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Campaign
for
Real Ale

the tippler

The magazine of the
Gloucestershire Branches of the
Campaign for Real Ale

Spring 2022

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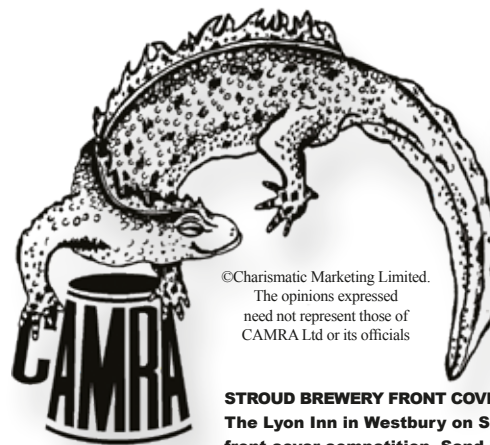


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The magazine of the Gloucestershire Branches
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STROUD BREWERY FRONT COVER COMPETITION WINNER:

The Lyon Inn in Westbury on Severn captured by Tewkesbury's Bill Hunt wins this edition's front cover competition. Send in your cover pictures, see page 27 for more details, and good luck!

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**CONTRIBUTION DEADLINES:
THESE HAVE NOW CHANGED TO
SECOND FRIDAY OF
FEBRUARY, MAY, AUGUST AND NOVEMBER**

We value feedback and news from around the county, so, if you've got something to say, want to make a contribution, compliment or criticise, then get in touch:

The Editor, The Tippler, 23 Theocs Close, Tewkesbury, Glos. GL20 5TX
chris@thetippler.co.uk
07977 157050

www.gloucestershire.camra.org.uk



Some of us old codgers are still happy to use the services of the Royal Mail, and we actively encourage all forms of (preferably printable!) communication. So get writing letters, sending emails and get your news, views and comments published!

Editorial...

Welcome back to the second post-covid Tippler, it's great to be back. Judging by the huge number of entries to our competitions, the best we've had in over eight years, readers have given us a big thumbs up, so now I'm looking for your help.

We're back to a traditional format of a real magazine, and the biggest issue we now face will of course be to get the content back on track and that's where you can help. Forget the all the social media stuff that has helped us through the last two years or so, now is the time to get writing and taking pictures.

I am particularly looking for the pub and brewery news, views, letters of thanks, letters of disgust, however you want to feel listened to. I am also in need images for the front cover competition, you'll really increase your chances of winning if you read the detail on page 25.

Don't forget images for 'Name that Pub', you publicans out there surely have plenty for us to choose from. Articles about days out, ale ambles, pub walks, pub talks, beer festivals, brewery visits and tap room talk, send it in. I can't always promise to publish everything, but as space allows I'll get it in. This magazine relies on you, the readership to make it work, so speak up and get heard!

I'll be looking at new features, pub and brewery 'Births, marriages and Deaths', we want to hear about the former for the good news element.

Also tittle, tattle, rumours and gossip for the new series by the Dreggs, Ernest and Verity, for their gossip column 'Scraping the Barrel'.

So get it in to me and we'll get this magazine back up to 64 (maybe more?) pages of beer and cider news and entertainment.

Cheers!

Chris Leibbrandt, Editor

THE INDEPENDENT ALE & CIDERHOUSE IN THE HEART OF TEWKESBURY

Pouring through the pandemic!

FIND US IN



"Everybody's got to believe in something. I believe I'll have another beer."

W.C. Fields

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Check out what's pouring today on Facebook

Letters to the Editor...

The Turks Head Inn
76 Southgate Street
Gloucester GL1 2EZ

Dear Chris,

I am the licensee of the above pub. As you can see I have enclosed a novel for you to read, if you get the chance. I wrote it during lockdown and had it published.

The novel is set in the early 1600s on the river Severn between Lydney and Tewkesbury. In fact a lot of action takes place in and around the Britannia Inn (a pub I used to run). Also included in the tale is the Boat at Ashleworth and the Red Lion at Wainlodes.

Without spoiling the plot, I can tell you that two of the main characters (and very evil they are too) are the highwaymen Clavell and Hind (as in the brewery).

I thought you may like to mention my book in the next Tippler. It sells quite well in my pub and obviously being called 'Pirates at the Turks Head Inn' it's a useful advertising tool.

The micropub itself is still very busy despite all the corona virus problems. In the time since we reopened we have showcased over 100 different ales from breweries within about 40 miles distance.

We have won many awards including Gloucester Parliamentary Pub of the Year (2020) and we're completely independent, though still excluded from the Good Beer Guide! (How can you have a Beer Guide and omit the only micropub in Gloucester, and one that serves ale directly from the barrel?)

About Easter time we will be moving to a larger premises (7-9 Aldgate Street) about 10 doors down from the Regal, in the refurbished Kings Square. This is obviously an exciting time for us. We were granted planning permission for the change of use to a pub on 22nd December 2021 and work began on the conversion on the 23rd December, all alongside running the Turks.

Anyway, please red the book if you get a chance, and if passing, pop in for a beer.

Regards
Peter Sheehy



Chris replies:

Many thanks for the letter Peter (a rare event these days!) and also for the book which I have read. You can read the review that is found elsewhere in the magazine.

I must say that is also a great story that you tell about the success of the Turks Head Inn. A truly independent micropub. It's always really encouraging to hear a good news story, especially in the face of the adversity that the pub and also the wider entertainment industry have faced over the last two years. It is now such a pleasure to be able to pop into a pub for a pint without all the palaver of masks, Covid passes, sanitation stations and the like.

Regarding the Good Beer Guide, luckily for me I have to be impartial, so can't really comment on particular cases (I sound a bit like a politician here) except to say that the CAMRA guidelines and protocols regarding the entry into the GBG seem to be fairly rigorous and of course, are always very well intentioned. I am sure it's only a matter of time!

Cheers!
Chris Leibbrandt

Letters to the Editor...

Dear Chris,

It was great to read a copy of the Tippler again after the enforced gap in publication due to Covid. The Tippler remains an invaluable resource in promoting real ales and highlighting forthcoming CAMRA activities.

The owners of the Bell Hotel in Tewkesbury must be absolutely delighted with the free publicity that they have unexpectedly gained from being featured on the front cover. The inclusion of the Bell is only because of the photograph competition currently sponsored by the Stroud Brewery. Apart from the fact that the photo of the Bell depicts a summer scene in the winter edition, I have reservations that the prestigious front cover of the Tippler should be utilised in such a way when it would be better used for 'headline' news, for example using an image of Caron Saynor of the Kemble Brewery Inn who is recognised later in the magazine as a CAMRA 'Lockdown Hero'. I am not against the concept of the sponsored photograph competition, and I would be very happy to send in images if the photographs are displayed within the pages of the magazine leaving the prestigious front page for actual campaigning. Stroud Brewery must be delighted in gaining publicity not just on the front cover but on the centre pages too.

Geoff Sandles

Chris replies:

Many thanks for the email Geoff, very much appreciated, especially the first paragraph.

The front cover has been a fairly constant source of consternation over the years I have edited the Tippler. I introduced the Front Cover competition after a particular barrage of complaints to do two things. First was to encourage the dissenting voices to send in 'better' images (which they never did), and secondly, to create an incentive for readers to engage AND benefit by way of prizes from doing so. For the most part it has been a success, but I agree with you, it could always be better.

Speaking of competitions, I've already mentioned in my Editorial that we have had the best response in over eight years, here are a few of the easy to read responses from the happy readers, don't forget to check all four (YES FOUR) competitions out in this edition.

I was just reading the 2021 winter edition of 'the Tippler' where I stumbled across the 'Name That Pub' competition. I believe that the Pub in question is The Butchers Arms in Sheepscombe. Fingers crossed!

A cracking read and I hope to hear from you soon!

Many thanks,
Joel Wagstaff

The prizeword search answer is "We hope you are as pleased as we are to see the return of The Tippler"

I also wanted to drop you a note to say how pleased I was to pick up a copy of The Tippler in my local just before Christmas. It's been much missed and its return heralds something of a return to normality. Of behalf of local real ale drinkers thank you and your team for such an informative publication.

Was very glad to see that you'd picked up where you'd left off. It all helps give a sense of normality!

Many thanks
Laurence Morton

Dear Mr. Leibbrandt,

It was with pleasure that I saw the winter edition lounging in the pub this week.

I'd like to celebrate your reappearance by entering the Name That Pub competition.

The pub sign in question is that of The Butchers Arms in Sheepscombe.

Keep up the good work.

All the best,
James Bell.



THE HUNTER'S COLUMN

Maybe the Black Country starlet Janice Nicholls 'ad it roight all the woile? In this issue, our intrepid hero considers the often unintentionally amusing system of how to vote for your pint.

"O'LL GIVE IT FOIVE..."



Janice Nicholls

star overnight and those Liverpool lads didn't do too bad either. After re-entering earth's atmosphere, Janice dived straight in with both feet into a chiropody course, a treatment well known for its 'heeling' powers, and after 'nailing' all her exams opened her own practice in Hednesford, a place where she was sure that the locals should have no difficulty in understanding her. In 1963, between celestial lift off and landing, Janice released a single called, you've guessed it, 'I'll Give It Five'. This was a broad translation for the wider public but no-one in the Black Country could pronounce it. They didn't have any trouble with the B-side instrumental though, The Wednesbury Madison. They're still doing it now! Were the A-side's lyrics a little cheeky for the time? "I love Dion, he can't go wrong; I could play him all night long; Oi'll give it foive". I'll leave it to our teenage panel to decide.

Janice wasn't a member of CAMRA, she couldn't have been, it didn't froth up until 1971. Even if she had joined later, she would have run into trouble straight away with the NBSS, The National Beer Scoring Scheme, "a 0 - 5 point scale for judging beer quality in pubs... designed to assist CAMRA branches in selecting pubs for the Good Beer Guide... by encouraging members to report on beer quality wherever they go". A Spy in the House of Beer! The issue would have been about her giving out her "foives". It is not encouraged. On the CAMRA beer-scoring website WhatPub, **5** is categorised as Perfect, whilst **0** is Beer Undrinkable/Poor. I'm not sure why Poor is added to the description; no one would be



thinking Undrinkable/Good. Undrinkable says it all. The fabulous Gloucestershire Green Card system (thank you Wing Commander!) classes 5 as Absolutely Superb but advises to "use 5 sparingly". If she had, dear Janice wouldn't have had a career, other than with non-tapping feet. I like the GGC description of category 2, "OK but uninspiring". Oh, is that why we go to the pub? We all roll down the pub to get absolutely... inspired!? The CAMRA NBSS Scheme used to issue a small booklet of white cards to be completed by its amateur 007's and may still do, although it has probably got swallowed up in the internet age. As they weren't printed on rice paper, it's a spooky trick that should have been discouraged anyway. I suppose that some of us are leaders and some of us are swallowers!

What I really enjoyed about the white cards was the category descriptions on the back.

0 Undrinkable. No cask ale available (well why are you there then?) or so poor you have to take it back or can't finish it (why not both?)

1 Poor. Beer that is anything from barely drinkable to drinkable with considerable resentment (This conjures up a wonderful image of some old geezer sitting on his own in a corner of the bar with a dodgy pint, absolutely boiling up inside with steam coming out of his ears. This isn't just resentment; this is considerable resentment.)

2 Average. Competently kept, drinkable pint (as opposed to a competently kept undrinkable pint?) but doesn't inspire (that word again) in anyway, not worth moving to another pub (lazy git!) but you drink the beer without really noticing. (Come on! Concentrate man/woman!)

3 Good. Good beer in good form. You may cancel plans to move to the next pub. (Do I need your permission? How do you know what I'm planning to do with the rest of my life? There's a whole universe out there.)

4 Very Good. Excellent beer in excellent condition (not 'Very good beer in very good condition' then?)

5 Perfect. Probably the best beer you are likely to find. A seasoned drinker will award this score very rarely (!)

Maybe Janice wasn't a seasoned drinker and probably for the better, as she was only 16 when she did the walk of fame from Wednesbury High Street to the ABC Alpha Studios in Aston, Birmingham, right opposite Ansell's Brewery. The brewery was not far from the Villa ground - accounting for the large number of 'bitter' men in the vicinity. A bit young to know her beer but she knew what music she liked and coined a phrase and enough cash to start her own business, thus enabling her to treat her own feet after taking that Walk on the Wednesbury Wild Side. Let's give 'er an 'igh foive eh?

The Hunter

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PRIZE WORD SEARCH

Gloucester Brewery are proud to sponsor
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Ship Inn
Star
Strand
Swan
Tavern Inn
Tivoli
Water Poet
Yew Tree
York**

Find the listed Gloucestershire hostleries in the grid (open before the COVID lockdown).

They can be horizontal, vertical or diagonal, forward or back.

The unused letters spell out a recent anniversary.

Send your answer in ASAP to:

chris@thetippler.co.uk

and win ONE of FOUR BREWERY TOUR tickets available to lucky winners.



NEWS FROM THE CHELTENHAM BRANCH

The Ale Ambles Return in Search of Good Beer!

Ale Ambles in search of good beer!

We are delighted to report that our Ale Ambles have recommenced after a very long break.

Our first official outing in October was to Cardiff where we met our friends Norman and Keith from the city and stopped at the Tiny Rebel pub opposite the Principality stadium. My friend Sam and I were amazed to find a gin and tonic beer on tap which was really refreshing and (quite honestly) the two of us would have been happy to just stay there. However, we needed to move on. Most of the pubs we visited had been on our schedule on our previous visits, but we were surprised to find the City Arms closed for renovations and the Hopbunker closed for good.

In November, I arranged a Saturday Stagger when we went to Bath. The staggers are arranged every so often so that others who can't make it during the week can venture out of Cheltenham to sample some good beer.

In December, we had our usual Christmas outing to Birmingham where we visited the German Christmas Market, the good thing was it was taking place, but with a lot fewer merchants than we had hoped to see. This wasn't surprising given the Covid conditions at the time and the fact they had come from Frankfurt. Luckily, our usual stand was there, and we started the day with a mug of Gluhwein. From there we went on to the Purity Bar to meet our friends Phil and Carol

from Milton Keynes. A visit to Birmingham has to include the Wellington, of course. The pub with the most impressive interior we felt was the Fuller's pub, The Old Joint Stock.

January saw us on the bus to Oxford. Friends from Milton Keynes, Swindon, North Cotswolds and Cardiff joined us. Our favourite pub was the Royal Blenheim which is now leased by Titanic (the only such pub in our region). Some of us had the good fortune to have a Titanic loyalty card (you have to visit one of their pubs to obtain one). This pub was enjoyed so much that some went there twice! A visit to Oxford wouldn't be complete without a visit to Teardrop in the covered market. Next to their micro-pub is a wine shop and next to that will be a pizza place (all owned by Luciana and Christian from Church Hanbrewery). It was pretty cold there in the market, but we soon warmed up with their beers.

The following month we ventured further north to Wolverhampton. I had been concerned because two of our favourite pubs were not in the current Good Beer Guide. I contacted Wolverhampton CAMRA and was told it was just because of a change of landlord and all was good. We were very pleased to have Amanda and Charlotte from Wolverhampton branch join us and provide local knowledge. We had lunch in the local Wetherspoon's and had a very acceptable Titanic Plum Porter.

We are very pleased to be able to get out



NEWS FROM THE CHELTENHAM BRANCH

The Ale Ambles Return in Search of Good Beer!

and about again and are looking forward to a lot more trips this year. We usually have between 15 and 24 people turn up, so there is always a good lot of banter to be enjoyed along with the beers. As the weather improves, we are hoping to go further and reinstate our annual trip to the seaside.

Details of future Ambles, trips and staggers and a whole lot more can be found under the Events tab at:

www.cheltenhamcamra.org.uk

Veronica Emary



BrewDog opens in Cheltenham

On February 25th, the BrewDog chain opened their first Gloucestershire bar at Unit 3, in the Brewery Quarter, Cheltenham. With up to 30 lines of draught beer, which BrewDog say are 'live keykeg' and therefore CAMRA compliant, there will be beers to suit any taste. Alongside the BrewDog (and guest lines) is a range of can beers to drink in or take out.

Alongside the drinks selection, the bar serves a varied menu with vegetarians and vegans catered for, including a two-for-one veggie offer on Mondays.

The bar is dog friendly and wheelchair accessible throughout. Opening hours are 12 to 12 during the week and 12 to 1 am Fridays and Saturdays. More information can be found at:

<https://www.brewdog.com/uk/bars/uk/cheltenham>



NEWS FROM THE CHELTENHAM BRANCH



Kakapo, a new pale ale from Ashton Brewery

The name of Ashton Brewery's latest beer was chosen via a Beer Naming Competition, with the winning entry being announced at the Angry Parrot on February 3rd, 2022.

The worthy winner of the Beer Naming Competition (Paul) is shown here with Ashton Brewery founder Pete.

Paul suggested the name Kakapo for Pete's new brew, a 4.3% Pale Ale brewed with Nelson Sauvin hops. The micropub invited its loyal customers to come along to the pub for a pint, and be inspired to think up a name for the brand new refreshing session pale ale brewed with the unique hops from New Zealand. The hops are named after the Sauvignon blanc grape, which gives the beer a distinctive white wine fruitiness with flavours of fresh crushed gooseberries.

Why Kakapo? Well the Kakapo is a friendly nocturnal, flightless parrot from New Zealand and the name combines the best of New Zealand and the Angry Parrot.



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Cheltenham Branch Annual General Meeting

Cheltenham Branch Annual General Meeting 7.30pm on Wednesday 18th May 2022

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Cheltenham Branch of the Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA) will take place at:

**The Sandford Park Alehouse, 20 High St, Cheltenham GL50 1DZ at
7.30pm on Wednesday 18th May 2022.**

Nominations are invited for the offices of Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Secretary, Pubs Officer, Social Secretary, Press Officer, Clubs Officer and up to four ordinary committee members. They should show the candidate's name, the office for which he/she is nominated, the names and signatures of the proposer and seconder and the candidate's signature to indicate his/her willingness to serve. Candidates proposers, and seconds must be members in good standing of the Cheltenham branch of CAMRA. A nomination form can be found at:

<https://tinyurl.com/Chelt-CAMRA>

Nominations, as well as any motions for debate at the meeting should be sent to the Chairman or may be handed in at any Cheltenham branch business meeting.

Please bring your membership card to the meeting in order to vote on any motions raised.

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NEWS FROM NORTH

MONTHLY PUB WALKS

We have now completed 103 walks around our pubs in the North Cotswold area. Generally 4 or 5 miles easy walking these are held monthly on the first Saturday of the month starting at 10:30 am from the pub car park returning at 12:30 pm for lunch.

The next walks are as follows:- call Roger Price on 01451 810305 or just turn up. Dogs welcome on leads.

No 104 - Sat March 5th- Sun Inn, Hook Norton.

No 105 - Sat April 2nd - Farmers Arms, Guiting Power.

BEER FESTIVALS 2022

20th Ale and Steam Weekend 27th - 29th May

15th Moreton Beer Festival 9th - 11th September

Further information on our website:
www.northcotswoldcamra.org.uk

Face Book

A link to this site is on our web page <https://www.facebook.com/North-Cotswolds-CAM-RA-the-Campaign-for-Real-Ale-in-the-North-Cotswolds-1022351584505679/?fref=nf>

Cycling Events

We have a couple of great cycling days out planned, the first is Friday 22nd April, starting at 10.00 am from Chedworth to Cirencester and back. There are five great pubs on the list to visit.

The second is Friday 15th July from Moreton to Shipston and back. A cycle route that takes in another five great pubs and a brewery.



COTSWOLD BRANCH

MONTHLY PUB WALKS

We have around 80 pubs in the area and each one will eventually figure in the process. Reports on all walks are available on our website

www.northcotswoldcamra.org.uk

together with the route and photographs.

Motorcycling Events

We are also planning 4 motorcycle runs (approx. 80miles on fine days) visiting scenic locations.

Day Away 2020

On Friday 6th May we have a visit to Oxford by Train taking place. When we get there, we'll be enjoying a tour of GBG pubs. Details TBA.

Weekend Away

TBA

Autumn Pub of the Year

TBA

North Cotswold CAMRA & GWR

20th GWR STEAM & ALE WEEKEND

27th to 29th MAY 2022

11:00 to 18:00 (Fri)

10:30 to 19.00 (Sat) to 17:00 (Sun)

Winchcombe & Toddington* Stations

(*new bigger bar!)

50 Beers total-15 at Toddington
Hot & Cold Food with Soft Drinks

CAMPING near station at Winchcombe

Come by Train: Extra trains for this event. Broadway open!
Frequent trains will operate between Cheltenham RC and Broadway
Additional early and late trains on Saturday
See timetable on GWR Website.
A train ticket on the day is required
or you need a platform ticket for entry.
Plenty of car parking at Toddington



www.northcotswoldcamra.org.uk



NEWS FROM THE TEWKESBURY BRANCH



PUB OF THE YEAR 2022

The Berkeley Arms has been voted Tewkesbury CAMRA Pub of the Year 2022.

A presentation of a commemorative certificate will take place at the Berkeley of Wednesday 16th March at 6:30pm. If you are free please come along and join the celebrations.

In the coming months as the weather improves, Tewkesbury CAMRA are planning a couple of trips that will feature a lot of good beer. The first being a wander around the lovely pubs of Burton on Trent. This trip is planned for St. George's day, what better than to try some proper English ale?

The second is a trip to Ludlow. This is a town that is worth a visit even if you don't drink beer. The Ludlow Spring Festival is a great event, this year being held on the 14th May. The festival takes place in the famous castle grounds and includes the SIBA Wales and West Beer Festival.

If you are interested in either of the above please contact Steve Kisby on his email:

chair@tewkesbury.camra.org.uk

On another (musical) note, there's a rumour in the town regarding that the Ex-ELO, ex-Wizzard and Tewkesbury CAMRA member, Bill Hunt, who, it is said, is hooking up with Chris Bowley of Tewkesbury's very own award-winning Inferno Brewery. The point of this collaboration is to brew a mystery stout named after the first Wizzard album? Now what was that called?

The **Tudor House Hotel** has reopened after a major refurbishment and a lovely job they have made of it too.

Theoc House, has a new owner and is under major refurbishment. Reopening date is yet to be announced but we do know the new name **The New Plough**.

Yo Olde Black Bear is continuing its facelift, or should that be major surgery, with

much of the structural elements now in place, with pointing, painting and finishing now underway.

The **Royal Hop Pole** now has its portico entrance fixed and just in time for the races. Look out for 12 day their beer festival coming along on the 30th March.

And finally a bit of culture, Rachael, landlady of the splendid **Nottingham Arms** has penned a poem all about this brilliant pub:

Her twisted windows are the eyes to her soul that see you before you see her, yet they draw you in, never whispering a word of what they've seen.

Her rickety floor is the foot print of a million steps that have walked upon her, felt the flow of dance, the heaviness of sadness, yet never whispering a word of what she's felt.

Her twisted walls are the ears, that have listened to a million tales of good cheer, angry rants, couples in love and those not quite so, yet never whispering a word of what she's heard.

Her structure is the arms that hold you at your lowest, celebrate your good times, always wanting to keep you safe, allowing you to leave, but never whispering goodbye.

Her beams have travelled the oceans, yet she's laid to rest with her stories engraved in her heart and etched on her skin, and yet, sometimes, I think she whispers to me...



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NEWS from Dursley...

Visit to Mills Brewing, Berkeley



For most members of CAMRA, a visit to a brewery for a tour, to listen to the no doubt familiar description of the brewing process, and the chance to sample the product, sometimes in the Brewery Tap, is a regular and perhaps frequent activity.

We know only too well that this pleasure has been largely denied us over the past two years, so with the reappearance of The Tippler, it seems the right time to share with you a description of the last such visit made by Dursley CAMRA sub-branch members, shortly before the intervention of Covid.

This article was submitted to the Editor early in 2020, but was never published, as neither was the magazine. Mills Brewing is different from a typical brewery, particularly in the nature of its products, so it would be a shame for the article not to eventually reach its intended readership. With this in mind, after minor updating thanks to Jonny Mills (above right), I am submitting it for publication in 2022.

As BLO (Brewery Liaison Officer) for both Mills Brewing and Tiley's Brewery I had been aware that for three years Jonny had been brewer at Tiley's (Jan 2017 – Dec 2019) and co-owner of Mills Brewing (August 2016 up to date), a business he set up with his then partner (now wife), Genevieve, to pursue the production and marketing of a special category of beer which is sometimes known as sour beer, or lambic, but is technically described as spontaneously fermented. The end product is something which has characteristics of both beer and cider but has a distinct character of its own. One thing it is not is a session beer!

With a view to expanding appreciation of this rare gem within our local Dursley sub-branch, a visit was arranged in February 2020. This turned out to be the first real group tour of the brewery which Jonny had hosted, and it was well attended by a group of nineteen. We arrived at the premises in Jumpers Lane, Berkeley to find a characterful building which belongs to the

Berkeley Estate and has history as a builder's yard and more recently a joinery. In its present guise this character is much enhanced by the variety of cider, wine and bourbon barrels which add their own contribution to the Mills Beers.

Jonny explained in some detail the way in which his beers are produced, which begins with production of a typically standard wort, most often at Tiley's premises at The Salutation which is an easy walking distance down the road. One thing that distinguishes the wort from a normal brew is the use of large amounts of aged hops, which have lost most of their intense aroma but still function well as a preservative during the extended fermentation which a Mills beer undergoes. The wort is transported in a portable tank, known as an IBC, to Mills Brewing where it is transferred to an open stainless steel vessel or coolship where natural yeasts are allowed to do what comes naturally, even to the extent of being encouraged by the use of open windows and fans. After a day the brew is transferred to the selected barrels, in which it will stay for anything from ten months to four years. After this time, it will be blended according to the judgement of the brewer to create something which is best kept in a champagne style of bottle sealed with both a cork and a crown cap. These bottles are decorated with distinctive and attractive labelling featuring paintings which are the work of Genevieve's father.

During our visit we were able to sample two very different styles of beer, one called "Dirt" with a colour more akin to a red ale but with a warming flavour all of its own, and the other called "Saison Cider Cask" which was paler in colour and distinctly refreshing. It was apparent that not many of those present were aware of the unique characteristics of this type of beer, and I think it true to say that any preconceptions were very positively swayed.



How does the product reach its customers we asked? The answer is that in the short life of the brewery most of this activity has been organised by Genevieve, who has researched the likely specialist outlets throughout the UK, resulting in a healthy demand which currently outstrips supply.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, the beers can now be purchased directly from the brewery's online shop at www.millsbrewing.com.

The beers have appeared on the bar at Tate Modern in London, have travelled to beer exhibitions in Brussels, and been sold with outrageous mark up in the USA. Closer to home, Mills Beer can be purchased locally from the Salutation Pub in Ham which is run by Pete Tiley who is a strong supporter, as acknowledged by Jonny in his presentation to us. It was Pete's connection with the Berkeley Estate which resulted in finding the premises where the beer is now brewed. The beers are not available directly from Mills as they don't currently have a suitable license. Another outlet not too far away is The Stroud Wine Company. To conclude, I would say that anyone interested in the science of brewing would find such a tour enlightening, and they would enjoy the opportunity to sample a Mills Beer (or two!).

Derek Hore



Herefordshire's best loved music, real ale and cider festival is coming back, bigger and better than ever, ready to celebrate its 20th anniversary. On 1-3 July 2022, international artists from across the UK, Germany, Ireland and the US, will line the stage at what will be an event to remember.

Set in the grounds of The Alma Inn, a repeat winner of CAMRA's Herefordshire Pub of the Year, in the pretty rural village of Linton, this year's festival will feature a fantastic fourteen acts across the three days, along with forty real ales and ciders, and a selection of locally sourced food stalls to be sampled.

What makes this festival so special is that it is entirely volunteer run and raises thousands of pounds for local charities each year.

Dave Lambert, Linton Festival chair, said: "Linton Festival is a not-for-profit community event run by a committed team of volunteers who want to share their love of beer and music. We started the festival in 2001 and since then we've raised over £120,000 for our nominated charities.

"I am really excited about staging our 20th anniversary event. We should have been celebrating it two years ago but for obvious reasons that didn't happen, which makes this year even more exciting. People are more than ready to return to live music events, and we can't wait to welcome them back to Linton. We have an amazing line-up with something for everyone - whether it's rock, pop or our favourite, rhythm 'n blues - you won't be disappointed."

All the stops have been pulled out for the 20th anniversary with an impressive set of headline acts confirmed. Friday night features The Counterfeit Stones - described by Sir Mick Jagger himself as "the most famous Stones band in England". Saturday welcomes the world famous and accomplished contemporary blues artist Walter Trout. The event wraps up on Sunday evening with One Night of Queen performed by Gary Mullen and the Works (winner of ITV's 'Stars in their Eyes'). As well as a whole host of other amazing bands and artists. The full line up can be found online at:

www.lintonfestival.org/category/bands-2022

For those travelling from afar or simply wanting to fully embrace the festival atmosphere, full camping facilities are available within short walking distance of the festival site, including showers and free parking. Hot cooked breakfasts are available to set you up for the day head.

A weekend pass costs £90 (camping from £12) and day tickets are available for £22. See www.lintonfestival.org for full details.

COMPETITION TIME!

The Tippler has a pair of weekend tickets (worth £180) to give away. To be in with a chance of winning this fantastic prize, answer the following question **by 17th June at the very latest:**

Question: Which band will be headlining on Saturday 2 July 2022?

**SEND YOUR ANSWERS TO
chris@thetippler.co.uk**

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Amor, Barrett, Barry, Fisk & Siegal
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for ticket information see our website

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Find us on Facebook, and follow us on Twitter and Instagram #lintonfestival



DEAF BOY WANDERIN' JOHN

In a brand new series we follow the (possibly pointless) peregrinations and perambulations of a lost soul, the would-be whistlin' bluesman from deepest Bromsgrove, (Deaf Boy) Wanderin' John.

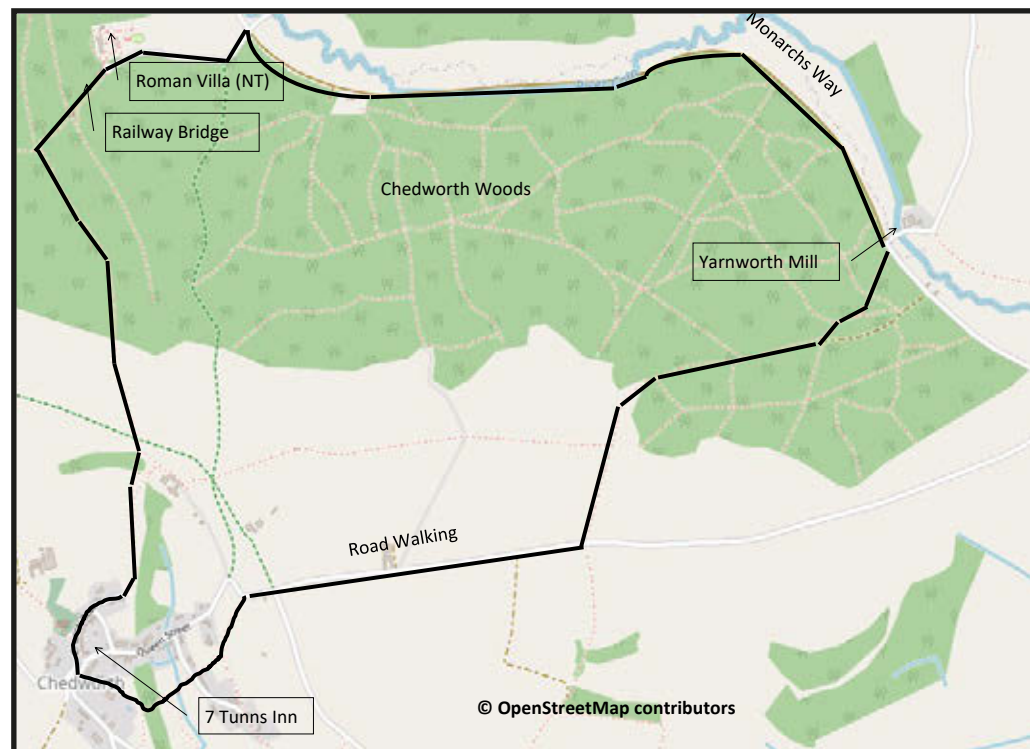
In this edition he sets out from Chedworth's The Seven Tuns

The Seven Tuns is a village pub in the middle of the Cotswold 'chocolate-box village' of Chedworth, situated a couple of miles off the Fosse Way, between Cirencester and Northleach, in Gloucestershire. It is a low-roofed, rather elongated Cotswold stone building, dated circa 1610, if you believe the sign attached to the frontage. Named after a large beer or wine cask, a tun held 4 hogsheads of liquid refreshment, an enormous quantity. Enough to make any walk or any other activity unpredictable. The pub has a range of local real ales as well as a superb menu and wine cellar.

Recently, the hostelry has been managed by Simon Willson-White and Thomas Conway, who have forsaken their glitzy lives in London for the bucolic peace and beauty of the Cotswold countryside. On a recent visit, they managed to feed 20 hungry walkers within five minutes of leaving their muddy boots behind. The food was delicious, well-presented and generously portioned. The seasonal game pie was outstandingly rich and flavoursome. It

was served in a well-lit, log-fire warmth that was hard to resist. Make sure you eat here at the end of the walk, as it would be hard to continue any physical efforts afterwards. In the summer, there is the opportunity to eat and drink outside, on a wide terrace and garden that overlooks the nearby valley. The view is truly delightful.

The Seven Tuns provides a good base for walkers, whether in organised groups, family parties or as individuals. There are many footpaths in the area to choose from. I recently led a walk that commenced on a public footpath at the rear of the pub, a circular route of about four to five miles that takes you



down the adjacent valley and across a stream. The upward climb out of the valley enables walkers to enjoy peerless views of the village and church, nestling on the slopes of the other side of the valley. Climbing to the top of the rise, the walk follows a road for about half a mile, before the route turns right across fields to enter the extensive Chedworth Woods. Following the path will lead you to Yarnworth Mill and the valley of the River Coln.

At this point the walk moves into a section where the MacMillan Way and the Monarch's Way combine to lead the walker by the river, towards the famous Roman Villa. The Monarch's Way keeps popping up at various points on this walk, as it is based on the escape route to France taken by King Charles II after his defeat at the Battle of Worcester. He was literally hunted all over the place, which is why this 615 mile trail has more twists and turns in it than a spinning top. Since it was established in 1994, only 105 people have walked the entire length.

The Roman Villa is well worth a visit, especially in the summer when the National

Trust organise hands-on activities for children and adults alike. The walk passes the villa and climbs back into Chedworth Woods, going underneath a bridge built by the Midland and South Western Junction Railway that connected Cheltenham and Southampton. Closed in 1961, it would have made a fabulous tourist line today. After leaving the bridge, you continue upwards for about 150 yards, then at a crossroad of tracks, turn left onto the MacMillan Way and continue the steady climb to the top of the hill. A stepped descent over undulating landscape with photographic views of Chedworth village and church are the walkers' reward for the previous climb and return you to the village and the pub.

This is just one example of the many walks that can be accessed using the Seven Tuns as a centre for exploring Chedworth and the Cotswold area in general. Remember when you have finished, the Seven Tuns will live up to its reputation as 'a welcoming village pub'.

(Deaf boy) Wanderin' John.



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FRONT COVER COMPETITION



Now, the technical part, most images in cameras that are made for digital work are set in 72dpi (dots per inch) of colour, which is great for Facebook, texts etc. It's not, however, much use for printing on paper, where you need to use 300dpi. So set your cameras and phones to the biggest number of pixels you can, FHD 1280 x 1080 or WQHD 2560 x 1440 and take your pictures. Make sure you remember to take pictures in portrait format, that'll give you the best chance of winning and appearing on the Tippler's front cover.

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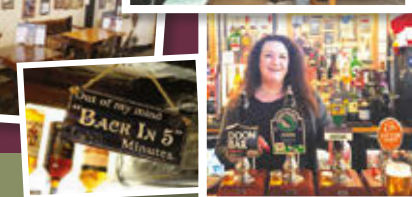
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PUB NEWS...

Cheltenham Pub News

The **Montpellier Wine Bar** has extended its opening hours to midnight on Fridays only.

BrewDog opened on February 25th in the Brewery Quarter, with a huge selection of beers, see article in the Cheltenham Branch news pages.

Also in the Brewery Quarter, **Flight Club** (a darts and bar venue) opens on March 11th.

Plans for a microbrewery below a bar, and bar/restaurant, on the former **Stable** site are progressing.

The Sudeley Arms is now under new management.

The Royal Oak in Bishop's Cleeve has been refurbished and will now be managed by Greene King.

The Young's Pub Group (formerly the Young's Brewery in London) has bought the six pubs/restaurants in the Lucky Onion Group portfolio. These include the **Tavern, the George Hotel and No 38** on Evesham Road.

Tewkesbury Pub News

The **Tudor House Hotel** has reopened after a major refurbishment and a lovely job they have made of it too. Work is still going on in some areas, but most of the public areas are done. The beers on offer are Wye Valley HPA and Butty Bach and both are excellently kept.

Another old pub is now looking to be saved from oblivion, Theoc House, formerly The Plough, has a new owner and is under major refurbishment. Reopening date is yet to be announced but we do know the new name **The New Plough**.

Yo Olde Black Bear is continuing its facelift, or should that be major surgery, with much of the structural elements now in place, with pointing, painting and finishing now underway. Renovating a 500+ year old pub is proving a headache with nearly every step being a bit more complicated than the owners would have hoped. The garden is now subject to a serious overhaul and should be a great riverside spot when it re-opens.

Speaking of pubs with riverside gardens (see also Name that Pub competition on page 39)

STRAIGHT FROM THE HORSE'S MOUTH...

PUB & BREWERY NEWS

the **Royal Hop Pole** now has its portico entrance fixed and just in time for the races, so now we can at least have a pint without all the door opening and closing hassle. Look out for 12 day their beer festival coming along on the 30th March.

BREWERY NEWS...



The Bespoke Brewery has moved from strength to strength in a particularly tough climate, and, 2021 was a very busy year indeed.

The Brewery completed their move to the new home, on their family farm, in Littledean.

The Brewery in Littledean has had a hugely busy summer, despite only moving in January, it opened its doors to the public as a Brewery Tap in July. Serving the best of local through their fully stocked bar, they saw themselves over-run almost every weekend. The Brewery Tap in Littledean offers and authentic example of a Brewery Tap, nestled into a farm yard, it offers an entirely different experience to anything else locally. Open Fridays and Saturdays from 4pm, it has plenty of heated seating inside, and benches outside for the coming of the sunnier weather.

Although they have left their old brewing space in Mitcheldean behind, the well frequented Mitcheldean Tap is still going strong. Boasting a full range of Bespoke Beers, and a fully stocked bar with an emphasis on inclusivity and great customer service. Open Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 4pm.

The Brewery has had great success with its specials in the last six months. The 4.8% **Smoked Liquorice Pale Ale** went down a treat at the Cheltenham Beer Week 2021, **Running With Scissors**, a 6.2% Traditional IPA, has been hugely popular, and is still available in bottles now. Their Lager is in its final weeks of, well, Lagering. **Czech Twice, Cut Once** is a 5% Premium Czech lager that boasts all the promise of a beautiful British beer, and will be available from mid to late April.

Look out for Bespoke Beers in your local pub, farm shop or deli!



The Forest Brewery, based in the Forest of Dean, and although it's technically a microbrewery they have ambitious plans this year.

They've have expanded their team, from two to four, so Doug and Nathanael (Nat) welcome Nathan Laughton and Peter Evans to The Forest Brewery.

Between them, they plan to expand their core range, following the success of their staples: Severn Boar and Fireside Porter. They also plan to increase their production overall.

If all goes to plan, they also hope to be opening their first taproom and shop.

Commenting on their progress, Nat said: "Between us all, we have plans to increase production, expand our core range and continue the success of our staples which include Severn Boar, Fireside Porter, Dark Forest and exclusive brews for the Forest Deli and the Gurkha at the Woolaston Inn.

"This year we are exploring the possibility of opening a taproom - which would be a very exciting development for us, allowing us to sell beer in our own licenced premises and engage directly with beer lovers. We still have a way to go to make this a reality but please watch this space for any developments.

"Finally, We would like to say thank you to our customers and supporters and we will keep you and The Tippler updated on our progress."

You can contact and follow them on:

Facebook: @TheForestBrewery
email: hello@theforestbrewery.co.uk



DEYA Brewery are producing a limited number of cask beers. These are being trialled in a number of local establishments where they can trust the licensee.



Gloucester Brewery has raised £500,000 in crowd-funding. This is to fund

ambitious expansion plans, with plans for a 'portfolio' of bars across the region - including one in Cheltenham.

BOOK REVIEW

PIRATES AT THE TURK'S HEAD INN

by Peter Sheehy

Peter Sheehy is the enterprising owner of the Turks Head inn in Gloucester and during the Covid lockdowns decided to write a book.

A rollicking yarn filling 157 pages I learned quite a lot, firstly that there were pirates on the river Severn, I am sure in the inimitable words of Michael Cain, "Not a lot of people know that." I also learned what a mudlark was and where the term 'ship shape and Bristol fashion' comes from.

Set in 1626, our hero is a young lad from London sets out to become a pirate in the Caribbean, but gets caught up in a series of river based adventures based around Gloucester, on the river between Lydney and Tewkesbury. The story pulls you in because of all the references to the local area and pubs. The river was a different place back then before the sluices, weirs and industrialisation of the Victorians, its fascinating to consider how wild and shallow it would have been, for example, only a few feet deep at the Lower Lode Inn.

Perhaps my biggest criticism of the book is that the characters and their adventures could have been explored more deeply, as you really got to care about them, it would have been a treat to have a bit more depth, other than that and a couple of typos, I thoroughly enjoyed it.

Pick one up when you're next in the Turks Head!

Chris Leibbrandt



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In this article, Geoff Sandles considers the benefits and possible disadvantages created by the JD Wetherspoon and CAMRA voucher scheme and whether or not they should continue. Have they had their day? Answers on a postcard please.

Just mentioning the name Tim Martin and the JD Wetherspoon chain of pubs is likely to cause diametrical points of view within CAMRA membership. The values of JD Wetherspoon and CAMRA are intertwined with a passion for good quality real ales and welcoming, efficiently run, pubs. It should, and some might say still is, an ideal partnership. There is a lot to celebrate since Tim Martin opened his first pub in Muswell Hill, London, in the winter of 1979. In the early years, all the Wetherspoon pubs offered a good choice of ales at competitive prices, in contrast to the limited range available at alternative pubco's like Punch and Enterprise tied houses. Wherever you were in the UK, the sign of JD Wetherspoon offered good quality beer at bargain prices. In support of Tim Martin his company was a pioneer in establishing non-smoking areas, introduced over-sized pint glasses to guarantee a full pint (sadly, an initiative that was doomed to failure), and created interest by installing unique designed Axminster carpeting in every pub. Even the toilets gained acclaim for their cleanliness – despite often being accessed by three or four flights of stairs. What is there not to like?

It was JD Wetherspoon that initiated the CAMRA voucher membership scheme in 2008

when anyone signing up to the Campaign for Real Ale at a Wetherspoon pub received vouchers to the value of £20 off their first year subscriptions. The pay back was returned in the form of 50p vouchers, which drinkers could redeem against the cost of cask ales in 'Spoons' pubs. The scheme was a success, with 2,500 new members boosting CAMRA membership to 90,000 in June 2008. When the membership promotion was extended in November for all members, joining or renewing by direct debit, CAMRA's then senior marketing manager Tony Jerome said: "CAMRA is always looking to improve the benefits our members receive, and I hope everyone will be delighted with receiving their real ale vouchers". He added, "This scheme is ideal for CAMRA and JD Wetherspoon as it promotes responsible drinking and encourages people to visit pubs throughout the year." It was stipulated that only one voucher could be used per pub visit, and the vouchers were allocated into defined dates throughout the calendar year. A correspondent in the December 2008 'What's Brewing', the CAMRA magazine, enthused: "This gesture is most welcome during the credit crunch when prices are still rising. The £3-plus pint is becoming commonplace; therefore, Wetherspoon's

pricing policy is welcome." In 2008 full single membership of CAMRA payable by direct debit was £20, so the promotion was a great incentive to sign up to the Campaign.

By the time that CAMRA celebrated their 40th anniversary in the Spring of 2011, the membership had increased to 120,000, an impressive boost of 30,000 in less than three years. There can be little doubt that the continued Wetherspoon 50p voucher scheme was the reason for such growth. In 2013 there were 250 Spoons pubs listed in the CAMRA Good Beer Guide. It could be argued that the CAMRA vouchers encouraged higher patronage in Tim Martin's pubs and, as a direct consequence, the incentive was advantageous for the many JD Wetherspoon pubs being considered for worthy contenders of inclusion in the Good Beer Guide.

It was Tim Martin's vociferous support of the Brexit campaign in 2016 that polarised opinion, alienating those wishing to remain in the European Union whilst delighting the sympathetic leave contingent. Wetherspoons News promoted the Brexit cause and political beer mats with the leave agenda were widely distributed in Spoons pubs. Tim Martin donated £200,000 to the leave campaign. In fairness the supporters of the EU were given a right to reply in their house magazine, but the overriding message was in praise of Brexit and Tim Martin acted as a spokesman for the perceived benefits of leaving. Although not the views of non-political CAMRA, the strong links between the Campaign for Real Ale and Wetherspoons were seen by some as uncomfortable partners.

Always outspoken, Tim Martin was quick to criticise the initial Government strategy in dealing with the COVID-19 outbreak in early 2020. When pubs were forced to close in March 2020 because of the pandemic, Mr Martin argued against the logic of crippling the hospitality industry with enforced closures. There were reports in the national press that he had told his staff to find alternative employment in Tesco's and

had not honoured the re-payment of outstanding bills to small breweries within the supply chain. It was also claimed that he planned to re-open some Wetherspoons pubs in June 2020, a month before the government allowed the hospitality industry to trade again. These allegations were unfounded and misreported and the press have now issued apologies.

The CAMRA membership discount voucher incentive is no longer exclusive to Spoons pubs. Since July 2019, the scheme is a CAMRA owned and operated scheme with vouchers also redeemable in Stonegate pubs, Brains, Castle Rock and Amber Taverns outlets. Even some enterprising individual pubs honour the 50p off a pint voucher. Yet there is still an inextricable link with CAMRA vouchers and Wetherspoon pubs. The Stonegate pubs are ex-Enterprise, of which there are many in Gloucestershire, but determining where they are is going to be a challenge. There are six Spoons pubs in Gloucestershire. The Moon under Water in Cheltenham and the Royal Hop Pole in Tewkesbury are listed in the current Good Beer Guide. Inevitably most CAMRA issued vouchers will be continued to be redeemed in Wetherspoon pubs.



A glass half full? Have the vouchers had their day?

JD Wetherspoon and CAMRA voucher scheme, has it had its day?

Good Beer Guide. Inevitably most CAMRA issued vouchers will be continued to be redeemed in Wetherspoons pubs.

There are fears that the average price of a pint will nudge closer to the £5 mark very soon. That is an alarming prospect, but sadly inevitable with the rising cost of raw materials for the brewing process and food and energy prices increasing combined with soaring inflation. The hospitality industry is facing unprecedented price rises. Nik Antona, CAMRA's National Chairman, said the sector is continuing to deal with "employment, supply chain and cost of food crises" which is causing the price of a pint to rise. She said: "This could spell disaster at the pump for small brewers and publicans if consumers make the decision to stay at home to cut corners."

With the energy costs of each household forecast to massively increase in April, together with higher income tax to help pay for the national debt, with less disposable money around the scenario for pubs preparing for the summer season is looking bleak. One has to question the values and ethos of CAMRA in this scenario, supposedly a campaign dedicated to preserve valued traditional

community pubs from permanent closures? The incentive that encourages an increasing membership by issuing 50p off-a-pint vouchers to be spent in Spoons pubs, being redeemable against already discounted beer is questionable to say the least, when other pubs nearby cannot possibly compete. For the individual drinking a decent pint of real ale in Spoons (at the time of writing) for just £1.49 courtesy of CAMRA vouchers is incredible value for money. Yet is that fair for the good old local nearby forced to sell beer at true market prices?

Personally, I would suggest that the CAMRA voucher scheme is no longer fit for purpose and should be discontinued. It is only natural that the drinking public will seek venues that sell good beer at bargain prices and the JD Wetherspoon business model currently caters for this demand, but it does not need the questionable support of the Campaign for Real Ale to effectively undercut struggling community pubs even further. If the withdrawal of the voucher initiative sees a decline in CAMRA membership, then so be it. I strongly believe that the Campaign for Real Ale has lost possibly thousands of members already simply because of the long-standing association with Tim Martin and the Wetherspoons brand. I think the relationship is embarrassing and even has the potential to damage the good reputation of CAMRA.

Geoff Sandles

JD Wetherspoon and Tim Martin are two names that can create friction amongst CAMRA members.

Champions of real ale, local breweries, value for money food and saving iconic buildings from the scrapheap, pictured is one good example, The Imperial Hotel in Exeter; all that and the CAMRA voucher scheme, what's not to like?

Is Geoff right about the vouchers? Have your say, email:

chris@thetippler.co.uk

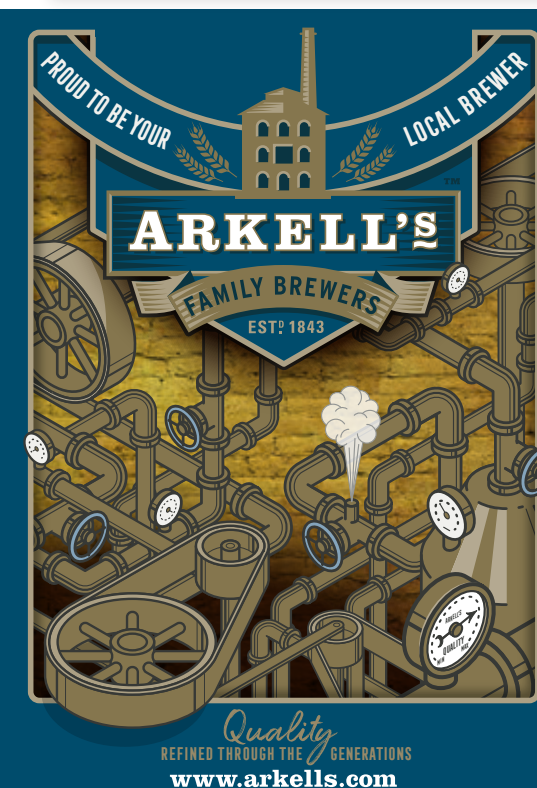


THE MAGAZINE NEEDS YOUR HELP!

If you have any news on pubs going bust, ceasing trading, starting up, being refurbished or being taken over, then please let the editor know, this wonderful county is a big rural place with plenty going on that we won't be able to keep up with without your help.

Similarly, breweries are coming and going, starting up, being bought out, merging with others, and we want to know all about them. It only takes a few lines to the editor and he'll do the rest!

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**The Editor, The Tippler, 23 Theocs Close,
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PODGY TICKER?

The continuing tales of a beer collector

In this edition our tick box hero considers the challenge of PANDEMIC COLLECTING

Beer Collecting in a Pandemic

This could be my shortest article to date, since my style of beer collecting was pretty much impossible during the various versions of COVID lockdown we had to endure for most of 2020 and much of 2021.

The main premise of my collecting has always been simple: I only count draught beer! So, with all pubs closed, that's the end of that then ... well, very nearly. It was thanks to a few stalwart publicans, such as Michael at the Pelican in Gloucester, that at the times when takeaway beer was still an option, I could add a few new names to the beer list in the form of real ale in a bag. Take-out beer has always been allowed in the collection, since it most definitely is draught, so that wasn't even bending the rules. The number of new beers I was able to collect this way, however, was sadly very limited. It was just a little dribble of new brews when compared to the mighty torrent of seemingly endless new breweries and new beers supplied in a usual year by the many great pubs and festivals that feed my rather obsessive collecting.

So, with little or no draught beer available – what should a collector like me do?

Perhaps the answer was to take a break from beer entirely and have a year or so on the wagon. (*You did what?! - Ed.*) This could have been seen as a noble gesture, but it was not the solution I plumped for – for the simple reason that I enjoy drinking beer and also enjoy the nature of collecting (*Thank goodness*

- Ed.). My beer drinking was certainly reduced during the pandemic and opportunities for exercise were increased, so my health and fitness definitely improved, without the need to stop drinking beer entirely. (*This just gets better and better! - Ed.*)

How about replacing beer collecting with another obsessive behaviour, like train spotting or collecting rare snuff boxes. Well, the first problem here, of course, was that just about any other type of collecting was also severely hindered by the national shutdowns caused



	A	B	C
1	(From 170320 to ?) Corc	1	2
22	Brewdog	Zombie Cake (bc	Double Punk (ca
23	Brew York	Imperial Tonkoko	Muffin Else Matt
24	Brixton	Reliance (can)	Low Voltage (can)
25	Brouwerij Van Steenberg	St Stefanus Blonde (bottle)	

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by the pandemic. I guess I could have started a face-mask collection, but who in their right mind would choose that in place of drinking a few lovely beers? Not me, that's for certain! There's a reason why I'm a beer collector and not a train spotter – it's because different train engines or carriages do not interest me one jot, whereas different stouts and IPAs do.

So, there was really only one option for me – to break the habit of over twenty-five years of collecting – I had to start counting bottles and cans.

There are those reading this thinking – what's the big deal? In fact, over the years, there have been many people who have been amazed that I do not routinely count beer I have drunk from cans and bottles anyway. I've had comments such as, "What d'you mean you can't add it to the beer list because it's in a bottle – that's crazy!" Crazy it may seem to others, but DRAUGHT ONLY has been at the centre of my collecting since day 1 – and changing that was a big decision for me.

But, It's a decision that had to be made.

So, my collecting habits had to change drastically during the pandemic. I found myself scouring the shelves of supermarkets for beers that were new to me – and was quite surprised to find a fair selection in most. I set up zoom meetings online to taste selected cans or bottles with a small group of friends – not as good as meeting in a pub or at a festival, but a decent replacement. I was, however, determined that the collecting game would remain exactly that, though – a game. I did not want it to turn into a click and deliver screen-based activity. That's just too easy and I never want my beer collecting to be that simple – there should always be an element of effort and the subsequent fun of finding a surprise waiting for you when you have made that effort.

That's ultimately what I like best about my beer collecting game – walking into a pub and not knowing what is likely to be waiting for me on the bar. You can find anything you want online and have it delivered in next to no time, it's all too simple – that's not what my game is all about.

PODGY TICKER?

PANDEMIC COLLECTING

The next decision to be made was how to record these new additions to the collection. Let me remind you that recording what I drink is a crucial part of the whole game for me and my spreadsheet is at the centre of that. Should the bottles and cans take pride of place in the main body of the spreadsheet next to all my records of draught beers? Up until now I have simply written the name of the beer in a cell, only adding (keg) after it to indicate a beer served in that way. There was still a part of me that did not want cans and bottles to be part of my precious draught collection, so I needed a way to keep them separate. I eventually decided to create a second sheet (a rather dull title: SHEET 2), so that all the COVID cans and bottles could be kept in one place and not

1	(From 1703	1	2
21	Brewboard	Monkimajik (collab with Ma	
22	Brewdog	Zombie Cake (bc Double Pu	
23	Brew York	Imperial Tonkoko Muffin Els	
24	Brixton	Reliance (can)	Low Volta
25	Brouwerij V	St Stefanus Blonde (bottle)	
26	Bulletproof	Rise of the Burble Snouts (
27	Burton Road	Session IPA Ahtanum and	
28	Burning Sky	Saison Houblon (can)	
29	Buxton	Rain Shadow 20 Rain Shad	
30	Camden Town	Bock (can)	Off Menu
31	Cloudwater	IPA (Tesco) (can)	DDH Pale
32	Cotswold	Oki (bottle)	
33	Cotswold Li	Ruby (bottle)	
34	Crew Repub	In Your Face (bottle)	
35	Curious Bre	Premium Lager (can)	



'contaminate' the main collection. This, again, probably sounds idiotic to most readers, but as I invented my beer collecting game, the only rules that apply are the ones that I make myself!

Therefore, I now have a record of all those lovely beers collected in can or bottle during the pandemic, but I can also still tell you exactly how many draught beers I have tasted over the years. The only thing I now need to decide is how to proceed when things finally get back to 'normal'. Should I carry on with the separate can/bottle list or should I archive that little COVID anomaly and go back to the DRAUGHT ONLY rule for the collection? Answers on a postcard please!

Cheers!

Pete Searle

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events: what's coming up

Cheltenham Branch - Email: chair@cheltenhamcamra.org.uk

Meetings on second Wednesday or Thursday of the month at 8.00 pm. Call: Rob Coldwell 07752 740488 For more details see website www.cheltenhamcamra.org.uk

Cheltenham Branch Events

9th March: 8:00 pm - Business Meeting - The Old Courthouse, County Court Road.
 23rd March: TBA - Ale Amble: Stourbridge.
 13th April: 8:00 pm - Business Meeting - Cheltenham Motor Club, Upper Park St, Battledown.
 11th May: 8:00 pm - Business Meeting - The Strand, 40-42 High Street.
 18th May: 8:00 pm - Cheltenham Branch AGM - Sandford Park Alehouse, 20 High St.

Cirencester Sub-Branch - Email: cirencester@gloucestershire.camra.org.uk

Meetings on second Tuesday of the month at 8.00 pm. Call: Rob Tough on 01285 851194

Dursley Sub-Branch - Email: dursley@gloucestershire.camra.org.uk

Meetings on last Tuesday of the month at 8.00 pm. Call: Peter Corfield, Chair, on 01453 844952.

Forest of Dean Sub-Branch - Email: forestofdean@gloucestershire.camra.org.uk

Meetings every Thursday night for a social at 8.00 pm. Please check on Forest of Dean CAMRA Facebook page. Call: Dave Fleming on 01594 543856

Gloucester Sub-Branch - Email: gloucester@gloucestershire.camra.org.uk

Meetings on second Wednesday of the month at 8.00 pm. Where bookings are essential or for further details please contact Margaret on 07908 699809 or 01452 551400; by email on: gloucester@gloucestershire.camra.org.uk or visit the website www.camraingloucester.org.uk

8th April 8:00 pm - Social meeting - Start at the Linden Tree
 14th/15th May 11:30 am - 11:00 pm - 8th Gloucester Beer & Cider Festival, Blackfriars

Stroud Sub-Branch - Email: stroud@gloucestershire.camra.org.uk

Meetings on second Wednesday of the month at 8.00 pm at the Ale House, Stroud. Call: Richard Taylor on 07917 661746. Anyone interested in Stroud meetings should contact us by email on stroud@gloucestershire.camra.org.uk and ask to be added to our email list.

Tewkesbury Branch - Email: chair@tewkesbury.camra.org.uk

Meetings on third Thursday of the month at 8.00 pm. For further details please contact Steve on 07583 740986 or Bill by email on: socialsecretary@tewkesbury.camra.org.uk or visit the website www.tewkesbury.camra.org.uk

23rd April: TBA - A wander around the lovely pubs of Burton on Trent
 14th May: TBA - Ludlow Spring Beer Festival/SIBA Wales & West Beer Festival
 5th May: 8:00 pm - Business Meeting - Inferno Pop-Up (Upstairs at the White Bear).
 7th July: 8:00 pm - Tewkesbury Branch AGM - venue TBA.

events: what's coming up

North Cotswold Branch - Email: Roger Price on chair@northcotswoldcamra.org.uk or call 01451 810305 and 07850 429630.

For more details see website www.northcotswoldcamra.org.uk or the Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/North-Cotswolds-CAMRA-the-Campaign-for-Real-Ale-in-the-North-Cotswolds-1022351584505679/?fref=nf>

19th December	7:30 pm	Xmas Dinner Redesdale, Moreton in Marsh
8th January 2022	8:30 pm	102nd Pubwalk Churchill, Paxford
13th January	8:00 pm	Branch Meeting Craven Arms, Brockhampton
21st January	7:00 pm	Bourton RAT. Meet Wellington.
19th February	TBA	CAMRA Regional Meeting. Exeter

**If you have any pub news, views or stories contact
chris@thetippler.co.uk**

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GLOUCESTERSHIRE CAMRA Branch

www.gloucestershire.camra.org.uk



Chair

Margaret Wilkins
01452 551400
chairman@gloucestershire.camra.org.uk

Branch Secretary & Branch Contact

Richard Holt
07847 998946
secretary@gloucestershire.camra.org.uk and
branchcontact@gloucestershire.camra.org.uk

CHELTENHAM CAMRA Branch

www.cheltenhamcamra.org.uk



Chair:

Rob Coldwell - 07752 740488
chair@cheltenhamcamra.org.uk

Branch Contact:

Rob Coldwell - 07752 740488
chair@cheltenhamcamra.org.uk

TRADING STANDARD DEPARTMENT

Gloucestershire Trading Standards, Hillfield House, Denmark Rd., Gloucester. GL1 3LD
Telephone: 01452 426201 email: tradstds@gloucestershire.gov.uk

TEWKESBURY CAMRA Branch

www.tewkesbury.camra.org.uk



Chair and Branch Contact:

07583 740986
chair@tewkesbury.camra.org.uk

Secretary:

Ian Mence
secretary@tewkesbury.camra.org.uk

NORTH COTSWOLD CAMRA Branch

www.northcotswoldcamra.org.uk



Chair: Roger Price

01451 810305 and 07850 429630
chair@northcotswoldcamra.org.uk

Secretary and Branch Contact:

Chris Knight (Mickleton)
07890 666707
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