

NORTH SEA ALE

WINTER ALE WANDER 2023

Back Bigger! but better?

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Stop Press	2
Windswept	3
Dryish Crawl	4
Membership	7
Outlets	8
Contacts	10
Pub&Brewery News	10

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It's back! However in a world so different this one seems as much the unknown as the first one,

As the poster on page 2 shows, wander routes are as much a dot joining exercise as a box ticking one. In 2019/20 the rational route was North/South on gravity flow but mountaineers and hill-walkers may well have gone Krakatoa to Queen Vic (taking the steep ascent to the Stag by Crown terrace) as rationality for them means always starting at the bottom. For those who wish to take part but find the full wander a bit daunting the shortest part of the crawl would take you from the Globe to Under the Hammer

So for this year about the only recommendations I can make are not to do it all in one day and as most do food taking on solid supplements would also be advantageous.

There are 5 new outlets. Even, of the ones that have been over the course before, 2 have changed hands and one has had multiple management changes, but more spread out than Prime Ministerial Office changes. The plus point is that some of the staff who have moved now feature in the new outlets. On the downside; extra outlets, restricted opening hours and flu have made it much more difficult to keep up with outlets regarding likely beers to be ordered. So it may well be an idea to check outlet opening hours in advance as a few of them are not open lunchtime and/or afternoons. It may well be worthwhile to check on what beer is on and food at the same time. The good news is the first time participant St, Machar Bar is open all day and evenings so is easier to access and is likely to have 2 or 3 ales on over the Weekend. Also likely to have 2 or more beers are Krakatoa and The Queen Vic . Other new outlets are The Howff whose return to regular cask ale last year was a welcome boost. No. 10. McGinty's and The Blue Lamp are also welcome new haunts for WAW2023.

However, with multiplication comes greater potential of duplication so planning a route in advance may help to maintain diversity of choice; leaving others to visit on another day.

Whilst I hope there'll be a few Burnsides,Windswepts, Speysides, Orkney/Atlas Ales , Swannays and even a few surprises on the go initial indications. are there will be quite a few Cromartys on offer Ghost Town at Krakatoa and Pibroch at the Grill . Lomond's homage Plum Porter to Bing n Bowie is sadly sold out at the brewery but their Silky Stout may well be on in Krakatoa

The Winter Ale Wander 2023 is an opportunity to show support for some of our finest outlets so the local CAMRA branch hopes that many of you will take the opportunity to indulge in Wanderlust the last weekend in February. Hope to see some of you on my own travels;or is it travailes?

Winter Ale Wander 2023

1.St Machar Bar

9.The Queen Vic

7.The Blue Lamp

11.The Globe

12.Under The Hammer

6.No 10

10. McGinty's

8.The Howff

5.The Grill

4.Stag

3.Krakatoa

Thursday 23rd-Sunday 26th FEBRUARY

Join the dots:

Any Which Way you Can!

STOP PRESS

We have a few late news entries on beer availability, The current standing is:

The Queen Vic intends to have Ghost Town and is hoping to keep Windswept Clavie back for the weekend but may decide to use it earlier.

McGinty's has ordered St Giles from Stewart Brewing

The Globe has Ghost Town

Under the Hammer has Pibroch

No, 10 has Pibroch

St Machar bar also has Pibroch plus 1 or 2 more to be confirmed.

Krakatoa has Ghost town plus 1 or 2 more to be confirmed (or introduced as a surprise; I might have an idea about that but wheesht will be haud!)

The Grill has Pibroch.

The Stag has Thorfinn Skullsplitter

No word from the Howff but based on

Queen Vic's past efforts should definitely be worth a visit.



Presentation to Windswept Brewery for Wolf. Winner of Old Ale category at Scottish Champion Beer competition 2022 and Judges' Beer Of The Festival at Ayrshire Beer Festival 2022.

Photo shows Zara from brewery and George Howie from Aberdeen CAMRA.



DRYISH CRAWL

A turn of the Century demographic pandemic?

Whilst many would like to believe that Covid 19 is in the past it's ramifications, combined with the energy prices chaos will continue to wreak havoc for the future. Especially in the hospitality industry. However as the dust is still settling over the outbreak I took a stroll down memory lane to where the changing demographics took a great toll on hospitality outlets over the turn of the century.

Two of my former locals closed near my current abode (the 19th hole/ university bar and the Torry Bar) but the bulk of the hit occurred around 400 yards away, as the crow flies, where my previous abode was placed. As I stepped onto the street from there "The Crow's Nest" was a mere hop, skip and a jump away but let's start the stroll from a current watering hole, "Krakatoa" the first and only ale selling bar on this crawl. About 100 yards on we come to the "Crown & Anchor" which despite obtaining some TV fame in "Harbour" went to residential premises about a decade ago as did the surrounding businesses leaving it almost impossible to say which frontage was "C&A". Moving along we come to one the great historical names in Aberdeen Ale drinking; The Yardarm reintroduced cask beer to the city in December 1976 but has sadly been closed for many more years than it was open.

Three doors down is "the Glenlivet" bar's location; it did appear to continue trading as a cafe for a number of years but looked closed at time of passing. Towards the end of Regent quay was a best forgotten modern building which I'm only too glad to have done so (what! Cutter's Wharf?) oh dear I remembered! Round the corner on Commerce Street we come to "Peep Peeps" whose dubious claim to fame was turning up in some SKY TV programme entitled something like "Britain's toughest pubs" Onward past the aforementioned "Crow's Nest" A.K.A. Crazy Daisy's in the 1970s and latterly held a brief claim to fame in having the city's youngest ever licensee shortly before the doors finally closed. We ring the changes at the St Clement's that still appears to be trading to this day but as a cafe only. From a distance one could almost believe the Neptune bar is still trading as the brewery signs are still up but they are merely a memento to the fact that nothing appears to have been done with it since it finally ceased trading in a dim and distant past. The Waterloo bar also traded in the area but closed back in 1983 but may have been active as a social club for some years afterwards.

So there we have it, or not ,depending on which way you look through the telescope of history; 8 bars that have gone onto other things over a period of around 30 years leaving only 3 survivors.

Krakatoa (AKA The Moorings) mentioned earlier plus the Fittie Bar and the Regent Bridge. Neither of those two have sold much in the way of beer in recent years but both have interior assets that make them worth as visit if only to pay homage to the survivors of an area that has lost around 75% of it's hostelries in little more than a generation,



Krakatoa

Neptune



Yardarm

Peep Peeps





Campbells



Crows Nest



Regent Bridge



Fittie



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Below is a list of outlets that sell real ale which are known to the Aberdeen, Grampian & Northern Isles branch of CAMRA.

CAMRA is in no way recommending all of the pubs in this list. If you want a list of recommended pubs you will need to buy the Good Beer Guide. The pubs are placed in alphabetical order by location and then pub.

If you know of any pubs that sell real ale, in our area, which are not on this list, or any pubs on this list that no longer sell real ale please contact the editor. Your help is much appreciated

Aberdeen

Aitchies Ale House
 Archibald Simpson's
 Atholl Hotel
 Blue Lamp
 Cameron's (Ma's)
 Ferryhill House Hotel
 Globe
 Grill
 Howff
 Justice Mill
 Krakatoa
 McGinty's
 Number 10
 Old Blackfriars
 Prince Of Wales
 Queen Vic
 St Machar Bar
 Stag
 Under The Hammer

Aberchirder

New Inn

Aboyne

Boat Inn

Alford

Houghton Arms

Ballater

Alexandra

Balmoral Bar

Deeside Inn

Glenaden

Banchory

Burnett Arms

Douglas Arms Hotel

Ravenswood Club (British Legion)

Scott Skinners

Banff

Market Arms

Braemar

Fife Arms

Invercauld Arms Mews

Brodie

Old Mill

Catterline

Creel Inn

Charleston of Aberlour

Aberlour Hotel

Mash Tun

Craigellachie

Craigellachie Hotel

(Copper Dog)

Highlander Inn

Cullen

Grant Arms

Royal Oak

Cults

Cults Hotel

Daviot

Smiddy

Dyce

Distilling House (Airport Airside)

Dyce Farm

Granite City (Airport Landside)

Spider's Web

Elgin

Drouthy Cobbler

Muckle Cross

Sunninghill Hotel

Ellon

Dog Tap

Station Hotel

Tolbooth

Findhorn

Crown & Anchor

Kimberley Inn

Fochabers

Gordon Arms Hotel

Grant Arms Hotel

Forres

Knockomie Hotel

Mosset Tavern

Bonnie Beastie

Fraserburgh

Elizabethan

Saltoun Arms

Garlogie

Garlogie Inn

Garmouth

Garmouth Hotel

Glenlivet

Croft Inn

Gourdon

Harbour

Huntly

Crown Bar

Inverurie

Black Bull

Edwards

Gordon Highlander

Hopeville Cub

Johnshaven

Anchor

Kingswells

Four Mile House

Lossiemouth

Windswept Tap Room

Maryculter

Maryculter House

Marykirk

Marykirk Hotel

Methlick

Ythan View

Netherley

Lairhillock

Newburgh

Newburgh Inn

Newtonhill

Newton Arms

Oldmeldrum

Redgarth

Pennan

Pennan Inn

Peterhead

Crosskeys

Pitmedden

The Craft

Portlethen

The Neuk

Portsoy

Shore Inn

Roths

Seafield Arms

Station Hotel

Rothiemay

Forbes Arms

Rothienorman

Rothie Inn

Stonehaven

Belvedere

Marine Hotel

Ship Inn

Tarland

Aberdeen Arms

Commercial Hotel

Tarves

Aberdeen Arms Hotel

Tomintoul

Glen Avon

Hotel Square

Richmond

Westhill

Shepherds Rest

Whitehills

Seafield Arms

Orkney**Birsay**

Barony

Burray

Sands

Harray

Merkister

Holm

Commodore

Kirkwall

Albert Hotel

Auld Motor Hoose

Ayre Hotel

Helgis

Kirkwall Hotel

Orkney Hotel

Reel

Shore Inn

St Ola

Torvhaug

Ophir

Noust

Rousay

Taversoe

Stenness

Standing Stones

Stromness

Ferry

Sanday

Kettletoft Hote

Westray

Cleaton House

Shetland**Lerwick**

PUB & BREWERY NEWS

Well, that was a trying period from March 2020 when pubs had to close at the beginning of the long haul of restrictions of varying types, which more or less curbed our social drinking! Varying restrictions over a couple of years or so ranged from not being able to drink inside pubs at all, only able to drink inside unless having a substantial meal (scotch eggs apparently acceptable!), not able to sit with your mates (unless all from only 2 households) - the list was almost endless! Many pubs in the city managed to erect outside marquees which could not be completely enclosed and so made for chilly socialising, and at one point gas cylinders to power the heaters were in short supply so scarves and overcoats remained on.

The worry was that, depending on the restrictions in force, many pubs that had no outside areas or did not serve food, meant that many pubs were not able to open at all. This situation led to Colin Watson, then owner of Under The Hammer, to close the doors of the pub he had ran for over 30 years. Whilst it was thought that it would never again be open, it was re-furnished by the McGintys group last year and is now a thriving pub again. The Queen Vic had varying fortunes with being able to open when restrictions allowed but was closed for some time during which the lack of heating caused the marble bar top to crack which was a concern at the time. Even the Prince of Wales was closed when drinking was only allowed outside whilst Ma Camerons was able to erect a tent with tables and chairs in the street.

All seemed to be over when all restrictions were lifted but there were some casualties with some ale pubs not able to offer as many real ales as before due to reduced custom with some closing earlier than before. Now a further threat to businesses is the so-called 'cost of living' crisis. Some pubs have increased their beer prices by 20p or so and some are still charging the same as before. It is probably only a matter of time before breweries and wholesalers have to increase their prices and pubs will have to pass increases on to the drinker

New/Revived Outlets

The Howff, Aberdeen has recently added 2 handpumps with only Landlord a regular beer at moment but has recently has Hobgoblin instead. They are hoping to get Titanic Plum Porter sometime in the future. **The Bonnie Beastie, Forres** is the former Red Lion which was refurbished late 2022 and re-opened earlier in year. Beers available in public bar are Landlord and GK House beer (Hardy & Hanson Bitter). The lounge is now mainly used for food. **The Cults Hotel, Cults** Has been reported as again selling Deuchars IPA which is now brewed at Belhaven Brewery, Dunbar, after Heineken closed the Caledonian Brewery in Edinburgh and sold the brands to Greene King. **The Linkwood Lodge, Elgin** is reported as selling ale but brand unknown. **The Golf View, Lossiemouth** (formerly the SkerryBrae) is selling Windswept key-keg according to the brewery.

Lost/Closed Outlets

The Hop & Anchor, Aberdeen was re-opened 11/08//2022 after being closed long term due to Covid but then closed again early September as being unviable by BrewDog who own it. **BrewDog, Peterhead** closed early September 2022 as being unviable. Note also that no BrewDog pubs sell their version of real ale (called live ale) any more. **The Belvedere Hotel, Stonehaven** the bar & restaurant was reported as closed till spring 2023 but hotel still may be doing accommodation. Will hopefully once again sell an Orkney beer on re-opening. They had intended selling a second ale prior to the decision to close temporarily. **The Saltoun Inn, Fraserburgh** is still trading as a Wetherspoons but is currently up for sale. What its future will be once sold is anybody's guess! We lost the **Illicit Still, Aberdeen** which closed at Christmas 2020 and still remains closed although it had not been selling ale for a while before then. We also lost **The Lairhillock Inn, Netherley**, which closed for good in early 2020 due to poor trading. The Aberdeen CAMRA branch fortunately managed a last visit whilst having a pub social with some members from the Tayside branch. It was a lovely old country pub and the intention was to build flats on the site - real shame!

We would appreciate any feed back on changes in your local pub such as beer being served, facilities etc. To inform us of any updates, please locate the pub in WhatPub on your phone or laptop and click on the 'Submit Update' tab, fill in the relevant details and submit your update. This will be sent to our Pubs Officer who will take the necessary action to update the database.

THE HOWFF

Scan the QR code to see our latest menus and our What's On page



2 Cask Ale



Good Food



Sunday Quiz



We Are In



Queen Vic



Serving Local Breweries

Monday Night Quiz

4 Cask Ales

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WINTER ALE WANDER 2023



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