

What's yours then?



CAMRA Highlands & Western Isles | FREE Magazine | late Spring 2016

We're still going!



STOP PRESS!



Our branch POTY for 2016;
The Benleva Hotel, Drumnadrochit.

- Chairman's welcome
- Xmas Walkabout report
- Loch Ness Beer trip report
- Branch area POTY winners
- Breweries News
- Pubs news
- May is for Real Cider & Perry
- CAMRA ale festival previews



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Please be aware that the CAMRA logo is copyrighted and should not be used in pub adverts.

An average of **3500+** 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.

It's Spring (we hope) so this issue is **3500**copies.

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

Thanks to all who have made the effort to send in pub and beer reports, or articles, keeping 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.

Articles copyright © Highlands & Western Isles CAMRA

Summer edition deadline is Monday 27th June for publication by the end of July.

As you can see, following the AGM in January, at which more than 30 members attended — well done to you all — enough members volunteered to fill the needed posts on the committee. This means that the branch can continue to support and encourage the production and dispensing of good quality, tasty real ale and also support the hard pressed licenced premises that are the best place to socially, enjoy drinking in.

The new committee have a hard act to follow and will take some time to settle in, so please excuse any omissions and mistakes that will happen over the next few months while the new committee finds it's feet.

As you can also see, this is the "late Spring" edition of the branch magazine. There will also be a "late Summer" and an

"Autumn/Winter" edition later this year.
Cheers, Ed.



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Chairman's Welcome

Hello. As the new chairman, I welcome you to the Spring edition of our magazine.

I've been an active member of CAMRA for around 20 years firstly with the Edinburgh branch and then the Kingdom of Fife branch in which I have held Secretary and Webmaster posts until deciding to move up to the Highlands in May 2015.

I hope, with the help of the rest of the committee, to continue the good work that everyone has done and try to increase the CAMRA presence in the Highlands. With that in mind, I would be most honoured if any member contact us with any updates on pubs in their area that they see. This allows us to regularly update WhatPub so that it is accurate, as well as seeing if there is anything that CAMRA can do to help.

Also, don't forget to keep on scoring the beers as this is an invaluable tool that allows us to keep an eye out and helps decide on entries for the Good Beer Guide.

Leading on from that, I feel that the Real Ale scene in our area is positively growing, with more new breweries popping up over the last year and a few more in the pipeline. This is great news as it increases the choice for the beer drinker and also the pubs. So if you see any new beers appearing in your local, again, please let us know.

As an end note, I would like to thank all the committee members that have previously run the branch over the years and all the branch members that have helped in one way or another to keep the real ale scene alive and kicking.

Now, enjoy your beer and this magazine.

Cheers,

Paul McAllister

From our retired Chairman

I would like to welcome Paul McAllister, my successor as Chairman of the Highlands and Western Isles Branch of CAMRA.

I would also like to thank all those that went along to the AGM which was a record turn out. The new Committee had its first meeting in February and hopefully any handovers will have been done as soon as possible. If you are reading this and you could not make it to the AGM or would like to help out, please contact a Committee member or come along to a meeting. Although the Committee have taken over the main posts, there are other posts, some with very little work needed, still available. Many hands make lighter work. Also there are tasks that can be done to help even if you can not make it to meetings.

I wish Paul and his new Committee the very best for the future.

Cheers,

Eric Mills



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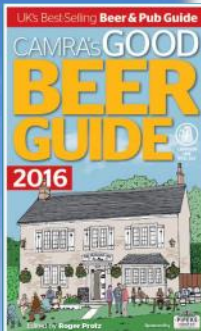
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Pubs News

A new pub in Strathpeffer is planned to be open this summer. By renovating the slightly derelict “Sheiling” (see photo). The bold



project is being led by Fraser MacKenzie. Strathpeffer hasn't enjoyed the benefits of a local pub for many years. Hopefully, quality real ale will be on offer in **The Mackenzie Pub**.

The unfinished and closed “Karma Lounge” (just over the bridge, opposite the Glen Albyn on Young Street), had over a million pounds spent on it and reopened last December as the “**Encore une Foie**”.



This expansive place is reportedly very nicely and tastefully decorated (see photo above). The establishment is focusing on being a restaurant and bar and the operators have tried offering real ale.

Unfortunately, so far, they have only offered uninspiring ales and as their clientele don't expect real ale, it has not been successful. Sounds like a sales opportunity for our local breweries.....



After suddenly being closed by Bailiffs and Sherriff Officers (*allegedly*) in January, **The Corriegarth** reopened under different management. The staff have been kept on by the new management and the main noticeable change is a new meals menu. They continue to offer 4 well kept ales almost always including **Happy Chappy**.



A new landlord took over the **Glen Nevis Restaurant**, near Fort William last year. It's normally open for the tourist season — March to October. The amazing collection of antique kettles have been carefully stored away by their owners.



The **Dornoch Castle Hotel** is planning a beer festival from the 1st to 4th of September. They have a large garden behind the castle which would be an idyllic beer drinking spot

if the early September weather is as good as it can be.



The Kings Highway, here in Inverness has been awarded a Best Bar None (BBN) for the 3rd year in a row for the Pub Category in Inverness. Mark Phinn and his team won Gold again. 15 other venues across Inverness were also awarded Gold. BBN is organized by Inverness Business Improvement District Ltd. the judging uses national criteria, promoting community safety in licensed leisure venues.

Protecting our Pubs Heritage

One of CAMRA's aims is to protect Britain's Pubs heritage. The "British Pub" is a unique characteristic and is something that many tourists from other countries come looking for among the obvious, historic tourist attractions that Britain has to offer.

In our branch area, we have several pubs that are historically interesting.

CAMRA keeps 2 listings of Heritage pubs. The first listing is the National Inventory of historic pub interiors which are regarded as in the "first division". The 2nd list is the Regional Inventory of Historic Pub Interiors which lists interiors which still have significant Historic or architectural value despite recent alterations.

The Plough Inn, Rosemarkie has been elevated from the RI list to the NI list. This after the large amount of work the new owners have had to do to rescue the building that had been allowed to become al-



most derelict.

The front of the building and the small, horseshoe shaped bar are certainly special. Since it reopened, the Plough has been offering 2 real ales and is usually busy on a Friday and Saturday. Much work is still needed to renovate the whole place but a good start has been made.



The Union Tavern in Fortrose has been listed on the RI. This classic looking, end-terraced, town pub has a black and white theme and reportedly was even more interesting inside just a few years ago. Unfortunately, it doesn't serve real ale.

STOP PRESS! The Union Tavern suffered a fire on Sunday 20th March damaging quite a bit of the interior and even more of the upstairs.

In the branch, we have 2 other pubs on the heritage lists—**The Phoenix Ale House** (for that wonderful, oval bar)

(Continued on page 9)

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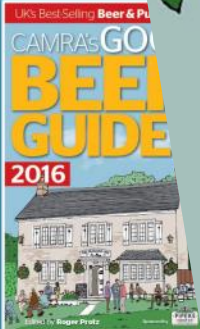
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WORTH BELIEVING IN



(Continued from page 7)

and the **Criterion Bar** in Stornoway (non real ale sadly).



A major revamp has been proposed for the **King's House Hotel** down in Glencoe. This is a unique establishment in the middle of the glen where you get a warm welcome and can almost pet the wild deer that graze close by. The owners, Black Corries Estate, plan to update the landmark building. This includes revamping the interiors, demolishing a 1960s extension, building a hostel on the site and a new wing increasing the number of rooms. The Climbers bar would mostly remain intact.



The Anderson in Fortrose, one of our branch's top pubs is on the market. Over the past 13 years, Jim Anderson and his wife have made the place unique and quirky, gaining many and varied awards locally and nationally. It is a well regarded tourist destination for food and drink.

In January, The Telegraph's Saturday Weekend Supplement featured **The Old Inn** at Carbost in it's "Pint to Pint" column. Good, national publicity for the Isle of Skye pub



which is near the Talisker distillery.



The **Old Bridge Inn**, Aviemore was badly hit by Winter flooding again — about 6 years since the last time. The owners are still in the process of cleaning up and refurbishing (March). The bunkhouse is open as it is a newer building and that bit higher.

We believe Chris at the **Glen Hotel**, Newtonmore held a beer festival in March.

The Phoenix Ale House had a wee tap takeover by **Orkney Brewery** over Easter weekend with live entertainment in the lounge bar.

The Plockton Hotel will be running their Scottish Real Ale & Gin Festival again on 27th to 29th of May. (*see advert*)

Just over our "border" in Brodie, the **Old Mill Inn** should be having their Beer Festival in mid June.

Finally, **Blackfriars** is planning a tap takeover with **Swannay Brewery** in early June "**Swannay's Blackfriar's Swan Song**" (*see advert*).

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More Brewery awards



Cairngorm Brewery has added another one from CAMRA to their huge "library" of awards.



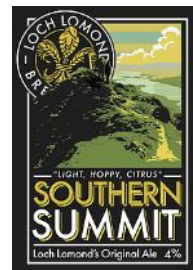
At the CAMRA National Winter Ales Festival held in Derby in February, Cairngorm **Black Gold** was awarded Silver in the stouts category.

Orkney's legendary **Skull Splitter** also won Silver in the Barley Wine/ Strong Old Ales category.



At the SIBA BEERX at Sheffield in March, Loch Lomond were awarded the national, overall champion for **Southern Summit**.

Also at BEERX, Loch Ness Brewery won the award for Best Branding.



The Benleva

Craft Beer Hotel



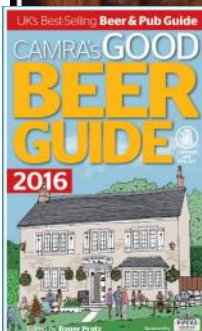
Home of the Loch Ness Brewery

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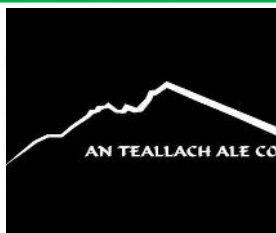
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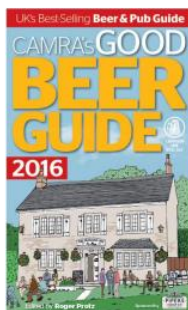
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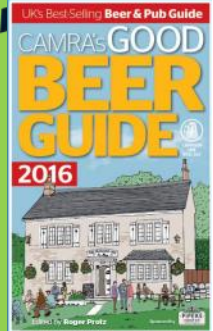
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Local Real Ale now available on Cyprus

(This is an abridged version of a "press release" from CAMRA supporters of the brewery)

THE YORKSHIRE-FAMILY-OWNERS of the Paphos-based Aphrodite's Rock Microbrewery & Brewpub, the first licensed microbrewery in Cyprus, tell CAMRA the incredible story of how they overcame years of the former administration's rampant bureaucracy to start their brewery.

Why Did You Decide to Start a Microbrewery in Cyprus?

William Ginn, 'Bill', said, "I'm a Chartered Engineer in the oil industry and have travelled all my life. We wanted to start a family business and saw real potential to establish a microbrewery in beautiful Paphos where we had happily settled along with many other British expatriates.

Melanie, our daughter, studied in Sunderland as one of a growing band of British women brewers. Then, in 2010, we prepared a full business plan for CIPA, the Cyprus Investment Promotion Agency, who agreed to assist us. We didn't enter into this lightly nor, knowing Cyprus, did we expect things to be easy but no market research, business plan or MBA could have prepared us for the government nightmare to follow..."

"We found an old defunct winery in a lush green valley in the hills above Paphos. The size was perfect plus it was full of charm and character with all permits as a 'winery'. CIPA said the 'Change of Use' application to 'brewery', "... should be straightforward". It was, however, Easter 2012, eighteen months of continuous and largely unnecessary work later, before our thick dossier of documentation was complete. We were assured all was in order and we "... should receive the Permit to Brew in a week". Imagine our shock on receiving notification from Nicosia not with our promised Permit to Brew but with further demands, then further and



then still further unreasonable and, often, impossible demands.

It must be said that Jean, my wife, and I were treated very badly during these years and our health undoubtedly suffered. It turned out that CIPA was, in fact, powerless to help. It almost felt as if there was a deliberate attempt by the government to drive us out of Cyprus for some reason!

People of Yorkshire stock don't give up easily and despite further, ridiculous demands they persevered, eventually having to take their case to the European Parliament and the European Commission.

"After nearly four years of struggles our Permit to Brew was finally granted with the resident Inspector and bond requirements dropped." Bill said, "After all those years of Cyprus bureaucracy, I nearly called our Irish Red Ale 'Red Tape'!" He added, "Finally, however, we can say that a holiday in the 'Med' no longer condemns CAMRA real ale drinkers to long days of bland, commercial lagers. Cheap flights and low cost accommodation make even a long weekend break possible so come to our little oasis in Paphos in 2016 and have a few great days with us!"

Aphrodite's Rock Microbrewery & Brewpub Today

"Aphrodite's Rock Microbrewery & Brewpub is in a lovely old winery 15 minutes from Paphos surrounded by beautiful olive groves and grape vine terraces. You and your family can take in the views sat in the traditional stone courtyard shaded by walnut, hazelnut and mulberry trees and also enjoy regular live entertainment staged for your pleasure. The kitchen offers delicious, great value-for-money meals plus authentic hand-stretched Italian pizzas baked-to-order in an Italian wood-fired oven. Portions are generous - come hungry, you won't leave that way!" Bill said.

Despite its stunning location, great restaurant and warm ambience, Aphrodite's Rock Microbrewery & Brewpub is still, first-and-foremost, a microbrewery. Quality real ales and real ciders with real character are brewed by Head Brewer, Melanie, and her team for tourists and residents alike. You can also join the highly popular, informative and complimentary Brewery Tour held every Monday to Friday after lunch. This is an idyllic and inexpensive Mediterranean venue.

Holidaymakers visiting Paphos will enjoy a great, low-cost 'sun, sea & sand' holiday on golden beaches beside the crystal-clear Medi-

terranean Sea as well as experiencing some amazing historical sites in one of the safest overseas tourist destinations available in these troubled times.

The family's tenacity and determination to bring this much demanded microbrewery to fruition in Cyprus is to be commended. Institutional problems continue for them but they say the support and solidarity shown by fellow CAMRA members, and friends & family, visiting them in Paphos is a great help. Our mission is to let it be seen that British microbreweries overseas that are fighting to push back the frontiers of real ale in Europe are not alone but stand shoulder-to-shoulder with 175,000 CAMRA members.

Aphrodite's Rock Microbrewery & Brewpub Opening Hours:

- Monday – Saturday: 11.30am – 10.00pm (breakfast from 9.30am)
- Sunday Roast: 12.00noon – 4.00pm

Contact Information:

- Address: Polis Road, Tsada, Paphos 8540, Cyprus
- Phone number: [\(00 357\) 26 101446](tel:0035726101446)

Email: info@aphroditesrock.com.cy and info@cyprusbrewpub.com



A wee bit out of our branch area! but an illustration of worthwhile, human tenacity and great to hear about the spread of Real Ale to remote areas with the support of CAMRA.

Photo and graphic from the Aphrodite's Rock's website.





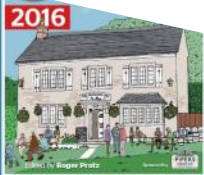
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Branch Breweries News

As part of CAMRA's support for real ale and real ale breweries, volunteers from among the branch membership can be Brewery Liaison Officers. BLOs keep in contact with "their" brewery, encouraging and if appropriate, advising.

BLOs are asked to make a progress report to CAMRA every 3 months, via the CAMRA website.

In Highlands & Western Isles branch, we now have 13 or 14 breweries.

More new breweries are starting up in our branch area so for page space and our ability to gather news, we are having to concentrate on just our branch area.

Other CAMRA branch magazines publish news from their breweries written by the breweries themselves. This is **free publicity** to the very customer base that you want to appeal to.

Some of our breweries don't even have a CAMRA member on their staff but we would be happy to take any news you care to pass on to us—see the contact info on the diary page.

Cromarty Brewing Co:

(from Craig's brewery web site blog)

It's been a busy start to the year for us up here in Cromarty but we've still managed to squeeze out a few new brews in time for

March. First up is **WHITEOUT**, our seriously hopped up session white IPA. Brewed with modern classic hops such as Citra, Motueka and Mosaic this is one for the hopheads. Couple this with a smooth



wheat backbone and at 3.8% makes this the perfect thirst quencher. We packaged **Whiteout** into Keg (unfiltered and un-fined) and Cask so we can see how it suits both.

Also on the cards, we have re-brewed our American brown winter

ale **HUSKY BROWN**. A liberal use of chocolate malt blended together with Chinook and Sorachi Ace hops make this a very interesting combo. Smooth chocolate and citrus zest up front followed by a luscious coconut finish. This is racked into casks and will be in kegs shortly. Unfortunately we haven't done any bottles of these.

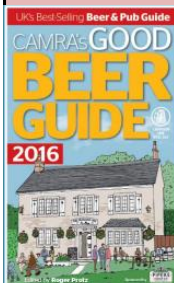


the Old Bridge Inn - Aviemore

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.

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Hopefully, we will have been able to try **Husky Brown** at the Bandstand Festival. **Rogue Wave** in 330 ml bottles was hot off the shelves in Aldi during their Spring Scottish Beer Festival.



Black Isle Brewing Company;

Continuing to try experiments on the 5 BBL pilot kit. They had a brewery tap take over at the Brandling Villa pub in Gosforth Upon Tyne, North East England in February. The photo on Twitter showed 10 Black Isle beer clips and they all seemed to be on hand pumps which implies they were cask ales. That would have been a fabulous effort and very well done. Work has started on their venue in Church Street beside the Kings Highway.



the same place, in the Acoustic tent with Julie's cocktails in the far top corner of the field.

Cairngorm Brewery;

The brewery is as busy as ever. No changes or news to report apart from adding more awards for their excellent beers. **Caillie** was in Aldi's Spring Scottish Beer Festival. *Notice I haven't mentioned Deenos this edition Doh! I just have!*



Cuillin Brewery;



Nothing new reported this quarter. Just contentedly brewing and selling their beers.

Loch Ness Brewery;

First shipment has gone off to Estonia – **Lager, HoppyNESS** and **SmokieNESS**.



Cask **GoldenNESS** has been well received in the USA.

A large order went down for a meet the brewer at The Devonshire Cat in Sheffield. Steve Crossland was there to talk to the enthusiastic crowd.

Loch Ness Brewery were represented at the Monaco Whisky Conference with beer tastings as well as an introduction to their latest product **Freeburn** – a 7% ale aged in Tomatin Whisky casks.

Freeburn had it's UK launch at The Fiddlers in Drumnadrochit in March. The re-branding has been well received around the world.

Loch Ness will again have a bar in Stornoway at the HebCelt Music Festival in July. There will be 6 different casks on at a time plus some Loch Ness Cider. Probably in

Hebridean Brewing Company Ltd;

Nothing new heard this quarter but they had their famous **Berserker** (7.5%) on the Aldi Spring Scottish Beer Festival.



An Teallach Ale Co;

Nothing new heard from this secretive brewery BUT, it looks like they have re-branded as you can see from the new brewery logo. New versions of their pump clips have been spotted in the Phoenix. Looking at their Twitter page, they are keeping busy. They



had a marquee at the Loopallu festival last September featuring 7 of their ales. At the end of last year, they continued their expansion by building a large new storage shed for stock and bottles. **Crofters Pale Ale** was in Aldi's Spring Scottish beer Festival.



Isle of Skye Brewing Co;

The shop at the brewery has been refurbished and expanded ready for the new season.

The new warehouse build at the back of the

brewery is coming along slowly. The brewery is flat out with orders.

Tarasgeir was on Aldi's Spring Scottish Beer Festival. This smoked, 4%, balanced, amber beer seems to have been a one-off brew back in 2011 so is a rarity and worth seeking out looking at on-line reviews.



Plockton Brewery;

Nothing new reported this quarter but hopefully Andy is happily brewing.



Old Inn Brewhouse;

No News. The 100 litre, micro brewery which is housed behind the **Old Inn at Gairloch** and when

they have brewed some, it can be tried in the bar.



Glenfinnan Brewery;

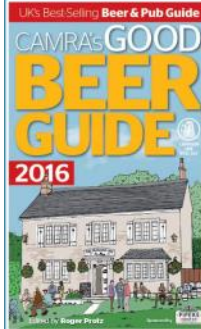
No News. Another of our small, remote, Highland breweries. Apart from travelling to Glenfinnan, the most accessible place to try their ales is the Grog and Gruel. No BLO - anyone in that area? Anyone at all?

BEYOND REAL ALE

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- 001 BEER GEEK OWNER
- 004 HANDPUMPS
- 035 MIKKELLERS
- 110 BELGIANS
- 260 MALTS



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River Leven Ales

No news to report but hopefully Harry is happily brewing and delivering.



WooHa Brewing Company (Nairn)

From Alan Milton, Sales Manager (and new CAMRA branch member!);



December 2015 - Montbeliard, France - we spent 4 weeks at the 3rd

largest Christmas market in France. Scotland was the 'guest of honour' at the market and we were one of 11 Scottish companies there. It was a huge success for us; so much so Heather & Dave had to complete an emergency beer run in the big purple van - a 3,800km round trip in 3 days. In total we sold around 7 pallets of beers - the highlights for the French taste being WooHa **Wheat** and WooHa **Porter**.

January 2016 - We took delivery of our new 20 barrel FV tank. It was a squeeze getting it in but with the additional capacity it brings us well worth the effort.

February 2016 - Awards - WooHa was nominated for the HSBC Export Awards for Emerging Start-Up Exporter. The awards are on 23 March 2016.

March 2016 Barcelona. We headed to meet our Spanish importer at the Barcelona Beer Festival. A nice event in the Maritime Museum with over 350 beers on tap to try. There was a good mix of beers from around the globe including Scottish, Belgian, German US, Nordic and, of course, Spanish. Styles were varied and covered a whole spectrum including quite a few Trappist, many wheat and a number

of high ABV's by the 20cl glass.

North-Hop Edinburgh. The team took the time to attend North Hop at the Assembly Rooms in Edinburgh for two sessions on Saturday, 05 March. This was an excellent opportunity to showcase our portfolio to the good citizens of Edinburgh. New York Trade & Tasting Event, New York. We will be attending the New York Trade & Tasting Event to promote WooHa brand awareness and beers. This is a precursor for the Philadelphia.

April 2016 - April sees WooHa make it's first appearance at some Historic Scotland sites around the country. Namely, Edinburgh Castle - where the team will be hosting a number of tastings through the summer months, Fort George at Ardesier and Urquhart Castle on Loch Ness. BBC Good Food Show - Harrogate. WooHa will be attending the BBC Good Food Show in Harrogate from the 8-10 April. We will be the only Brewery at the show which should have an estimated attendance of around 15,000. A great opportunity to introduce our beers to the North of England.

Now, that is what you call a brewery update! Obviously very busy spreading the word. The mention of squeezing the new fermenting vessel in adds to the "word" that their units in the Balmakeith Business Park are at bursting point.

John O'Groats Brewery

They have had to source more casks and are finding demand is outstripping supply. So far they have almost settled on 2 ales; **First Footing** at 4.4%; "The first brew performed on the new brewery kit and handi-



ly just ready in time to welcome the New Year in. Cascade and Northern Brewer hops are combined with Amber malted barley grains to start 2016 off on a good note.” and **Golden Groat** at 4% which they were still tweaking the recipe for.

They have a delivery van and have been selling various sizes of glass flagons to allow customers to take their ale home to enjoy.

Liquid Mountain (Beauly)

Lots of planning, buying and designing going on — as you can see, they have a brewery logo now. Possibly even changing plans to a different site for the brewery! By the looks of their Twitter page (*do you get pages on Twitter? Am I being a bit “FaceAche” about this?*) they are doing some sample brewing of great beers. Lots of communication and networking with other, local breweries.



Glen Mhor

Nothing new since last edition so presumably Jon and Victoria Erasmus have people working on preparations for demolition and then building the brewery and café.



(artists impression of the building on the riverfront—more sketches are available on the BBC web site reporting on the project.) They are planning to create 12 jobs and they hope to begin building in the autumn of this year.

Volunteers Needed for CAMRA Festivals!

As you can see in this issue there are a couple of poster adverts for forthcoming Beer Festivals in Scotland. Volunteers are wanted to make these events run smoothly, so if you are available, even just for a day or 2, please make yourself known.

Although there is a lot of heavy work involved, there are some tasks/posts that are less physically demanding; pre-fest (getting sponsors, programme, advertising, poster drops etc); during set up (stuffing glasses, glass washing etc); during opening times (entry, treasurer, cloakroom etc).

As The Scottish Real Ale Festival is a National event there is some free accommodation available if you work quite a few hours. You also get free beer (within reason) and a festival shirt at most events.

(Not this one—this is a t-shirt that can be ordered from the CAMRA web shop.)



Keeping It Real





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NEWTONMORE

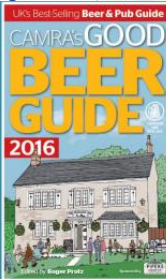
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4 Real Ales on Tap



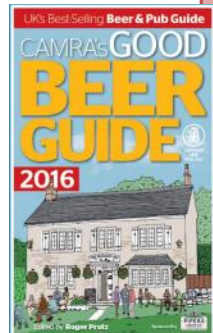
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Real Ale Pubs List

These Pubs, Inns and Hotels are known to sell (or to have recently sold) cask-conditioned ale.

They are listed in geographical area and area lists are in an order that would allow a continuous pub crawl if you have safe transport.

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 basis (S).

(TP) - ale served using top pressure so not fully real ale.

Additional note in *italics* gives discounts for card carrying CAMRA members .

Inverness

Blackfriars
Caledonian
Castle Tavern
Clachnaharry Inn
Corrigarth Hotel
Fairways Loch Ness Golf Course
Gellions
Glen Mhor Hotel (Nicos Bar)
Heathmount Hotel
Hootananny
Innes Bar
Johnny Foxes
Kings Highway *JDW 50p — which has a CAMRA info board near the main entrance*
Lauders
Mercure Hotel (Arts Bar) (TP)
Number 27
Palace Hotel (S)
Phoenix Ale House
Room
Snowgoose
Tomlinson's Beer Shop
Waterfront

Strathspey (route from N to S) Speyside

Gun Lodge — Ardersier
Inverness Airport (D'Lish)
Golf View Hotel & Spa (TP) - Nairn
Braeval Hotel (Bandstand) - Nairn
10% off rooms
Cawdor Tavern *20%/pint*
Haugh Hotel — Cromdale
Craig Bar — Grantown on Spey
Garth Hotel and Restaurant —
Grantown on Spey
Grant Arms Hotel — Grantown on
Spey
Seafeld Lodge Hotel (Lodge Bar) -
Grantown on Spey
Muckrach Lodge Hotel — Dulnain
Bridge

Boat Hotel — Boat of Garten
Cairn Hotel (Rowanlea Bar) -
Carrbridge *20p/pint*

Aviemore

Macdhui's
Cairngorm Brewery
Cairngorm Hotel
Dalfaber Country Club
Mackenzies Highland Inn
Old Bridge Inn
Roo's Leap
Skiing Doo (Doo Below)
Winking Owl *20p/pint*
Hilton Coylumbridge Hotel
(Woodshed Bar)
Pine Marten Bar — Glenmore

Badenoch

Glenmore Lodge (Lochain Bar)
Loch Inch Boathouse (Quarter Deck
Bar) - Kincaig
Suie Hotel — Kincaig
Kingussie Golf Club
Topsy Laird — Kingussie ???
Scot House Hotel—Kingussie
Duke of Gordon Hotel (Ghillies Rest
Bar) - Kingussie
Glen Hotel - Newtonmore *20p/pint*

Easter Ross

Black Isle

Royal Hotel — Cromarty
Cromarty Arms
Plough Inn — Rosemarkie *20p/ pint*
Anderson — Fortrose *B&B deal*
Station Hotel — Avoch
Allangrange Arms - Munloch *20p/ pint*

Inverness to Dingwall

Bog Roy — Inchmore
Conon Bridge Hotel
Edderton Inn (Hotel)
Inchbae Lodge Hotel — Garve
Aultguish Inn — Garve,

Strathconon

Slaters Arms — Cannich
Struy Inn

Loch Ness (c/w from Inverness)

Dores Inn
Craigdarroch Inn - Foyers
Whitebridge Hotel
Stravaigers Lodge — Fort Augustus
Bothy Bar — Fort Augustus
Caledonian Hotel (S) - Fort Augustus
Lock Inn — Fort Augustus
Lovat Arms Hotel (TP) — Fort Augustus
Glenmorrison Arms Hotel—
Invermorrison
Loch Ness Inn - Lewiston
Benleva Hotel — Drumnadrochit
Loch Ness Lodge (S) — Drum.

Fort William

Fort William (North)

Invergarry Hotel
Great Glen Water Park — South
Laggan
Eagle Barge (S) - South Laggan
Old Station Restaurant — Spean
Bridge
Stronlossit Hotel — Roy Bridge
Corrour Station House Restaurant
(restaurant) — Corrour Estate

Fort William (Town)

Moorings Hotel - Banavie
Ben Nevis Bar
Ben Nevis Inn — Achintee
Cobbs @ Nevisport
Crofter Bar & Restaurant
Glen Nevis Restaurant (S)
Grog & Gruel
Great Glen *JDW 50p*
West End Hotel

Fort William (South)

Four Seasons - Onich *10p/pint*

Real Ale Pubs List

Onich Hotel
Loch Leven Hotel - Ballachulish
Glencoe Inn
Clachaig Inn - Glencoe
Kings House Hotel - Glencoe
Ice Factor - Kinlochleven
MacDonald Hotel - Kinlochleven

Fort William (West)

Glenfinnan House Hotel
Glenug Inn
Glenug Village Hall
Loch Shiel Hotel - Acharacle
Salen Hotel
Ariundle Centre — Strontian
Arisaig Hotel (Crofters Rest)
Chlachain Inn — Mallaig
Steam Inn — Mallaig
West Highland Hotel (S) - Mallaig
Old Forge — Inverie

Wester Ross & Gairloch

Cluanie to Kyle of Lochalsh

Cluanie Inn
Glenelg Inn
Kintail Lodge Hotel (Kintail Bar) -
Glenshiel Bridge
Jac-o-bite Restaurant —
Glenshiel
Dornie Hotel
Clachan Bar — Dornie

Plocton to Gairloch

Plocton Inn
Plocton Hotel
Strathcarron Hotel
Lochcarron Hotel
Applecross Inn (TP)
Tigh an Eilean Hotel — Shieldaig
Torridon Inn (TP) — Annat
Kinlochewe Hotel
Ledgowan Lodge Hotel —
Achnasheen
Loch Maree Hotel — Talladale
Badachro Inn (TP)

Gairloch

Old Inn
Myrtle Bank Hotel
Millcroft Hotel

Gairloch to Ullapool

Poolewe Hotel

Aultbae Hotel (Jam Jar Bar)
Drumchork Hotel (S) - Aultbea
Dundonnell Hotel (Broombeg
Bar)

Ullapool

Arch Inn
Argyll Hotel *20p/pint, B&B deal*
Ceilidh Place (TP)
Ferry Boat Inn *20p/pint, B&B
deal*

Morefield Motel
Seaforth Bar & Restaurant

Ullapool North

Summer Isles Hotel —
Achiltibuie

Caithness and Sutherland

West Coast

Altnacealgach Inn — Ledmore
Junction
Inchnadamh Hotel (S) - Assynt
Caberfeidh — Lochinver
Kylesku Hotel (S)
Scourie Hotel ?? (new owners)

North Coast

Sango Sands Oasis (S) - Durness
Smoo Cave Hotel (S) - Durness
Ben Loyal Hotel (S) - Tongue
Tongue Hotel (S)
Weigh Inn (Ashes Bar) - Thurso
Commercial Hotel - Thurso
Central Hotel (Top Joes) - Thurso
Holburn Hotel (Bar 16) - Thurso
Ulster Arms Hotel (S) - Halkirk
Northern Sands Hotel — Dunnet
Seaview Hotel — John O'Groats

East Coast

Alexander Bain — Wick *JDW 50p*
Mackays Hotel - Wick
Bay Owl Restaurant — Dunbeath
Bannockburn Inn (TP) - Helmsdale
Belgrave Arms Hotel — Helmsdale
Sutherland Inn — Brora
Golspie Inn
Trentham Hotel — Poles, nr Dornoch
Eagle Hotel — Dornoch
Dornoch Castle Hotel
Dunroamin Hotel — Bonar
Bridge
Invershin Hotel

Achness Hotel — Rosehall (SW
of Lairg)
Crask Inn — N of Lairg

Skye

Sligachan Hotel (Seumas' Bar) (S)
Old Inn — Carbost
Taigh Ailean Hotel (Munros Bar)
- Portnalong *20p/pint & B&B
deal*
Old School Restaurant (S) - Dunvegan
Stein Inn — Watnish
Edinbane Inn
Lodge at Edinbane
Uig Hotel
Bakur Bar — Uig
Ferry Inn — Uig
Flodigarry Country House Hotel—Staffin
Bosville Hotel - Portree
Isles Inn — Portree
Royal Hotel (MacNab's Inn) -
Portree
Sconser Lodge Hotel
Broadford Hotel (Gabbro Bar)
Dunollie Hotel - Broadford
Claymore Restaurant — Broadford
Hebridean Hotel - Broadford
Saucy Marys Lodge (S) - Kyleakin
Isle Ornsay Hotel - Sleat
Ardvasar Hotel (Hideout Bar)

Western Isles N to S

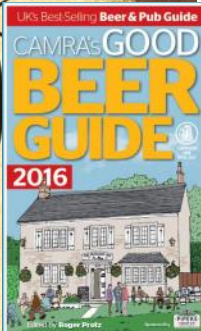
An Lanntair Arts Centre - Stornoway, Lewis (S)
Carlton, Stornoway, Lewis
Crown Inn (Harbour Bar) - Stornoway
Hotel Hebrides (Mote Bar) (S) -
Tarbet, Harris
Isle of Harris Inn (S) - Tarbet,
Harris
Hammersay House — Lochmaddy,
N Uist
Lochmaddy Hotel - N Uist
Langass Lodge (S) - Loch Elport,
N Uist
Westford Inn, Claddach, Kirki-
bost, N Uist
Borrodale Hotel (S) - Daliburgh, S
Uist
Polochar Inn — Lochboisdale, S
Uist (S)



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Winking Owl is the site of the Aviemore Inn where Robbie Burns was served breakfast in 1787!

Xmas walkabout

2015 report

As usual now, the Xmas walkabout was a great success and the weather was kind. This is our branch's annual pub crawl, on a Tuesday night roughly the week before Christmas.

This year, we made a change to the start and finish pubs. We started in the **Innes Bar** on, funnily enough, Innes street. They had made an extra effort for us and had a decent Theakstons' **Old Peculier** on. At 5.6% a strong start to the night (*but of course not as strong as it should be—it should be a huge 7.2% - as it was when I occasionally enjoyed it in The Prince Of Wales in Aberdeen in the 80s. That's the true, legendary Old Peculier ale—not this modern, pale imitation! ... rant over.*)

Eventually, there were over 30 of us and we began to disperse to other pubs in groups.

Many chose the **Phoenix Ale House** next which had a good selection: Swannay's **Orkney Best**, a lovely Cromarty **Atlantic Drift**, Loch Ness **LightNESS** and **RedNESS**, the new Spey Valley **Spey Stout** and An Teallach **Crofters Pale Ale**.

Across the road in **Blackfriars**, Del offered Cromarty **Kowanbunga** and **Ghost Town**, Orkney **Red MacGregor**, a lovely Swannay **Christmas Light** and Loch Ness **SaaziNESS**. Many of us then tried the **Kings Highway** where we tried the new ale from An Teallach; **Fuar** a 4.2% winter ale with blueberries in the recipe. This was the first pub of the night to feature Orkney **Clottie Dumping** but they also had Black Wolf **Tundra** and **Bad Santa**, An Teallach's **Ale**, Ruddles **Best**, Green King's **Abbot Ale**, Fuller's **London Pride** and Adnams **Broadside**. One of our number thinks that all 10 handpumps were in use that night—a very unusual event even during a Wetherspoons beer festival!

Up and across Church Street to **Hootanans**, almost the only place in Inverness—at

the moment—where you will find Black Isle beers, to enjoy an excellent **Yellowhammer** and a good **Red Kite**.

Gellions are doing real ale now and were offering a decent Cromarty **Happy Chappy** and Charles Well's **A Good Stuffing**.

No. 27, almost the Windswept tap in Inverness, had good Windswept **Weizen** and **Wolf** and a flat Speyside Craft Brewery **Bottlenose Bitter**.

Up to the **Castle Tavern** to enjoy a lovely An Teallach **Hector**, Strathaven **Claverhouse**, Speyside Craft **Dark Side**, Cairngorm **White Lady**, Inveralmond **Thrappledouser** and Cromarty **Red Rocker**.

The finish post was in sight at the **Corriegarth** where we had paid for a buffet to be put on for those who made it. They did us proud with a lovely spread of sandwiches, sausage rolls, etc and even a good, warming soup. The beers there for us to try were Charles Wells' **A Good Stuffing**, Inveralmond **Ossian**, a lovely Orkney **Dark Island** and of course, a lovely Cromarty **Happy Chappy**.

One of our more ambitious (and fit) members made the trek to **The Palace Hotel** which, as usual, was fruitless as they only have an Isle of Skye ale on sometimes during the summer tourist season.

Nico's at the Glen Mhor was also beer-less. (Well done Keith!)

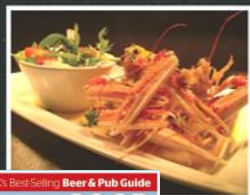
Some people tried **The Waterfront** which usually has a Cairngorm ale on but it was just closing—at about 9 pm! A shame but also a sign of the times when pubs are struggling for enough customers.

Quite a few of us tried Lauders which still has 1 handpump dispensing a good Orkney **Red MacGregor**.

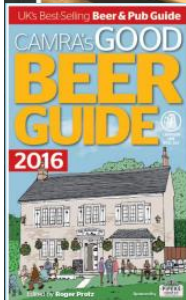
The **Heathmount** had 2 handpumps on as usual but nobody reported them.

A great and informative pub crawl as usual—almost everyone that started, made it to the Corriegarth, spurred on by the promise of free food probably!

Well done everyone who participated and a special **Thank You** to Rebecca and her staff at the **Corriegarth**.



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- ROGUE WAVE** (5.7%)
- BREWED AWAKENING** (4.7%)
- HIT THE LIP** (3.8%)
- GHOST TOWN** (5.8%)
- RED ROCKER** (5%)

WEB: cromartybrewing.co.uk

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Around Loch Ness

9 of us enjoyed a relaxed Beer Bus trip on Easter Saturday. Gathering at the scaffold enshrouded townhouse as usual, the faithful, Fraser's of Munloch minibus arrived spot on time.

A gentle drive down the A82 in the damp, gray weather took us to The Benleva where Steve had opened the bar early for us. It was well worth it. Steve gave us a taste of the new collaboration between Loch Ness Brewery and COBBS bakery; **Beer Today, Scone Tomorrow** (baked scone ale), 4%. It includes scones from COBBS in the brew mash. The beer is, of course, sweet especially in the aftertaste but it is malty and bitter in the taste. It will be available in bottles particularly in licenced COBBS cafes. We had plenty of time so between us, we enjoyed **GoldenNESS, LightNESS, LochNESS, Swannay Island Hopping** and **Pale Ale** and from Black Hole Brewery in Burton, **No Escape** a 5.2% dark ale which was lovely and reminded me of an alcoholic liquid treacle. All were in top condition—a great start to our ale trail.

A short drive through the lower part of Drumnadrochit took us to the Loch Ness Inn where in the Brewery bar (the building was partly a brewery once upon a time) we had very nice **LightNESS** and **LochNESS**. It was heartening to see the Loch Ness Inn doing well.

Arriving at the Glenmoriston Hotel we were pleasantly surprised to find a very drinkable Orkney **Red MacGregor**.

Down to Fort Augustus to find that Chris hadn't opened the Caledonian Hotel for the season yet so it was down to The Bothy which was packed with lunchtime diners. Colin Valentine had been in 2 weeks previously and really enjoyed it. We managed to squeeze in Isle of Skye **Skye Red** and Loch Ness **LightNESS** before going along to The Lock Inn which still offers their house badged **Tetley Bitter** which was in very good nick. The barman let us know that Inveralmond **Ossian** would be on that evening so even better. On the down side, this was the most expensive ale of the day.

Up the canal locks to the Canalside Chip shop

for some much needed nosh and then through the throngs of tourists to the car park which was packed with cars and more than 10 tourist coaches. OK, it was Easter weekend and so the start of the tourist season but Fort Augustus was amazingly busy.

Up the South side of Loch Ness to the Whitebridge Hotel. Reassuringly, this classic old lodge house stays the same although now has 3 handpumps on in the summer. **Happy Chappy** was in good nick and **Trade Winds** was also in great condition. Loch Ness **CaithNESS** was waiting to go on but needed a few more hours to settle. We took our time at the Whitebridge but time was moving so down to Foyers.

Up the track to The Craigdarroch Inn to sup a very nice Loch Ness **CaithNESS**. They had another ale on as well but memory was getting fuzzy by then! The outlook from the Craigdarroch is breathtaking but we had to get on to our last stop of the day.

The Dores Inn which for the Easter Weekend was running an "outDores" DJ music event behind the Inn. 4 handpumps were on and active dispensing well kept **Happy Chappy, Scapa Special, Tradewinds** and **GoldenNESS**.

The weather was brightening up here and along with the ales and the location, gave us a great finish to the day.

Another bus beer trip where we didn't have a bad ale all day—again, very heartening to find places that are keeping and serving real ale better.

Back to Inverness and maybe we are getting old or maybe we are getting wise but rather than decamp to one of our favourite Inverness pubs, it was home and a quiet night to remember and look forward to the next trip — **in September to Skye!**

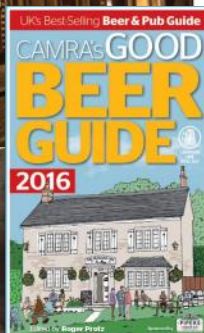
It really is a good way to spend a day—being driven from pub to pub to enjoy good ale with good company.

For 2 of our party, Mike and John, it was their first H&WI beer bus trip and they really enjoyed it.

A thank you to our driver for a good day and to Steve Crossland for giving us our good start.

The King's Highway

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SRAF

Scottish Real Ale Festival 2016

CAMRA (the Campaign for Real Ale) is delighted to announce that its Scottish Real Ale Festival will be back at the Corn Exchange again this year, the venue that has been our home since 2012. We hope to add to the success of previous years with a selection of over 170 real ales, not only representing/featuring our popular and well established breweries but also the many new breweries springing up across Scotland. There will also be a selection of real ciders with excitingly, an emphasis on Scottish producers.

And if that's not enough, then add musical entertainment nightly, a great choice of food, traditional pub games, CAMRA products, our popular "Win a Tee Shirt" competition and much more.

There's never been a better time to try Scottish real ales, so come and enjoy them under one great roof – and outdoors, weather permitting!

We will be open for your real ale pleasure

Thursday 7th July from 12 – 10.30pm
Friday 8th July from 12 – 10.30pm
Saturday 9th July from 12 – 10.30pm



Branch Pubs of the Year 2016

The winners for our 7 branch areas this year are:

Inverness: **Phoenix Ale House**

Badenoch & Strathspey: **Bandstand Bar** at The Braeval Hotel, Nairn

Easter Ross and Loch Ness: **The Benleva**, Drumnadrochit

Fort William: **The Clachaig Inn**, Glencoe

Wester Ross and Gairloch: **Plockton Hotel**, Plockton

Caithness & Sutherland: **Dornoch Castle Hotel**, Dornoch

Skye & Western Isles: **Stein Inn**, Waternish, Skye

Congratulations and Well Done to all the winners. Thank you to all who voted. Each winner will receive a CAMRA Award Certificate—eventually.

STOP PRESS!!

The committee scored the winners and the overall Branch POTY 2016 is ... **The Benleva!**



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May is CAMRA's Cider promotion month

If you saw a recent food programme on TV, you will now know that many of the mass produced "ciders" are basically "alco-pops".

CAMRA campaigns

for real cider and perry



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REAL ALE



Real cider and perry grows on trees

Real cider and perry is made from 100%

fresh apple and pear juice;

not artificially gassed up or processed

Visit camra.org.uk/ciderpubs to find real cider and perry pubs

Traditional Cider Matters



Real Cider and/or Real Perry is sold (or has recently been sold) in the following inns & 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)

Benleva Hotel, Drumnadrochit - Thatcher's Heritage Cider all year round, plus bottled ciders, including Loch Ness Cider and selection of real ciders for festivals

Scourie Hotel - Two Westons Ciders on handpump

King's Highway, Inverness - Real Cider is on draft during their 2 beer festivals each year

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 ciders are usually always available—more during festivals

Torridon Inn - Westons Ciders are served in the bar

Kinlochewe Hotel, at the foot of Beinn Eighe, is serving Westons Family Reserve Draft Cider

Clachaig Inn, Glencoe - Westons cider on hand pump.

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

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

Blackfriars - Thistle Cross ' Jaggy Thistle— the real scrumpy cider.



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ScottishRealAleFestival



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Stein Inn

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Highland & Western Isles branch POTY 2015

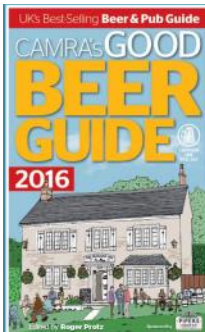
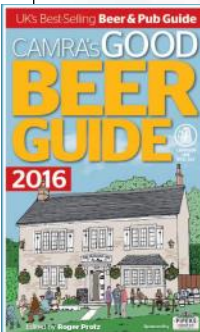
Magical places do exist ... just journey down a narrow winding road that leads to the sea and nestled in a charming hamlet is the very place of your dream: the Stein Inn.

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Complete the Direct Debit form 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 the: Membership Department, CAMRA, 230 Hatfield Road, St Albans, AL1 4LW.

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Title _____ Surname _____ Single Membership £24 £26
 Forename(s) _____ (UK & EU)
 Date of Birth (dd/mm/yyyy) _____ Joint Membership £29.50 £31.50
 Address _____ (Partner at the same address)

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

Partner's Details (if Joint Membership)

Title _____ Surname _____ I enclose a cheque for _____
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 Date of Birth (dd/mm/yyyy) _____ Applications will be processed within 21 days
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01/15

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To the Manager Bank or Building Society

Address

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Name(s) of Account Holder

Bank or Building Society Account Number Branch Sort Code

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

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Please pay Campaign For Real Ale Limited Direct Debits from the account detailed on this instruction subject to the safeguards outlined by the Direct Debit Guarantee. I understand that the instructions may remain with Campaign For Real Ale Limited and it will be passed electronically to my bank/building society.

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* This Guarantee is offered by all banks and building societies that accept instructions to pay by Direct Debit.

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Focus on

Paul McAllister

Currys.

Q. How were you introduced to real ale?



Paul McAllister has taken over as the new Chairman of the Highlands and Western Isles Branch of CAMRA. He lives in Inverness.

Q. Where are you originally from?

A. I'm originally from Fife and was an active member of the Fife branch until I moved up here.

Q. What do you do for a living?

A. I'm an agency driver. Currently my main contract is with KnowHow delivering and installing white goods for

A. That's a difficult one as my memory doesn't go back that far. I was a member of the Edinburgh and South Fife Branch until we decided to start our own branch in Fife so must have been when I was at college many many moons ago.

Q. What are your favourite real ales/beer styles?

A. I prefer the darker more complex beers but some of the new lighter styles are very good... in a nutshell if

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it's wet and tasty, I'll try it.

Q. What do you look for in a pub?

A. The bar is always a good start! Seriously, any bar with a good mix of locals, friendly folk.

Q. What hobbies/interests do you have?

A. My main hobby has to be motor-bike racing. Although I've been unable to compete for a couple of years due to a knee injury. I also like rugby and hill walking and camping.

Q. What is your favourite film?

A. I enjoy horror and thriller films.

Q. What is your favourite book?

A. I could say the Good Beer Guide but that would be obvious! I read mainly thrillers but any thing I can get my teeth into will do.

Q. What is your favourite singer/group?

A. Don't really have a favourite as I listen to a wide variety of stuff. Mainly rock with a little blues thrown in.

Q. What is your favourite part of Scotland?

A. The Highlands of course. Especially the west coast.

Q. What is your vision for the Branch?

A. To see the branch going forward by increasing the reach into the outlying areas.

Paul, Thank you and Good Luck.

Gossip Column

Not much to tell this edition as it has been Winter and the quiet spell has been really quiet after a busy Christmas period.

Wooha has a new assistant brewer called Dan. Dan replaces Heather's previous assistant brewer who has gone back to Aberdeen where his family are. He has been inspired by Heather and is considering starting his own brewery in the Aberdeen area.

Black Isle Brewery have got another new assistant brewer. This young man is from Germany so, perhaps, he has some previous experience and expertise in brewing and adhering to the traditional Reinheitsgebot – old German Beer Purity Law.

Dan of Liquid Mountain is turning out a variety of interesting and experimental sample brews. Some of them are very good indeed. Once Dan and his wife Morenys settle on a plan, it could be interesting.

More breweries are using 330 ml bottles now which, like anything, has it's critics and supporters.



THE FERRY BOAT INN

ULLAPOOL



UNDER NEW
MANAGEMENT

NIGEL & FRANNER
OF THE ARGYLL HOTEL
IN ULLAPOOL
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FOR WELL-KEPT REAL ALES ON
FOUR HAND PULLS PLUS THE
LAUNCH OF THE



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Aberdeen CAMRA 30th Beer Festival

atmosphere but was difficult for the set-up team as it was on two floors with a lot of stairs and no lift so involved a lot of carrying heavy scaffold and casks.



The 30th Aberdeen CAMRA Beer Festival will be held this year between 19th-21st May at the Richard Donald Stand, Pittodrie.

The Aberdeen branch began in 1976 with just a few members who managed to hold the occasional beer festival in the Douglas Hotel and Beach Ballroom and by 1987 it had grown enough to hold its first CAMRA festival which was in the Cowdray Hall and was a sell out. By the second year the council gave special permission to use the Rhyne Man as the festival glass logo, the design which comes from a six foot carved Pictish stone.

In 1989 the festival moved to the McClymont Hall which was bigger and had a great

In 1992 a meeting was held in Inverness chaired by the Scottish Regional Director George Howie and by 1993 the Inverness and Highlands branch formed, now the Highland & Western Isles, which led on to Aberdeen with Orkney and Shetland becoming the Aberdeen, Grampian and Northern Isles branch with the Strathclyde branch covering Glasgow, Fort William and Glencoe. *(Now Fort William and Glencoe are within H&WI branch)* There are now 10

Scottish CAMRA branches and George is still very much involved as our branch secretary.

The McClymont Hall festivals ran annually until 2006 when the council advised it was no longer available. So whilst worrying and searching for a venue luckily our festival director, Richard Jones found the Richard Donald Stand at Pittodrie stadium where the 21st festival was held in November 2007. This proved to be a very cold, snowy event so to stop the beer and visitors from freezing in the future it was moved to end May / beginning June depending on the

(Continued on page 45)

Fed up with tasteless lager and bland fizzy beer?

Then treat yourself by visiting CAMRA's

30th Great Grampian Beer Festival

**Richard Donald Stand
Pittodrie Stadium, Aberdeen**

Thursday 19th May 3pm - midnight

Friday 20th May 2pm - midnight

Saturday 21st May noon - 11pm*

* subject to beer range availability and staffing level requirements

100 Real Ales

milds, stouts, porters, bitters, best bitters, old ales, speciality beers, barley wines plus a selection of ciders and perry



**Aberdeen
& North East
Beer Festival
2016**

Keeping It Real

£6 entry

**includes a free commemorative
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(subject to availability)

**Free re-entry on production of
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REAL ALE



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Branch Diary

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

April

Saturday 9th at 14.00
Social at Bandstand Beer Festival

Tuesday 12th at 19.30
Branch Members Meeting at Benleva Hotel, Drumnadrochit

8th to 16th
The huge, Bandstand Beer Festival — Braeval Hotel, Nairn (see advert and their website) *

May

Saturday 14th at 12.00
Committee Meeting at Old Bridge Inn (if re-opened, otherwise Cairngorm Hotel) then a wander around Aviemore.

19th to 21st
Aberdeen Beer Festival at Pittodrie (see advert)

June

Saturday 4th at 14.00
Full beer tasting course at Benleva Hotel, Drumnadrochit (Members and non-members welcome)

Tuesday 14th at 19.30
Committee Meeting at Cairn Hotel, Carrbridge

July

7th to 9th
Scottish Real Ale Festival at Corn Exchange, Edinburgh (see advert)

Tuesday 12th at 19.30
Branch Members Meeting at Kinlochewe Hotel

Friday 29th at 17.30
Tasting Evening Social at No. 27, Castle Street

August

4th to 6th Belladrum Tartan Heart Festival *

Tuesday 9th at 19.30
Committee Meeting at Morefield Motel, Ullapool

Your local CAMRA branch

Protect your pleasure! Become actively involved with your local branch.

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

Branch activities might have to be changed—Please check the branch website to confirm the dates, times and places of meetings and socials—
www.highland.camra.org.uk

Contact Details

Mike Humphrey (Secretary & Branch Contact)

secretary@highlandcamra.org.uk

Paul McAllister (Branch Chairman)

chair@highlandcamra.org.uk



Arnold Stout (social secretary)
socials@highlandcamra.org.uk

Gordon Streets (editor)

news@highlandcamra.org.uk

..... Needs YOU!

(Continued from page 42)

football fixtures. It turned out also depending on Rod Stewart as in 2011 he announced a gig at the stadium so the festival had to be re-arranged at the last minute!

Pittodrie is much more spacious and makes the set-up easier, being all on one level, and has better facilities. The number 13 First Bus runs from Union St in the centre of Aberdeen right to the door making it a great way to get to and from the festival. Food is provided by Aberdeen FC.

We try to showcase new beer and breweries each year and have over 100 different Real Ales supplied by more than 70 differ-

ent breweries from all over the UK. We also have a range of ciders and perries and a selection of bottled beers from around the world. This years' featured brewery is **Loch Ness** based in Drumnadrochit. The festival charity this year is the Aberdeen Lions Club.

This is the longest contiguously running festival in Scotland and we hope that our 30th will be the best yet. We would love to welcome you to the festival as a visitor or if you can spare some time please volunteer, further details are on our website:

aberdeencamra.org.uk

Hope to see you there, cheers!

Lin Sanderson

Publicity co-ordinator

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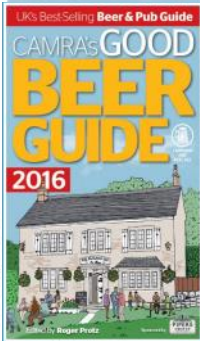
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www.ullapoolbeerfestival.co.uk

Real Ale in the Real Highlands



Supporting Local breweries

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! (if you are not sure about your score for a beer—half scores are fine—i.e. 1½ for an OK beer but you wouldn't have another pint)

What do the scores mean?

0 - No cask ale available.

½ - **Undrinkable.** Beer so poor you have to take it back or can't finish it.

1 - Poor. Beer that is between barely drinkable and 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 use the website: **whatpub.com**

Log in to it using your normal CAMRA login details, search for the pub and then click on "Submit Beer Scores" - fill in the boxes on the form, scrolling down and then click "Submit Beer Score". You can do this for any pub in the country. If you have been on a CAMRA beer tasting course and are then registered as an accredited beer taster, you will be offered to fill in a CAMRA tasting card online too. Thanks!

What's yours then? is a newsletter magazine produced by the Highlands & Western Isles Branch of the CAMpaign for Real Ale.

The views & opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the editor, CAMRA, nor its Branches.



*We hope you have enjoyed reading our Spring magazine. Unless you intend to keep it, 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? Our magazines are often found many miles from source! The next, Summer, edition will be out by the end of July.*

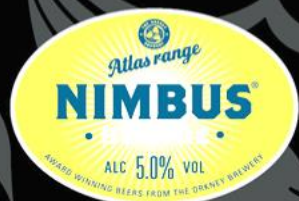
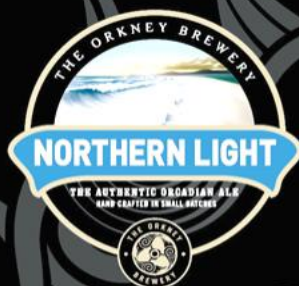
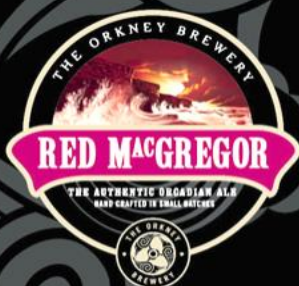
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ALC. 4.5% VOL.

SKYE GOLD
A SMOOTH GOLDEN CRAFT ALE
FROM THE FINEST BARLEY
BOTTLED BY ISLE OF SKYE BREWING CO.
ALC. 4.3% VOL.

SKYE RED
A SWEET AND WILD
BERRY-BREW CRAFT ALE
BOTTLED BY ISLE OF SKYE BREWING CO.
ALC. 4.2% VOL.

SKYE YOUNG PRETENDER
[UNBOTTLED BEVERAGE]
THE ROBUST AND HOPPY OF SKYE ALE
GOLDEN-COLOURED WITH A DELICIOUS
MALT FLAVOUR
BOTTLED BY ISLE OF SKYE BREWING CO.
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ALC. 5% VOL.

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[UNBOTTLED BEVERAGE]
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SWEETNESS AND BOLD CARAMEL BELIE
TO STURCH.
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SOME PALE MALT, MARRS AND CARAMEL TING.
BOTTLED WITH A SWEET
UNDERSTANDING TASTE
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