and opinions. Let us know what is happening in your local, or tell us about pubs you have visited.

Thanks to all who have taken trouble to send in pub and beer reports, or articles, but especially to regulars Eric, Gareth, Steve and Jack, who keep us up-to-date with brews and what is happening in local pubs.

Please note that the editor reserves the right to edit contributions sent for publication. All marks and copyright are acknowledged.

Winter edition **deadline** is 7th November, with publication in early December.

Welcome to the Autumn issue of "What's Yours Then?". Hopefully, you enjoyed some of the excellent, summer weather we had here in the Highlands although it produced the first worries about a hosepipe ban in the western areas of our patch that anyone can remember. Autumn is here but we can continue to enjoy great real ale from near and far, although, as you can see from the front cover, ale from not very far away is very worthy of tasting and enjoying. Maybe you made a special effort during CAMRA's Cask Ale Week to seek out more real ale. Neither Highland Brewing Co. nor Fyne Ales are officially in our CAMRA patch but when we find them in our pubs, they are always worth enjoying. Our even more local breweries are going from strength to strength and the Moray brewery should have at least done test brewing by the time you read this. This year's Good Beer Guide is out and you can buy it and read it to find out which 34 pubs in our patch are reaching the criteria to merit inclusion. So cause for celebration and optimism. Cheers!

Trading Standards Office

Contact details for issues such as no price lists or consistently short measures - 0845 600 4 222.

Email - consumer.advice@highland.gov.uk
www.tradingstandards.gov.uk/highland

Scottish Real Ale Festival 2012



This year's event was again at a new venue, The Corn Exchange in Edinburgh. This was a bit out of the centre which was a concern but there is a good bus service and Slateford train station was nearby. Set up started on the Sunday and it was evident from the start that this would be easier than previous venues as the floor was concrete, there was plenty of parking, no stairs were involved and a fork lift truck could be used to bring in the pallets of beer etc. By Wednesday afternoon the volunteer workers had set up 184 different Scottish beers, quite a few from new breweries, indeed the first to sell out was **Cromarty's Happy Chappy**. There was also a Cider/Perry bar with 19 different brews coming from Celtic areas of UK and it included some from Scotland. During Wednesday evening there was a Trade session where publicans and brewers could get together and have first tastes of the beers on offer. On Thursday we opened the doors to the public. As the beers flowed we did run out of some of the popular brews but still had 120 different beers left for Saturday. The good news was that we did get a good turn-out but overall the numbers were down slightly from the previous year. As we go to press it looks like this festival will be held here again so look out for the dates. If you are a CAMRA member then why not volunteer to work, even if it is only for one evening.

Champion Beer of Scotland 2012

At this year's Scottish Real Ale Festival at the end of June, the final of the Champion Beer of Scotland was held. All style category winners from previous rounds were entered to a final blind taste off. After a close contest, **Highland Brewing Company** celebrated a 1, 2 as their **Orkney Best** was first and their **Orkney IPA** was second. Third was **Fyne Ales, Maverick**. All excellent brews and worthy winners.



SIBA Scotland Region Beer Competition 2012

The Society of Independent Brewers held their Scottish Competitions at The Scottish Real Ale Festival. On the Wednesday afternoon brewers, publicans, CAMRA members etc. sat down to do their annual blind tasting. Unlike the CAMRA event, Brewers can enter their beers into each style/category. Eventually ending up with a final tasting to find their overall champion.

This year's winner was **The Highland Brewing Company, Orkney IPA**, second was **Tryst Brewery, Carronade Pale Ale** and third was **Fyne Ales, Sublime Stout**.



Category winners were;

Standard Mild – Strathaven, Craigmill Mild.

Standard Bitters - Fyne Ales, Jarl.

Best Bitter – Tryst, Carronade Pale Ale.

Premium Bitter – Highland, IPA.

Strong Bitters – Orkney, Wayfarer India Pale Ale.

Premium Strong Beers - Fyne Ales, Sublime Stout.

Porters, Strong Milds, Old Ales and Stouts – Cairngorm, Black Gold.

Speciality Beers – Orkney, Golden Amber.

ARGYLL

FYNE ALES

SCOTLAND



SIBA

★★★★
REGIONAL
WINNER
2012

CHAMPION BOTTLED BEERS

Gold

SIBA

★★★★
REGIONAL
WINNER
2012

BOTTLED GOLD BEERS

Gold

SIBA

★★★★
REGIONAL
WINNER
2012

BOTTLED BITTERS
(UP TO 4.9%)

Gold

SIBA

★★★★
REGIONAL
WINNER
2012

STANDARD BITTERS

Gold

SIBA

★★★★
REGIONAL
WINNER
2012

PREMIUM STRONG BEERS

Gold

SIBA

★★★
REGIONAL
WINNER
2012

OVERALL CHAMPION
OF THE COMPETITION

Bronze

Sample our award winning ales at our new brewery tap and visitor centre. Take a tour of the brewery or enjoy the sun with a pie and a pint in the courtyard.

Open 7 days a week 10am- 6pm

www.FYNEALES.com

01499 600120

jamie@fyneales.com

Achadunan, Cairndow, Argyll, PA26 8BJ

On the A83 at the head of Loch Fyne

Real Ales

Real Cider

70+ Malt whiskies



GREAT FOOD TOO !

like our beers we take time and Care to bring
you the best local produce cooked with pride
~ for you to enjoy

We are very proud of our
Real Ales & Cider
- so you can enjoy
them at their best



Kinlochewe Hotel

Kinlochewe, by Achnasheen

Wester Ross IV22 2PA



Kinlochewe
HOTEL

tel: 01445 760253

www.kinlochewehotel.co.uk



A message from the founding editor...

'It was with mixed emotions that I read the Spring edition of 'What's Yours Then'.

As the founding editor of this wonderful newsletter it has been a joy to see how it has developed from the very first 2 sides of A4, printed at home and stapled together. I recall scraping about for articles, chasing Bill Tring for notes from the chair. Happy days.

The new look is amazing and clearly equal, at least, to any other branch's efforts, and I see many of them living as I now do, in West Yorkshire.

The interesting articles and reports through to the range of advertisers is a credit to the branch.

Memories of sitting in the Clachnaharry Inn with Bill Tring, Mike Whittall, Mike Emms and probably a couple of others after an AGM and following several glasses of one of Angus MacRuary's excellent ales (nothing new there!) deciding that it would be a good idea to start a branch newsletter - ah, the folly of youth! If I am not mistaken this publication is about to enter its tenth year.

As for having every page full colour, I am not sure about that, there is I feel, a need for contrast on some pages.

I was saddened to read of the death of John Aird. John was a raconteur, wit, bon viveur, gentleman and all round good egg. John always had something to say, and if you had any sense you listened because what he said always made sense. John loved his real ale and was a considerable expert on the subject.

When I read of his death I raised a glass toward the sky and was very thankful that I had known such a great man. The world is a poorer place for his passing.'

Peter Finneran

Beer in Caithness

Short tour today (*mid July*) produced the following:

Castletown Hotel, out of real ale, delivery Friday;

Norseman, Wick, no real ale and unknown when next getting any;

Mackays, Wick, Caledonian Top Banana £3.65, 5/10, staff commented not selling too well but real ale doing well previously (1 type real ale

changed each month);

Alexander Bain (Wetherspoons), Thwaites Torch Light, £1.69, 7/10 although served a bit cold and 3 Sisters, £1.69, 7/10 again cold (also Deuchars on, don't like so not tried);

Seaview Hotel, John O'Groats, Scapa Special, £3.75, 5/10 hazy and tired;

Ulbster Arms, Halkirk, 3 Sisters, £3.30, 7/10 and served correct temperature;

Weigh Inn, Thurso, Corncrae, £3.35, 7/10 and correct temperature.

Also noted, proper measures at Wetherspoons, Seaview and Weigh Inn, others needed to be asked to top up. Norseman barmaid didn't seem very clued up on real ale, saying they had it then asking which one I wanted, lager etc, and not knowing much when I pointed out the pump for real ale other than it wasn't on. This little tour was done on Public Transport (the wonders of a free bus pass), hope it helps.

KM

It certainly does help - Thanks! - ed.

the Old Bridge Inn - Aviemore



Roaring log fire, cheerful atmosphere, excellent food and fine selection of wines, cask ales and malt whiskies.

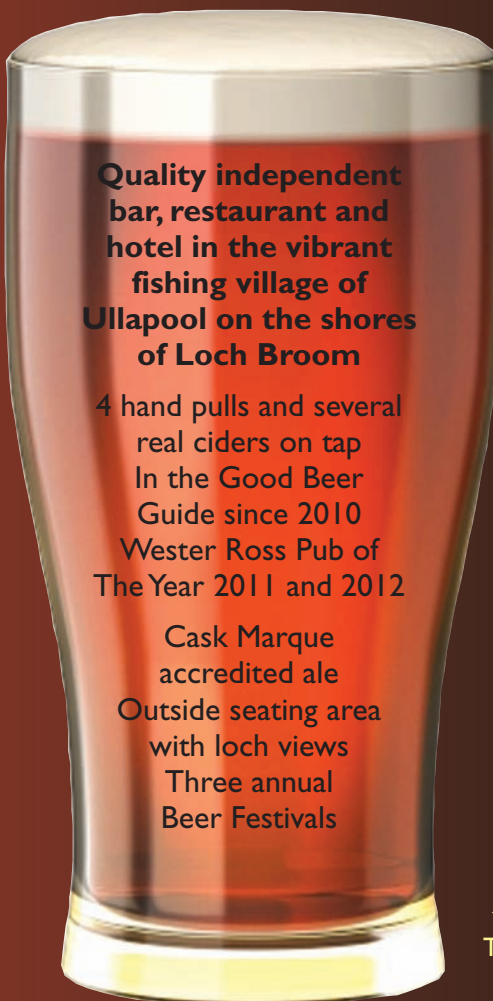
The varied menus, featuring the very best of Highland produce from river, sea and land, are carefully designed to tempt every palate.



23 Dalfaber Road,
Aviemore, PH 22 1 PU
Tel: (01479) 811137
www.oldbridgeinn.co.uk

ARGYLL HOTEL

ULLAPOOL



**Quality independent
bar, restaurant and
hotel in the vibrant
fishing village of
Ullapool on the shores
of Loch Broom**

4 hand pulls and several
real ciders on tap
In the Good Beer
Guide since 2010
Wester Ross Pub of
The Year 2011 and 2012

Cask Marque
accredited ale
Outside seating area
with loch views
Three annual
Beer Festivals

NEW RESTAURANT

Highly rated restaurant
serving local produce:
Seafood - Ullapool hand dived
scallops, langoustine
and smoked salmon, Highland
steak and venison, fresh
Wester Ross salmon
Fine wine list, cocktails
Sunday Carvery
Breakfast * Lunch * Dinner

ROOMS

Newly refurbished ensuite
rooms with views across
Loch Broom

LIVE MUSIC AND ENTERTAINMENT

Monday Folk Club,
Americana Tuesdays,
Texas Hold 'Em poker
Wednesdays, Thursdays
Quiz and Curry Night,
Live Acoustic Music

Nigel and Franner are always glad
to welcome CAMRA members to
The Argyll and offer a 10% discount
on regular room prices on
presentation of membership card



ARGYLL HOTEL, 18 ARGYLE STREET, ULLAPOOL IV26 2UB
01854 612422 EMAIL STAY@THEARGYLLULLAPOOL.COM
WWW.THEARGYLLULLAPOOL.COM

Hampstead comes to Applecross

Applecross itself is a displaced corner of Hampstead; the car park of the chi-chi gastro Inn is filled with Audis and Chelsea tractors. The Inn is the very definition of a destination restaurant, in that it provides one of the few reasons for coming, besides the road that brought you here.

From a piece by Allan Brown for the Scotland on Sunday magazine 15/7/2012.

A new Real Ale venue?

I was at the Crask Inn (out on the moors between Lairg and Tongue) yesterday (29th July) and had a very nice pint of draught **Black Isle Blonde** beer. **Red Kite** draught was on offer too though I didn't sample that. The blonde was in excellent condition. I thought I'd mention this as I see in your summer newsletter the Crask Inn isn't mentioned in the Caithness and Sutherland section of the Highlands and Islands real pubs list.

All the best,

A C (Inverness)

This is the first we have heard of the Crask Inn.

More info is most welcome. – Ed.

Far Travelled

Your newsletter (winter 2011) mentioned that it is seen in distant places.

Howabout this: It is being read in New Zealand. A neighbour brought it back after spending a month in your neck of the woods. He has no Scottish background but is basically Scouse/Samoan but he tells me he really enjoyed himself which is very complimentary as his job takes him all over the world

Ez

P.S/ We enjoyed the 3 bottles of beer he brought back from the Isle of Skye.

Save the Crook Inn!

Among the growing list of drinking establishments that are under threat, The Crook Inn of the Tweedsmuir area is a very worthy candidate for saving. The local community are working hard to bring it back into operation. Of course, they need money to manage this feat and you can have a look at what they are doing and planning and then donate through their web site: savethecrook.org.uk

New Chapter for Clachnaharry?



Once one of the shining beacons for real ale in the Highlands, The Clachnaharry Inn, which is owned by Belhaven which is owned by Greene King, has a new tenant. So, a very warm welcome to Mike Maculloch as he re-decorates and re-equips the place. The last tenants put great emphasis on their food offerings but seemed to be over-ambitious and the inn lost trade. Hopefully, taking sound advice and using sound management, The Clachnaharry can rise again and be worth seeking out for good ale and good, simple food - including Sunday roasts.

Del Graham
 50's, 60's, 70's and country singer / entertainer, all venues.
 Also available as duo for weddings with top-class box play-
 er.
 07599558325
gteanich@aol.com or dgraham155@btinternet.com

Black Isle Brewery - International

The brewery has won its first export order to Japan. 22 pallets, around 38,000 bottles of various styles will be shipped there via container. A special order to Sweden has been won to supply 15,000 bottles to celebrate an Oktoberfest out there. This is possibly their 2nd Swedish order – they don't let on much. After last summer's successful weekend mini-festival, the brewery's own "Jocktoberfest" with ale and music took place at the brewery on 8th September this year. Black Isle brewery also produced a special beer for the Bill McLaren Foundation charity, "Bill McLaren IPA". It only seems to be available in off licences in the Edinburgh city area.



Plockton Inn - area Pub of the Year



Our Chairman, Eric, presenting their area PoTY certificate to the Plockton Inn.



Scourie Hotel

Scourie, Sutherland, IV27 4SX
 Tel: 01971 502396
 FAX: 01971 502423
 patrick@scourie-hotel.co.uk
 www.scourie-hotel.co.uk



Cask Ales and Real Cider are served

An ideal base for game fishing, hill-walking, bird watching (Handa Island is nearby), or exploring the famed empty quarter of Western Sutherland, a lunar landscape of lochs and mountains.

Overlooking Scourie Bay and with views to the distant tops of Ben Stack, Arkle, and Foinaven.



To connoisseurs of game fishing there is simply nothing to compare to the 25,000 acres of Loch, River and Hill Loch fishing held for the guests of Scourie Hotel. The Hotel has 36 fishing beats held exclusively for guests, plus 3 beats on Loch Stack and Loch More for sea trout and salmon. Additional salmon fishing is taken on local salmon rivers.

Stein Inn

THE OLDEST INN ON SKYE



Highland & Western Isles area winner since 2007

Magical places do exist ... just journey down a narrow winding road that leads to the sea and nestled in a charming hamlet is the very place of your dream: the Stein Inn.



An eighteenth-century inn on the sea shore that will have you yearning to visit again and again to experience the warm Scottish welcome, fine food, superb accommodation, traditional highland bar offering real ales and over 125 malt whiskies.

Angus & Teresa McGhie,
Stein Inn, Watemish,
Isle of Skye, IV55 8GA
Tel: +44 (0)1470-592362
angus.teresa@steininn.co.uk

The finest and freshest seafood and local produce is readily available transformed at the Stein Inn into mouth-watering, home-cooked dishes.

Highlands & Western Isles Pub-of-the-Year 2010



The Castle Tavern

Taigh-òsda à chaisteil




Open all day, food served all day, a great range of Real Ales
At the top of Castle Street, Inverness, overlooking the River Ness
at the start/finish of the Great Glen Way Tel: 01463 718178


Aberdeen and NE Beer Festival

100 beers were available from the start at this 26th event from 31st May to 2nd June in Pittodrie Football Stadium. **Kelburn Brewery** was the featured brewery where 6 of their beers were on sale. The rest of the 100, were a selection of brews from all over the UK, covering the full range of styles from milds, bitters, stouts, lagers, barley wines, porters and specialities, so there was something for everyone. There was also a Cider and Perry bar and a bottle bar with a selection of international brews. The charity this year was Parkinson's UK, who had a stall and collection boxes. On the Thursday the event hosted the Scotland's CAMRA Best Bitter competition, where judges tasted their way through the finalists to give **Fyne Maverick** first place. Second was **Isle of Skye Red Cuillin** and third **An Teallach's An Teallach**

Ale. A large group of Jarl Vikings from Shetland made an appearance in full dress on the Friday night, plus the usual hen, birthday and exam finishing parties. The Pittodrie staff supplied the food of stovies and pies. As Saturday came there were still 78 different beers available and the Festival continued through to closing time, when there were 25 beers, 6 ciders and plenty of bottles left. Beer of the Festival voted by the customers was **Happy Chappy** from the **Cromarty Brewery**. Next years' event is being planned again for Pittodrie, so watch out for dates.








CAWDOR TAVERN

Cawdor Nairn IV12 5XP




Atlas range







Located just outside Inverness in the picturesque conservation village of Cawdor, serving modern Scottish food with flair. Log fires.

Outside drinking & dining. Quality, home-cooked food.

Food served all day 12.00 noon - 9.00pm



Up to 4 ales on!

Follow A96 from Inverness to Nairn, take B9090 to Cawdor village
t: 01667 404 777 e: enquiries@cawdortavern.co.uk

Orkney Visit

- a brief report

Just back from a most enjoyable week on Orkney. Weather was kind, we had some wonderful days out in great company, a number of spectacular sunrises and sunsets, and the beer was very good indeed. We were based in Stromness, some at the Point of Ness campsite, and some in self-catering accommodation nearby, a party of thirteen in all. A fifteen minute walk only to the Stromness Hotel or Ferry Inn. I had visited both before, on several occasions, and so could relax in the knowledge that we could rely on a decent pint in the evenings.

We mainly spent the evenings in the Ferry Inn but when dining out mostly used the Stromness Hotel, where the local lamb was to die for. Beers were in very good form at both, but the star of the week (Orkney Brewery aside) was undoubtedly the Orkney IPA at the Ferry Inn.

The Flattie Bar at the Stromness Hotel is a deserved Good Beer Guide entry but I cannot understand why the Ferry Inn does not appear in



our celebrated guide – especially when considering some of the Kirkwall entries. Why is this regular Northern Isles Pub-of-the-Year no longer considered worthy? Nothing wrong with beer temperature but perhaps something to do with method of dispense of which we were not aware?

We were very privileged to enjoy an impromptu tour of the Orkney Brewery. Sadly we were a couple of weeks too early for the new visitor centre but our focus was more on the brews than the buildings! Our very hospitable hosts were Joyce (recently appointed visitor centre manager), Andrew (head brewer), the visitor centre chef (a charming young lady who's name escapes me), and assistant brewer Kevin. The tour of the brewing plant could not have been better and a couple of my beer aficionado pals thought it the most informative and interesting brewery tour they had ever experienced – high praise indeed! We were able to sample a very impressive range of brews, a very good introduction for my pals from south of the border and from Colorado into the wide variety of strengths, styles, and flavours of beers which are brewed here.

On another day we were given a guided tour of Barony Mill by the miller, not to be missed, and I hope this mill will continue to operate for many years to come. If you are as interested in traditional machinery as I am then please visit and help to keep the last working mill on Orkney alive. A little disappointing that the Bere barley milled here has to go to the Valhalla Brewery on Shetland to be used in a beer and is not used in either brewery on Orkney.

The nearby pub at Dounby, which incorporates a café, does not serve real ale but does have a very good range of bottled Orkney beers. Rare these days but certainly very welcome to find bottled beers served from a shelf behind the bar rather than from a (usually very) cold cabinet.

I was amazed on checking the 2012 Good Beer Guide to find FOUR entries for Kirkwall. We man-

TOMLINSONS



CASTLE STREET BEER SHOP



"Over 200 of the Best Bottled Beers
from Scotland and Around the World.
Real Ale and Cider to take Home
in 4 Pint Jugs".

Call in or choose online, email or phone your order and collect
from the shop.

Local delivery service available soon. Parking on Castle Street.

79 Castle Street, Inverness, IV2 3EA.

Tel 01463 719858

View the whole range with tasting notes at:

www.tomlinsonsbeershop.co.uk

Orkney Visit - a brief report

aged to visit three, and at the Bothy Bar we enjoyed a range of beers from both Orkney breweries in very good nick, as I had done in the past, and some bar snacks to soak up the beer before being summoned by our lady folk for cathedral, palace, and museum tours.

A trip to Hoy was another highlight. We took an early morning ferry from Stromness to Moness, and then a minibus to Rackwick Bay to ensure an early start for our walk. The weather was glorious for our clifftop walk to admire spectacular views of the Old Man. We then headed further north to St John's Head, one of the highest sea cliffs in the British Isles, before heading west to the top of Cuilags where the views to the north were amazing, and where we had close-ups of red-throated divers

on hilltop lochans. A steep descent to Sandy Loch and finally a short stroll back to Moness. The licensed café there stocks bottles of Scapa Special but sadly the silly Scottish laws do not allow you to sit outside in the sunshine to enjoy your beer.

We also found time to visit numerous archaeological sites, and to enjoy cliff-top walks at Yesnaby, Hoxa Head, Marwick Head, and Mull Head, amongst others. So much to see and do, and on our next trip we must visit some of the other islands and the Highland Brewery at Swannay.

Cheers, CamperVanMan (Highlands CAMRA member).

Footnote: We found out later that the Ferry Inn had gone into receivership at the time of GBG 2012 nomination and was actually closed, however it is in the GBG 2013.

Another reason to visit Orkney

As you will have just read, Orkney is a popular tourist destination and recently another good reason for visiting that part of our country opened for business. The visitor centre at Orkney Brewery at Quoyloo is now fully open giving visitors a chance to experience a modern, working brewery, eat in the restaurant and shop in the gift shop. See orkneybrewery.co.uk for more info.

the Stronlossit Inn

at Roy Bridge

Tel: 01397 712253

3 Real Ales on Tap



Open all day,
food & drinks
available all day



Substantial Bar Meals Menu available all day
Range of Malt Whiskies and Fine Wines,
an Open Fire and a Warm Welcome
A popular Rendezvous for Inn Guests, Outdoor
Enthusiasts and Local Regulars alike



www.stronlossit.co.uk

E-mail: stay@stronlossit.co.uk

Over the Bridge to Skye

The morning of Saturday 9th of June dawned gray and overcast but dry in Inverness. By 10 to 9, the expected 7 of us were getting on board the nice, 14 seater, Scotbus and our driver for the day, Raymond, set off for Drumnadrochit. Surprisingly, all seven of the Drum contingent were waiting at the bus lay-by when we heaved to. We then motored on down the A82 and then off at Glen Moriston heading west into gradually improving weather until by the time we were approaching Kyle of Lochalsh, it was beautifully sunny. After two and a half hours from the townhouse, we pulled in to the quite busy car park of The Sligachan Hotel. Into the spacious bar area



Gareth (our secretary) in Seamus's Bar at the Sligachan Hotel with Eric the head brewer of the Cuillin Brewery.

we were greeted by the sight of all 4 Cuillin brewery beers on – Black Face, a 4.3% dark ruby beer that balanced a fruity sweetness with roasted malt flavours – Eagle Ale, a 3.8% session ale, golden with a refreshing fruity malt – Pinnacle, 4.7% copper coloured, strong, fruity ale and Skye Ale, 4.1% ale which I didn't manage to try. Eric the brewer was on hand and showed several of us round the brewhouse which is attached to the hotel. We could have stayed and chatted with Eric and drunk more of his beer but time was pressing so it was back on the bus.

We slowly drove up the road, through Portree

– amazingly missing the dozens of runners who were taking part in some sort of marathon race starting and finishing at Portree High School. The runners were running on the main road with vehicular traffic still running in both directions! We could not believe that in today's Health and Safety, nanny state that we live in, that this was being allowed. Still, apart from having to drive slowly, it obviously wasn't a problem and we eventually passed the race route behind and continued on to Uig and The Isle of Skye Brewery where Angus and Pam were expecting us along with Willie who helped dispense beer to us and Jonty the assistant brewer. A mystery beer was one of the drinks being dispensed and we were set the task of guessing the constituent beers and their quantities which had been blended to make the mystery beer. Pam showed several of us round the brewery and then it was in to the new bottling and storage unit to partake of the feast of sandwiches and sausage rolls and try our hand at "beer glass ping pong". Lob 3 ping pong balls towards the set of beer glasses and if you managed to get a ball into a glass, you won a bottle of beer – simples! – No. But after many attempts, many of us managed to win at least 1 bottle. Several of the party quickly nipped across to The Bakur Bar beside the ferry pier where Young Pretender was on draft along with Cuillin Beast! The "mice" among us went for Pretender but several were "men" and went for The Beast (7%). Both beers in great nick and they went down well. Back to the brewery in time to find out who had won the "Guess the beers" competition – Chairman Eric was closest and then we took our leave thanking Angus, Pam, Jonty and Willie for their hospitality.

Further west in the sunshine to The Edinbane Inn which had an ominous sign in the window telling us that the bar was open at 5 pm - 2 hours hence! The chairman went in to check and **eventually** appeared at the window sipping a beer! We piled in to this cosy bar and enjoyed the choice of



*Blackfriars
Highland Pub
& Restaurant
Great Beers*

93-95
Academy Street
Inverness
Tel: 01463 233881

Traditional Highland Food with Seafood Specials

Meals cooked to order using freshly prepared local produce



Scottish & Highland Real Ales & Cider on tap

Open all day, 7 days a week

Food served every day

from 11am until 9pm



Regular Live Entertainment



Over the Bridge to Skye



Chairman, Eric, with the Isle of Skye brewery owners, Angus and Pam (who is the brewer) and their assistant brewer Jonty beside the Ping-Pong game.



Angus being presented with the area PoTY award.

Red Cuillin and Young Pretender with enough time in the schedule for 2 rounds. Next, The Stein Inn beside the sea where yours' truly presented owner Angus with his area POTY certificate as we enjoyed our choice of beers from Deuchars IPA, Nessie's Monster Mash and Caledonian Dutchman. The Nessie's finished while we were there and Orkney Corncrake replaced it much to the delight of several of our party. Back on the bus to get to the Old Inn at Carbost where we enjoyed Red Cuillin, Blackface and Skye Ale with most of us taking our beers out to the decked area at the back to admire the views onto the sea loch, Loch Harport and watch a couple of very hardy, German tourists taking a swim! The Old Inn is a lovely, almost quirky place with several, cosy rooms where you could sit and enjoy your food and drink.

Back on the bus and a longer trip through Skye's stunning scenery back on to the mainland and a stop at The Kintail Lodge Hotel where the choice was a good Red Cuillin which was enjoyed outside, away from the Holland Euro 2012 match, in the warm sunshine. A short hop to the last stop of the day, The Cluanie Inn where we almost had a sweep as to how expensive the petrol and diesel was going to be. It wasn't as expensive as we had expected and neither was the beer – a pleasant surprise of 2 Plockton beers – Plockton Bay and Ciste Dubh. We finished these and after almost leaving 4 of our party behind as they were being tardy, we set off back to Drum and Inverness getting dropped off by a patient Raymond just on 9 o'clock. An excellent day out blessed by good weather, which had gradually spread to Inverness in time for the Olympic Torch arriving, and for the first time that anyone can remember on our trips, good beers at all the establishments that we visited.

Changes are pending at the Isle of Skye Brewery. Owner Angus MacRuary has decided to retire and so is in discussions with a view to selling his shareholding. There are not likely to be any other staff changes initially and it is hoped that incoming investment will allow the brewery to progress on with its expansion plans.

REAL ALE PUBS LIST

These inns and Hotels are known to sell (or have recently sold) cask-conditioned ale. Please let us know about the quality of real ales on offer, particularly if you think Good Beer Guide inclusion is merited. We make no claims as to the quality of the beer and you should note that some of the pubs listed may only stock real ale on a seasonal (S) basis. (TP) - served by using top pressure.

We have taken the liberty of listing some pubs which fall within adjoining branch areas - Glasgow & West of Scotland (G&WS), Aberdeen & Northern Isles (A&NI) - but which are not very far from our 'border' and merit a visit.

INVERNESS & DISTRICT NORTH

The Anderson, Fortrose
Aultguish Inn
Benleva Hotel, Drumnadrochit
Clachnaharry Inn, Inverness
Castle Hotel, Portmahomack
Conon Bridge Hotel
Cromarty Arms
Glen Affric Bar, Cannich
Glenmoriston Arms Hotel, Invermoriston
Inchbae Lodge Hotel, Garve
Loch Ness Inn, Lewiston
Munlochy Hotel (TP)
National Hotel, Dingwall
Old North Inn, Inchmore
Palace Hotel, Inverness
Plough Inn, Rosemarkie
Poachers Inn, Lewiston
Richmond Hotel, Strathpeffer
Royal Hotel, Cromarty
Slaters Arms, Cannich
Station Hotel, Avoch
Steading Bar & Restaurant, Kilmartin (TP)
Struy Inn, Strathglass, near Cannich (TP)
Waterfront, Inverness

INVERNESS & DISTRICT SOUTH

Bandstand Bar, Braeval Hotel, Nairn
Blackfriars, Inverness
Bothy, Fort Augustus
The Caledonian, Inverness
Caledonian Hotel, Fort Augustus (S)
Castle Tavern, Inverness
Cawdor Tavern, Cawdor

Dores Inn

The Exchange, Inverness
Golf View Hotel, Nairn (TP)
Heathmount Hotel, Inverness
Hootananny, Inverness
Innes Bar, Inverness
Johnny Foxes, Inverness (TP)
Kings Highway, Inverness (Wetherspoons)
Lock Inn, Fort Augustus
Lovat Arms Hotel, Fort Augustus
Nico's Bar, Glen Mhor Hotel, Inverness
Number 27, Inverness
Old Mill Inn, Brodie (A&NI)
Phoenix Bar, Inverness
Ramada Jarvis Hotel, Inverness (TP)
Seaforth Club, Nairn (Members only) (TP)
Snowgoose, Inverness
Whitebridge Hotel, Loch Ness South

FORT WILLIAM & LOCHABER

Alexandria Hotel, Fort William
Ben Nevis Bar, Fort William
Ben Nevis Hotel, Fort William
Ben Nevis Inn, Fort William
Clachaig Inn, Glencoe (G&WS)
Chlachain Inn, Mallaig
Cobbs at Nevisport, Fort William
Corran Ferry Hotel, Onich
Crofters Bar & Restaurant, Fort William
The Eagle, Laggan Locks (An inn on a barge on the Caledonian Canal)
Four Seasons, Onich

Glenfinnan House Hotel

Grog & Gruel, Fort William
Glen Nevis Restaurant & Bar
Glenuig Inn, Lochailort
Glenuig Village Hall
Ice Factor, Kinlochleven
Invergarry Hotel
Kings House Hotel, Glencoe (G&WS)
Laroch Bar, Ballachulish (G&WS)
Letterfinlay Lodge Hotel, Loch Lochy
Lochailort Inn (TP)
Loch Oich Restaurant/Bar, South Laggan
Loch Leven Hotel, Ballachulish (G&WS)
Loch Shiel Hotel, Acharacle
MacDonald Hotel, Kinlochleven
Mamore Lodge, Kinlochleven (S)
Moorings Hotel, Banavie
Old Forge, Inverie
Old Station Restaurant, Spean Bridge
Roy Bridge Hotel
Steam Inn, Mallaig
Stronlossit Hotel, Roy Bridge
Tomdoun Sporting Lodge
West End Hotel, Fort William
West Highland Hotel, Mallaig

AVIEMORE & CAIRNGORMS

Ben Mhor Hotel, Grantown-on-Spey
Boat Hotel, Boat of Garten
Craig Bar, Grantown-on-Spey
Cairngorm Hotel, Aviemore
Cairn Hotel, Carrbridge
Croft Inn, Glenlivet (A&NI)



The Kings Highway

72 Church Street, Inverness IV1 1EN
01463 251 800

160 pints of hand pulled
cask-conditioned ale sold per day.

Our next Festival will take place from 25th October to the 11th November

We have 10 hand pulls on which you will always find:
Greene King Abbot and Caledonian Deuchars IPA
as well as beers from our 'regulars'
Cairngorm Brewing Company, Houston Brewery
An Teallach Brewery and Strathaven Ales.

Ales now at a new price of £1.99.

All ales served in an ale pot unless otherwise requested.

Rooms available too - best deals online.

Search online: Kings Highway, Inverness.



We are in the
Good Beer Guide 2013



REAL ALE PUBS LIST

Dalfaber Country Club, Aviemore
 Duke of Gordon Hotel, Kingussie
 Glen Avon Hotel, Tomintoul (A&NI)
 Glen Hotel, Newtonmore
 Glenmore Lodge, Nr Aviemore
 Highlander Inn, Craigellachie (A&NI)
 Kingussie Golf Club
 Loch Insh Boathouse, Nr Aviemore
 Lodge Hotel, Newtonmore (TP)
 Mash Tun, Charlestown of Aberlour (A&NI)
 Muckrach Lodge Hotel, Dulnain Bridge
 Old Bridge Inn, Aviemore
 Seafeld Lodge Hotel, Granttown-on-Spey
 Silver Fjord Hotel, Kingussie
 Suie Hotel, Kincaira
 Typsy Laird, Kingussie

Winking Owl, Aviemore

WESTER ROSS

Applecross Inn
 Arch Inn, Ullapool
 Argyll Hotel, Ullapool
 Aultbea Hotel
 Badachro Inn
 Ceilidh Place, Ullapool
 Summer Isles Hotel, Achiltibuie (S)
 Drumchork Hotel, Aultbea (S)
 Dundonnell Hotel
 Ferry Boat Inn, Ullapool
 Glendale House, South Erradale (S)
 Kinlochewe Hotel
 Lochcarron Hotel, Lochcarron
 Loch Maree Hotel
 Melvaig Inn, Gairloch
 Millcroft Hotel, Gairloch
 Morefield Motel, Ullapool
 Myrtle Bank Hotel, Gairloch (S)

Old Inn, Gairloch

Seaforth Bar & Restaurant, Ullapool

Steading Cafe & Restaurant, Gairloch (S)

Strathcarron Hotel

Tigh-an-Eilean Hotel, Shieldaig

Torridon Inn

NORTH SKYE & HEBRIDES

An Lanntair, Stornoway

Bakur Bar, Uig

Bosville Hotel, Portree (S)

Borrodale Hotel, South Uist (S)

Carlton Tavern, Stornoway

Dark Island Hotel, Benbecula (S)

Edinbane Inn

Ferry Inn, Uig

Flodigarry Hotel

Harris Inn, Tarbert (S)

Isles Inn, Portree



Glen hotel

www.theglenhotel.co.uk

NEWTONMORE



Fine Food
Lunchtime & evenings

Entertainment
on selected nights

Accommodation
stay the night and relax...




Four Hand Pumps
Plus selected bottled ales

The Glen - an Oasis within the
'Real Ale Desert of Badenoch



10p per pint
discount for card carrying
CAMRA members

Tel: 01540 673203

www.theglenhotel.co.uk

REAL ALE PUBS LIST

Langass Lodge, North Uist (S)
 Lochmaddy Hotel, North Uist
 The Lodge at Edinbane
 Mote Bar, Hotel Hebrides, Tarbert (S)
 Old Schoolhouse Restaurant, Dunvegan (S)
 Royal Hotel, Portree
 Stein Inn, Waternish
 Tigh Dearg Hotel, Lochmaddy, North Uist
 Uig Hotel, Uig
 Westford Inn, North Uist

SOUTH SKYE & LOCHALSH

Ardvasar Hotel
 Clachan Bar, Dornie
 Claymore, Broadford
 Dunollie Hotel, Broadford
 Hebridean Hotel, Broadford
 Isle Ornsay Hotel
 Jac-o-bite Restaurant, Kintail

Kinloch Castle, Rum
 Kintail Lodge Hotel
 Old Inn, Carbost
 Plockton Hotel, Plockton
 Plockton Inn, Plockton
 Saucy Mary's Lodge, Kyleakin (S)
 Sconser Lodge Hotel
 Sligachan Hotel (S) *Closed October - March*
 Taigh Ailean Hotel, Portnalong

CAITHNESS & SUTHERLAND

Achness Hotel, Rosehall, Lairg
 Alexander Bain, Wick (Wetherspoons)
 Altnacealghach Inn, nr. Ledmore Junction (S)
 Bay Owl Restaurant, Dunbeath
 Belgrave Hotel, Helmsdale
 Ben Loyal Hotel, Tongue
 The Caberfeidh, Lochinver
 Castle Hotel, Dornoch

Castletown Hotel, Castletown
 Central Hotel, Thurso
 Commercial Hotel, Thurso
 Crask Inn, by Lairg
 Dunroamin Hotel, Bonar Bridge
 Eagle Hotel, Dornoch
 Golspie Inn (S)
 Inchnadamph Hotel (S)
 Invershin Hotel
 Kylesku Hotel (S)
 MacKay's Hotel, Wick
 Norseman Hotel, Wick
 Scourie Hotel, Scourie
 Seaview Hotel, John O'Groats
 Sutherland Inn, Brora
 Tongue Hotel
 Trentham Hotel (S)
 Ulbster Arms Hotel, Halkirk
 The Weigh Inn, Scrabster, Thurso

WESTFORD INN

Claddach Kirkibost, North Uist HS6 5EP
 Telephone 01876 580 653

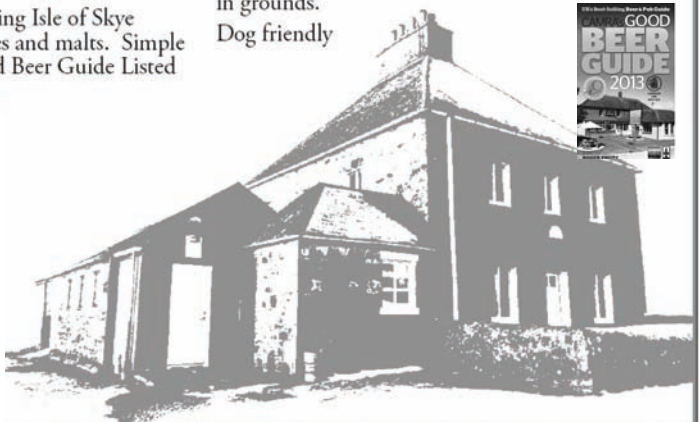
A small, traditional pub (established 1896), part of a historic listed eighteenth century house set in its own grounds on the west coast of North Uist in the Outer Hebrides. Opposite Kirkibost Island on the A865, between the Kirkibost Centre and Balranald bird reserve, 15 minutes drive from Lochmaddy ferry terminal.

Real ale from the award winning Isle of Skye Brewery. Range of bottled ales and malts. Simple home cooked pub food. Good Beer Guide Listed every year from 2008 to 2012

Summer opening 2012, midday to 11:00pm (Sunday 12.30pm to 10.30pm). Kitchen open 12.30pm until 2.30pm, and in the evening from 6pm to 9pm.

Outside seating; real fires in inclement weather. Accommodation available in small stone cottage in grounds.

Dog friendly



A Highlands and Islands Diary

Drumnadrochit & Lewiston

The following article was written for the New Imbiber magazine by Mike Hammersley who lives on Skye. The trip took place in early June this year.

This next sortie had originally been intended to be an exploration of some of the pubs and bars of Orkney but a recent bereavement in the family meant that I had to put that trip on hold, so as a replacement piece I opted for a day trip to the twin villages of Drumnadrochit and Lewiston, just 15 miles or so to the west of Inverness and about a 100 miles from Portree. I promise to get to Orkney later in the summer!

All journeys from Portree, in whichever direction, are magnificent and I extolled the virtues of the road journey from Portree to Kyle of Lochalsh in my first piece. The onward journey along the A87 from Kyle is just as fantastic, skirting Loch Alsh with the precipitous backdrop of mountains on Skye opposite and past the iconic spectacle of Eilean Donan Castle set upon a spit of land protruding into the head of Loch Duich. The A87 then carries on winding through Kintail, a tiny village dwarfed by Munros, then snakes through the deep dark canyon-like gorge of Glen Shiel with the mountains closing in on all sides and the high rainfall levels in the mountains surrounding the glen giving rise to the dramatic sight of multiple waterfalls cascading down its sheer slopes. The road then emerges into the barren rock-strewn landscape of Glen Cluanie running alongside the Loch Cluanie hydro dam also hemmed in by further mountains. The only main roadside habitation on the 30 miles from Shiel Bridge to the tiny village of Glenmoriston is the lonely Cluanie Inn, a base point for hiking up the track to Ben Loyne - something on my list to tackle - as well as their range of Isle of Skye real ales!

Once past Glenmoriston the road eventually skirts the shores of Loch Ness until, shortly after the other iconic tourist hot-spot of Urquhart Castle, the road enters Glen Urquhart where the

landscape changes from Highland wilderness into something more reminiscent of the Wye Valley, with its rolling green fields dotted with farms.

Drumnadrochit

Fiddlers Café and Bar



I alighted from the coach next to the Glen Urquhart Shinty Club, where the local team were getting ready for their throw-up with Kilmallie and later that afternoon also with Strathglass in the Artemis Macaulay Cup 1st Round. But I had no time to watch the game because I was bound for my first port of call at Fiddlers.

This is a composite sort of place with an associated restaurant selling a very large range of malt whiskies (having won several awards in recent years for their range and quality) bed and breakfast accommodation and the Café Bar, with its barn-like interior doubling up as a coffee house serving cooked snacks or the alternative of just enjoying a beer or three. It also stocks a good supply of bottled beers from a wide range of Scottish micros.

This isn't the sort of place I would have expected to find beers from a regional micro and to any purist - seeing two Cairngorm beers on freeflow fonts - might well prompt a retreat. But perseverance sometimes pays off and I went ahead

A Highlands and Islands Diary - Drumnadrochit & Lewiston

and ordered a half of Cairngorm **Black Gold** and was absolutely delighted with the result. Having drunk this beer many times before from a hand pump, this tasted every bit as good without a trace of gas, which implied that it wasn't a kegged version, but a cask ale served on minimal top pressure. The **Black Gold** is a cracking beer having achieved a gold in the stouts category and overall silver in the CAMRA Winter Beer of Britain awards and even though it was being served from a free-flow tap, I could have happily stayed there and had a couple more. But with three more visits to make and a coach to Fort William to catch mid-afternoon for my round about journey home, I had to move on.

Unfortunately, at the time of going to press, we have learnt that Fiddlers have given up on the café bar and the "barn" is now a delicatessen selling fancy food stuffs including beer to the tourists.

THE BEERS

Cairngorm **Black Gold** 4.4% and **Nessies Monster Mash** 4.4%

The Benleva Hotel



Situated down a lane off the main A887 which runs through Drumnadrochit, is the Benleva Hotel, the home of the recently-founded Loch Ness Brewery. This Victorian hotel is set in its own grounds and has a short tree-lined driveway running up to the hotel entrance while the public bar is round to the right-hand side with the brewery shed close by. The bar and adjoining lounge are spacious and have good lived-in feel with traditional tables and chairs, bare floorboards and a pool table beside one of the windows. There were several beers on hand pump and I decided to try the latest seasonal offering, appropriate for May, Loch Ness **Mild**

Ness and what a mild it was. Brimming with flavour and very coffeish in character, this would deserve a high ranking award in any mild category.

While I was jotting down notes and savoring this great pint, Stephen Crossland, one of the two founders of the brewery, cum barman, cum gardener, came up to me and asked if I would like to look around the brewery - what a silly question!

The brewing shed is divided in to two with one



half devoted to mash tuns and the other half to fermenting vessels and one of them contained a special brew for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. This 2bbl plant currently suffers from being housed in a building which demands a certain amount of damp-proofing, a job which they intend to address shortly. But in addition, plans are afoot to build a second 4bbl brewhouse across the road to augment the current one. This second brewplant would concentrate on the regular beers, while, perhaps, the existing one could be used for one-offs. They also intend to start up a bottling plant once the other brewhouse is up and running - currently all of their production goes into producing cask beers - the bottled beer market being important in Scotland for many micro-brewers, since the lack of demand for cask ale from the itinerant population - most Scottish drinkers preferring the big "T" (Tennents) - doesn't always enable cask versions to be viable, particularly outside of the holiday season.

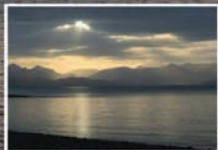
THE BEERS

Loch Ness **Wilder Ness** 3.9% and **Mild Ness** 3.5%
Wooden Hand **Cornish Gribben** 4.1%
Wells & Youngs **Waggle Dance** 4.0%

'Dame' Judith Fish and her staff would be delighted to share their amazing food and drink with you at...

The Applecross Inn

CAMRA Wester Ross, Highlands and Islands Pub of the Year



t. 01520 744262 e. applecrossinn@btconnect.com www.applecross.uk.com

For up-to-date specials and offers, follow us on Twitter and Facebook
Shore Street, Applecross, Strathearn, Wester Ross

Why not also visit our renowned sister hotel...

RELAX INTO THE SIMPLE PLEASURES OF LIFE AT THE LOCH NESS INN...

EATING/DRINKING/SLEEPING

NOW SERVING LOCALLY BREWED ALES FROM THE LOCH NESS BREWERY!

"I popped into Lewiston, near Drumna drochit, last Wednesday for lunch at the Loch Ness Inn and had a wonderful meal, impeccably served by excellent staff"

Inverness Caledonian Thistle FC manager Terry Butcher

"My favourite getaway is the Loch Ness Inn. The restaurant is famous for its prawns from Applecross Bay - they're the best you'll ever taste"

Karen Gillan of Dr Who Fame talking to Grazia magazine



Recently awarded :

Isla Urquhart (Manager) Rising Star of Hospitality Gold Medal

Loch Ness Inn - Gold Medal for 'Real & Local Food' at the 2012 Scottish Hotel Awards

Lewiston, Drumna drochit, Inverness-shire IV63 6UW
info@staylochness.co.uk +44 (0)1456 450991 www.staylochness.co.uk

the
lochness inn

For up-to-date specials and offers, follow us on Twitter and Facebook or visit www.staylochness.co.uk

A Highlands and Islands Diary - Drumnadrochit & Lewiston



Lewiston

The Loch Ness Inn

I had a chance to shake hands with Stephen's brother - and the other half of the operation - Allan, before bidding them farewell and making my way to the Loch Ness Inn in the neighbouring village of Lewiston.

This inn is situated in the heart of the village and offers accommodation and a restaurant as well as liquid refreshment for the thirsty traveller. Part of this pub was also a brewery back in 1847, but today the wee public bar with its modern overtones, forms a refuge for the younger set as well as being the official drinking den for the Glen Urquhart Shinty Club, their many awards displayed behind the bar counter along with team photos. Pictures of the glen itself and the village in former days also adorn the other walls. I pondered these while drinking my pint of Cairngorm **Trade Winds**, a dry, orangey, citrusy ale and a bit too hoppy for my liking, but not overly so.

THE BEERS

Cairngorm **Trade Winds** 4.3%

Loch Ness **Loch Ness** 4.4%

The Poachers Inn

The Poachers isn't listed as a real ale outlet in the local CAMRA newsletter, *What's Yours Then*, and

not looking a very likely candidate from outside with its big Sky Sports banner, I thought I'd give it a try anyway and I was greatly surprised to find two hand pumps, one of them in use. It's a basic sports bar, the pool table dominating its very moderate size and big screen taking up much of one wall, but



it does have a verandah outside, part of which is covered and houses two comfy sofas, one of which was being occupied by a bloke, curled up fast asleep! My **Suilven** was very drinkable being a well-balanced golden ale.

THE BEER

An Teallach **Suilven** 4.3%

If one accepts the well-served, albeit top-pressure cask ale offerings at Fiddlers, this makes the twin villages of Drumnadrochit and Lewiston 100% real ale. Maybe that's why quite a few members of the local Highlands and Western Isles CAMRA branch live here!

Sláinte Mhath!

HIGHLANDS & ISLANDS BREWERS IN 2012

Isle of Skye Brewery Based at Uig by the Western Isles ferry terminal, brewing since December 1995. Ales include Black and Red Cuillin, Young Pretender, Hebridean Gold and Blaven. Seasonal, House and special event ales are also brewed. (See advert).



Valhalla Brewery Most northerly brewery in the UK, brewing on Unst since December 1997. Ales include White Wife and Auld Rock.

Black Isle Brewery Started brewing in December 1998 in converted farm buildings. Ales include Red Kite and Yellowhammer. Organic ales are a speciality. Much enlarged, new brewery opened 2011.

Isle of Arran Brewery Located close to Brodick Castle. Opened in late March 2000. Ales include Blonde, Dark and Sunset.

Fyne Ales Brewery Based in Argyll, at the head of Loch Fyne, brewing started on St Andrews Day 2001. Ales include Piper's Gold and Maverick. Revamping this year. (See advert).



Cairngorm Brewery Company Set up in late 2001 to market the beers of the Tomintoul and Aviemore breweries, which they own. Ales include Trade Winds, Wildcat, Stag, Highland IPA and Black Gold. Seasonal ales are regularly brewed. (See advert).

Hebridean Brewing Company Based at Stornoway on the Outer Hebrides. Brewing since January 2002. Beers include Islander Strong Ale, Berserker Export Pale Ale and Clansman Ale (first ale ever brewed in Stornoway).



River Leven Brewing in one of the old Alcan smelter buildings in Kinlochleven since 2011.

An Teallach Brewery Moved to family's croft, near Dundonnell, in March 2003. Ales include An Teallach Ale, Beinn Dearg Ale and Crofters Pale Ale.



Islay Ales Co Ltd Established in old tractor shed in Bridgend in March 2004. Ales include Finlaggan, Black Rock and Dun Hogs Head plus seasonal brews.

Cuillin Brewery The brewery was born on the 10th September 2004 in the old public bar of the Sligachan Hotel. Skye, Eagle and Pinnacle ales are brewed.



Highland Brewing Company Located in the old Swannay cheese factory at Birsay on Orkney mainland. Ales include Scapa Special, Orkney Blast and Dark Munro among others.

Isle of Mull Brewery From May 2005 in Tobermory. Sold plant to Oban Bay in 2009

Sinclair Breweries Ltd Formed in 2006 by local hotelier and restaurateur Norman Sinclair, who purchased the **Orkney** - which originally commenced brewing in 1988 at the old schoolhouse in Sandwick on Orkney mainland - and **Atlas Breweries**. Ales regularly brewed at enlarged Orkney Brewery include Three Sisters, Latitude and Nimbus from Atlas; plus Raven Ale, Dark Island, Red Macgregor and Skull Splitter from Orkney. (See advert).



Glenfinnan Brewery Brewing on a 4bbl plant since October 2006. Regular brews are Glenfinnan Gold, The Standard Ale and Glennfinnan Dark (for the Winter).

Colonsay Brewery First brews in March 2007. IPA, 80/- and Lager (no real ales).

Plockton Brewery The first brew was produced on 1st April 2007. Craggs Ale and Starboard IPA may usually be found in Plockton and at other local outlets.



Oban Bay Brewery Brewing since mid 2009. Five barrel brewery attached to Cuan Mor.

Old Inn (Gairloch) Brewery 150 litre micro-brewery. First brews in February 2010. (See advert).

Loch Ness Brewery First brews in September 2011. RedNess, HoppyNess, Dark... etc. (See advert).



Cromarty Brewery First brews in December 2011. Happy Chappy, Brewed Awakening, Red Rocker.

Not all of the breweries listed are in our branch area: the Highland Brewing Co. Valhalla and Orkney are in the Aberdeen, Grampian & Northern Isles area; the Arran Brewery falls in the Ayrshire and Galloway area; while Fyne, Islay, Mull, Colonsay, River Leven and Oban Bay Breweries are covered by Glasgow and West Scotland. Similarly for Highlands & Islands pubs listed in the GBG, pubs in Orkney and Shetland are submitted by the Aberdeen, Grampian & Northern Isles Branch, and the Clachaig Inn somehow falls within the Glasgow & West Scotland Branch area!

Ullapool's Premier Dining Experience

MOREFIELD MOTEL & MARINERS RESTAURANT

North Road, Ullapool, Ross-shire, IV26 2TQ

01854 612161

www.morefieldmotel.co.uk

Email: stay@morefieldmotel.co.uk

Proprietors: Mr & Mrs A.D. & B.J. Oulton

Accommodation bookings accepted online

Listed in the Good Beer Guide, for the 5th year.

A warm welcome & quality Ales available from Tony & Bev.



www.ullapoolbeerfestival.co.uk

Real Ale in the Real Highlands



Supporting Local breweries

8th Ullapool Beer Festival.

Thurs 18th - Sat 20th Oct 2012

North Sea Gas

live on

Saturday Evening

@ UBF 2012



BANDSTAND BAR & RESTAURANT



**CAMRA PUB OF THE YEAR HIGHLAND 2009 & 2011
and INVERNESS & DISTRICT SOUTH 2009 to 2012**



**EXTENSIVE WHISKY LIST - 72 SINGLE MALTS
SEA VIEW RESTAURANT & BAR MEALS
QUIET LOUNGE WITH WOOD BURNING FIRE
SEA VIEW ROOMS (10% CAMRA member discount on rooms)**

Crescent Road, Nairn IV12 4NB

www.braevalhotel.co.uk

Tel: 01667 452341

Email: info@braevalhotel.co.uk

THE VIEW FROM THE NORTH - INVERNESS AND DISTRICT NORTH

Cromarty

Cromarty Arms, Cromarty

Several visits have been paid and the quality of the real ale, welcome and atmosphere have all been consistently good. There is one handpump selling Cromarty Happy Chappy with Cromarty Red Rocker being dispensed as a keg beer. Lager sales have plummeted since the locally brewed real ale was introduced.

Royal Hotel, Cromarty

Overlooking a beautiful harbour and close to the Cromarty – Nigg ferry, all of the Cromarty ales have been tried with Happy Chappy being the favourite.

The Commercial Inn (Com), Balintore

Real ale is no longer available.

Caithness & Sutherland

Eagle Hotel, Dornoch

An enthusiastic manager makes sure that real ales in excellent condition are always available.

Grannies Heilan Hame, Embo

One of Parkdean's 24 UK Holiday Parks. A handpump for Sharp's Brewery Doonbar from Cornwall has been installed but, so far, the ale has been unavailable.

JD

TASTING COURSE ON 16TH JUNE

Eric Mills, CAMRA Tasting Panel Co-ordinator for the north of Scotland, gave this course at The Benleiva Hotel in Drumnadrochit. Trained CAMRA tasters have a say in what beers go through to the category finals by filling out tasting cards when in pubs or at Beer Festivals. Also, the tasting notes in the Good Beer Guide come from these tasters. This course also gives an idea of how beer is made and what flavours are good and bad

in beers. During the course a variety of beer styles are tasted and their ingredients discussed. Beers sampled were Isle of Skye Red Cuillin, Cairngorm Trade Winds, Cromarty Happy Chappy, and two from Loch Ness - Dark Ness and Happy Ness. We also have other shorter informal tasting evenings during the year, see the diary and come along if you want to learn more about the product you drink



Focus on...

Dixie Taylor



Dixie lives in Alford near Aberdeen but is well known over most of Scotland as a salesman for many pub products, especially real ale. His company is called Scottish Highland Ales. He was also one of the first brewers in the north.

Q. Where are you originally from?

A. Glenluce, South West Scotland. My Father was an itinerant civil engineer building roads and bridges etc. and in my early days we lived in assorted locations in that area such as Port Patrick and Stranraer. Moved to Clarkston near Glasgow when I was about nine years old. There until my teens when it was off to Skye. He was responsible for the road upgrade from Sconser to Sligachan and the Uig Pier among other contracts. Wheel has turned full circle I guess with my involvement with Skye Brewery.

Q. What is your background?

A. After college, went to London to seek fame and fortune as one did in the 1960's. Pity it didn't work!! Joined a company that supplied drawing office equipment, and moved around a bit before starting with a colleague a specialised data printing and processing service for the embryonic oil and

gas exploration industry. That's what eventually brought me to Aberdeen as we opened an office there.

Q. What does your present work involve?

A. I act as sales and marketing operative for the breweries I represent. Trying to persuade as many kind spirited publicans as possible to stock their beers!

Q. Why get involved with real ale in the north of Scotland?

A. I arrived in Aberdeen in 1977, just as a CAMRA branch had started. This was an obvious start point to discover what pubs and beers were best, not many in those days. Another of the CAMRA likely lads and myself started 'Aberdeen Ales' a wee wholesale operation to get more ales in the area. We used Jennings' Theakston's and Broughton beers in the early stages, and developed from there.

Q. When were you introduced to real ale?

A. In London, I started playing football for a local team near where I was living at the time (Eel Pie Island on the Thames), and these blokes used to drink strange stuff called Young's which I thought sounded like Younger's. It was horrible! I commented and was told that if I wanted to come drinking with them to get used to it, which I did of course. Surprising how tastes change!

Q. What real ale styles/types do you like?

A. I've always preferred the Scottish malty ales in the 70/- and 80/- mould, showing my age. I did like the original McEwan's versions of these when they could be found. You can imagine how Young's Bitter impacted on me as my intro to cask beer. Before Aberdeen Ales it was Younger's I.P.A. or nothing in Aberdeen. However, there are many fine beers around now and tastes do change.

Q. What is the worst part of your work?

A. There isn't anything that really stands out. Getting wet on occasions tramping the streets I suppose.



The Old Inn

GAIRLOCH • ROSS-SHIRE



REAL FOOD, REAL FIRES, REAL FRIENDLY ... AND OUR OWN REAL ALES!

Nestling at the foot of Flowerdale Glen and within walking distance of the harbour, golf course, whale-watching and pony trekking, The Old Inn is a traditional coaching inn set amid spectacular surroundings.

Specializing in locally landed fish and shellfish, together with seasonal game, The Old Inn enjoys a well earned reputation for a friendly welcome and comfortable accommodation...and, with its own brewhouse, you are assured of an even “cheerier” welcome!



The Old Inn • Gairloch • Ross-shire • IV21 2BD
Freephone 0800 542 5444

E-mail: enquiries@theoldinn.net • Website: www.theoldinn.net

FOR GOOD FOOD AND ALES - NATURALLY!

Focus on... Dixie Taylor

Q. What is the best part of your work?

A. I'm fortunate enough to have a roving commission, which enables me to drive around some of the finest scenery to be found anywhere. I always get a good buzz when a new account is opened, particularly if it's one that hasn't tried cask before.

Q. What hobbies/interests do you have?

A. My first mode of transport when in London was a motorbike; I graduated through the ranks to a Triumph Bonneville. Along came a car with the job I was doing at the time and the biking went into hibernation. It has remained so for forty plus years, a long time by any standards. Last year saw the reawakening and I now once more have a brand new shiny Bonnie, a far cry from the rattily, oil leaky one of past times. My Dad was from Motherwell, and when we lived near Glasgow every Saturday was spent either watching the 'Well, (Ancell's babes in those days: Ian St. John, Willie Hunter, Pat Quinn et al), at Fir Park or if there was no game there we went to Cathin to see Third Lanark play. I'm a fervent 'Well supporter to this day. Other interests are of a keep fit nature, running and cycling.

Q. Favourite song/group?

A. Being a Sixties' Loon, it's inevitable that the music of that time has had a major influence. Used to listen avidly to broadcasts from the pirate ships such as Radio London, Caroline, etc. Have always been a big Stones' fan, so anything from them hits the mark. Don't mind a wee bit of guid Scottish bagpipes either on occasions.

Q. Favourite film?

A. I'm not much of a movie buff although a visit to the flicks is always enjoyable. Despite the plethora of fantastic sound and movie systems for the home, there's still something great about going to the cinema. Michael Caine is one actor I like, and I'd choose 'Get Carter' as one of my favourites of his. 'Harry Brown' was okay too. Of the more modern ones, Leo Di Capro is okay, his recent take on Hoover was good.

Q. Favourite book?

A. Angus at Skye Brewery introduced me to a little

known Edinburgh author called Philip Kerr whose main character is a world weary German 'tec in the Berlin of the period around World War Two. There's a lot of historical data as well as the assorted plots. Written somewhat in the style of Philip Marlowe, showing my age again!

Q. Why start a brewery in the north of Scotland and why did you stop?

A. Devanha Brewery was conceived out of the success of Aberdeen Ales, but acting as a brewer as opposed to a beer distributor in what was then a very fragile and unproven market proved to be a step too far at that time. The start up costs were very high and the sales volumes achieved just didn't stack up. Unfortunately it was obvious that the formula wasn't working, and so I moved on to other beer pastures including working for Caledonian Brewery who had just commenced operations. I suppose the rest is history as is said.

Q. What are your plans for the future, retirement?

A. Aye, I will be retiring. There's a limit as pub managers become younger to how much they will tolerate a long in the tooth ale man attempting to persuade them to buy a barrel or two of beer! At least though, I can say that I've done what I could down the years to promote the cask ale cause and the developments in recent years here in Scotland show that trad ale is definitely here to stay. I will then be able to ride my Bonnie around the self-same wonderful countryside that's been my working domain for these many years.

Q. What is your favourite part of Scotland?

A. Wherever I am at the time.

PUB BLOWS UP AT NAIRN!

At the Nairn Games in August, for the first time, the games had a beer tent. No details of how good it was are available but due to the sunny day, the inflatable pub over-expanded and burst!

EARLY SUMMER HOLIDAY REPORT FROM THE GAIRLOCH AND ENVIRONS

Ruth and I have just spent a week in Gairloch with Richard & Tamsin. Thought we would give you some feedback on the pubs.

Millcroft Hotel, Gairloch. Generally we liked this place, both bar and lounge. Ruth and I had a good meal here on Sat evening. Sat 26th May- An-Teallach Ale 3, 2.5, An-T Crofters 3, 2. Wed 30th- An-Teallach Ale 3,3, An-T Brewhouse 3, 3, Sat 2nd June - An-Teallach Ale 4,4, An-T Brewhouse 4.

Old Inn, Gairloch. We were disappointed with the beer in here. Not GBG quality on our visits. Service was poor and got a feeling that staff were not well motivated. Sun 27th Cairngorm Mountain blue 4,3,3, An-T Kildonnann 2,2, An-T Suilven 1,1, House beer 2,2,3 (First half was hazy, next one clear). Thu 31st- Trade winds 3, Orkney Corncrake 2,2 (Cloudy, too cold, green?), An-T ale - like soup - changed it for Corncrake. Beer left on but noticed that next customer received a clear pint.

Badachro Inn. Sun 27th Lovely wee pub. An-T Beinn Dearg 4,4,4,4.

Mellvaig Inn. (Not on list in Newsletter1) Tue 29th - Interesting place with 60's juke box and large record collection. An-T Ale 3,3,3, An-T Brewhouse 3, 3.5

Mrytle Bank, Gairloch. Wed 30th- Dark Island 2,2, 2; An-T ? 3

Shieling, Gairloch. No real ale, just a collection of bottles such as Red McGregor.

Loch Marree Hotel. Appears closed but work going on to refurbish.

Stronlossit Hotel, Roy Bridge. Sat 2nd - Red MacGregor 4, 3.

Richard and Tamsin spent a second week further north, based in Scourie.

Scourie Hotel. 3 beers and a cider available all week. Quality variable. Black Isle Red Kite was being served through a pump which seemed to be pulling a lot of air and was consequently coming out rather flat. A bit chaotic service-wise over the bank holiday weekend, but calmed down and much friendlier later on in the week. Scores: Sat 2nd - Black Isle Red Kite 2, Trade Winds 3. Sun

3rd - Black Isle Red Kite 2, Cairngorm Howler 3.5, 3.5. Mon 4th - Cairngorm Howler 3.5, 3.5. Tue 5th - Cairngorm Howler 3.5, 3.5, An-Teallach Suilven 2. Wed 6th - An-Teallach Suilven 2, Cairngorm Trade Winds 2.

Anchorage (camp site bar and cafe), Scourie. No visible evidence of real ale - we only went in to try and pay for the camping.

Kylesku Hotel. Comfortable friendly bar, although for some reason they like to show you to a table and serve at table. Ate here on Thursday - very good food. Hotel is closed in Winter (from end October to end March, I think). Scores: Sun 3rd - Isle of Skye Tarasgier 3; An Teallach Ale 3; Thursday 7th - Isle of Skye Young Pretender 3, An-Teallach Ale 3.5, An-Teallach Beinn Dearg 3.5.

Rhiconich Hotel. There was no evidence of real ale in the public bar - we didn't ask as we were desperate for a pot of tea.

Cheers

Jon, Edinburgh

Isle of Skye Brewery: For Sale

Succession planning has brought this unique opportunity to the market. The key points are:

20 BB brewery, 80 BB fermentation, 100 BB conditioning, Leasehold offered, Freehold available, Handover included, Award winning brands, Onsite shop & online sales, Staff retainable, Growth potential, Profitable business

All enquiries to Avondale;

Email: glasgow@avondale.co.uk
Telephone: 0141 433 0336
Web: www.avondale.co.uk/scotland

AVONDALE
Business Sales | Mergers | Acquisitions

NEW BREWERIES

Not in our CAMRA patch but as mentioned in previous newsletters, another two new breweries have started up in the North of Scotland.

Moray Brewery

The Moray Brewery has settled in Forres taking an industrial unit in the Greshop Business Park, owner Seb Jones has been brewing since July. We haven't heard anything about his beers so far but



you can take a look at his progress on; facebook.com/moraybrewery or his Twitter page; <http://twitter.com/moraybrewery>

West Beach Brewery

Less advanced but making progress is the West Beach Brewery at Lossiemouth. Again using an industrial unit, this time in Coularbank Industrial



Estate, Lossiemouth, the owners are still at the test brewing stage using a small plant. They also have a facebook page so anyone can have a look and keep up with their progress;

facebook.com/pages/West-Beach-Brewery/242639909164396

(yes, really) but an easier way to get a look is on their Twitter page;

<https://twitter.com/westbeachbeers>

“a beer drinker’s
mecca”

Good Beer Guide since 2005



real ale
80 Belgians

real cider
200 malts

Highlands & Western Isles

Pub of the Year 2008

the
ANDERSON

restaurant • bar • accommodation

Fortrose, by Inverness

tel. 01381 620 236

www.theanderson.co.uk

A Trip Around the Loch

A trip in the evening? A half five start? Will anybody be able to go? Well if we don't try we'll never know. To pinch the film quote "Build it and they will come". So we did and the 5:30pm departure from the Townhouse in Inverness on a Tuesday evening in July travelling the Loch Ness circular route had ten people on board.

Our first stop was the **Dores Inn**, a fantastic location any day but the glorious sunny evening made it very special. Four Scottish beers were on, Highland St Magnus (CAMRA NBSS score 3.5), Fyne Avalanche (3.5), Houston Crystal (3) and Cairngorm Tradewinds (2.5). Quite reasonable for Inverness the prices were £3.00/pint £1.50/half. The bar was already quite busy and the excellent restaurant was starting to fill up with early diners. Soon it was time to move on to our next destination, the **Whitebridge Hotel**.

The Whitebridge usually carries one hand pump throughout the winter months and moves to two for the summer season. One of the Branch's LocAle pubs (pubs which strive to always have a locally produced real on tap) it was serving Cromarty Happy Chappy and Cairngorm Nessies Monster Mash. Both were in very good form

scoring 4's and were priced at £3.20/£1.60. We remembered how pleased we were to be able to put forward a pub in the Good Beer Guide from the "quiet side" of Loch Ness and the Whitebridge has now been in for a consecutive five years, now joined for the last couple by the Dores Inn.

Dragging the group away it was time to head to the top of the Loch at Fort Augustus and to the **Caledonian Hotel**. The Caledonian is open from Easter until the end of October and has an enthusiastic ale champion in owner Chris. Three ales were on, two from Cairngorm, Stag (3.5) and Tradewinds (3), while the third was from the newest brewery on our patch, Loch Ness and was their Loch Ness Ale (2). Prices were £3.00/£1.50. Chris was also keen to sign up for the LocAle scheme so we were able to leave with another pub to add to the list.

A short stroll down to the locks and into the busy **Bothy Bar**. On here was a tasty but cold Isle of Skye Red Cuillin (2) and a Loch Ness Wilderness (4 & 1) A score of four if you were in the advance party which enjoyed a few pints and a score of one from me who grabbed a half just as it was time to go and probably got the last drop from the cask.



A Trip Around the Loch

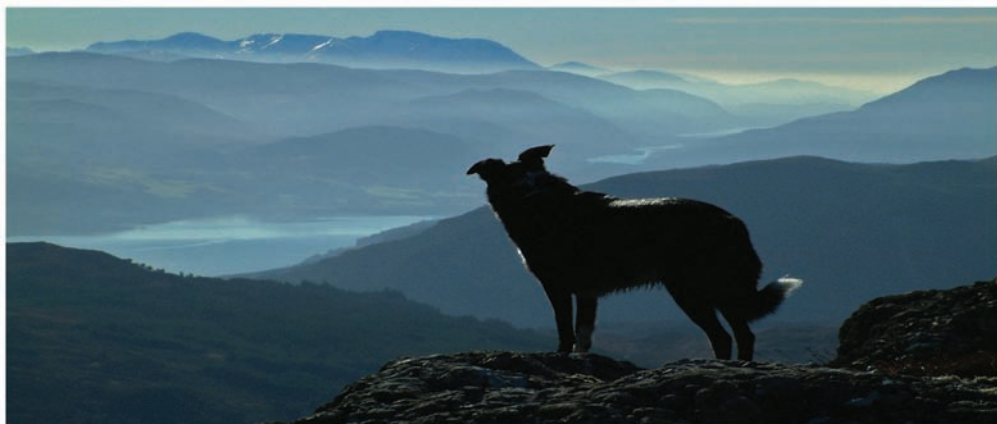


Time was pressing so it was onto Drumnadrochit calling in first to the **Loch Ness Inn**, Lewiston. The two beers on were Dark Ness (3) and Red Ness (2) from the local Loch Ness Brewery. Didn't get any prices (must have been because at last I didn't have to pay!!- Just joking guys!). Loch Ness ales are now a regular feature here.

On to the final stop, the **Benleva** in Drum, home to the Loch Ness Brewery and the local of half our group for the trip who had made their own way earlier into Inverness. Just time for a swift half for the group heading back to Inverness and I missed the other scores but I had a good Red Ness (4). £2.80/£1.40. Some of us also got a taste of the special ale straight from the conditioning tank – a dangerously easy to drink but very strong ale – one to look out for but only in half pints! Pity I can't remember what they are calling it – it was late. Go to the festival to find out!

Arriving back around 10pm it had been an enjoyable trip and went well for our first midweek evening one. I am sure we will have another one in the future and Black Isle pubs would seem a good destination for a midweek trip. Thanks to our driver from Frasers for a safe and comfortable journey.

Highland Beer Hunter



Just a few reasons to visit the Benleva Hotel by Loch Ness

CAMRA North of Scotland PUB of the YEAR 2012

12th Loch Ness Beer Festival - 20th to 28th September 2013

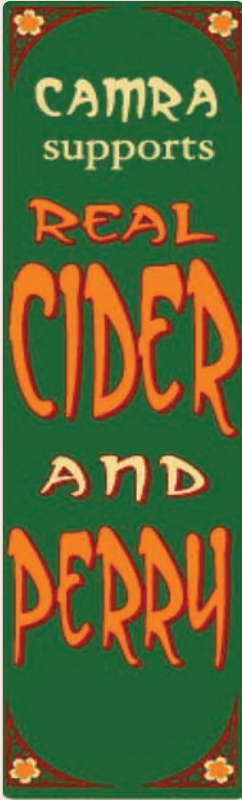
Home of the Loch Ness Brewery



www.lochnesshotel.com

www.lochnessbrewery.com

TRADITIONAL CIDER MATTERS



Real Cider and/or **Real Perry** is sold (or has recently been sold) in the following inns and hotels. (Please note that some may be seasonal outlets). Please let us know if you find additional outlets selling real cider or perry.

The Anderson, Fortrose - Thatchers Heritage Cider

Eagle - Inn on the Loch, Laggan Locks - Thatchers Original Cider

Stronlossit Inn, Roy Bridge - Thatchers Cheddar Valley Cider

Strathcarron Hotel - Thatchers Cider (rotated with cask ales)

Glen Hotel, Newtonmore - Westons Old Rosie or 1st Quality Cider

Benleva Hotel, Drumnadrochit - Westons 1st Quality Cider and 1 other all year round, plus good selection of real ciders for September festival

Scourie Hotel - Two Westons Ciders on handpump

King's Highway, Inverness - Westons Old Rosie & Organic Draught Vintage Cider; Thatchers Heritage & Dry Cider

Alexander Bain, Wick - Westons Old Rosie & Organic Draught Vintage Cider; Thatchers Heritage & Dry Cider

Badachro Inn - Westons Cider is served here

Argyll Hotel, Ullapool - Several Westons ciders from the box

Altnacealgach Inn, nr Ledmore Junction - Mike & Kate are giving some thought to serving a real cider. (This outlet is For Sale so best to check. Tel: 01854 666260)

Torridon Inn - Westons Ciders are served in the bar.

Kinlochewe Hotel, at the foot of Beinn Eighe, is serving Westons 1st Quality Draft Cider

Clachaig Inn, Glencoe - An initial trial (at Mayfest 2010) but (with your support) continuing through the Winter, Westons cider on hand pump. Having had difficulties getting hold of the Thatchers we've had over the last few years we've been looking for a change. (From Website)

Bandstand Bar, Nairn - Westons ciders on handpump, plus wider selections at their Festivals.

Grog & Gruel, Fort William - has been selling Thatchers Heritage cask cider since 1st April 2010. On tap for as long as sales make it viable - could be all year round but unfortunately sales usually drop dramatically during winter months.

Glen Affric Bar, Cannich - serving Westons Cider after requests from hill-walking customers.



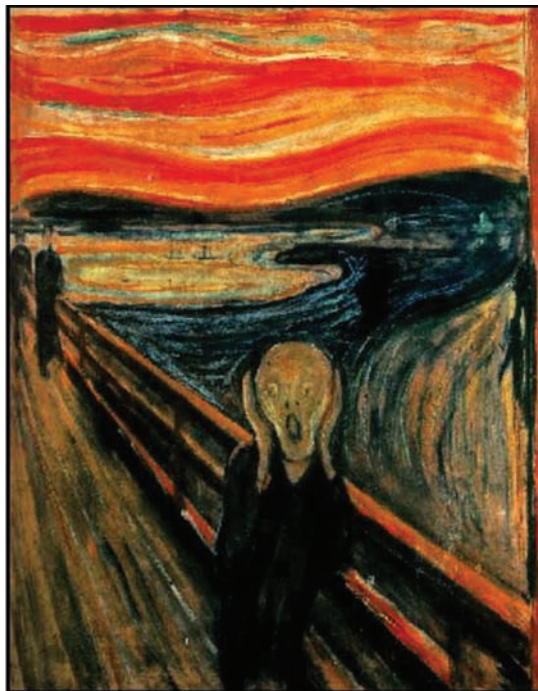
the finest steaks in town!

The Steakhouse is already a well-established favourite with local diners. A wide choice and grills available for dinner.

Open every night: 5.30pm - 9.30pm
The Steakhouse Restaurant,
Dalfaber Golf & Country Club, Aviemore



Call 01479 811 244 or email
dalfaber@macdonald-hotels.co.uk



*Edvard was distraught to find
his local had run out of
Loch Ness Beer*

*2. loch
ness
brewery*

*for more info and beer range
go to
www.lochnessbrewery.com*

BRANCH DIARY (MEETINGS START AT 7.30PM)

All these events are open to members and any non-member, including committee meetings. Not all events listed are necessarily organised by CAMRA. This diary is as much about the local real ale scene as about CAMRA branch activities.

OCTOBER

Friday 5th to Saturday 6th

Ascot Beer Festival – featuring a guest Highlands & Islands Breweries bar

Tuesday 9th

Committee – The Anderson, Fortrose

Saturday 13th

Minibus Trip, West Coast, Old Inn Brewery, including Torridon Beer Festival at Torridon Inn



Thursday 12th to Sunday 14th

2nd Torridon Inn Beer Festival*

Thursday 12th to Sunday 14th

Orkney Beer Trip.* Includes return ferry from Stromness, 3 nights B&B with two sponsored ale nights, £138.60. Phone Del at Blackfriars on 01463 233881 to book places.



Thursday 18th to Saturday 20th

8th Ullapool Beer Festival at Morefield Motel*

Friday 19th - Saturday 3rd November

Octoberfest at The Clachaig Inn, Glencoe*

Thursday 25th to Sunday 11th November

Real Ale Festival - The Kings Highway, Inverness*

Tuesday 30th

Tasting Evening - The Castle Tavern

NOVEMBER

Tuesday 13th

AGM – Bandstand Bar, Nairn

DECEMBER

Tuesday 11th

Committee - Blackfriars, Inverness

Tuesday 18th

7pm, Inverness Social Walkabout - Meet at Blackfriars

* *Not all events listed are necessarily organised by CAMRA.*

CAMRA needs YOU!

Protect your pleasure! Become actively involved with your local branch

We need your help! Not a massive time commitment, just an hour or two will help our small committee in supporting the local publicans and brewers who together provide us with such a wonderful range of ales to enjoy.

Please see our regularly updated on-line diary at highlandcamra.org.uk

We now have a new web site!! After about 18 months of construction, our new Highlands & Islands web site is online! It features an elegant, photo-led design: **interactive pub map - archive of awards - link to current CAMRA campaigns - new Twitter feed - new blog. POTY and BOTY voting along with SUBMIT YOUR BEER SCORES will be added soon!**

highlandcamra.org



CAMPAIGN
FOR
REAL ALE

CONTACT DETAILS

Gareth Hardman (Secretary and Branch Contact)
18 Scorguie Gardens, Inverness IV3 8SS
Tel: 01463 238462 contact@highlandcamra.org.uk
or secretary@highlandcamra.org.uk

Eric Mills Tel: 01456 459343
chair@highlandcamra.org.uk

Gordon Streets Tel: 01463 715637
news@highlandcamra.org.uk

A Campaign of Two Halves

Fair deal on beer tax now!

Save Britain's Pubs!



Join CAMRA Today

Complete the Direct Debit form below and you will receive 15 months membership for the price of 12 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/joinus or call 01727 867201. All forms should be addressed to Membership Department, CAMRA, 230 Hatfield Road, St Albans, AL1 4LW.

Your Details

Title _____ Surname _____
 Forename(s) _____
 Date of Birth (dd/mm/yyyy) _____
 Address _____

 _____ Postcode _____
 Email address _____
 Tel No(s) _____

	Direct Debit	Non DD
Single Membership (UK & EU)	£25 <input type="checkbox"/>	£25 <input type="checkbox"/>
Joint Membership (Partner at the same address)	£28 <input type="checkbox"/>	£30 <input type="checkbox"/>

For Young Member and concessionary rates please visit www.camra.org.uk or call 01727 867201.

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 _____

Applications will be processed within 21 days

Partner's Details (if Joint Membership)

Title _____ Surname _____
 Forename(s) _____
 Date of Birth (dd/mm/yyyy) _____

01/06

Campaigning for Pub Goers & Beer Drinkers

Enjoying Real Ale & Pubs

Join CAMRA today – www.camra.org.uk/joinus



Instruction to your Bank or Building Society to pay by Direct Debit
 Please fill in the whole form using a ball point pen and send to: Campaign for Real Ale Ltd, 230 Hatfield Road, St Albans, Herts AL1 4LW



DIRECT Debit
 This Guarantee should be detached and retained by the payer.

Name and full postal address of your Bank or Building Society Service User Number

To the Manager Bank or Building Society
 Address _____

 _____ Postcode _____

9 2 6 1 2 9

FOR CAMRA OFFICIAL USE ONLY
 This is not part of the instruction to your Bank or Building Society.

Membership Number _____
 Name _____
 Postcode _____

Instructions to your Bank or Building Society

Please pay Campaign For Real Ale Limited Direct Debits from the account detailed on this instruction subject to the safeguards stated by the Direct Debit Guarantee. I understand that this instruction may remain with Campaign For Real Ale Limited and if so will be passed electronically to my Bank/Building Society.

Signature(s) _____
 Date _____

Name(s) of Account Holder _____

Branch Sort Code

Bank or Building Society Account Number

Reference

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

- The Direct Debit Guarantee**
- This Guarantee is offered by all banks and building societies that accept instructions to pay by Direct Debit.
 - If there are any changes to the amount, date or frequency of your Direct Debit The Campaign for Real Ale Ltd will notify you 10 working days in advance of your account being debited or as otherwise agreed. If you request The Campaign for Real Ale Ltd to collect a payment, confirmation of the amount and date will be given to you at the time of the request.
 - If an error is made in the payment of your Direct Debit by The Campaign for Real Ale Ltd or your bank or building society you are entitled to a full and immediate refund of the amount paid from your bank or building society.
 - If you receive a refund you are not entitled to, you must pay it back when The Campaign For Real Ale Ltd asks you to.
 - You can cancel a Direct Debit at any time by simply contacting your bank or building society. Written confirmation may be required. Please also notify us.

12th - 14th October

Following the success of our 2011 Ale Festival we are looking forward to more of the same in 2012. Join us for a great weekend of Real Ale, music and lots more.

Friday 12th

7.30-9pm - Pub quiz in aid of Torridon Mountain Rescue team
9-late - Live music from Matt Norris & Caro Bridges

Saturday 13th

Activities all day (Kayaking, clays, archery)
6pm - Darts Competition
9-late - Live music from The Mystic Shoes

Sunday 14th

Activities all day (Walking, kayaking, archery)
6pm - Pool Competition
9-late - Live music from The Coast Road Truckers

Over 20 real ales on offer

Special Ale inspired food menu all weekend

Don't miss out on our great accommodation deals for CAMRA members. **Save 15%** on a 3 night stay. Please visit our website for more information.



The Torridon Inn

Annat, By Achnasheen, IV22 2EY
01445 791242
info@thetorridon.com
www.thetorridon.com

Celebrating
20 years
in 2012



DRINK IN A REAL ALE PUB? - RATE THE BEER

Highlands & Western Isles CAMRA needs your help in surveying the pubs in our massive Branch area. To tell us which pubs are worth considering for the Good Beer Guide, use CAMRA's 6-point NBSS (National Beer Scoring Scheme) to record Beer Quality. The info you give us helps us judge which outlets could go in to The Good Beer Guide, which outlets merit an award of area POTY and branch POTY and which of our local beers merits the award of BOTY. It's easy!

What do the scores mean?

0 - Undrinkable. No cask ale available or so poor you have to take it back or can't finish it.

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

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

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

4 - Very Good. Excellent beer in excellent condition.

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

Simply email us which bar, the beer(s) and your scores plus any real ale and real cider news to our Branch Contacts (See Diary page). CAMRA members can, if they wish, use the website: www.beerscoring.org.uk Log in using your normal CAMRA login details and fill in the boxes on the form. You can do this for any pub in the country. Thanks.



What's Yours Then? is a quarterly newsletter produced by the Highlands and Western Isles Branch of the Campaign for Real Ale. The views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the editor, CAMRA, or its branches.



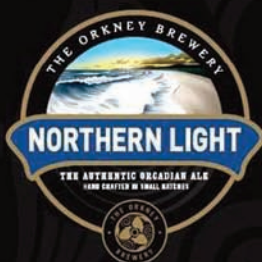
*We hope you have enjoyed reading our Autumn newsletter. Unless you intend to keep it for some reason, please **do not** throw it away. Why not pass it on to a friend, or just leave it in a pub somewhere for others to read. Newsletters are often found many miles from their source! The next edition will be out in **December.***

Thanks to our advertisers for making publication of this newsletter possible and our wonderfully helpful, local breweries that help to distribute it.

Orkney  Brewery

Raising the bar

Scottish bottle and cask
ales of distinction



Atlas range



ORDER OUR RANGE OF CASK OR BOTTLED BEERS

t: 01667 404 555 f: 01667 404 584 e: info@sinclairbreweries.co.uk w: www.sinclairbreweries.co.uk

Head Office: Sinclair Breweries Ltd, Cawdor, Nairn, IV12 5XP



RED CVILLIN BLACK CVILLIN
YOUNG PRETENDER
BLAVEN HEBRIDEAN GOLD
CVILLIN BEAST
(Champion Beer of Scotland 2011)
SKYELIGHT WITCHWAND
CVILLIN GORM TARASGEIR

Souvenirs and gifts from

Buth an Leanna (The Brewery Shop)
The Pier Vig, Isle of Skye
01470-542477

and from

The Brewery Shop @ the Isle of Skye Emporium
The Green, Portree, Isle of Skye
01478 611601

www.skyebrewery.co.uk/shop
POSSIBLY BRITAIN'S BEST ON-LINE BREWERY SHOP?