

The headline you thought you'd never see

Beer tax cut

FOR THE last year drinkers have been fighting to end the beer duty escalator, which hikes tax on beer by 2% a year over and above inflation.

Almost 109,000 people signed an e-petition started by Wychwood Brewery. Thousands wrote to their MP and hundreds of CAMRA members joined publicans and brewers in a mass lobby of Parliament.

And it worked! Chancellor George Osborne was forced to back down and abolish the scheme, cutting duty by 1p in the Budget at the same time.

No, 1p a pint isn't much these days. But it's the first actual cut in beer duty for decades. More importantly, duty

• **Victory for beer drinkers as people power smashes beer duty escalator**

• **Now break power of the pubcos**

is no longer rising faster than inflation as a matter of policy.

And there's more good news in that the government is finally considering laws to prevent parasitical pub companies exploiting publicans with unfair beer supply agreements.

"Tied" pubs often have to pay up to 60% more for beer

than free houses. No wonder a pint has got so dear!

But despite the price of a pint rocketing out of the reach of many people, pubs are still closing because the profits go to the pubco, not the pub, and the licensee can't make a living.

Real ale and real pubs are not secure without consumers standing up for them.

Join CAMRA today at www.camra.org.uk and help save our pubs and beer culture.



Brewery news

Wil goes south

■ Fyne Ales' head brewer Wil Wood has left to set up a new brewery in Great Yarmouth, called Lacon's after a famous old brewery in the town. The first brews should be appearing in pubs as you read this...

West goes north

■ Plans for WEST'S new £7m brewing facility in Port Dundas are proceeding. The brewery kit has been ordered and the new plant, in an old cooperage, is hoped to go into production this year. The brewery-bar on Glasgow Green will stay open.

Arran goes east

■ Arran Brewery has taken over a property on Hope Street, Glasgow with the aim of opening an ambitious speciality beer outlet over two floors.

Balmaha goes into production

■ Loch Lomond has another new brewery – Balmaha Brewery, based at the Oak Tree Inn in the village. Several cask ales and cider are being produced in the tiny brewery at the back of the pub.

Stop press

Thorn Dhu starts to brew

■ **News just in.** Word reaches the *Guzzler* of a new brewery in Lochgair, Argyll. The Thorn Dhu brewery has been in existence for a few months and has already supplied the Stag Hotel's Easter Beer Festival, the Argyll Arms Hotel in Ardrishaig and they now have a regular handpump in the Kilmartin Hotel. More to follow in the next edition of the *Guzzler*.

News? Send stories to: theeditor@glasgowcamra.org.uk

Hawkshead NZPA is branch Beer of the Year



Matt Clarke (right) celebrates on receiving the Strathalbyn Cup trophy from branch chair Robin Jones. Photo: Euan Fraser

YOU HAVE to go back a long time to find the last non-Scottish winner of Glasgow CAMRA's Beer of the Year.

Indeed, you would have to go back to a year when the Berlin Wall creaked and finally gave way and a year where Jive Bunny and Jason Donovan rubbed shoulders in the charts.

The year was 1989 and Pedigree, made by Marston's of Burton on Trent, picked up the award for the branch's Beer

of the Year. In the remaining 24 years since Pedigree won, the award has gone to Scottish beers and breweries.

So, history, of sorts, was made when the Glasgow and West of Scotland branch of CAMRA voted as their Beer of the Year for 2012 a beer brewed by an English brewery with a Kiwi brewer using four New Zealand hops. The beer in question is Hawkshead's NZPA, which is a 6% pale ale, highly hopped with Green Bullet,

Motueka, Riwaka and Nelson Sauvin hop varieties native to head brewer Matt Clarke's homeland New Zealand.

The NZPA was voted as Beer of the Year by members at their branch AGM and won having narrowly beat another Hawkshead beer, Windermere Pale in the final round of voting. The NZPA has been greatly enjoyed and appreciated in the past year by members of the branch.

Matt Clarke paid a visit to The Counting House, Glasgow to receive the Beer of the Year award from branch members. Of the award, Matt said, "It's great to receive the award and recognition from Glasgow CAMRA for NZPA. The NZPA is a bit different. It's strong, really well hopped and is catching on. The Glasgow drinkers just seem to love it".

Chair of Glasgow CAMRA, Robin Jones, said, "NZPA has been delighting Glasgow drinkers for the past year. It is a well deserved winner of Glasgow CAMRA Beer of the Year for 2012".

Hippo sighted in the west end

A NEW SPECIALITY beer shop has opened in the west end of Glasgow – Hippo Beers.

Run by Derek Hoy and Alec Knox, the shop stocks niche beers unobtainable in supermarkets, with an emphasis on small British breweries, American and Belgian brews.

The shop has already built a firm reputation and picked up an award for Best Business Initiative from licensed trade organisation BII.

■ Hippo Beers, 128 Queen Margaret Drive, Glasgow G20

My name, ya Raj!

■ Eyebrows were raised recently when a new bottled beer from Traditional Scottish Ales, Raj IPA, was released. This did not go down well at Tryst Brewery eight miles down the road in Larbert, who have been brewing their popular 5.5% Raj IPA for years. After a backlash on Twitter, TSA has changed the name to Rok IPA.

Glasgow's oldest pub in demolition threat

DEVELOPERS PLAN to demolish the Old College Bar in High St.

Owner Colin Beattie, the man behind Oran Mor and other outlets, says the building can't be saved. But he pledged that a tribute to the Old College Bar would arise on the same site as part of a new development.

Council sources, however, have denied the building is dangerous, with a spokesman telling the *Herald* the pub was "structurally sound."



CAMRA hopes that no stone will be left unturned to preserve as much of the original building as possible.

Reports of pub's death were greatly exaggerated

IN THE last edition of the *Guzzler* we reported that the Carnarvon Bar on St George's Road had closed.

This was true at the time, but no sooner had the last issue appeared than the pub im-

mediately opened up again!

Even better, the Carnarvon now sells real ale once more, after not having had it for the best part of ten years (But you will have to be a fan of Greene King IPA).

Bars in new heritage guide

GLASGOW LOCALS are featured in a new book from CAMRA showcasing the UK's heritage pubs.

The Laurieston Bar in Bridge St boasts a rare unspoilt 1960s interior. And the Railway Tavern in Shettleston has recently been listed by Historic Scotland.

CAMRA's guide to 270 pubs of real historic significance sees the most outstanding pubs on the "National Inventory" collated into a single volume for the first time. ■ Geoff Brandwood, *Britain's Best Real Heritage Pubs* (288pp, ISBN: 978-1-85249-304-2) costs £9.99 and can be purchased from shop.camra.org.uk (£7.99 for CAMRA members).



ADVERTISEMENT

**CRAFT, CASK AND DRAFT BY THE RIVER KELVIN.
3 CASK LINES, 9 KEG LINES AND OVER 60 BOTTLES**



**WWW.INNDEEP.COM
445 GREAT WESTERN RD, GLASGOW**

Pubs news

■ On the south side, the **TIRCHONAILL** on Victoria Road is closed and **THE LANGSIDE** has given up on selling real ale, citing poor sales.

■ New south side music venue the **GLAD CAFE** sells real ale, but only in the back bar – ask for it and you can get it in the cafe too.

■ The **BEER CAFE** is selling real ale again.

■ In Oban, the **TARTAN TAVERN** has reopened under new management and is selling Fyne Ales through one pump. And the **WOODSIDE** in Tweeddale Street is now selling Old Speckled Hen.

■ Balloch's **TULLIE INN** has re-opened after renovation. The furniture from the Tullie has been recycled in Maclay Inns' new venture **MUNRO'S** (formerly the Captain's Rest) on Great Western Road, adding to their portfolio of pubs in the area.

■ The Downhill in Partick is now **THE SPARKLE HORSE**, co-run by Steven Lang from indie group Bis. **WEST** beers on tap but no real ale.

■ At the **CLACHAIG INN** in Glencoe, newly promoted bar manager Stuart Price states his intention to “create a haven of real ale surrounded by the beauty of Glencoe”.

■ **Marston's** are opening their first Scottish pubs – including one at Braehead. **THE STEAM WHEELER** should be open by the time you read this.

■ Beer bar **EAST** on London Road has closed after just a few months.

■ **THE MERCHANT** (formerly Yates'), West George St, now sells real ale.

■ In Rutherglen, once a real ale desert, a new Wetherspoon pub, **AN RUADH GLEANN**, is bringing cask-conditioned enlightenment to the town once again.

■ The **AVALON** in Kent Road appears to have closed.

■ The **BLACK BULL** in Killearn is under new management.

■ In Bearsden **THE INN** has stopped selling real ale.

■ To celebrate the 65th birthday of cellarman Ronnie Anderson, **THE THREE JUDGES** is running a beer festival with a difference during the West End festival. 65 different beers, chosen by Ronnie, will be on sale.

■ Check www.glasgowcamra.org.uk for up-to-date information. Join our Facebook page [facebook.com/GlasgowCAMRA](https://www.facebook.com/GlasgowCAMRA), or follow @GlasgowCAMRA and @GlasgowGuzzler on Twitter

Halt Bar saved?

IT APPEARS the future of the Halt Bar in Woodlands Road is more secure than it has been for quite some time.

After the pub's customers launched a campaign to stop it being gutted and redesigned, owner Punch Taverns agreed to pull back from the plans originally put forward, and promised any redevelopment would be in keeping with the character of the pub.

Now the Halt has been taken on by a new management team.

The pub always sold real ale, but recently with little enthusiasm or imagination. Things



have changed now with the new management pro-actively offering a wider range of beers.

Sadly there's no gain without pain, and a pint costs a fair bit more than it did before, but many will find that to be an acceptable sacrifice, given how close we came to losing the pub altogether.

GBBF dates

■ This year's Great British Beer Festival will take place from 13th – 17th August at London Olympia. With over 800 real ales, ciders, perries and foreign beers to choose from there will be plenty of choice to suit everybody's taste buds! Tickets can be bought by visiting www.gbbf.org.uk/tickets

branch.diary.....

Wednesday 12 June
Branch Meeting
7.30pm, An Ruadh Gleann, Rutherglen

Saturday 22 June
Social
2pm, Kilcreggan Hotel, Kilcreggan

Wednesday 10 July
Branch Meeting
7.30pm, Talbot Arms, Milngavie

11–14 July
Scottish Real Ale Festival
Corn Exchange, Edinburgh

ADVERTISEMENT

BLACKFRIARS

36 BELL STREET - GLASGOW - G1 1LG
0141 552 5924 - INFO@BLACKFRIARSGLASGOW.COM
FOLLOW @BLACKFRIARSPUB FOR UPDATES

2 COURSES FOR £5.50
MON - FRI 11AM - 4PM

WiFi FREE WiFi
A C C E S S

ALL COFFEES £2

FREE LIVE MUSIC
EVERY TUE AND SUN

NOW HAPPENING EVERY MONTH:
MEET THE BREWER



THE NEW GLASGOW GUZZLER



CAMPAIGN FOR REAL ALE

The *Glasgow Guzzler* is published by the Glasgow and West of Scotland branch of the Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA). © CAMRA 2013. Items may be quoted or reprinted as long as credit is given. Opinions expressed by contributors do not necessarily represent the views of CAMRA or of the branch.

Advertising Kenny Gillies, admanager@glasgowcamra.org.uk

Editor Robbie Pickering, theeditor@glasgowcamra.org.uk

Branch contact Joe Pakenham, contact@glasgowcamra.org.uk

www.glasgowcamra.org.uk

Local Trading Standards Offices

If you have a complaint about quality or service in a pub, always try to sort your complaint out with the pub first. If that doesn't help, you can contact your local Trading Standards offices:

East Dunbartonshire
0141 578 8813
trading_standards@eastdunbarton.gov.uk

West Dunbartonshire
01389 738552
trading_standards@west-dunbarton.gov.uk

Glasgow
0141 287 6681
ts.enquiries@glasgow.gov.uk

North Lanarkshire
01236 638678 (Coatbridge)
01236 638905 (Cumbernauld)
01698 274220 (Motherwell)

South Lanarkshire
08457 406080
Business.Enquiries@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

FyneFest

BEER | FOOD | MUSIC

Beer

FYNE ALES,
TOP BRITISH &
EUROPEAN BEERS

Tickets

WEEKEND, DAY &
CAMPING TICKETS
NOW AVAILABLE!



Food

GREAT LOCAL FOOD
INCLUDING LOCH
FYNE OYSTERS

Music

SHOOGLENIFTY,
BOMBSKARE
& MORE ...

14-16 JUNE 2013

www.fynefest.com



LIKE: FYNEALES



FOLLOW: @FYNEALES