

What's Yours Then?

Inverness & Highland Branch
Free Newsletter



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2003—2004



Campaign for Real Ale



Welcome at long last to readers of the Winter edition of our branch newsletter.

We plan to publish on a quarterly basis, and in a relatively standard format, so if you would like to advertise in this newsletter, please contact one of the branch officers (see page 6).

Full Page Advert.....£55.00

Half Page Advert.....£32.00

Quarter Page Advert.....£17.00

If at all possible, please send your advertisement in Microsoft Publisher compatible electronic format. The need to scan in hard copy may lead to loss of quality in reproduction.

500 copies will be distributed to branch members, Highland & Island brewers, Good Beer Guide listed hostellers, and to advertisers.

We hope to increase circulation, but this is dependant upon advertising revenue.

The newsletter content will focus upon keeping readers up-to-date on real ale matters in the branch area. In particular we aim to support the increasing numbers of local brewers and the hostellers who provide us with high quality real ale.

National Pubs Week 2004



Calling all publicans. Promote your pub events on the CAMRA NPW website for free. Promotional packs FREE to pubs (subject to availability). Information at www.camra.org.uk. Please don't miss out!

Annual General Meeting

The eleventh AGM of the Inverness and Highland Branch of CAMRA was held recently at the Clachnaharry Inn in Inverness. Minutes are available upon request from the branch Secretary.

The committee for the forthcoming year consists of:

Chairman - Bill Tring
Secretary - Eric Mills
Treasurer - Mike Whittall
Committee - John Holloway
- Peter Finneran

Bill heads up the local tasting panel, as well as carrying out local Brewery Liaison Officer (BLO) duties. Eric and John also have BLO commitments and Eric, as the branch Social Secretary, organises trips and outings. Mike is the Membership Secretary as well as Treasurer.

So what does the Branch do?

With 80 members, we are a relatively small branch and members are spread across a massive area. It is difficult to arrange trips to suit all. Suggestions for outings and events are always welcome.

We organise a real ale bar at the annual Marymas Fair, we promote local pubs through Pub-of-the-Year (see pages 8/9) and Good Beer Guide nominations, and we make regular visits to local breweries. We represent our pubs and brewers at national CAMRA forums, and we submit tasting notes and brewery information for inclusion in the Good Beer Guide.

We do not have resources to organise a full-scale beer festival, but there are a number of local festivals we support.



Premium Highland Ales

All available in cask & bottle

Stag	4.1%
Nessie's Monster Mash	4.4%
Sheepshaggers Gold	4.5%
Cairngorm Gold	4.5%
Wildcat	5.1%

SEASONAL CASK BEERS CURRENTLY AVAILABLE



TRADE WINDS

(available until January)

ABV 4.3%

Now won 3 awards since
launched in June!



SANTA'S SLEDGEHAMMER

(available Nov – Dec)

ABV 6.3%

Unit 12, Dalfaber Ind. Estate, Aviemore, Inverness-shire, PH22 1PY

Tel: 01479 812222 Fax: 01479 811465

info@cairngormbrewery.com

www.cairngormbrewery.com

A Stormy Day on the Cuillin

A small but dedicated bunch of travellers braved the wind and rain to rendez-vous at the Town House early one Saturday morning in September. All aboard Kenny's minibus, fares collected, and then it was full speed along the Loch Ness road.

The weather had been poor on last year's Skye trip, but cleared to give stunning views of mountain ridges as we descended into Glen Shiel. No such luck this year and it was a relief to find that the Skye Bridge crossing was into the teeth of a gale rather than with a nasty crosswind.

A left turn just before Broadford, and then south on the new road to Sleat and the first stop of the day at Hotel Eilean Iarmain (Isle Ornsay Hotel). A quick pint of Isle of Skye Blaven, a few minutes to admire the beautiful Sound of Sleat, and then onward to the north end of Skye.

Leaving the main road at the Fairy Bridge and after a few miles of single track, we drop down to the Stein Inn at Lochbay. Bitter & Twisted, Stag, and an un-named handpump which held the Skye Brewery's new Oyster Stout. Snack time for some meant a second Oyster Stout for others.



Angus McRuary and brewer Pam Jones



Skye Brewery at Uig. In keeping with local custom, a Leann Failte house brew had been prepared for the day. A Skye beer gift pack was the reward for guessing the correct mix of beers but, with no ABV clue, it was not easy to guess which beer had been blended with the easily identified Black Cuillin. The one-to-one blend with Blaven was missed by most!

A very tasty buffet was devoured in the brewery sun lounge, and washed down with more Leann Failte (Welcome Ale), plus a sample - from the wood - of the new Oyster Stout. Very tasty!

And more Skye beer gift packs for those who could still throw a bung into or at a barrel with some degree of accuracy..

All good things come to an end and, after quick visits to the brewery shop and Inn on the Pier (Red Cuillin in good nick), it was time to start the long journey home. Angus and Pam's brother John joined us for some very drinkable Red Cuillin in the Uig Hotel, and for MacNab's and Red Cuillin in Portree Hotels Royal and Isles, before heading homeward once more.

The Claymore Restaurant in Broadford and Glenmoriston Arms Hotel completed a long but very enjoyable day out for all.

Champion Beers

Champion Beer of Scotland 2003

- Gold Dark Island
- Silver Black Cuillin
- Bronze Bitter & Twisted

Champion Beers of Britain 2003

- Supreme Harviestoun
 Champion Bitter & Twisted
- Silver Crouch Vale
 Brewer's Gold
- Bronze Lidstones
 Rowley Mild

Another great result for Scotland, with Bitter & Twisted making it two in a row following Deuchar's IPA in 2002.

The full listings may be found at the CAMRA web site - www.camra.org.uk

Beer of the Festival

Trade Winds, Cairngorm's special brew for June, won the public's vote at the annual Scottish Beer Festival in Edinburgh. Due to popular demand brewing has continued.



Pictured are Brewer Ewan Grant (centre) and Brewery Manager Sean Tomlinson (right) receiving the award from Ken Davie, CAMRA's Scotland & NI Director.

More festival news on page 15.

2004 is the Year of Beer with Food and CAMRA have suggested a few Beer and Food matches that are worth a try..

> The 2003 Champion Beer of Britain, **Harviestoun Bitter & Twisted** from Dollar, Clackmannanshire is a golden beer brewed with wheat as well as barley malt and with a deep hop bitterness that marries well with the traditional spicy dish of Haggis/Vegetarian Haggis, Potato and Turnip Fritters with Onion Gravy -

225 gms Haggis, 225 gms potato, 225 gms turnip, 225 gms onions, 150 mls Bitter & Twisted, 450 mls stock, plain flour, 1 egg beaten with a little milk, seasoning, bread-crumbs, parsley to garnish. Serve with a mustard mash. (and presumably washed down with more Bitter & Twisted).

> Port Stout with Stilton. The 2003 Champion Bottle-conditioned beer, **O'Hanlon's Port Stout**, is the ideal companion for powerful, tangy blue cheese. O'Hanlon's Port Stout, brewed by John O'Hanlon in Whimple, Devon, is a dark, roasty, bitter beer with the addition of port wine. In Dublin, barmen call this beer "a corpse reviver" and serve it as a hangover cure.

More at www.camra.org.uk

Recipes from Highlands and Islands Brewers, and any local hostelry ale/food combinations will be considered for publication in the Spring edition of this newsletter.

(I notice that Atlas Brewery already have a few tips on their web site).

Branch Diary (Meetings start at 7.30 pm)

6th January	Committee Meeting	Phoenix, Inverness.
3rd February	Committee Meeting	Plough, Rosemarkie.
10th February	Branch Meeting	Hootananny's Inverness.
2nd March	Committee Meeting	Clachnaharry Inn, Inverness.

3rd April
(Date to be
Confirmed)



Cairngorm Brewery and real ale
outlets in the Aviemore area.

6th April	Committee Meeting	Heatherbrae Hotel, Nethy Bridge.
13th April	Branch Meeting	Glen Mhor Hotel, Inverness.

Please contact us if you wish to include your local event or place an advert.

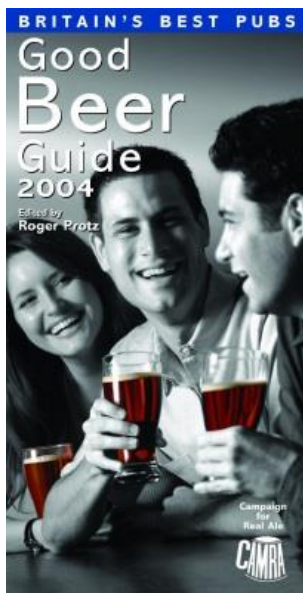
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The Good Beer Guide

The best place to find good pubs and good beer. The Good Beer Guide is more than just a pub guide. Britain's longest-running and best-selling guide contains Britain's best pubs for real ale. But for beer lovers it also gives up-to-date information on the country's beers and breweries. It is compiled by 69,000 dedicated volunteers in the Campaign for Real Ale. There are no fees for listings, and every pub is checked many times a year.

The unique Breweries section that lists all breweries - micro, regional and national - that produce cask beer, with tasting notes compiled by CAMRA-trained tasting teams. There's also information about beers suitable for vegetarians and vegans, as well as the growing number of organic beers. The Guide lists new breweries, closed breweries, mergers and takeovers, and keeps track of the new, powerful pub groups.

Rent this space in the
Spring Newsletter

Half Page Adverts for £32.00

Advertise your **Easter** Event here

Application to join CAMRA (Full/Joint British Isles/EU Membership)

Title:Surname:

Forename(s):

Date of Birth:

Partner (if joint membership):

Address:

Postcode: Date:

Telephone:

E-mail Address:

Signature:

Remittance (payable to CAMRA) enclosed for:

Single Membership £16.00

Joint Membership £19.00

Under 26 and Over 60s £9.00

Send to: The Membership Secretary, CAMRA,
230 Hatfield Road, St Albans, Herts, AL 1 4 LW



Inverness & Highland Branch

Branch Pubs of the Year 2003

David Irvine and his staff continued their winning ways at Clachnaharry Inn, when they won the *Town Pub* vote for a fourth consecutive year.

Congratulations to the new owners at Benleva Hotel in Drumnadrochit on winning the *Country Pub* vote in only their second year of trading.



The team at Benleva receiving the Country Pub award from Branch Chairman Bill Tring.

James Beaton, with brothers Allan and Stephen Crossland, purchased Benleva in November 2001. The new owners spent much of the first winter constructing a new bar and renovating the kitchen. Benleva is open all day all year for both food and drink, and the increasing sales of real ale mean that, since June, there are regularly three beers available on handpump.

Meanwhile regulars over at the Clachnaharry Inn will be familiar with the steady progress over the years as Davie renovated and made improvements to the inn,

and built a thriving business around fine ales, good value bar meals, and a friendly welcome to all.



Retiring Landlord David Irvine (left) and new owner George MacLean (right) jointly receiving the Town Pub award from Chairman Bill.

Having at last "received an offer I couldn't refuse", Davie is finally catching up with his garden, plus some hill-walking and fishing, while new landlord George MacLean settles in at Clachnaharry Inn. There are some new faces behind the bar who, along with Veronica and Mark 1, are helping George to maintain the Inn's much deserved reputation for good quality food and ales. George has expressed a desire to expand the selection of guest ales, and there is even talk of a beer festival!

A difficult choice, but after much debate Benleva was selected to represent the branch area in the annual Scottish Pub of the Year, ultimately finishing third behind Geordie's Byre in Ayr, and the Wheatsheaf in Falkirk.

Now is the time for you to vote for the local pubs which **you** think should be 2004 Pubs-of-the-Year.

Pub of the Year (POTY)

There are two awards -

- a. *Inverness* Pub of the Year
- b. *Country* Pub of the Year
- All Branch members are allowed to vote in both categories.
- All votes to be returned to the secretary by **end of February**.
- All entries must serve real ale.
- In the event of a tie the committee will decide the result by consensus.
- Both winning pubs will be visited by the committee who will then decide which of the two will represent the Branch in the Scottish Pub of the Year.

- All nominated pubs must be within the branch boundary
- The result, in full, will be notified to members via the newsletter.

Past Winners

- 2000 Clachnaharry Inn
* Ferry Boat Inn
- 2001 * Clachnaharry Inn
Sligachan Hotel
- 2002 Clachnaharry Inn
* Ferry Boat Inn
- 2003 Clachnaharry Inn
* Benleiva Hotel

* Scottish POTY entry, won by Clachnaharry Inn in 2001.



**Inverness & Highland Branch of CAMRA
2004 Pub of the Year Entry Form**

Inverness Pub of the Year

Pub Name

Country Pub of the Year

Pub Name

Location

Member's Details

Name

Membership No.

Please return to Eric Mills, Kerrowdown Mill, Drumnadrochit, IV 63 6 XP.
Alternatively e-mail your votes to ericdenise@millse24.freeseerve.co.uk

Please return by end of February

John Aird

Now that he is fast approaching his 80th birthday John Aird has decided to stand down from the branch committee after eleven years of service.

John has been a committee member since the Inverness & Highland Branch first came into being as an offshoot of the Aberdeen Branch back in 1993. John now feels he needs to ease off just a little bit and allow younger members to take over. His views and opinions, and his vast knowledge of real ales past and present, have been much valued at our meetings and will be missed.

John is a renowned raconteur and all who have spent time in his company will have enjoyed listening to his seemingly inexhaustible tales of hill walking, diving,

climbing, railway building, military escapades, and other pursuits too many to mention. His phenomenal memory, and his ability to recall the exact date, time and place of so many of his experiences, continues to amaze.

A retired lawyer, John is a well-known city worthy and is recognised by many in the Inverness area. His many ac-



tive interests include the Strathspey Steam Railway, the Scottish Rights of way Society, the theatre (he is a governor of Eden Court Theatre), and until recently deep-sea diving.

His long association with Eden Court has been instrumental in the organisation of our regular real ale stall at the annual Marymas Festival.

On behalf of all branch members the committee wish John continuing good health and many more happy years here in Inverness. We hope the local Branch will continue to benefit from his interest and experience in the CAMRA real ale scene.

And a few more stories at (and of) the bar, of course!

Marymas Fair

After selling out by early afternoon in 2002, we decided to sell four ales at our Real Ale bar in 2003. An innovative ale colours theme meant that we wanted a selection of red, gold, dark, and pale ales. Following our usual objectives of supporting local brewers, and of exposing the public to ales not regularly available in Inverness pubs, we eventually decided upon Atlas Lattitude, Black Isle Yellowhammer, Skye Black Cuillin, and Cairngorm Wild Cat. As if by magic, this selection also provided ales of a strength to suit all - 3.6, 4.0, 4.5, and 5.0 per cent ABV respectively.

A mid-afternoon sell-out indicated another good choice of ales.



Highlands & Islands Brewers in 2003

Orkney Brewery - Brewing commenced in March 1988 at the old schoolhouse in Sandwick. Ales include Dark Island and Red MacGregor.

Isle of Skye Brewery - Based at Uig by the Western Isles ferry terminal. Brewing since December 1995. Ales include Red & Black Cuillin and Blaven. House, seasonal, and special event ales are brewed.

Valhalla Brewery - The most northerly brewery in the UK started brewing on the island of Unst in December 1997. Ales include White Wife.

Black Isle Brewery - Started brewing in December 1998 in converted farm buildings. Ales include Red Kite and Yellowhammer. Organic ales a speciality.

Isle of Arran Brewery - Located close to Brodick Castle. Opened late March 2000. Ales include Blond and Dark.

Newtonmore & Kingussie Brewery - Started brewing in October 2001, using the location and plant previously used by Iris Rose.

Fyne Ales Brewery - Based at the head of Loch Fyne, brewing started on St Andrew's Day 2001. Ales include Piper's Gold and Maverick.

Cairngorm Brewery Company - Set up in late 2001 to market the beers of Tomintoul and Aviemore breweries which they own. Ales include Wildcat, Stag, Highland IPA.

Hebridean Brewing Company - Based in Stornoway on the Isle of Lewis. First beer was produced at the end of January 2002.

Atlas Brewery - Brewing in one of the old Aluminium Smelter buildings at Kinlochleven since February 2002. Ales include Latitude and Wayfarer.

An Teallach Brewery - A beer was brewed for this company at the Atlas Brewery from May 2002. Moved to Dundonnell during March 2003.

A continuing success story for real ale in the Highlands and Islands.

Not all of the breweries listed are in our branch area - Valhalla and Orkney are in the Aberdeen, Grampian & Northern Isles area; the Arran Brewery falls within the Ayrshire & Galloway area; while Fyne Ales is covered by Glasgow & West Scotland.

With all this fine ale being brewed there just has to be somewhere nearby where you can sample a pint or two of the stuff. In support of local publicans and brewers we regularly monitor real ale outlets in our area so that there is an accurate selection of Highland & Island entries in the Good Beer Guide.

Turn over for the history of Good Beer Guide entries in our locality.

Highlands & Islands Good Beer Guide Entries (1985, 1990/91, 1993-2004)

There was not a single pub listed for the Highlands & Islands in the 1997 Good Beer Guide. With the exception of a relatively short journey to the Red Lion at Forres, or

	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04
Aviemore	Y					Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y					
Cawdor	Y					Y	Y		Y	Y										
Glencoe	Y					Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Inverness	Y					Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Inverness	Y					Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Thurso	Y					Y	Y													
Alness					Y															
Aviemore					Y									Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y
Aviemore					Y															
Bellachulish					Y															
Fort William					Y		Y		Y											
Forres					Y		Y		Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Gairloch					Y		Y		Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Glencoe					Y		Y		Y		Y	Y	Y							
Inverness					Y		Y		Y		Y	Y	Y							
Inverness					Y		Y		Y		Y	Y	Y			Y	Y			
Inverness					Y		Y		Y											
Inverness					Y		Y		Y											
Inverness					Y		Y		Y											
Kingussie					Y		Y		Y											
Nairn					Y		Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Bowmadden					Y		Y		Y											
Inverness					Y		Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y					
Fort William					Y		Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Kingussie					Y		Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Onich					Y		Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Aultbea					Y		Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Avoch					Y		Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

By 1985 six pubs were listed in the Highlands

Unfortunately your researcher does not have the guides for 1986 - 1989 to hand, nor for 1992, but perhaps you can fill the gaps?

Highlands & Islands Good Beer Guide Entries (1985, 1990/91, 1993-2004)

to the Palace in Perth, it seems that a major expedition to the early real ale meccas of Strathclyde or Lothian was necessary to find any significant choice of real ale.

Glencoe pubs are nominated
by Glasgow & W.Scotland!
Answers on a postcard please...

Glencoe pubs are nominated
by Glasgow & W.Scotland!
Answers on a postcard please...

Pubs on Orkney and Shetland appear in the guide under Highlands & Islands, but are not included here as they are nominated for GBG by Aberdeen.

Some pubs have been and gone, some to return in later years, and a few pubs have made irregular or fleeting appearances in the guide.

The usual suspects have been around since early days, and it is refreshing to see that, despite the closure of pubs throughout the land, the number of hostleries serving real ale in the Highlands & Islands is on the increase - not to mention the number of brewers.

See also pubs reported to
be serving real (page 14)

National Hotel	Dingwall
Ferry Boat Inn	Ullapool
Lauders	Inverness
Claymore House Hotel	Nairn
Blackfriars	Inverness
Grog & Gruel	Fort William
Old Forge	Inverie
Strathcarron Hotel	Strathcarron
Cairn Hotel	Cambridge
Glen Hotel	Newtownmore
Mansfield House Hotel	Tain
Sligachan Hotel	Sligachan
Central Hotel	Thurso
Stein inn	Watnish
Inn at Ardgoor	Ardgoor
Number 27	Inverness
Plough Inn	Rossmorkie
Laroch Bar	Ballaichulish
Benleva Hotel	Drumnadrochit
Nevis Sport Bar	Fort William
Invergarry Hotel	Invergarry
Heatherbrae Hotel	Nethy Bridge
Hootananny	Inverness
Palace Hotel	Inverness
Tailrace Inn	Kinlochleven
Four Seasons	Onich
Blackton Hotel	Blackton

Real Ale Pubs

In addition to GBG-listed pubs, it has been reported that the following Inns and Hotels are selling real ale -

Inverness

Glen Mhor Hotel
Heathmount Hotel
Kings Highway
Snowgoose
Waterfront

Around Inverness

Cawdor Tavern

Black Isle & Dingwall

Kilcoy Arms, Tore
Royal Hotel, Fortrose
National Hotel, Dingwall
Richmond Hotel, Strathpeffer

Speyside

Cairngorm Hotel, Aviemore
Dalfaber Country Club, Aviemore
Winking Owl, Aviemore
Highlander Inn, Craigellachie
Boat Hotel, Boat of Garten
Glen Mhor, Granton on Spey
Glen Hotel, Newtonmore
Mains Hotel, Newtonmore

Lochaber

Inn at Ardgour
Kings House Hotel, Glencoe
Stronlossit Hotel, Roy Bridge

Western Highlands

Applecross Inn
Altguish Inn
Drumchork Hotel, Aultbea
Badachro Inn
Loch Duich Hotel, Dornie
Inchbae Hotel, Garve
Cuchulainn's, Kyle of Lochalsh
Lochcarron Hotel
Rock Villa Hotel, Lochcarron
Plockton Inn
Strathcarron Hotel
Argyll Hotel, Ullapool

Isle of Skye

Ardvasar Hotel
Claymore, Broadford
Dunollie Hotel, Broadford
Coruisk House, Elgol
Duntulm Hotel
Dunvegan Hotel
Edinbane Hotel
Flodigarry Hotel
Isleornsay Hotel
Taigh Ailean Hotel, Portnalong
Isles Inn, Portree
Royal Hotel, Portree
Isle of Raasay Hotel
Toravaig House Hotel
Ferry Inn, Uig
Pub on the Pier, Uig
Uig Hotel, Uig

Western Isles

Langass Lodge, North Uist
The Whaler's Rest, Stornoway
Isle of Harris Hotel, Tarbet

North

Melvich Hotel
Scourie Inn

If you visit any of these hotels and inns, some of whom may only sell real ale during the tourist season, please let us know about the quality of real ales on tap, particularly if you think inclusion in the next edition of the Good Beer Guide is merited.

The **Spring Newsletter** will hopefully include a Letters Page, but only with ***your*** help. Letters, views & opinions, articles, etc., are all welcome. Let us know what is happening out and about in your neck of the woods.

The Spring Newsletter **deadline** will be 1st March 2004, with publication in time for Easter.

Festival Favourites

Despite a large selection of ales from south of the border, the Punters Choice vote at the recent Aberdeen Beer Festival went to Isle of Skye Cuillin Beast for the second year running. Cairngorm Black Gold and Atlas Three Sisters completed a monopoly of podium places for our local Highlands & Islands brewers.

The second Loch Ness Beer Festival, hosted by Inverness & Highland Country-Pub-of-the-Year Benleva Hotel, was a great success. We're told that the vote for Beer of the Festival ended in a four-way tie, and the organisers are hoping that an uncounted and deciding vote may turn up during Spring cleaning!

Cairngorm Trade Winds voted 'Beer of the Festival' by the public at the Mains Hotel Beer Festival in Newtonmore.

News of Brews

Winter Warmers include Santa's Sledgehammer and Atlas Blizzard (4.7%ABV).

Look out for Isle of Skye Brewery's new Oyster Stout - a real gem!

Inns 'n' Things

Real ale is back on tap at the Winking Owl in Aviemore. The Royal at Kingussie has changed hands, the bar may not be open.

The Royal Hotel at Fortrose is now selling real ale, and new owner Jim Anderson is advertising "Multicultural Food, Proper Cask Ales, Impressive Malts, Belgian Beer Heaven, and a Nice Place to Stay".

In May 2003 Angus & Teresa celebrated 10 years at the Stein Inn on Skye. The inn had been closed for 18 months when

they bought it, and was in a poor state. The inn has been renovated, extended, modernised, and refurbished; and yet none of the character and charm of this wonderful old loch-side inn has been lost.

The Old Inn at Gairloch will be closed for six weeks from 5th January 2004, for refurbishment.

Newsletter Archives

February 2000 - Issue No. 3 of the Branch Newsletter carried an article on Blackfriars titled *End of an Era*. The era in question was the nine years during which Dougie Fraser managed Blackfriars on behalf of S&N. During this time the Blackfriars was a mecca for the choice and quality of real ales.

The decision by S&N to move the pub from their managed estate to the tenancy side of their business sadly led to Dougie's departure to pastures new. With no news of when a leaseholder or tenant might be in place, and following a decline of beer quality while the pub was run by a succession of temporary managers, the committee had no option but to withdraw Blackfriars from the Good Beer Guide.

By the time Issue No. 4 was published in August of that year, Alexander (Zander) MacDiarmid had taken over and we were able to report that "the quality of ales is once again excellent and members will be pleased to know that the Blackfriars will take its rightful place back in GBG 2001".

NB The views and opinions expressed within this newsletter are not necessarily those of the editor, nor of the Campaign for Real Ale.



**Quality award-winning cask
and bottled beers**

**RED CUILLIN BLACK CUILLIN
YOUNG PRETENDER
BLAVEN HEBRIDEAN GOLD
CUILLIN BEAST MISTY ISLE
SKYE OYSTER STOUT
House and Special Event ales**

Souvenirs and gifts from

Buth an Leanna (The Brewery Shop)

The Pier Uig Isle of Skye

01470-542477

and from

www.skyebrewery.co.uk