



CAMPAIGN
FOR
REAL ALE

The New Glasgow Guzzler

Glasgow & West of Scotland branch of CAMRA
Vol. 5, No. 4 Free Summer 2015



Clutha Bar set to re-open

See page 5

Inside: Pubco reform / West / Drygate / Floodline /
Glasgow Real Ale Festival / West End Beer Fest

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The New Glasgow Guzzler

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CAMRA is part of the European Beer Consumers' Union.

Ask not what CAMRA can do for you...

AS A local branch of CAMRA, we are looking forward to the Glasgow Real Ale Festival (G-RAF), returning to the Briggait in Glasgow between 25 and 27 June. Festivals such as G-RAF provide a great way of volunteering for CAMRA, and are perhaps the most obvious way of doing so. I would recommend volunteering (an application form is available on the festival website) – it is great fun, is a good way of meeting other CAMRA members, and provides a rewarding experience.

There are, however, many other ways of volunteering. I appreciate that Branch meetings are not for everybody (although they are generally quite sociable affairs), but fortunately it is possible to be a more active member without attending them. You can, for example, contribute an article to the *Guzzler*; you can offer to survey pubs for the *Good Beer Guide*; you can take part in a social event.

A very important way to contribute is to ensure that you score the beers you drink – beer scores can be entered through the Branch website or through WhatPub. Compared to some others, our branch covers a very large geographical area and we really appreciate updates – beer scores or news – from members in the branch area outside Glasgow city. Beer scoring is perhaps one of the most important things you can do – the scores form the framework for our Pub of the Year and Beer of the Year awards, and for the Branch entries to the *Good Beer Guide*.

Without volunteers, there would be no CAMRA. Something to think about when you are enjoying the excellent beers at the G-RAF!

JONATHAN KEMP
G-RAF organiser

Branch diary

25–27 June
Glasgow Real Ale Festival

The Briggait, 141 Bridgegate, Glasgow. Volunteers required, see pages 3, 8, 9, 16 for details.

Saturday 11 July
Social

Social trip to the Scottish Real Ale Festival in Edinburgh. Meet in good time to catch the 12.17 Edinburgh via Slateford train at Glasgow Central.

Wednesday 15 July
Branch Meeting

7.30pm, The John Fairweather, 50–60 Main Street, Cambuslang

31 July – 1 August
West End Beer Fest

Cafe Source Too, Hughenden Rd, Glasgow

Wednesday 19 August
Branch Meeting

7.30pm, The Talbot, 30 Main Street, Milngavie

Wednesday 16 Sep
Branch Meeting

7.30pm, The Ashton, 74 West Princes Street, Helensburgh

Wednesday 14 October
Branch Meeting

7.30pm, The Merchant, 134–136 West George Street, Glasgow

New CAMRA members, previously inactive members, non-members, etc. welcome at all meetings. We are nice!

Visit www.glasgowcamra.org.uk for the latest news
Or follow @GlasgowCAMRA on Twitter
[facebook.com/GlasgowCAMRA](https://www.facebook.com/GlasgowCAMRA)

Scottish Parliament promises pubco reform – but when?

A DEBATE IN the Scottish Parliament on 20th May has paved the way for reform of the big pub companies that own so many of our pubs.

But the Scottish Government has already been accused of dragging its heels on the reform, which is already law in England and Wales.

At present many pubs are owned by “pubcos” – pub companies such as Punch Taverns and Enterprise Inns which have thousands of pubs. The licensees, who actually run the pubs, lease them from the pubco. As part of the deal the licensees have to buy some or all of their beer from the pubco too, at a price set by the pubco. This is called the “beer tie”.

The tie supposedly offers the licensee a cheaper rent, but licensees have been complaining for years that all the power is on the side of the pubco. Some pubs have to pay nearly 50% more for their beer than it would cost on the open market. No wonder a pint is expensive!

The reform that

licensees, CAMRA and others have been fighting for for nearly ten years would give publicans a so-called “market rent option” (MRO). If they weren’t happy with the deal the pubco offered, they could choose to pay a higher rent and buy their beer on the open market. This option would show whether or not the pubcos are really giving their tenants the best deal, as they claim they do.

When Holyrood debated a motion on the subject proposed by Provan MSP Iain Martin, many pub campaigners hoped that the SNP Govern-

What do licensees think of the pubcos?

- Just 3% of tied tenants think the current set-up works well for them
- 74% think they are worse off
- 99% of respondents felt that the Scottish Government should act to ensure that reforms benefiting tied licensees in England and Wales also applied in Scotland

Source: CGA Strategy survey commissioned by CAMRA, August 2014

ment would go ahead and enact the same reform measures that their MPs had voted for at Westminster before the election.

But Fergus Ewing, the Business Minister, argued that further study was needed first to enable a successful reform. “The Scottish

Government recognises that we need to take the matter forward, and we have had meetings with many of the interested parties,” he said in the debate. He announced a study to examine the various pub models in Scotland. It was essential that the information to hand was as accurate as possible. “For the study’s findings to be robust and informative, it will require the co-operation of the entire sector.”

Lynn Adams, a leading campaigner for tied publicans and licensee of the George in Hamilton, welcomed the cross-party support for the motion and the recognition on all sides that something needed to be done. She told the *Guzzler*: “With the commissioned study, pledged by the Minister, tenants can use this

Licensees and supporters protested outside Westminster last year and won reform of the pub tie in England and Wales



opportunity to show they need protection and have it tailored to fit the Scottish market. This course of action is not a common occurrence and does mark progress. The main concern now is how long this will take.”

CAMRA national chairman Colin Valentine said: “I am pleased that the Business Minister is looking into the matter. Our overriding concern is to ensure that the legislation brought forward is solely for the benefit of tied publicans. In the meantime, I would call on all of the large pub owning companies whose English and Welsh tenants would benefit from the Westminster legislation, as an act of good faith, to extend the same benefits to their Scottish tenants.”

But Green MSP and Glasgow CAMRA member Patrick Harvie expressed disappointment that the Scottish Government proposed further study before pushing ahead with reform. “I was genuinely hopeful that Fergus Ewing would announce that he had accepted the case for reform and would act quickly,” he said. “There isn’t much left to study about this question. We’ll keep on pressing for quicker action, and I hope CAMRA will do the same.” [rp]

Clutha re-opening “just weeks away”



ICONIC GLASGOW music pub the Clutha Bar is set to begin re-opening in stages imminently, says its owner.

The reconstruction of the pub has been plagued by delays since

the fatal helicopter crash in November 2013.

The plan of owner Alan Crossan is to open the neighbouring

Victoria Bar and the shared beer garden first while building work continues on the Clutha proper. The end of May was envisaged but this date too has been postponed.

A family festival outside the pub went ahead on 30th May, featuring music from local bands and hot snacks from the Victoria.

The most eye-catching change is the painting of a new mural over the full height of the Clutha’s side wall, featuring the likes of Billy Connolly, Jimmy Reid, Spike Milligan and others who drank in the pub at some time.

[rp]

Big expansion at WEST with new brewery and second own bar

THE LONG awaited expansion of Glasgow's second-largest lager brewery has finally begun.

Glasgow Green's WEST has begun construction of a bigger brewhouse right next door to their current home in the Templeton building.

The expansion has been on hold for years while a suitable site was

sought. It will enable WEST to bring production of all its beers back in house – the demand for its St Mungo lager has been such that it has had to be contract-brewed in Germany.

A new pilsner beer called "Feierabend" (which translates roughly to "knocking-off time") was launched in spring. It will, however, probably be the



last new beer for some time, while the new brewery is being commissioned and tested.

The refurbishment (pictured) of the brewery's new Woodlands bar, West On The Corner (formerly the Halt

Bar) is now completed and the bar has been an immediate success, with fresh supplies of lager having to be ordered earlier than expected. As only WEST beers are served in the bar, there is no real ale. [rp]

Local breweries in brief.....

Loch Lomond

May finished with two Meet the Brewer events at Munro's and The Raven. May's seasonal beer was Loch Lomond Red and a light 3% summer ale, One For The High Road, will be launched in June.

With Fyne Ales, Loch Lomond is one of two Scottish breweries each making a special beer for the 50th anniversary of the well-liked malting barley Maris Otter.

Loch Lomond is also sponsoring G-RAF.

Monolith

This outfit which brews at Drygate has found its first beer, Bellwether IPA, very popular and the crew are now doing two brews a month. The next release, called Rye Hop Goon, is imminent and then a coffee stout is next on the list.

Jaw Brew

On 3rd June members of the branch enjoyed our first official visit to Jaw Brew in Hillington. The brewery has launched a wheat beer and extended its range of bottles. The Laurieston has also departed from

its all-Fyne policy to regularly stock a Jaw beer.

Lawman

Cumbernauld-based nanobrewery Lawman Brew Co is searching for bigger premises and slightly bigger kit which will enable brewer Craig to produce a huge 175 pints per brew! Some of the core beers will be contract-brewed to meet demand.

Tennents

In response to the demand for lower-strength beer, the brewery has launched "T2", a 2% lager.

Brewery stringers needed

With the rapidly growing number of breweries in our area, the branch has several vacancies for volunteers to take on the role of Brewery Liaison Officer. This high-faluting title just means that you keep in touch with the brewery and update CAMRA regularly about brewery news and new beers. If that sounds like fun, please contact the branch secretary: joe.pakenham@glasgowcamra.org.uk

Flooding the market



Floodline's Liam, Nina and Ed enjoying a Herta. Not in the picture: Claire and Pete

MORE NEW beer from Drygate's pilot brewery comes from the Floodline Brewing Co.

They launched a wheat beer, Herta, in spring, followed by an IPA named Fearless Nadia. The next brew is a Scotch ale made with cloutie dumpling.

Bottles are available in specialist shops and the Laurieston.

"The Laurieston was the first pub to take a punt on us and we are genuinely excited to be making beer that actual people are buying in actual pubs!" says Nina, one of the five-strong brewing group.



Drygate celebrates first birthday

DENNISTOUN'S DRYGATE brewery celebrated its first year of operation with a weekend of beer and music at its beer hall.

Other small brewers such as Fallen, Tempest and 6° North came along for a mini beer festival in the event space together with independent non-beer vendors. A limited edition birthday beer is available featuring artwork from students of the Art School.

Oakham Green Devil Beer of the Year 2014

At the Branch AGM on 14 March Oakham's Green Devil IPA was voted Beer of the Year for 2014. This is a very hoppy beer with a high element of tropical fruit flavours.

Arrangements are being made to present our Strathalbyn Cup trophy to the brewery.

Following the AGM the Branch voted for our Lanarkshire Pub of the Year in the March monthly meeting. The winner was the Vulcan in Coatbridge and our congratulations go to them. The presentation took place on Saturday 25 April. [to]

Digital Guzzler

■ The Glasgow Guzzler is produced for people to pick up and read in the pub. But if you want to read it on your interwebular device, you can also get it online at issuu.com/glasgouguzzler, or glasgowcamra.org.uk

20 years ago...

THERE'S A bit of déjà vu looking at the Autumn 1995 Guzzler.

As today, we were looking forward to our branch beer festival and celebrating the launch of new breweries. The festival was to be held at the Arches and featured among other delights a new cask lager called Schiehallion. And we were already promoting Belgian beer in 1995!

We noted with approval that Broughton Brewery had been rescued out of receivership and also the establishment, "by two teachers" of the new Isle of Skye brewery. Hopefully many of today's new starts will still be around in 20 years.

One big difference though. 20 years ago we were delighted that there were as many as 16 Scottish breweries. Today the total is over a hundred.



25–27 June Glasgow Real Ale Festival Can you Briggait?

IT SEEMS a long time ago that a number of rather nervous volunteers gathered in the magnificent 1873 hall of the Briggait waiting to see whether anyone would attend the first real ale festival in Glasgow for 18 years.

Our nerves were not necessary, with over 2,200 people attending over the three day run, enjoying some of the best real ales available in Britain. The overwhelmingly positive reaction to

the festival made it all worthwhile.

As you will have read elsewhere in the Guzzler, we are back! The G-RAF will return to the Briggait between Thursday 25 June and Saturday 27 June 2015. Beers of all types, from throughout Britain, will be available.

Although it is too early to publish a full beer list, the breweries represented will include Scottish favourites such as Fyne Ales, Williams Brothers, Isle of

Skye and Jaw Brew, together with beers from further afield including Hawkshead and Oakham – the brewers of our last two Branch Beers of the Year. The Foreign bar will be back, again situated beside the Real Cider bar.

For those looking for more than beer, hot food will be available from the ever popular German Sausage stall; snacks such as crisps and nuts will also be available. The Pewterscribe will also be

there – why not create a unique memento of the festival by having your free festival glass engraved while you are there?

I must admit that one of my abiding memories of last year is the venue itself. Situated close to major bus routes, the subway, Central, Queen Street and Argyle Street Stations, the Briggait is easily accessible to all. The space available, and the natural light (Glasgow weather permitting...) provide the





Giraffes at G-RAF

perfect place to enjoy all the festival has to offer. My thanks go to WASP Studios, and to their tenants, for their assistance in providing the venue and for their tolerance of the inevitable disruption an event such as G-RAF causes.

Given the Briggait's location next to the Clyde (and its historic use as Glasgow's fish market), it is fitting that our festival charity this

year is the Glasgow Humane Society. Founded in 1790, the object of the society was "to recover those who are apparently dead, from having been sometime under water, from being exposed to intense cold, or to other causes capable of suspending life without destroying it". Today the Society, through its officer George Parsonage, is no longer responsible for rescue. Instead, its

focus is river safety, including maintenance of lifebelts. The charity deserves our support.

Although we have been working hard organising the 2015 G-RAF, I can guarantee that come 25 June, a number of rather nervous volunteers will be waiting for the doors to open. The rest is up to you!

For full information, please see www.glasgowrealalefestival.co.uk, Facebook [@GlasRealAleFest](https://www.facebook.com/Glasgowrealalefestival).

JONATHAN KEMP
G-RAF organiser

Photos: Euan Fraser

And if you enjoy G-RAF, why not take a trip to Edinburgh in July for the Scottish Real Ale Festival, below?



Scottish Real Ale Festival 2015

9th - 12th JULY 2015
EDINBURGH CORN EXCHANGE

Getting to the venue: 11 Newmarket Road, Edinburgh, EH14 1EJ
Luggage allowed: 2, 3, 10, 14 & 21 Kilograms (4, 6, 24, 28, 45 Kilograms) by air
Trains: Scotland Direct Trains direct through to Glasgow Central Station
Further information available on the SRAF or ECAF website

OPENING HOURS & ENTRY

Thursday 9th July	12.00 - 22.00
Friday 10th July	12.00 - 22.00
Saturday 11th July	12.00 - 22.00
Sunday 12th July	12.00 - 16.20 (subject to availability)

£6 (£4 for card-carrying CAMRA Members)
Includes souvenir programme and branded glass (only in half pints)
Admission to all challenges and events FREE on presentation of your glass
Hot and cold food available all day

T-SHIRT COMPETITION (sponsored by Becken Brewery)
Details of your chance to win a T-Shirt will be confirmed in the programme

ENTERTAINMENT (sponsored by Bevo in the Briggait's Brewery)
7pm Thursday evening
2pm Saturday afternoon
2pm Saturday evening

Special events will be confirmed on the SRAF website closer to the festival. See www.scotrealale.org.uk for more info

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Festival frenzy



HOW A WEST END BAR JUMPED ON THE BEER WAVE AND ORGANISED ITS FIRST FESTIVAL

THE LAST decade has seen a definitive surge in the way that we as consumers view, seek out and ultimately taste that, that has been conspicuously under our noses the whole time.

Continental Europe has been at it for a millennia and it is only relatively recently that the rest of us (in general) are beginning to catch on. For the last 45 years CAMRA has been at the forefront of what now appears to be a non-stop, global behemoth: a full-blooded, outright obsession for those inclined to not only consume well-made, well-crafted beer and real ale, but also to lionize and to get involved by bloody well making it ourselves. Beer (and all its affiliations) has entered the realms of the trainspot-

ter: a nerd-like state of mind, that if we're being honest with ourselves, exists in all of us.

At Cafe Source (Too) there are a total of eighteen staff and three of them (however modestly) are now brewing their own beer. Our passion for real beer and the craft has seen us not only cultivate but also endeavour to humbly educate. Over the last 18 months we have consistently stocked and championed up and coming local breweries and their products. These include the likes of Pilot in Leith, Glasgow's Jaw Brew and the Ayr, Fallen and Stewart breweries, to name but a few.

We then went a stage further by introducing our bi-monthly "meet the brewer"

style beer tastings: a representative of an invited brewery would come and host an evening in order to showcase 7 or 8 of their products. This would be interspersed by three tapas style courses, conceived and prepared utilising the beers in question by our enthusiastic and willing chefs. To date there have been five of these events and all have sold out.

So, the next logical and shamelessly audacious step is to instigate and launch the first West End Beer Festival. We wish to further promote what we feel are some of the most innovative and passionate Scottish brewers by bringing them altogether under our roof, imploring all to come along so as to drink and to be merry.

So the festival will be a celebration of real Scottish beer, the majority of which will be cask ale but there will be keg and bottles available should breweries wish to supply it. There are around 10 breweries confirmed already and our guests will include Alechemy, Fyne Ales, Stewart Brewing, Jaw Brew, Ayr Brewing, Fallen, Williams Bros and Tryst. There will also be a real cider stall.

The event will take place in 3 sessions over Fri 31st July and Sat 1st August. Friday 5-11:30 pm, Saturday (family friendly, children enter free) 12-4.40pm, Saturday night 5:30-11.30pm. Entry fee is £6 but CAMRA members enter for £4. The entrance fee includes your free branded festival glass.

We have invited CAMRA along to promote the campaign and hopefully they will in turn sign up some new members that are as passionate about real beer and independent pubs and breweries as we are. Also very much in tow are our collaborators, Hillhead Sports Club and The Good Spirits Co who are helping us coordinate and promote what hopes to be a successful endeavour and annual event.

CONOR STEVEN
Beer guy, Cafe Source Too

Look ahead

BY THE looks of things, you are not going to be able to move for beer festivals over the coming summer. See pages 8–9 for details of the Glasgow Real Ale Festival, which was so successful last year that it simply had to come back in 2015.

Once again Scotland's biggest beer festival at Paisley, run by our colleagues of Renfrewshire CAMRA, broke records, running out of beer late on the Saturday despite having ordered more beer than ever before.

Newer on the scene are other Glasgow festivals that are not run by CAMRA. The Great Scottish Beer Celebration, organised by Hippo Beers and held at the Barras, sold out weeks in advance.

If your appetite is whetted remember the Scottish Real Ale Festival in Edinburgh from 9–12 July too.

Heading further afield, you might even wish to visit London for the Great British Beer Festival in August – if you do, why not treat yourself to a copy of the new edition of Des de Moor's excellent guide (see ad on the right), fully updated with the very latest on London's now very dynamic beer scene. [rp]

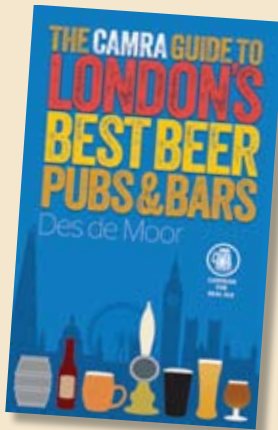


THE BURNBRAE in Milngavie held its first beer festival over the Easter holiday weekend. In addition to the regular brews, a further eight beers were sold on stillage. The Burnbrae shows that pubs owned by big companies (in this case Belhaven/Greene King) can certainly hold their own in the real ale stakes, given an enthusiastic licensee.

THE ESSENTIAL BEER GUIDE TO LONDON

THE CAMRA GUIDE TO LONDON'S BEST BEER, PUBS & BARS (SECOND EDITION)

This fully revised edition of Des de Moor's London beer guide embraces the huge expansion of brewing and beer in our capital. Including over 300 pubs, bars and breweries, with helpful listings, full colour photography and travel tips, this is your passport to a vibrant new city of beer. Additional features include a history of London as a brewing city and sections on the brewing process and beer styles.



RRP £12.99

Members' price £10.99

Available from www.camra.org.uk/shop

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. It is CAMRA policy to print these contact details in branch magazines.

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)
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South Lanarkshire

08457 406080
Business.Enquiries
@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

Pub discounts

Members of CAMRA benefit from discounts in a number of pubs. Visit glasgowcamra.org.uk for full details.

■ **The Guzzler** welcomes letters from readers. So if you disagree with something in the magazine, or have something regarding beer or pubs you want to get off your chest, drop us a line: theeditor@glasgowcamra.org.uk

Dedication, dedication

Dedication, that's what you need. And BRIAN MCATEER and DUNCAN MACKAY showed real dedication in visiting every Scottish pub in the Good Beer Guide...

FRASER'S BAR in bustling Millport on a sunny holiday weekend was as pleasant a place as any to celebrate the completion of our challenge.

A leisurely cycle round the island of Cumbrae made a fitting end to a journey over many a lang Scots mile by foot, bike, bus, train, ferry, car and taxi, taking in 310 pubs in all. It seems a good time to look back over the odyssey and note the highlights in each of CAMRA'S 11 Scottish areas.

Aberdeen and Grampian

Moorings: a quiet pint in the afternoon or a raucous one at night in this rock venue with a good variety of beers from Scottish micros; a pleasant change from the usual Aberdeen beer choice.

Argyll and the Isles

Tigh an Truisk Inn: twice winner of our Argyll pub of the year; a beautiful location just



over the Atlantic Bridge on the Isle of Seil offering a decent pint, often from Fyne Ales.

Ayrshire and Arran

Geordie's Byre: a good old fashioned local just north of Ayr town centre, serving a wide variety of beers from tall founts.

Borders

Cobbles: although the emphasis is on food, this is the brewery tap of Tempest, Kelso's own micro-brewery.

Edinburgh and the Lothians

Thomson's Bar: out of many possible choices, this is chosen for the selection and quality of its beers, its proximity to Haymarket Station and its good sense in paying tribute to Glasgow's greatest architect

(okay, he was from Balfron originally).

Greater Glasgow and Clyde Valley

State Bar: it's hard to see past Glasgow's pub of the year for beer choice and quality. Goes from strength to strength.

Highland and Western Isles

Stein Inn: a remote inn on the Waternish peninsula of Skye, dating from the 18th century. An atmospheric place for a pint of Highland or Loch Ness beer.

Kingdom of Fife

Commercial Inn: in the heart of Dunfermline Town Centre, the Commercial has been serving decent beer for many a year and was Fife pub of the year in 2014.

Loch Lomond, Stirling and the Trossachs

Kilcreggan Hotel: a past winner of our Dunbartonshire Pub of the Year! Worth the journey by boat from Gourrock and the short hike up a big hill for the range of beers from Scottish and English micros. Great views.

Northern Isles

Helgi's Bar: good food and an excellent pint of Highland Scapa Special in this splendid pub near the harbour in Kirkwall.

Tayside

Greyfriars: a friendly wee pub in Perth city centre serving local brews from Inverlmond and beer from further afield.

Glasgow's men of steel

SOME OLDER readers may remember Steel Coulson beer, or at least the adverts for it that were once seen around Glasgow.

Historian Jim Lawrie has provided these sketches of the Steel brewing family:

Thomas Steel was born in Glasgow circa 1796 and married local girl Janet Barton around 1819. They had seven children – James, Thomas, William, Andrew, John, Helen and George. In the 1820s Thomas Steel was described as a corn factor and accountant with business premises at 22 Mitchell Street in Glasgow. His private residence was at 1 Elmbank Place (part of St Vincent Street). In 1835 Steel established the *Clyde Brewery* at Commercial Road, Hutchesontown (part of the Gorbals).

In 1837 Thomas Steel left the Clyde Brewery and tenanted new brewing premises at No. 35 Tureen Street (off the Gallowgate). At Steel's *Tureen Street Brewery* two of his six sons James and William were taught all of the skills of brewing and malting and his eldest son James became his principal assistant with William, his third eldest, a

junior brewer.

Following Thomas Steel's untimely death in 1846 **James Steel** took control of the Tureen Street Brewery along with his younger brother William. James remained there until 1848 when he left to set up the Sydney Street Brewery. The premises at No. 41 Sydney Street were at the east end of the Gallowgate on the north side. Although the brewing concern continued to flourish at Sydney Street, James set his sights on acquiring a larger brewery and in 1853 he purchased the established Greenhead Brewery at Blackfaulds Place, 80 Canning Street near London Road. James had a private residence at No.72. (This brewery had been in operation since around 1760 in the safe hands of John Struthers. When James Steel bought it in 1853 it was then being run by Struthers' son Robert, a fine brewer and local Justice of the Peace.)

Pale India Ales were very much in demand around the country at that time and James wanted a share of this market. Glasgow's soft water was not suitable to produce that style of beer and in 1858 he acquired an Edinburgh brewery, J & W Burnett's Craigend

Brewery in North Back of Canongate. In 1865 James went into partnership with George Coulson and set up a new company under the name of Steel Coulson & Co.

The Craigend Brewery site offered little room for expansion and in August 1874 Steel Coulson sold the brewery and purchased more spacious premises at Comely Gardens, Abbehill. This brewery, previously owned by the City of Edinburgh Brewery Company who had gone into voluntary liquidation, was re-named the Croft-an-Righ Brewery. It had two wells with an abundant supply of hard water suitable for brewing pale ales. James retired from brewing in the 1880s and died in Glasgow on 10 November 1891.

James' younger brother **William Steel** left Glasgow in 1858 and moved to West Barns, near Dunbar, to lease the sizeable village brewery and maltings from Cambuslang-born brewer Alexander Lindsay. William quickly established himself and sold his ales in the numerous villages in Haddingtonshire and when the Shore Brewery in Dunbar closed in 1865

he was supplying all of the public houses in Dunbar (although Belhaven Brewery and Maltings was closer to Dunbar, it was more concerned with the production of malt at that time). William Steel also sold his ales in Glasgow through his agent and was shipping beers to North Shields, Bishop Auckland, Sunderland, Newcastle and Liverpool.

In 1880 William Steel suffered from a stroke that left him paralysed and his son Thomas came from Glasgow to take over the lease. The West Barns Brewery had accumulated a mountain of debt and with the brewery rent unpaid the then brewery owner Mr Annandale advertised that the brewery was available for lease. In April 1883 Thomas Steel was declared bankrupt and he returned to Glasgow penniless. His father William Steel was admitted to the Haddington District Asylum where he died on 2 December 1895. After the brewery had closed more than 850 beer casks were sold off – this provides some indication of the size of the business William Steel had created.

JIM LAWRIE

In Strathaven, availability of real ale at the **STAR INN** is sporadic at best with no sightings recently and the **WATERSIDE** has no cask ale. On the positive side, “Weavers still great”, notes our correspondent.

Sadly the **CAMPBILL VAULTS** in Bothwell has given up on ale due to poor demand.

The **RED DEER** in Cumbernauld has Abbot Ale and Deuchars.

In Partick, the former Ettrick, briefly Heisenberg’s, is now trading as **THE TENEMENT** and has real ale from Kelburn.

The Libertine in the Merchant City has changed its name again and is now **G-TOWN LOUNGE**. Handpumps appear to have been removed.

The Butterfly & Pig has ended its brief tenure in the bar at Partick Cross previously known as the Byre, Bruadar, etc. Owner Colin Beattie is now running the venue as **POP UP**

Around the branch area

■ We very much appreciate updates from readers about pub openings and closures, and information about pubs that have started (or stopped) selling real ale. Send your information to theeditor@glasgowcamra.org.uk, or tweet it to @GlasgowGuzzler.

PIG, which did not please the Butterfly people, who have now instead taken on the former **CORONA** in Shawlands, now also operating under the Butterfly & Pig name.

In Strone, the **STRONE INN** has real ale.

The **BREWERY** and the **BRAES** in Dunoon are both selling real ale.

The **Roxy** 171 on Great Western Road (previously Liquid Ship) has shut down and will re-open as **THE HUG & PINT**, a music venue named after the Arab Strap album. No indication yet whether there will be real ale.

The **HOLLYWOOD BOWL**, Springfield Quay has stopped selling **Doom Bar** on handpump due to insufficient sales.



The former **Bar 10** in Mitchell Lane, famous for its interior as one of the first “style bars” of the 1980s, is now **TABAC**. No real ale.

The **DOG HOUSE** in Balloch was about to start selling real ale from Loch Lomond Brewery as we went to press.

The **BOTANIST** chain of gastropubs was rumoured to be opening in Glasgow, but it’s gone a bit quiet and no location has been announced yet. We’ll keep you posted.

Exciting news for fans of Belgian-style beers. We hear that **Six Degrees North**, the Stonehaven-based “Belgian brewers of Scotland”, are planning to open a bar in Glasgow, “somewhere in the west end.”

■ The “micropub” phenomenon – small owner-operated pubs, often in converted shop units, that eschew music, TV, and keg beer in favour of real ale and conversation – has reached Scotland. The craze originated in Kent and has made its way north as far as Kelso, with “Rutherford’s” due to open in June.

The *Guzzler* has learned that the Glaswegian owner of a successful micropub down south is eager to find a location in Glasgow too. So if any readers know of a vacant property around 750-1000 sq ft that might make a good micropub, let us know and we’ll pass your ideas on.

Arches license storm

■ There was uproar in Glasgow’s arts and clubbing scene at the beginning of May when the licensing board withdrew the late license from **The Arches** at the request of the police. The arts venue is heavily dependent on the revenue generated from its popular club nights and there are fears it may have to close. It does not currently sell real ale. The Arches management have confirmed they intend to take legal action against the decision.

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01/15

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