

# win!

**BREWERY TRIP TO STROUD  
+ A TWO-NIGHT STAY AT THE  
FOLEY ARMS, MALVERN!**



Campaign  
for  
Real Ale

**free**  
Please take  
one

# the tippler

Summer 2024

**Inside:**

**Holiday Beer Collecting  
with The Dodgy Ticker**

**Back to the 60s with  
The Tegestologist**



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



# MALTY STORY FESTIVAL

June 7,8,9

## Stroud Brewery's 18th Birthday

### DJ QUEEN BEE – NICKY BLACKMARKET THRILL COLLINS

THE ACHIEVERS – THEE ONES – ALBINO TARANTINO – ADJUA

SKUNKADELIC & THE DIGITAL KID – POPPY ROSE – THE HONEST POET SOCIETY

JUNGLE CAST – SUPA D – VALLEY STEPPAS TAKEOVER – FIDEL CUTSTRO – DJ JUICY

DJ ROBBIE DUNCAN – DJ FADE – WILL MENDOZA – DJ K-DEE – PETE DAISY – RUDI

PLUCKING DIFFERENT – TONY SOULPRANO & CO. TAKEOVER – THE LOOKOUT

THE BOB PORTER PROJECT – D'ARTAGNAN – KINGSONIK – COSMIC MEOW – KOMPOSA

THE SWING RIOTERS – LOVE CIRCUS TAKEOVER – MAN LIKE BRO

ZED IN THE CLOUDS – MAGNIFICENT MR KAI – ROCK DISCO – STROUD GLOBAL BEATS

CROOKED STYLUS – JAMIE RAINBOW – SAM T – NEON PUMPS

STROUD BREWERY TAPROOM, KINGFISHER BUSINESS PARK, STROUD, GL5 2BY



# the tippler



The Magazine of the Gloucestershire Branches of the Campaign for Real Ale.

The opinions expressed need not represent those of CAMRA Ltd., or its officials. (E & O E) Errors and omission excepted.

**FRONT COVER:** *A tegestologist's delight. A decorated ceiling in The Cornubia, in the centre of Bristol.*

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## Got something to say?



Then please get in touch! We value feedback and news from around the county, so, if want to make a contribution, compliment or criticise, contact:

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

## NEW! CONTRIBUTION DEADLINES

For the next two issues, the deadlines will now be the  
**FIRST Friday in May 2024 and August 2024**



MMMM, IF ONLY I HADN'T TALKED TO HIM ABOUT THE COPENHAGEN INTERPRETATION OF QUANTUM MECHANICS AS APPLIED TO EVERYDAY OBJECTS...

I SAY GLADYS, IS THIS SCHRÖDINGER'S CAT SOME KIND OF NEW CRAFT BEER?

# LETTERS to the EDITOR

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...**

Well, here's the latest Tipler, packed full of interesting articles, features, news and competitions.

Speaking of competitions, we now have five! There are, once again, three regulars to choose from all with great prizes, so get the entries sent in and see if you're a lucky winner. Added to that we have the tricky prize crossword for those who like something a bit thoughtful to grapple with, along with the chance to win two weekend tickets to the fabulous Linton Festival - a brilliant beer and blues event not to be missed.

All our regular features are here, along with some new contributors, letter writers and some that are a bit of a divergence from just beer and cider, but are still part of the fabric of this great county of ours.

Gloucestershire's pubs, clubs, breweries and charities gearing up for the summer beer festival season and we should all do our best to get out there and support them.

Don't forget to visit Tewkesbury as the pubs and clubs around town are hosting a three day music event with (probably) hundreds of acts, and we can't miss that! Cheers!

*Chris Leibbrandt*

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VOTED  
**2ND**  
 IN SOUTH WEST  
 CAMRA PUB OF THE  
 YEAR COMPETITION

THE INDEPENDENT ALE & CYDERHOUSE IN THE HEART OF TEWKESBURY

**TEWKESBURY CAMRA PUB OF THE YEAR  
 & CYDER PUB OF THE YEAR 2023 & 2024**

**REAL ALE + REAL CYDER  
 + REAL PUB +**

UP TO 10 REGIONAL ALES & 8 CYDERS/PERRIES



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[thecrosshousetavern.tewkesbury@gmail.com](mailto:thecrosshousetavern.tewkesbury@gmail.com)



Check out what's  
 pouring today  
 on Facebook

# Letters to the Editor...

Dear Chris

In the last issue you queried why CBF introduced 'Token Aid' in order that people could surrender any unused tokens which we would then convert to cash donations to charities.

It wasn't compulsory of course, but many were happy to do so. Apart from being a reasonable thing to do, the main purpose was to greatly reduce the volume of cash refunds to punters especially as the amounts were often quite small and would have required us to have a large supply of coins to facilitate this. This usually coincided with the last minute sales of tokens to make up enough for that final pint and so it was a hectic time for me and my helpers. The size of the charity donations made little impact on the overall profit - bear in mind that it was (and still is?) virtually impossible to make a healthy profit year in year out - even during 2007 when the floods reduced the numbers attending.

The branch share of the profit tended to be used for local campaigning purposes (e.g. production of the Tippler and a local beer guide). However, CAMRA HQ policy was (is?) that branches could only keep a modest amount in their accounts and any surplus had to be passed over to HQ. This could of course be drawn back down by branches if required for additional items of expenditure - a good example of 'silly levels of bureaucracy' that you say are still prevalent today!

Finally, can I mention another stalwart from the early days of CBF that I shamefully overlooked? Vic Ellis was Patrick's predecessor insofar that Vic was responsible for beer selection, ordering and pricing etc. We even had occasions to hire a van to collect beer directly from a number of breweries and pubs and I can remember trips to breweries such as Wem, Brains and several others, as well as to pubs such as the New Inn at

Waterley Bottom when Ric Sainty was the landlord and had useful contacts with East Anglian breweries.

All great fun and lots of good memories!

**Geoff Rosam**

Former CBF Treasurer

**'The branch share of the profit tended to be used for local campaigning purposes...'**

**Chris replies:**

**Hello Geoff,**

**Blimey, I'm always a bit surprised when people read**

**my replies on the letters' page.**

**As well as the charity donations, all of us in the county that have had the pleasure of attending Postlip have a lot to thank you all for. Without your fighting in the vanguard against dreadful beer, we would all be in a lot more of a parlous state, so thanks and cheers!**

Hi Chris,

I was today looking at your impressive beer mat you produced last year. It is a shame it didn't include any contact details for advertising, etc., but it states the Tippler has been around for about 20 years. I have a Tippler dated Sept/Oct 1988, (it is an A3 folded sheet with no adverts) which states it is 10 years since the first issue, so it has been around for about 46 years.

In this 1988 issue, it states in 1978 CAMRA membership was £4/year and beer was around 30p/pint!

**John Crossley**

**Chris replies:**

**Hello John,**

**Many thanks for the email and the memories of the campaigning that you all did back in the day.**

# Letters to the Editor...

**We're working hard on getting everything ready to sell 'merch' including beer mats and Tee shirts. Surprising how long websites can take when you have old codger like me trying to sort them out, ink on paper, now there's a different challenge for the younger generation.**

**Well, if the Tippler has been going for 46 years I'd better look after it! Saying that, I am proud to have resurrected it after COVID etc., and it's now one of the biggest, in terms of pages and content) in the country, if not the biggest.**

**In 1978 you recall that beer was 30p a pint, in 1973 I remember it being 10p, so tripled in price in five years and we look back on it fondly, imagine if that happened in the next five years (sounds a bit like a David Bowie song doesn't it?), it would be the end of pubs across the land.**

**Cheers!**

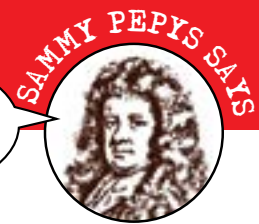
Hello Chris,

I wonder if its possible to publish this letter as the wide readership of The Tippler might be able to help me. I am looking for more entrants in the this years Cam and Dursley Flower and Produce show in the 'Homemade Beer and Wine' section. There are five classes, Wine made from fruit, veg or flowers, Best beer, stout, lager or ale, Best cider or perry, Sloe gin and Home flavoured spirit. Will Sutton, the landlord of The Old Spot will be judging the section.

Over the years the entries have dropped, this has caused classes to be merged. If I can get more entries this year, I would hope to continue the section next year and possible expand the classes . The show is on Saturday 31st August at the Chantry Centre, Long Street, Dursley. Application forms are available at [www.chantrycentre.org](http://www.chantrycentre.org).

**Symon Ackroyd**

**FLAGONS DOWN, YOU TIPPLER SCOUNDRELS, AND OUT WITH THE QUILLS**



**Chris replies:**

**Hello Symon and many thanks for the email. If I recall, aren't you the chap with his own brew shed in the garden, recorded for posterity as a front cover of the Tippler in Spring 2019?**

**Of course we can print the letter especially as it is all about community, social cohesion and beer, what's not to like?**

**Cheers!**

Hello Chris,

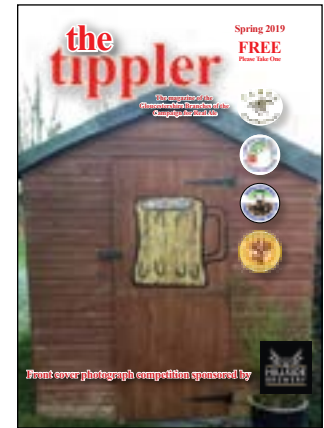
I'd like to tell you about engaging in some Friday Fun at a Firkin Micro-pub in Newent.

Newent—where!? Is that off the beaten track? Well yes, it's off the road to Ross-on-Wye? North Gloucestershire to be precise, just over the border from that other fine county—Herefordshire.

Newent has a lake, is famed for its daffodil connection, maybe its poets, and is on the edge of the Forest.

Doesn't it have a micro-pub? Yes, it does, it was the first micro-pub in Gloucestershire, has been so since around 2005, it was formerly a Cobblers, and surprise surprise it's called: Cobblers

It's owned and run by Graham and Nicki who acquired it around 18 months ago serving local cask ale and not so local cask ales. There is good rotation on the beers that they serve.



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# Letters to the Editor...

Somebody was telling me they have live music on the weekend, yes they do. On Friday evenings they have a real fun evening with the Small Firkins band, anybody who has a modicum of musical talent, or can sing, is welcome to join in with the band

It's a fun micro-pub then?

Yes it is—there are some real characters here. Its how a pub should be—no food served—no fruit machine—no TV—music and conversation only. Fun is almost compulsory, but if you want to read a book, that's fine too provided its the Beano!!

Well worth a visit to that corner of Gloucestershire—and what gorgeous countryside.

**Lindisfarne**

**Chris replies:**

**Hello Lindisfarne,**

*Many thanks for the email, an interesting nom de plume, I presume not as a member of the holy brotherhood, but then again, no man is an island.*

*Your story of that fabulous little town and one of its favourite watering holes, is much appreciated and I hope the first of many. I am sure, however, you are aware I am duty bound to say this: now how can I put it? A load of cobblers.*

Hi Chris

My wife and I have just returned from a few days holiday in Amsterdam. Whilst there we felt that we had to immerse ourselves in the obvious cultural delights of this ancient city - The Van Gogh Museum, The Rijksmuseum and of course the local bar with 52 beers on tap!

When we last visited Amsterdam 13 years ago, we remembered visiting a bar situated on one of the city's inner canals which advertised

30 local beers on tap. Imagine my delight when our chosen accommodation on this occasion happened to be only five minutes walk from this self same bar; the difference being that now 52 Dutch beers were on tap with still no sign of Amstel or Heineken! Two of the beers on offer were, surprisingly, served by hand pump and advertised as cask beers, although I suspect not cask conditioned.

Obviously each daily itinerary that we



settled on generally involved a visit to the local bar in order to hone our appreciation of the range of styles on offer, although with prices generally around £14 per pint there wasn't too much change of over imbibing!

However, on reflection and despite the choice available, I found that none of the beers that I sampled could generate the sheer pleasure that I felt when supping two pints of Stroud Brewery's Tom Long in The Fountain in Gloucester the week before we left. I'm sure there must be a moral here!

Keep up the good work - the Tippler is an excellent read and something to be proud of.

**Denis Wilson**

# Letters to the Editor...

**Chris replies:**

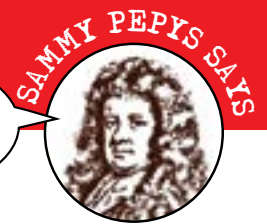
**Hello John,**

*Many thanks for the email, the kind words and the memories of your holiday in Amsterdam, I've worked there many times and never really had a good opportunity to sample the diversity of beer available.*

*Sounds like a lot of fun, although I am not a great fan of lager type stuff which counts as beer in most of the world, unfortunately. Whenever I had to work abroad in Europe, USA, Africa and the Far East, I made sure that I had a couple of pints of decent bitter, Fullers ESB was always a favourite, before I went and suffered the delights of 'eurofizz' or should that be 'worldfizz'?*

*Looking through the slate of beers pictured, I was thinking, getting through them is a costly business. With 52 beers at £14 a pint, to go through that card is north of £700, I guess you'd need of a shot of Dutch courage to start on that quest.*

FLAGONS  
DOWN, YOU TIPPLER  
SCOUNDRELS, AND OUT  
WITH THE QUILLS



# THE HUNTER'S COLUMN



**This edition our intrepid hero decides to get all historical on us and reflects on the days of chivalry, latin, big cards and Beer Day Baron Knights...**

**Beer Day Britain is celebrated annually throughout these sceptred isles on the fifteenth day of June.**

There are those here amongst us that are of the opinion that one day does not do sufficient justice to our national drink. That a singular event in the Ale-manac (apologies to Old 'Bobby' Moore) denies this elixir of the gods the recognition that it so thoroughly deserves. Such enthusiasts are happy to celebrate Beer Day on every day in June and, in fact, every day and night of every month of the year. Leap years in particular are greeted with wild abandon.

If June 15th doesn't ring any bells with you, it didn't with me either; but it is quite probable that on that day in 1215, they were ringing throughout the known brewing world, then ruled by the Baron Knights of England. These Baron Knights were nothing to do with and are not to be confused with the other 'Barron Knights', a comedy group who had

Windsor that is regarded as the birthplace of modern democracy.



The 'Great Charter' gives ale a mention in Article 35... 'Let there be throughout our kingdom a single measure for wine and a single measure for ale and a single measure for corn...'

Ale was so important in England in 1215, when drinking water was precarious, that it was cited in one of the most significant legal documents in history. Although, if it was that important, how come it took them 35 Articles before it gets a mention? What could possibly have been more important to waste 34 Articles on before it gets a look in? This agreement between the Barons and the King of England did not have longevity built into it, however. By August of the same year, that's just two months later, Pope Innocent (but not that innocent) III had annulled Magna Carta, declaring it illegal and having been "sealed under duress" (as opposed to concealed under your dress.)

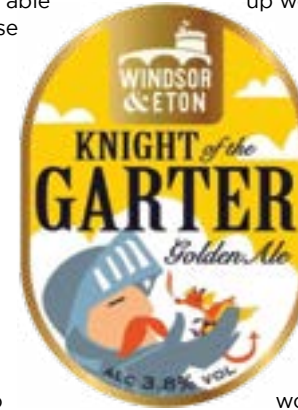
I suppose wine got a mention before ale because it was the tippable of choice for all those northern French chaps called Norman,

who had had the audacity to invade in 1066. The Magna Carta was written in Latin, the language of the church and the law, and translated into French, the everyday language of King John and the Barons! I'm not sure what the ordinary serf on the street would have thought about it; nothing probably as he/she/they wouldn't have been able to understand it - or anything else for that matter. Much the same position that I find myself in, in today's modern world.

It is not noted whether there was a toast to the future success of this 'entente cordiale' on the banks of the Thames, or a picnic afterwards, but presumably if they were talking French, they were drinking French i.e. wine. The local Runnymede home brew at the time may have been a bridge too far - too many nettles or too much honey in it - but these days far more palatable ales would be available to the Barons, Geoffrey de Mandeville, Earl of Gloucester; William of Huntingfield (I didn't make this one up by the way); William de Mowbray, the Mayor of London and the other 20 signatories, alongside the man in a fix, King John. There are now three breweries nestled next to the Thames, just upriver in Windsor, a short paddle from Runnymede. At the

Windsor & Eton Brewery, a golden Knight of the Garter could well have suited their tastes, although the pilsner Republika would not have gone down well with the King.

The Treason IPA might be best avoided given the sensitivity of the situation but White Riot, another pale ale, would have summed it up well.



The other two breweries are a bit crafty, but presumably so where the Barons. Two Flints Brewery was founded upon the theory that "It takes two flints to make a fire": two flints or, in this case, 23 Barons. The Indie Rabble (as Big John may have described his Barons) Brewery have the same motto that the serf on the street probably had written across his/her/their banner, whilst demonstrating outside Moot Hall - 'Down With Bad Things'. The Barrons would have supped well on Indie

Rabble's IPA 'The Mob Out Of Office', which perfectly describes their status at the time.

Beer Day Britain isn't directly referred to in the Magna Carta, but the date of the signing is celebrated on Beer Day Britain. This world-renowned charter is described as "the most valuable export of Great Britain to the rest of the world". Apart from Burton-on-Trent's India Pale Ale, of course. I'll drink to that.

*The Hunter*



Top 10 chart hits in the 60's and 70's, notably, or otherwise, Call Up The Groups. These 13th Century Barons had their own chart, or charter, still known throughout the world as the Magna Carta. The Magna Carta was signed on that very day in 1215 at Runnymede, a water meadow alongside the River Thames near





### Monthly Pub Walks

**Held outside the Summer festival months. We have now completed 113 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.

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](http://www.northcotswoldcamra.org.uk) together with the route and photographs.

Dogs welcome on leads. Non CAMRA members welcome. Walks are subject to weather and walker numbers.

**Dates and locations will be published and circulated after the summer.**

### Day Away

In planning stage. A Saturday by public transport. Visiting GBG Pubs in a local town or City: See website for details. Provisionally Oxford.

### FaceBook

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

### Cycling Events

The programme includes 3 events in 2024. Spring Summer and Autumn. Dates to be announced. 20 mile events around GBG Pubs in N Cots area. Usually visit 5 pubs on route at a steady pace.

**The Summer run was held on the 18th August from Broadway to Evesham and return. The Autumn run on 13th Oct from Bourton on the Water to Stow and Oddington area was deferred.**

## BEER FESTIVALS 2024

**22nd Ale and Steam Weekend 14th to 16th June**  
**17th Moreton C.C. Beer Festival**  
**13th - 14th September**  
Further information on our website:  
[www.northcotswoldcamra.org.uk](http://www.northcotswoldcamra.org.uk)

# 17<sup>th</sup> BEER & CIDER FESTIVAL

## at Moreton in Marsh Cricket Club

### Fri 13th & Sat 14th SEPTEMBER

11:00 to 11:00 - Friday & Saturday  
50 Beers, 20 Ciders and Perries  
Hot & Cold Food with Soft Drinks  
Live Music

### CAMPING& PARKING

See website for details

Friday 11:00 to 11:00 - Entry £3

Saturday 11:00 to 11:00 - Entry £3

CAMRA members receive a beer token allowance



[www.northcotswoldcamra.org.uk](http://www.northcotswoldcamra.org.uk)

# North Cotswold CAMRA - THANKS ROGER!

**North Cotswold Branch Chair, Roger Price, stood down at the recent branch AGM.**

Roger had first served first as secretary and then chair since the branch was formed 17 years ago. He is a dedicated supporter of CAMRA who oversaw the expansion of the Branch, improving its appeal and productivity too.

From a small membership, he led its successful expansion to ensure a strong and committed committee that has punched well above its weight. The Festivals at Moreton Cricket Club and Ale and Steam at the Gloucestershire and Warwickshire Heritage Railway have gone from strength to strength leading to thousands of pounds being donated to CAMRA.

He organised and led over 100 popular monthly walks around the pubs of the Cotswolds supporting our pub community and making lasting relationships with landlords and brewers, along with skittle matches, motorcycle outings and taking part in cycling events.

The Branch under his guidance has a full calendar of other events including weekends and days away, real ale trials, festival helper's trips and pub of the year judging trips. He has also secured many sponsors of festival shirts and glasses along with recruiting many new members at the festivals.

He has had deal with some unique challenges over the years. The unfortunate accident that befell Moreton Festival Director, Martyn Herbert, led to Roger stepping in to help run the festival. Covid along with all its challenges to our pubs and our membership was also tackled with determination and



enthusiasm. Most recently the death of the Queen on the eve of the Moreton Festival and the need to mark the event whilst keeping the festival viable.

As incoming Branch Chair I wish to pay tribute to Roger as a true CAMRA man who has put many hours of time and effort to support its cause, given us great events to enjoy along the way and has always been there to help not only our branch, but also other Gloucestershire Branches. Roger intends to remain an active committee member to impart his advice and help as the Branch moves forward.

*Martin Jones*

# North Cotswold CAMRA - Pub of the Year

## The Inn at Fossebridge

**North Cotswold CAMRA are pleased to announce that its Pub of the Year for 2024 is The Inn at Fossebridge.**

This attractive one bar inn and hotel in the attractive hamlet of Fossebridge is on the original route of the Fosse Way, the Roman road in a steep river Coln valley.

Serving four cask ales from Butcombe Ramsbury and guests from local or regional breweries in a classic Cotswold Inn of old timbers, flagstone floors and open fires. It also has a four-acre garden with a lake and river where you can enjoy a beer when the sun shines.

Congratulations to owners Dee Ludlow and Geoff Collins who were previous winners in 2018 and runners up in recent years, for continued excellence in Cask Ale offering.

Pictured are owners Dee and Geoff with Branch Chairman, Roger Price, who stands down this year after sixteen years in the role.



## THE INN AT FOSSEBRIDGE

**N.COTS CAMRA  
PUB OF THE YEAR 2024**

Located on the Fosse Way, The Inn at Fossebridge is a famous ancient character inn with stone walls and flagstone floors



- **Passionate about well kept ales**
- **Outstanding popular pub food**
- **Stunning riverside garden**
- **Roaring log fires in winter**
- **7 beautiful en-suite bedrooms**



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Fossebridge (A429), Nr Cheltenham, GL54 3JS

[www.fossebridgeinn.co.uk](http://www.fossebridgeinn.co.uk)

# 46th Cotswold Beer Festival



## Planning in Full Swing!

Friday 18th July to Sunday 21st July

Planning is underway for the 46th running of this legendary beer festival: still in its original home at Postlip Hall and Barn. Even better news is that, despite rising costs everywhere, this year's festival ticket prices are being held at last year's prices. The festival runs from Friday 18th July to Sunday 21st July.

In its stunning Cotswold location (between Cheltenham and Winchcombe) you will be able to enjoy over 110 casks of the finest real ale and 40 carefully chosen ciders and perries. The organisers hope to keep the beer and cider prices close to last year, despite the increased costs that breweries have endured recently.

Festival buses will run to and from Cheltenham and Winchcombe, and bus tickets can be purchased alongside festival entry tickets.

Entertainment will include live music, both in the barn on Saturday and outside in the gardens. You can relax and relish a picnic in the garden, sharing a pint with friends, whilst children enjoy ice cream and the bouncy castle.

This year's festival again hosts the Gloucestershire Beer of the Year competition. Gloucestershire's great breweries will have their beers judged by a panel of experts, then you will have the opportunity to taste the winning beers and see if you agree with the experts.

Friday night is ideal for beer buffs, where connoisseurs and beginners alike can sample the widest range of real ales and ciders that the festival has to offer.

Our FREE Sunday ticket gives you a great risk free introduction to the Cotswold Beer Festival. Entry to the festival and buses really is FREE – although you will need to buy a souvenir glass if you want a pint! The Sunday ticket is a lucky-dip day of beers, ciders and perries. Some will have sold out, but there is plenty on offer and it's a great way to sample the unique atmosphere of this amazing festival.

Under 18-year-olds go free with Saturday All Day tickets.

Tickets will be available from:

<https://www.postlip.camra.org.uk>

in due course. Buy early to avoid any disappointment.

DAY	EARLY BIRD PRICE	STANDARD PRICE
Friday (6 - 11pm)	£10	£12
Saturday all day 12 - 9pm	£12	£14
Saturday evening 4:30 - 9pm	£8	£10
Sunday	FREE	FREE



Tickets from £8

POSTLIP HALL  
WINCHCOMBE  
GL54 5AQ

Friday 19th - Sunday 21st July, 2024

# THE 46TH COTSWOLD BEER FESTIVAL 2024



BUSES FROM  
CHELTENHAM  
& WINCHCOMBE

HEADLINERS  
FRI: THE EVERGLOW  
SAT: DOUBLE BASS DAN

the **BEER** brings you here  
the **memories** bring you back

FACEPAINTING  
CIRCUS SKILLS  
MAGICIANS, MORRIS  
TEWKES TOWN BAND  
GIN, PROSECCO,  
COFFEE, ICE CREAM

STEP FREE ACCESS  
& ONSITE TRANSIT

SIMPSONS FISH & CHIPS  
I-SCREAM TACOS  
COTSWOLD PIZZA COMPANY

150+ BEERS CIDERS & PERRIES | FREE PARKING | CAMPING



# ST GEORGES VAULTS

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# NEWS FROM TEWKESBURY



Campaign for Real Ale

## A Pub of the Year Double Double for The Cross House

The Cross House Tavern has won Tewkesbury CAMRA's Pub of The Year and Cider Pub of the Year for the second year running.

A truly unique pub situated on the Cross in the middle of Tewkesbury, The Cross House Tavern has, over the years, developed a committed band of followers keen on the traditional taste of beer and cider served straight from the barrel.

Serving up to ten ales and eight ciders/perries at any one time, owner and landlord Laurence Mills puts his success down to no more than hard work and listening to what his customers want, but it's been far more than that - right from the start six years ago, his vision of what the pub could become is what has guided his every move - from the old-school pub memorabilia and pictures everywhere to his strict rule of 'no lager'. (Wifi password is 'Dontdolager'). The man knows what he wants and is not for turning - I've tried, I should know (being Danish, my wife likes lager).

This year has seen a couple of notable improvements, in that the middle room now has a wood burner for the winter months (rumour has it that he likes to start it in the morning with Wetherspoons vouchers) and there are now separate facilities for the ladies, which has been much welcomed.

And as if POTY wasn't enough, The Cross



House has also won the Cider Pub of the Year (or 'Cyder', as Laurence insists on spelling it) for the second time in a row, making it a double double for The Cross House. Does this make Laurence the Pep Guardiola of Tewkesbury pubs?

What next? We can't wait.

Pete Adams

# LINTON FESTIVAL

nr Ross-On-Wye

5th July  
- 7th July  
2024



## Herefordshire's best loved music, real ale and cider festival returns on 5th to 7th July 2024.

Set in the grounds of The Alma Inn, who, once again have won CAMRA's Herefordshire Pub of the Year, this year's festival is back with a crash, bang and wallop showcasing some of the biggest acts today in rock, rhythm 'n' blues. With something for everyone, the line-up features an exceptionally high-quality array of 14 artists, not to mention around 40 real ales and ciders and delicious locally sourced edible treats waiting to be washed down!

It's not just the music and the beer that makes Linton Festival so special. Did you know it is entirely volunteer run? Its sole purpose is to raise money for local charities and those who have benefited most recently include HELP Appeal, Parkinsons UK, Alzheimers Research UK and Herefordshire Mind, to name just a few. Over the years, organisations like these have received a grand total of nearly £150,000 from proceeds donated from the event.

Dave Lambert, Linton Festival chair said: "We've got some huge names coming to Linton this year and our festival goers are in for a real

*ride! If you're not here for the weekend, you're missing out. As many know, we run this festival to provide people with great music and beer but our ultimate goal, in between all the fun, is to raise money for charity. Last year the Committee were proud to donate £10,000 to our nominated organisations. When you come to Linton Festival you help us to continue supporting organisations who so vitally need our help."*

**music,  
real ale  
& cider**

The headliners need little introduction, beginning with Talon on Friday night. Rising from their humble beginnings, Talon has become the most successful touring Eagles tribute act. Revered by their peers and loved by their fans, this world class seven-piece band are a phenomenon and they'll be bringing the timeless Eagles back catalogue with them to Linton.

Saturday welcomes Band of Friends celebrating the music of the late, great guitarist Rory Gallagher! This is not a tribute to Rory, more of a celebration of his life and music which covered all parts of the globe and produced some of the greatest rock and blues albums of the 60's, 70's and the 80's.

The roof will really explode when our final headliner hits the stage on Sunday evening...

Ruby Turner! Soul, gospel and R&B, her career has included success as a solo artist and touring alongside Jools Holland. Maybe you've seen her at London's Ronnie Scott's or perhaps you remember her days in the 80's Culture Club. Ruby's voice is out of this world and she'll be wrapping the festival up with an almighty showdown!

Festival goers can really embrace the festival vibe with full camping facilities available all weekend within a short walking distance of the festival site. There's hot showers, free parking and hot home-cooked breakfasts made to order to set you up for the day ahead.

Owing to popular demand, this year there are more plots available than before, but don't hang around...space sells out fast.

**WIN TWO FREE  
TICKETS TO LINTON  
FESTIVAL!**



**Just answer  
this question!**

The Tippler has a pair of weekend tickets (worth £230) to give away. To be in with a chance of winning this fantastic prize, just answer the following question:

**Which pub will  
Linton Festival  
be held at?**

Send your answer to  
**chris@thetippler.co.uk**  
**by 16th June at the latest**  
to be included in the Prize Draw

**A weekend pass costs £115 (camping from £17) and day tickets are available for £29.  
See [www.lintonfestival.org](http://www.lintonfestival.org) for full details.**

5th July  
- 7th July  
2024

# LINTON FESTIVAL

nr Ross-On-Wye

FRIDAY 5th	SATURDAY 6th	Sunday 7th
<b>TALON</b> THOMAS ATLAS BAND CROW BLACK CHICKEN	<b>BAND OF FRIENDS</b> THE JUKE JOINTS THE BLUE LENA CHANTEL MCGREGOR CATFISH MISSISSIPPI MACDONALD	<b>RUBY TURNER</b> ERJA LYYTINEN WILLE & THE BANDITS CHRIS BEVINGTON <small>ORGANISATION</small> JAMES OLIVER BAND

Music, real ale & cider festival  
Proudly Raising Funds for Local Charities

Line-Up subject to change

# Tall Tales from the Cider Shed...

**In which our cider-making hero recalls a moving experience from his colourful past...**

**The date August 13th 1994 might not mean a lot to all you good Tippler readers, unless its your birthday, wedding or something else special, but it was a big day for the Hartlands. It was the day of the farm sale.**

The previous year we had bought Tirley Villa off Barry Robinson, so we were leaving Flat Farm, which was a council farm at the end

of September. By moving to Tirley Villa we were downsizing, as Flat Farm had a lot more acreage than Tirley Villa, meaning we had a lot of things to sell.

Its amazing how much quality rubbish you can gather over a couple of years, but times that about thirty and you've certainly got a lot of stuff to sort out.

As normal though Father had judged everything to perfection and come sale day all the lots were lined up tidily in the orchard, all we needed now was the weather!

Well we couldn't have wished for a better day as the sun shone brightly down, with hundreds and hundreds of people turning up at the farm looking for a bargain no doubt.

Father's great friend Ian Arthurs was doing the auctioneering and with Brummie Penny kindly offering to look after cider sales, everything was in place for me to have an enjoyable day.

I did have one job to do before I could really enjoy myself, and that was to walk the cattle around the makeshift ring as the local farmers made their bids, something that made me feel incredibly proud.



*The cattle ring, the auction field and a line of barrels laid out for sale (photos courtesy of Dereck Hartland)*



As in every sale there are items that sell well and some that don't. Three lots spring to mind that made a lot more than we thought. The first was the old cattle crush which as practically falling to pieces but you only need two people to bid against each other and the price skyrockets.

Postman Pat was determined to buy the crush and he paid a good price for it. The second lot to sell well as my favourite tractor the Fordson Dexta. Because we were downsizing we had to sell a couple of tractors so we decided to sell the Dexta and the bigger Fordson Major, keeping to two international tractors that we still use today.

It was sad to see the Dexta sold but it wasn't the most reliable of the tractors. So as auctioneer Ian was about to see it, somebody shouted out 'can you start it up'.

Being as it was my tractor, it was up to me to see if it would start. The pressure was on but the Dexta fired up first time, going on to make more than we expected.

The lot that sticks out the most however, was the old ride-on mower which father had

bought to mow the caravan field. This mower was more temperamental than me on a bad skittles night but on the day, Deputy had got the mower turned to perfection, and it started every time somebody tried to start it. Making well over the price we had anticipated, we were certainly glad to see that mover leave the farm!

It had been a memorable day, the weather had been beautiful and everyone seemed to have had a good time, although a few had probably had too much cider to drink! But the day was tinged with sadness, as in under seven weeks we were leaving Flat Farm, a place I had lived all my life.

It must have been even harder for mother, as she was born on the farm, but she was a tough little cookie who just took it in her stride. The Hartlands were making the biggest move of their lives, a mile down the road to Tirley Villa!

**Dereck Hartland**

**DURSLEY CAMRA  
PUB OF THE YEAR  
2024**

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DURSLEY**

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SUNNY SUMMER  
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## NEW FOR 2024

We've got a brand new prize crossword sponsored by The Black Bear where you can win one of our brand new and soon to be coveted Tippler Tee Shirts.

Send your entries to  
[chris@thetippler.co.uk](mailto:chris@thetippler.co.uk)

We're working on a new series of Tippler 'merch' and also a website that will ensure you can become the owner of one of these super smart tee shirts.

# PRIZE CROSSWORD

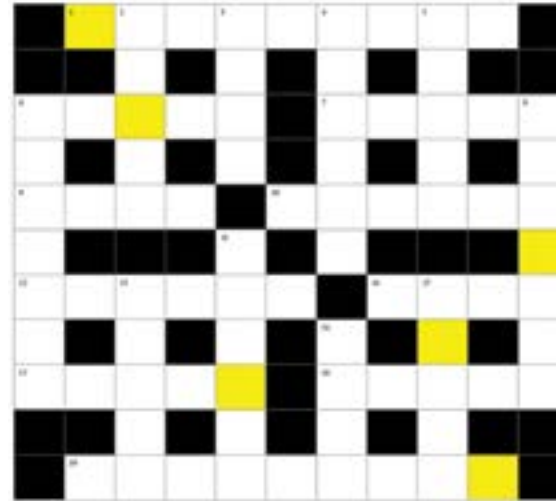
SPONSORED BY  
**THE BLACK BEAR, TEWKESBURY**

## What you can win

Want to be the envy of your friends and drinking buddies?

We'll get this crossword filled in and sent back and you could win one of the brand new Tippler tee-shirts. This is the first of the Tippler 'merch' (*apologies for the jargon - Ed.*) that will be coveted by many.

The first in the brand new series of puzzles this has been set by our corvid avian friend 'Magpie', like its namesake setter, it's a bit on the tricky side, so good luck!



Rearrange the yellow squares to find a brewery.

### ACROSS

- Smoky German brew is a mix of birch and urea (9)
- Cartoon dog loses tail - stir it! (5)
- Broken ridge sounds mournful (5)
- Foul smelling row (4)
- Give container back to friend for computer (6)
- Mix a leek and two turnips, then boil (6)
- Injury in Jim's car (4)
- Ease the rules and reduce anxiety (5)
- Band split up early (5)
- Saying mum is out of place in fitness centre (6)

### DOWN

- A crop goes to seed (5)
- Money has been delivered, reportedly (4)
- Resort blamed for chaos (6)
- Greet confused bird (5)
- Harry Kane refuses to work! (7)
- Ruler in temper or rage (7)
- Bull back in family with a big horn (6)
- Record score in digital lyrics (5)
- Rodent starts chewing on your plants unceasingly (5)
- Sounds like a girl, unfortunately (4)

Send your entries, either email, or by old-school post, to the Editor at:  
The Editor, The Tippler, 23 Theocs Close, Tewkesbury. GL20 5TX

Send your entries to

[chris@thetippler.co.uk](mailto:chris@thetippler.co.uk)

THE INDEPENDENT PUB AT THE HEART OF THE COMMUNITY



**Black Bear**

EST. 1308

A BEAUTIFULLY RESTORED PUB THAT HAS SEEN  
ITS UNIQUE CHARACTER RESTORED & IMPROVED

WIDE RANGE OF FINE ALES & CIDERS



## Stroud CAMRA - Cider Pub of the Year



Photos: Alice Hill

**It's a double triumph for the Carpenters Arms at Westrip—and a double triumph for the second year on the trot. The pub is not just Stroud CAMRA Cider Pub of the Year but has prevailed in the next round to once again be crowned Gloucestershire CAMRA Cider Pub of the Year.**

Stroud CAMRA presented Sammy McKie, owner and licensee of the Carpenters Arms, with a framed certificate as our Cider Pub of the Year for 2024 on a sunny Saturday afternoon at the end of March. Sammy used the occasion to launch the pub's very own cider, Rowdy Stroudy, and to plant several apple trees so that in years to come Rowdy Stroudy will be made with apples from trees grown in the pub's garden.

It proved a thoroughly enjoyable occasion, the sun shone, the pub was rammed and the garden was very busy, what with a folk band playing inside, a children's Easter egg hunt and the Easter bunny up to all kinds of mischief outside. To top it all, Sammy held a cider festival to celebrate the award, with 11 bag-in-box ciders and perries on offer from local producers Orchard Revival and Severn Cider - not forgetting Rowdy Stroudy! Tim

Andrews from Orchard Revival was on hand to supervise the tree planting and to dispense wisdom and enlightenment on everything to do with apples and pears and the orchards they come from.

Aside from (officially) the best range of cider in Gloucestershire, for those who preferred other libations there were three real ales and all the usual sedative-hypnotics behind the double-sided bar that serves both the lounge and the public bar.

The Carpenters now goes forward with our blessing to the next round, to compete with all the other CAMRA south-west branch nominations for the title of South West CAMRA Cider Pub of the Year. And so on, until one pub out of a shortlist of four is crowned national CAMRA Cider Pub of the Year.

The Carpenters is a whitewashed stone-built pub right at the north-western edge of the Cashes Green conurbation, close to the Cotswold Way. It is located on a steep hillside with spectacular and panoramic views over Stroud, from Rodborough Fort to the Bear Hotel and across to Selsley, and all along the valley towards the River Severn.

Sammy bought the pub in 2019 and has

proved a hands-on, energetic and enterprising publican. There's always something going on at the 'Carps', whether it's live music, a quiz, a raffle, Singo Bingo, Let's Paint, breakfast at the weekend, steak nights, premiership rugby on the widescreen TV, carols at Christmas, and even an annual dog show (this year on Saturday 18 May)!

This is quite a turnaround for the pub, which was once closed and risked being lost to a residential conversion after being declared unviable by so-called 'industry specialists'. It was advertised for sale as an 'ideal lifestyle purchase [that] would also appeal to purchasers looking to open on restricted hours and benefit from three-bedroom private accommodation in a desirable residential area'. Neon Homes bought the pub and built two houses on part of the car park. It was eventually advertised as for sale freehold at £300,000 or to let on a free-of-tie lease.

Previously the pub was owned by Punch Taverns with landlord Steve Poulter as their tenant for many years. It was subject to an unsuccessful application by Pubmaster (now part of Punch) for planning permission for conversion to residential in 1997. This was refused by Stroud District Council. Pubmaster went to appeal, the appeal was rejected and the pub was saved from closure.

Perhaps because of this experience, according to locals Punch sold the pub to landlord Steve Poulter and almost immediately he sold it to Neon Homes and became their tenant. Neon Homes received planning



permission to build two houses on part of the car park.

Perhaps also because of Pubmaster's experience, Neon Homes then commissioned Plainview Planning to prepare a Future Options document that stated baldly that 'changes in drinking habits and its peripheral location present a day-to-day challenge to the ability of the pub to stay up and running. A viability report undertaken by industry specialists concludes that the pub is not viable.'

Plainview Planning fail to mention that despite the pub's 'peripheral location' it is at the edge of a densely built up urban area (Cashes Green) with hundreds of people within walking distance, has stunning views from the garden and happens to be on the Cotswold Way. Surely these are material considerations and trump any 'viability

report' undertaken by self-styled 'industry specialists' hired to conclude that 'the pub is not viable'? As is the fact that neighbourhoods with pubs are seen as desirable and that is reflected in higher house prices.

Which just goes to show that it's not all bad news on the pub front and that a village local in a peripheral location at the edge of an urban area, with a hands-on, energetic and enterprising publican can triumph against the odds over property speculators intent on converting any pubs they get their greedy hands on to residential in order to achieve a higher return.

That's surely worth raising a glass to!

**Tim Mars**

Pubs Officer, Stroud CAMRA



# The Tegestologist

Welcome to a series all about Tegestology, the little known term for the collection of beer mats. Our man has a lot, over 40,000 to choose from, so we reckon he knows what he's talking about . . .

Welcome again to the world of beer mats, and as mentioned last time, I will cover the halcyon days of collecting from 1960's through to 1980's when the hobby was probably at its peak, and brewers produced sets of mats specifically for tegestologists.

The best place to start is a wonderful series of 15 'teddybear' shaped mats issued by Ind coope covering the history of beer. They were so successful that three different sets covered the period from 1976 - 1979, and due to their large size (almost 7.5 inches) made quite an impact on a table. They were also very difficult to liberate without seeking the landlord's permission. They must have been very obliging because most collections at that time contained some, if not all 50; there were five special mats issued too, and I got most of mine from the Restoration Inn in Cheltenham when the Burton Ale they promoted was also in its heyday.

Courage PLC had many sets in the 70's, but rather than cover the nuts and bolts of beer manufacture, they concentrated on themes which would appeal to most blokes in the pub. A perfect segue is probably the great engineers set from 1973 featuring 12 of I.K. Brunel's west country creations. They later went on to issue series featuring dogs, fish and birds, unusually in sets of seven, when even-numbers were the norm. Courage also featured boxers, locomotives and cockney rhyming slang. You can learn a lot by reading the back of a beer mat!



Even before the days of the all powerful, big six corporate brewers, Courage Barclay & Simonds had a great set of five unusual British pastimes to entertain drinkers in 1961. This one is especially apt for our area, and is catalogue #1. I am very pleased to see that the latest tenants of the eponymous local pub have commissioned a new pictorial inn-sign. The last one was a travesty, given the uniqueness of the topic.



My next photo of a 1979 Wadworth mat touches upon the historical importance of colourful inn-signs. This is BBCS cat. 17 of a set which they reprinted five times in different colours until 1985. I think we'd got the message by then.

Did you know as well as a beer mat collectors society, there is also one for Brewery history, bottle labels, playing cards,



can collectors and one for the appreciation of public house inn signs? If interested, I can put you in touch with these clubs.

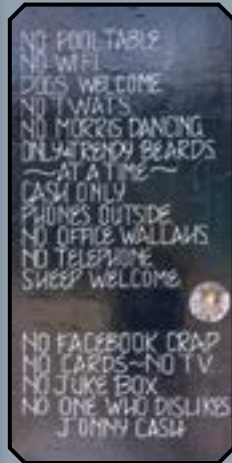
I mentioned blokes in pubs earlier, as in those days, most collectors and pub goers were male; the 1970's saw the start of heavily promoted drinks primarily for the fairer sex. Babycham produced a lot of sets depicting signs of the zodiac and associated astrological predictions, and once did a set of 48, which presented a fair challenge to complete.

As this is a beer and cider magazine horoscopes are not featured, but cider makers were also keen to keep us well informed on various interests. Here is a Gaymers cider mat which was re-issued with different sizes and mat corner-cuts: yes they count too! Dobbers used to be played in the Green Dragon near Cowley back in the 70's as well as in Evesham it seems. I wonder if they still have their Dobbers table? I don't recall there being many pub quizzes in those days, but I've often thought of creating one purely using the facts printed on the reverse of beer mats. Maybe my book of '101 uses for a beer mat' should come first!

There tend not to be many numbered sets of mats around these days, but a lot of breweries produce a series where a common style is used. Sometimes these are listing their pubs or most often a mat for each of their brews. These may show the pump clip design or are colour coded to match the bottle label. I'm not illustrating one of those here, but a local 1964 West Country mat in a series of 12 (eventually), none of which were numbered. BBCS catalogued it as number 6.

Next time I hope to cover quirky mats. Thanks for reading.

Russell Murfitt



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# THROTTLE CLUB

Turks Head Regulars Out Trying The Local Establishments - Casually Lapping Up Beer

The 'Throttle Club' is a social drinking boys and girls club with only one rule: Behave!

It was time again for The Throttle Club outing. It's now naughty to use the term 'pub crawl' these days, so outing it was to be.

On Sunday 12th May it was 'pub visiting day' for the Throttle Club based at The Turks Head Inn in Gloucester. Being 'Glastur' lads and gals we were nervous about going too far so decided on the wondrous town of Tewkesbury!

Wow! what a pretty town. Arriving by bus I told everyone to be wary because Tewkesbury has traffic in the centre. Yep, cars are allowed to drive through the centre, which may prove a bit tricky for Glastur pub crawlers.

So on getting off the bus we found we were beside The New Plough. The ales were lovely. Between us we tried Inferno - a Blonde Ale 4%, fresh and hoppy. Scoring 9 out of 10, I would say. They also had Uley's Pale at 3.8% and Pigs Ears (not beer made from pigs ears I think). Both were really tasty. Sue, the barmaid with the rainbow coloured hair served us and was as happy as usual. It's a tricky pub with the ceiling just a tad over six foot. Our Simon cracked his head on the ceiling.

Oh dear, never mind...

Then, after the delicious beers were finished we walked all the way to The Berkeley (about 20ft away). Luckily a group was just leaving so we pounced on the tables. So, the experts had Wadworth Swordfish 5% Horizon 4%, 6X, Henrys IPA and Goffs Black Knight at 5.3%. Wow what a choice. The beers were lovely, I had 6X, it reminded me of when I didn't have grey hair. The building, like me is also a very handsome to look at.

Next it was the Nottingham Arms. Up the High Street on the right. There it was Sharps' Seafury 5%, Brit HP Ale 4% and Bees Knees at 4.2%. We sat down near one of the front windows which are proper lead glazed.

Weird, it's a very old but very pretty boozer. I remember it being revamped and reopened many years ago while I ran The Britannia in town. So after supping and agreeing on the nice beer it was off the The Albion.

At The Albion the landlady Nikky was sadly in a wheel chair with a broken leg (see photo). Oh bugger, poor thing! Anyway Nikki was as happy as ever and had live music on. Gosh, what a great way to spend a Sunday afternoon. Nice pub; ale wise they had on just the one, Wye Valley's Butty Back at 4.5%. Lovely beer, so we all had a pint of that each: very,,, very nice.



So it was lovely music, delicious beer and a pub manager who wasn't so scary at the moment because of her broken leg!!! Consequently the pub was voted by us as the best one of the day. Three cheers for Nikky! Hurrah, Hurrah, Hurrah!

Our last visit was

The Anchor. Now if you enjoy those modern things, TV sets, this is the place to watch sport. There's loads of them on the walls, all flickering pictures of English football teams, which don't really seem to have any Englishmen playing. What a weird world...no wonder I never watch TV.

However The Anchor was selling Wye valleys Butty Back which was also lovely. The landlady "Loz" who I have kind of known for years gave me a hug! Wow! She was obviously feeling kind or blind, not sure which. When a thunder storm arrived it was a goodbye hug and across the road to the bus stop.

The driver was friendly and let us all on. Quite cheery that type of attitude.

What a charming day out in the country side. It reminded me of the old song by Bryan Ferry going "Ain't it strange dear, how time slips away"...

**Pete Sheehy**

[www.thetippler.co.uk](http://www.thetippler.co.uk)

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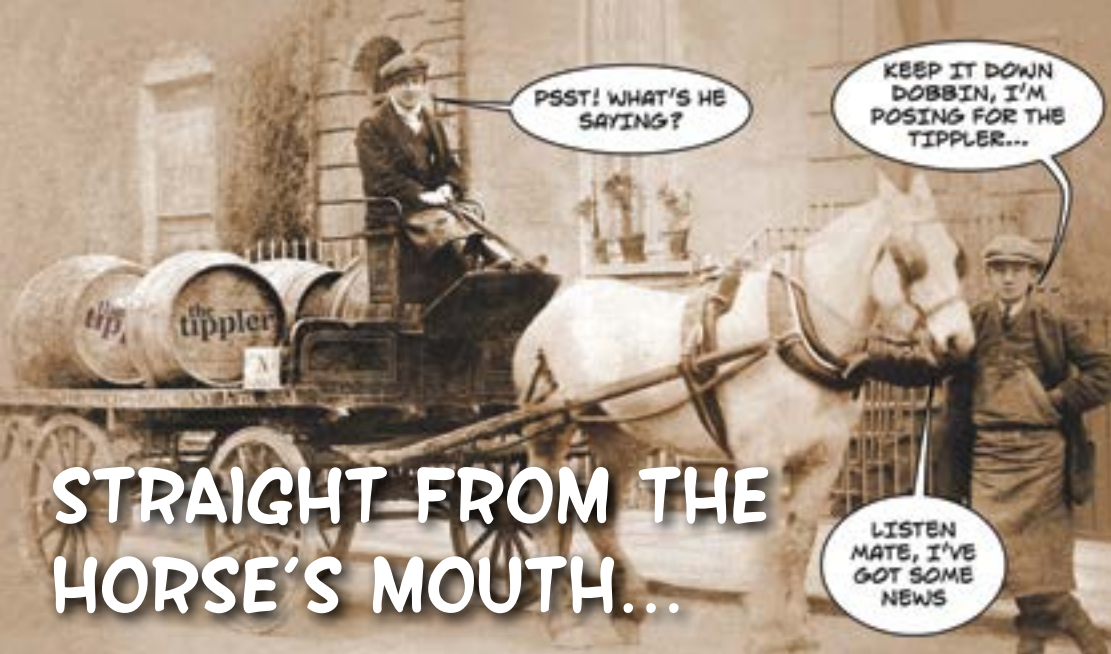
T	H	G	U	O	L	P	S	N	H	E	D	E
W	O	R	O	B	S	M	N	T	S	S	N	T
N	P	U	E	H	R	I	Y	R	B	T	O	B
A	W	L	I	A	M	V	O	A	E	R	M	B
W	L	O	L	A	I	H	R	H	E	A	R	X
S	E	E	R	L	K	O	K	D	L	N	O	O
N	O	N	O	C	L	A	F	E	T	D	O	F
N	W	V	A	D	A	E	E	R	T	W	E	Y
S	I	L	S	Y	A	W	L	I	A	R	T	T
T	B	P	E	L	I	C	A	N	H	T	N	O
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T	I	P	P	U	T	S	D	D	O	L	E	N
I	T	W	R	O	Y	A	L	M	A	S	A	S

<b>Bell</b>	<b>Railway</b>
<b>Black Horse</b>	<b>Ram Inn</b>
<b>Buthay</b>	<b>Red Hart</b>
<b>Crown</b>	<b>Royal</b>
<b>Falcon</b>	<b>Snooty Fox</b>
<b>Hog</b>	<b>Star</b>
<b>Lamb</b>	<b>Strand</b>
<b>Mount</b>	<b>Swan</b>
<b>Noel Arms</b>	<b>Tipputs</b>
<b>Old Spot</b>	<b>Tivoli</b>
<b>Ormond</b>	<b>Yew Tree</b>
<b>Pelican</b>	<b>York</b>
<b>Plough</b>	

- 1 Find the listed Gloucestershire hostleries in the grid (open before the COVID lockdown).
- 2 They can be horizontal, vertical or diagonal, forward or back.
- 3 The unused letters spell out most of a joke, can you supply the punchline?

Send your answer in ASAP to [chris@thetippler.co.uk](mailto:chris@thetippler.co.uk) and win ONE of FOUR BREWERY TOUR tickets available to lucky winners.

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# STRAIGHT FROM THE HORSE'S MOUTH...

## PUB & BREWERY NEWS...IN BRIEF

**The Restoration**, Cheltenham, is currently open 1pm to 11pm. The landlord hopes to start opening earlier once a new chef has been recruited.

**The Midland Hotel**, opposite Cheltenham Railway Station, has reopened as the Steam and Whistle. This is the first pub owned by the Marvellous Pub Co. The pub specialises in pizza, which is available from Wednesday to Sunday. Keg beers are available from Camden, Brixton, and Tiny Rebel breweries. The pub does not serve real ale, although DEYA 'live beers' are available in cans.

**The Kings Arms**, Gloucester Road, Cheltenham is currently closed and seeking new tenants.

**Cotswold Lion Brewery**, after being 'mothballed' due to the retirement of owner Andy Forbes, has now recommenced brewing on April 15th. Now under new ownership, Andy is offering consultancy to new owners and the familiar Cotswold Lion beer range will continue to be produced.

**Stroud Brewery** is celebrating all round and it's all down to two things: its 18th birthday, and another SIBA champion award. Plus

the return of an old favourite. The brewing gurus have created a special edition of their signature beer to mark the milestone of reaching an age when the brewery is old enough to drink! 'Birthday Budding' will be launched at the celebratory festival weekend, 7th - 9th June. Following its Gold Award, 'Big Cat' was declared Overall Champion for Keg Stout & Porters in SIBA's South Wales & West Regional Independent Beer Awards 2024. We were also thrilled to receive silver awards for 'Budding' (Cask Pale Ales 4.4 to 5.5%), 'Tom Long' (Bottle & Can British Ales up to 6.4%), 'Stinger' (Bottle & Can Speciality & Flavoured Beer) and 'Hop Drop' (Keg Pale Ale 4.5% - 5.5% & Bottle & Can Pale Ale 4.5% - 5.5%) plus a bronze for 'Easy Peasy' (Keg Non-Alcoholic & Low ABV). Such success bodes well for the quality of the latest new brew - 'Low Chance', a 0.5 ABV pale ale which is now being tested with customers in the taproom. And the return of Aledeflower shows summer must have arrived - the addition of elderflowers creates a light, refreshing summer beer.

**The Fleece Inn** in Hillesley, Gloucestershire is busily preparing for its 12th anniversary beer festival on July 19th - 21st this year. This is the third festival that the current landlords of the community owned pub have run. The last two festivals have been roaring successes, despite the rain last year they have been well supported by locals and visitors from afar. As well as (at least) 22 real ales being showcased there is an amazing line of local artists, entertainment for the kids and loads of great food available over the three days.

Outside of the festival, there is always a good selection of ales across the six handpumps, lots of other events and meal specials.

Check out the facebook page and keep up to date with all the exciting things happening at The Fleece Inn.

<https://www.facebook.com/fleeceinnhillesley>

## Cheltenham CAMRA - Pub of the Year



### The Beehive is Cheltenham CAMRA's Pub of the Year

On April 15th Cheltenham CAMRA members, and pub regulars gathered to present the 2024 Pub of the Year award to the Beehive pub in Cheltenham's fashionable Suffolks.

"The Beehive has come on leaps and bounds under Scott's management", said Cheltenham CAMRA Chair Rob Coldwell. "The increase in the choice, variety and quality of the cask real ales is impressive, and it's particularly nice to see Gloucestershire beers,

like Uley, represented regularly".

The Beehive's location between Montpellier, known for its boutique shops and picturesque surroundings and the restaurants, cafes, and delis of the Suffolks, the Beehive is the ideal location to unwind and socialise.

Beautifully preserved, the Beehive is part of the Hatton Hotels Group. It is a proper community pub, cosy in winter and (with beer gardens to the front and rear) it's also perfect for summer relaxation.

Known for its food the Beehive serves both classic and refined dishes throughout the day, focusing on fresh, locally sourced ingredients. The large function room above the pub hosts regular events, including comedy nights.

"The Beehive will now go forward to the next stage of the CAMRA Pub of the Year competition", said Rob. "It will go up against the best that the South West has to offer, and everyone from Cheltenham CAMRA would like to wish Scott and his team good luck in the next round".

# STROUD BREWERY - Happy 18th Birthday

**If ever you're asked to harvest carrots, think carefully before agreeing – you never know just where it might lead.**

For Greg Pilley, an afternoon mulling over ideas whilst he and his friend, Andy Jones, weeded and pulled carrots at Stroud's Community Supported Agriculture project led to an award-winning brewery employing over 70 people. Not that the carrots were pivotal to this success, but the local community certainly has been.

This June, Stroud Brewery reaches the milestone of turning 18 and has come such a long way since that first brew of Budding, its signature beer, in Greg's kitchen. To mark this special celebration, the

brewing team has added extra oomph and 'Birthday Budding' will be launched at the brewery's birthday music festival weekend, 7th – 9th June. The beer's namesake, one Edwin Budding of Stroud, would no doubt have been very pleased. The innovative spirit of this inventor must have been in the air in the brewery's first location (above) which, by coincidence, was the very place where Budding invented the lawnmower, something that's also become part of community life.

The past 18 years have thrown their fair share of ups and downs at the brewery since 2006 when Budding won CAMRA's Champion Beer of Gloucestershire Award. Survival and success has had its roots in the strong relationship the brewery has forged with its



*Where it all started*

local community. The many conversations Greg had with anyone and everyone around Stroud uncovered huge enthusiasm for a local brewery, leading to a community loan scheme in 2005 – the first of four community funding initiatives so far – raising the money needed to kick-start the brewery. Many of those people are still shareholders and investors today.

Like a hermit crab which keeps outgrowing its shell, Stroud Brewery has twice had to expand and rebuild its location – each time supported by the community which not only provided funding, but also enabled it to ride out unforeseeable national or global events which have spelt the end for many businesses.

Production and sales had doubled by 2008 – and then a major recession struck. But rather than being bad news, unexpectedly, this fuelled a new desire within both the business world and the public to support the local economy and locally produced food and drink. Between 2008 to 2011, pubs made a big effort to stock and champion local beer, and Stroud Brewery couldn't produce enough to satisfy demand! Cue community investment number two: forty people paid between £500 – £10,000 each to raise the £100,000 needed to match a European Rural Development Programme grant. The second brewery was built in 2011.

Life ticked along well with more beers being brewed, food and drink was served



onsite and on Friday and Saturday evenings, it became a social hotspot. Then the landlord's notice-to-quit in 2016 led to the hunt for brewery number three. Eventually, a new landlord bought a plot of land, became a part shareholder and community investment scheme number three, plus a community bond from Triodos Bank, raised the funds for a brand-new brewery with a purpose-built taproom. Opening in late 2018, after over a year of no income, business moved forward again and contracts to supply national chains started to materialise. All was great until 2020 and...the pandemic struck.

Like all in the hospitality sector, the Brewery had to close to the public, and sales to pubs and retail outlets plummeted. Finances were on a knife-edge, especially with the greatly increased rent and overheads of the new brewery. Once more, the community stepped up to the mark. A crowdfunding appeal raised over £114,000, the landlord waived rent, Stroud District Council provided rate relief, and Triodos Bank lenders relaxed their payment criteria. This group effort enabled the Brewery to survive: by the skin of its teeth.

Now, more than ever, the Brewery has become a focus for the local community. Not only is it a bustling social space where people can spend time together, reconnect with friends, and find time to relax, it's also an inclusive place where new community

initiatives are trialled, hobbies are kept alive (board games night, anyone?), mental and physical well-being is nurtured through many different weekly classes (dare you to try the bungee aerobics class), and anyone, whatever their background is welcomed in our supportive and inclusive space.

What will the next 18 years bring? We hope for much more of the same.

In a time when companies look outwards to create new business opportunities and maximise profits to thrive, we think the answer lies by looking close to home. As our experience shows, when you're rooting for your local community, it roots for you and this can open the door to a whole multitude of opportunities for both, to not only survive, but also thrive and create a better life for everyone. After all, wasn't this the role of pubs in past times when we all went to our 'local'?



# Goffs Brewery are celebrating their 30th Anniversary this year!

**Goffs Brewery are throwing open the doors of their Cotswold brewhouse on Saturday 3rd July for their biggest and best Birthday Bash.**

There will be beer, beats and bites from 12.00pm until 7.00pm. A new suitably celebratory brew will be available; Jester Brew 30 - brewed with the three hop heavyweights: Citra, Mosaic and Strata, packing punchy grapefruit and pomelo notes into this sunny summer thirst-quencher!

These are exciting times for Goffs as their trusty brewhouse is currently being extensively remodelled and replaced with a new larger kit that will allow them to brew twice the amount of award winning beer! If you'd like to know more about the fascinating process behind these beautiful beers simply call 01242 603383 to book a place on the birthday bash brewery tour.

Adding to the 30th anniversary excitement, Goffs Brewery recently won the Gold medal

for Cheltenham Gold at the International Brewing Awards 2024. The brewery are extremely proud of this beating competition from the likes of Timothy Taylor, AbInBev & Liberation - not bad for a little brewery nestled in Winchcombe!



  
Goffs Brewery  
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# A Meeting of Minds

What an absolute privilege I had recently meeting my old friend and cider legend Kevin Minchew at The Cross House Tavern on Sunday 5th May.

Due to unforeseen circumstances this was the first time we had met in years. So it was good to see Kevin in such fine fettle recollecting his stories from his glorious past.

A good afternoon was topped off by some very tasty table snacks which were very much appreciated.

They say never meet your heroes. Well yesterday I was very fortunate to meet one of mine and I hope to see him again sooner rather than later.

*Dereck Hartland, Hartland Cider*



*Dereck (right) with Kevin (left)*

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 BREWERY TOURS TO GLOUCESTER BREWERY - SEE PAGE 35!  
 BREWERY TOURS TO STROUD BREWERY - SEE PAGE 45!  
 TWO WEEKEND TICKETS TO THE LINTON FESTIVAL - SEE PAGE 53!  
 TWO NIGHT STAY FOR TWO AT THE ROYAL HOP POLE HOTEL - SEE PAGE 67!

SEND YOUR ENTRIES TO [chris@thetippler.co.uk](mailto:chris@thetippler.co.uk)



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# The Pub Whisperer

In an occasional series about local pub life, entitled 'The Pub Whisperer', we're looking for readers to make regular contributions even if they're new to writing. Bob Jeffrey, pub enthusiast, historian and social commentator, continues...

## A quiet sports bar? They do exist

It's an early evening in January and the back bar is virtually silent. The music has been turned off in this part of the pub. A mother and daughter drink quietly in a corner, looking serious and from time to time look at their phones; another older couple drink without talking very much. He looks at a silent footy match on the distant telly and his partner engages with her world via her phone. Another elderly couple drink quietly with one of them watching a tablet. A third elderly couple again talk very quietly and watch the game. A single drinker sits watching the game quietly and the last elderly couple in the bar also watch the match although she is on her phone a lot. Her husband asks for the volume on the telly to be turned up and two lads join the company reducing the age average significantly. However, it is still relatively quiet with the commentary the loudest noise and a local musician who leads the local church choir joins one of the older groups to watch the game and a young couple creep into the corner to have a pint. It's still a quiet bar, very unusual for sports pub. Loud exclamations from the main bar can be heard but it remains so quiet we can all hear the

'Loud exclamations from the main bar can be heard but it remains so quiet...'

commentary. One reason may be that some of those watching are Newcastle fans and don't expect any joy against Man City. Another two youngsters join the now busier throng, but the quiet atmosphere is retained. Sports Pubs can be comfortable if the residents are respectful of the others as is the case in this in this mixed generational back bar. The older incumbents gradually left and the youngsters imbibed the respectful atmosphere and moved to a corner chatting quietly. This pub helps create comfortable atmospheres for all.

## The Life and Soul of the Pub/Rotunda

Chris has been the manager of the Rotunda in Cheltenham since June 2022.

He is a life force from first thing in the morning when we come across him in the adjacent co-op, sometimes with eight year old son who helps get things ready for the day. His vibrant and flamboyant shirts and ankle length trousers indicate a character who is happy in his own skin. He is full of joy, laughter, speedy service, and a continuous flow of repartee, singing to himself as he carries drinks outside to customers. He never stops; can serve three drinks at a time, throw half full glasses in a

circular motion as a party trick to gain a laugh. He never stops, but perambulating around the pub asking drinkers if they want a top up and bringing them to the table with the card machine. He generates energy which locals appreciate as it makes them feel valued. He is a live wire who inspires the staff to be active and attentive to customers, always asking 'who is next'; pouring regulars' drinks as they arrive and ensuring the pub's reputation as a local boozier which takes its job seriously. The staff all move fast to change barrels, gas and speedily provide warm glasses for the nerds who like their cask ale at 13 - 14 degrees.



He ensures there is a lively atmosphere by having a juke box and a party atmosphere at the weekend and provides most sports on three TV's. There are two outside areas to drink, either side of the pub, one which gets the sun and the other that has heaters.

When the evening staff appear late afternoon, he sometimes takes a break having a pint with regulars and friends outside. When he leaves everyone hears his loud cheery farewell, pressing the flesh and touring the pub before he strides off home with rucksack on his back. It's a great boozier thanks to its manager.

wetherspoon

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# Organic September

Organic September is in our sights, and we're buzzing with excitement! Let's raise our glasses (filled with your favourite organic brew, of course) to celebrate everything the organic sector brings to the table: from fighting climate change and nurturing nature, to boosting our health!



Here at Stroud Brewery, we've been championing sustainability in hospitality for 18 years by making organic beers, and this Organic September we're asking for your help. Organic September is a national campaign to promote the benefits of regenerative organic farming and we and our organic brewing companions are encouraging all pubs to stock an organic beer in September.

From can-making to barley farming, each step of beer making and drinking has its eco-impact. But fear not! We're all about solutions.

Balancing great taste with green practices? It's our kind of challenge!



Interested in getting involved? Get in touch!

[beer@stroudbrewery.co.uk](mailto:beer@stroudbrewery.co.uk) | 01453 887122



## CAPTION COMPETITION

Sharpen your pencil, as well as your wits, and come up with a suitable caption for this unexpected encounter in the St George's Vaults, Cheltenham.



Here we have a picture of our Gloucester-supporting editor Chris, never known to be short of a word or two at the worst of times, giving a pre-Facebook rock star a few pearls of wisdom.

What do you think he was asking? (Nothing involving the words 'left' and 'building' please.)

Great prizes to be won (see below)!



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## WHAT YOU CAN WIN

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Send your entries, either email, or by old-school post, to the Editor at:  
The Editor, The Tippler, 23 Theocs Close, Tewkesbury. GL20 5TX



Send your entries to

[chris@thetippler.co.uk](mailto:chris@thetippler.co.uk)

# DEAF BOY WANDERIN' JOHN



This time we find our happy wanderer exploring a bucolic part of Middle-Earth otherwise known as Winchcombe. Peuter tankards at the ready, Tipplers...

**Today's walk is centred on the quintessential Cotswold town of Winchcombe. The name means valley with a bend and, at one time, Winchcombe was the Saxon capital of Mercia, with a right to mint its own coins. My starting point is the lovely Corner Cupboard Inn, on the corner, obviously, of Gloucester Street and Back Lane.**

It is worth noting that the building, built in the 1550s, was originally a farmhouse, but some wise far-seeing person changed its purpose to that of a local hostelry.

It was a long time ago when, as a callow youth, I nipped in there every Friday for a couple of pints before returning to my first place of permanent employment, which was adjacent to the pub. The inn has been modernised and is a splendid place to quench your thirst and feed the hunger pangs after the walk. Don't forget to say hello to Benjamin Disraeli, or rather to his bust, which sits atop the main entrance.

If you are of a sensitive nature, see if you can hear the footsteps of the ghost of a 12 year-old girl running across the floorboards above the bar. They do say the more you

drink, the more likely it is that the ghost will appear.

Back to the walk! Leaving the Corner Cupboard behind you head down Gloucester Street to Mill Lane, which will lead you to the River Isbourne. This is a 14-mile-long tributary of the River Avon and, although not a mighty torrent of water like the Severn, it is unique in that it is the only river in Gloucestershire that flows north.

Crossing the river the path gives a rear view of the varying houses on Winchcombe's main thoroughfare. The route now encompasses part of Cordean Lane, a beautiful lane allowing glimpses of open fields and Winchcombe CC's ground.

The walk starts to climb towards the summit of the encircling Cotswold Hills. The vista begins to open out and 'the valley in the bend' materialises slowly in front of you like a tourist's postcard.

Gaze as you go, the tower of St Peter's Church is clearly identifiable, as is Sudeley Castle. The final approach to Belas Knap is short, but steep. Eventually you get your reward as puffing and blowing (or cursing)

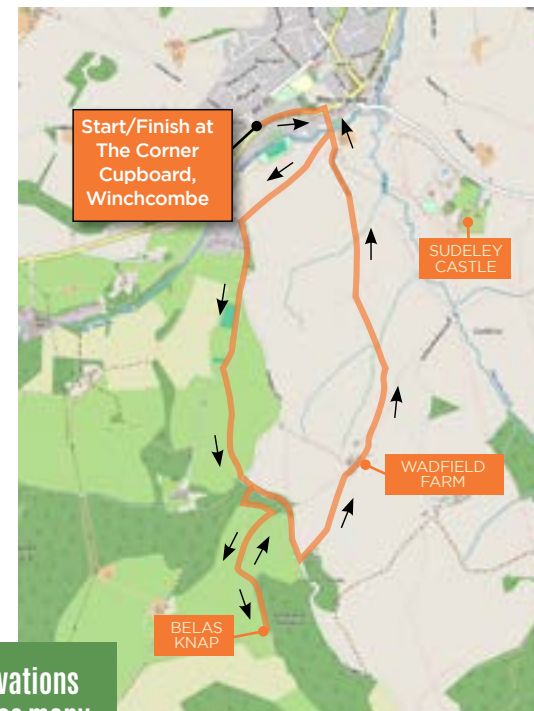
you gain the summit and the ancient burial mound of Belas Knap.

Belas Knap is a Neolithic chambered long barrow, 178ft long, 16ft wide and, at the highest point, 14ft to the ground. Don't be fooled by what appears to be the main entrance, it is actually a false, blocked entrance designed to deter robbers. Various excavations have revealed as many as 38 skeletons, together with animal bones, flint tools and lots of pottery shards. Make sure you spend quality time there. The views across the plateau are stunning and the 'big sky' is definitely on display up there. Hopefully, you will have some time there alone to tune into its atmosphere. Lie down, close your eyes and take yourself back to those ancient times.

WAKE UP! Time to retrace your steps and return to the nearby lane, walking right for a short way to find a footpath that leads downhill, off the lane, passing the delightfully named Humblebee Cottages.

Now for a mystery.

The path leads towards Wadfield Farm and on this section according to various guidebooks there lie the remains of a Roman villa. Please let me know if you find it, I know I'm deaf, but I'm not blind and I have never seen it. However, what is not in dispute are the panoramic views of the sleepy Cotswold town nestling in the valley.



**'Various excavations have revealed as many as 38 skeletons'**

Heading further downhill, you are bound to pass Sudeley Castle, the last resting place of Katherine Parr, Henry VIII's sixth wife. She may have survived, but Henry was the third husband to die on her and soon after the king's death she married her childhood sweetheart Thomas Seymour. Her luck ran out when she became pregnant and died seven days after the birth, only 36 years old.

Anyway, passing Sudeley Castle, you eventually get back onto Gloucester Street where well deserved refreshments at The Corner Cupboard are close at hand.

If you enjoyed this pub walk, why not return and explore more of the area when Winchcombe holds its annual walking festival.

**Deaf Boy**



*The Corner Cupboard*



*Belas Knap*



*Sudeley Castle*

# We were up long before the Day-0!



Photos: Eden Tanner

**It's not long gone five o'clock on the 1st of May. Through the first light haze on May Hill, a couple of dozen figures have already appeared, some with coats covered with colourful folds of fabric, some carrying musical instruments.**

The sky to the east is glowing brighter, as a gentle jingling noise accompanies the dawn chorus.

Just before dawn, eight of them line up in two rows. The musicians strike up a brisk tune and the Morris dancers spring into action, celebrating the arrival of Summer.

What on earth is going on here, and what possible interest is it to those of us perusing the Tippler? Well, we are lucky to be witnessing one of the many calendar customs that enrich our local cultural heritage.

May Morning is celebrated throughout the country. On May Hill The Lassington Oak Morris Men from Highnam and The Forest of Dean Morris celebrate our local tradition of welcoming the Summer sun. Other local

sides were dancing the sun up on Painswick Beacon. May Day also marks the start of the summer season of Morris dancing. You can be sure that good beer will be imbibed before the day is out; lubricating the dancers' joints and tuning up their vocal cords for some post-dancing pub singing.

Later that day, the Lassington Oak gather again at The Tall Ship in Gloucester, a welcoming haunt. This year it is the first stop on a programme of Wednesday evening dance-outs that will see the side roving around Gloucestershire, from The Glasshouse at Longhope to The Oak at Painswick, with many splendid hostellers in between.

"Morris dancing goes hand-in hand with drinking good ale and fine cider," says Lassington Oak Squire (morris-speak for team captain) Bill Taylor, raising a battle-scarred pewter tankard to prove the point. The après-Morris tradition is to retire to the bar after dancing, to enjoy a few pints whilst playing traditional tunes and singing old songs.

**"We always welcome new members. No experience is necessary, but the rather onerous entry criteria include being able to count to three, and know which shoulder is your left one. Being able to flex your knees without pain, and recognise that one tune can differ from another, are also helpful." Foreman (dance teacher) Tom Brown.**

Unsurprisingly, rousing drinking songs such as 'Landlord Fill the Flowing Bowl' and 'Bring Us a Barrel' get a regular airing.

"A visit from the Morris brings a splash of tradition and colour to the customers of our Gloucestershire pubs. And gives locals and tourists alike a reminder of simpler times past; think of it as a great reason to get out of the house for a night of dancing, chat and sampling some great beer." Other libations are available, especially for the drivers. It's hardly a secret that the Chairman of one of the four CAMRA Branches in the 'Shire has been a member of Lassington Oak for many years.

The Summer season of dancing draws to a close in mid September when the pages of the Morris calendar turn to practice season. Lassington Oak will continue to meet each Wednesday evening at 8 pm;



at Highnam Community Centre to practise. You will not be surprised to hear that when practice is done, they head for The Pelican Inn, in Gloucester, to enjoy their impressive array of real ales to the accompaniment of tunes and songs. An impromptu Morris jig in the bar is quite likely too; space allowing.

The winter months are also the season of wassailing and mummings plays, but that's another potentially confusing story...

So, if you have an interest in traditional customs and would like the opportunity

to explore the fine beers and ciders of Gloucestershire, why not come along and enjoy an evening in the company of Lassington Oak Morris Men? If you do fancy having a go, please contact Paul the bagman (secretary), email:

**[bagman.lassingtonoakmm@gmail.com](mailto:bagman.lassingtonoakmm@gmail.com)**

**Many other fine traditional dance sides in our fair County, will all be out and about over the summer months as well so you may easily find Cotswold, Border and Clog sides to watch and learn from. Find their dance outs listed on Facebook or [www.glosfolk.org.uk/diary](http://www.glosfolk.org.uk/diary). You don't have to buy any of them a pint either, although some of their members may try to tell you different.**

## Where to see Lassington Oak Morris Men this summer:

- June 5th The Crown Inn, Woolhope, with Leominster Morris Men
- June 12th The House in the Tree, Withybridge
- June 19th The Salutation Inn, Ham, Berkeley, with Ragged and Old
- June 26th The Oak, Painswick, with Stroud Morris Dancers
- July 3rd The Kings Head, Upton upon Severn, with Faithful City Morris Men
- July 10th Ledbury Market House and The Barn, Ledbury, with Old Meg Morris
- July 17th The Carpenters Arms, Westrip
- July 24th The Glasshouse Inn, Longhope
- July 29th England's Glory, Gloucester, with England's Glory Ladies Morris
- August 14th The Bell Inn, Selsley
- August 21st The Pelican Inn, Gloucester
- August 28th The Kings Arms, Newent, with Forest of Dean Morris
- September 4th The Old Badger Inn, Eastington
- September 11th The Fountain Inn, Gloucester

# CASK CHRONICLES

With Alex Jordan

## Brewing Trends: Exploring the Dynamic Landscape of the UK Brewing Industry

**The United Kingdom's brewing scene is experiencing a dynamic renaissance, marked by a resurgence of traditional craftsmanship, innovative brewing techniques, and a growing emphasis on sustainability. As we navigate through the ever-evolving landscape of beer culture, it's evident that the UK brewing industry is thriving like never before.**

One of the most notable trends shaping the UK brewing industry is the continued rise of craft beer. Small, independent breweries are popping up across the country, each offering a unique spin on traditional styles and pushing the boundaries of flavour experimentation. From hazy IPAs to barrel-aged stouts, craft brewers are capturing the imagination of beer enthusiasts with their creativity and passion for quality.

In an age of globalization, there's a renewed appreciation for locally brewed beer. Consumers are seeking out breweries that have strong ties to their communities, whether it's through sourcing local ingredients, supporting local charities, or providing a welcoming space for locals to gather. This emphasis on locality not only fosters a sense of pride and connection but also contributes to the sustainable growth of the UK brewing industry.

Speaking of sustainability, environmental consciousness is becoming increasingly important within the brewing industry. Breweries are implementing innovative practices to reduce water usage, minimize waste, and lower carbon emissions. From investing in renewable energy sources to repurposing spent grains as animal

feed or compost, brewers are embracing their role as stewards of the environment and working towards a more sustainable future.

Collaboration is key in the UK brewing community, with brewers frequently teaming up to create special collaboration beers (keep your eyes peeled!) or sharing knowledge and resources to elevate the industry as a whole. Additionally, there's a growing emphasis on education, with breweries offering tours, tastings, and brewing workshops to engage with consumers and encourage a deeper appreciation for the craft of brewing.

Of course, the brewing industry isn't without its challenges. Rising costs, competition, and regulatory hurdles pose significant obstacles for brewers of all sizes. However, these challenges also present opportunities for innovation and adaptation. Brewers are exploring new sales channels, such as direct-to-consumer sales and online platforms, to reach a wider audience and mitigate the impact of traditional distribution channels.

As we look to the future, the UK brewing industry is poised for continued growth and evolution. With an unwavering commitment to quality, creativity, and community, breweries large and small are shaping the cultural landscape of the UK one pint at a time. So whether you're a seasoned beer aficionado or just dipping your toes into the world of craft beer, there's never been a more exciting time to explore the diverse and vibrant offerings of the UK brewing scene. Cheers to great beers!



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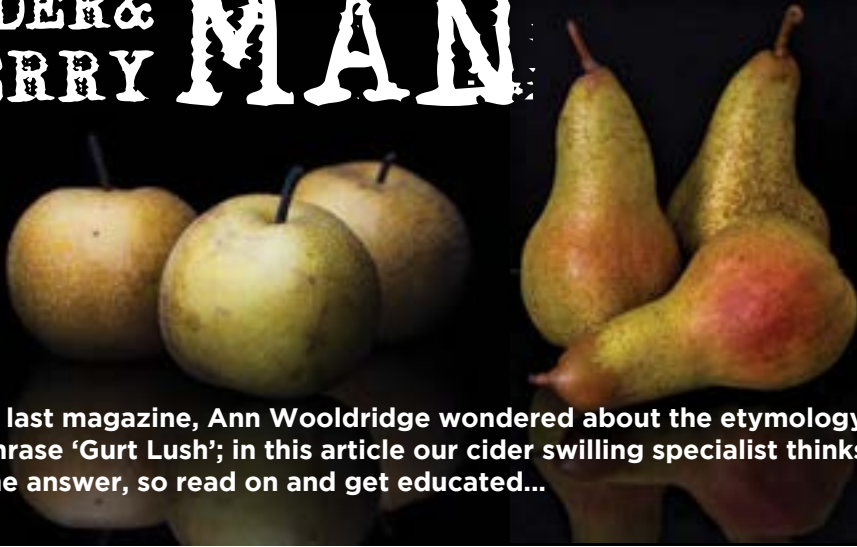
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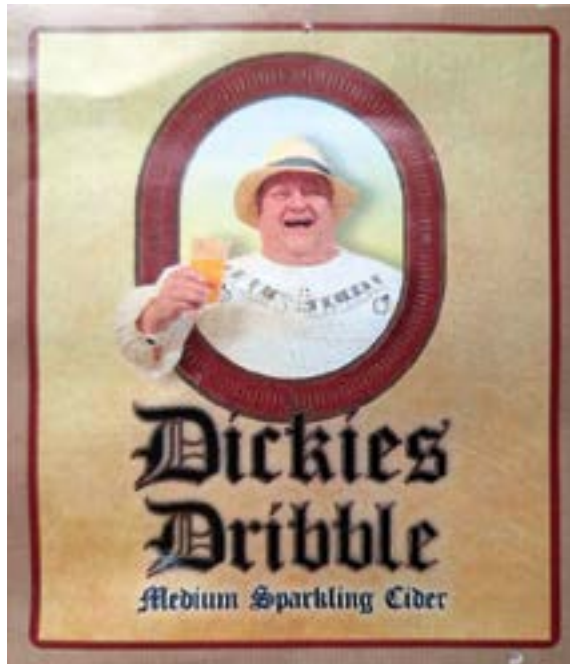
In the last magazine, Ann Wooldridge wondered about the etymology of the phrase 'Gurt Lush'; in this article our cider swilling specialist thinks he has the answer, so read on and get educated...

**What's in a name? 'Gurt Lush' has been mentioned again, but it really is only a handle to describe something.**

Quite a lot of people know of it and there is a cheese maker, Felthams Farm, down in Somerset, who are producing a soft cheese (available occasionally from Waitrose) with the same name. Locally, the drinks wholesalers, Cellar Supplies, have Gurt Lush shown on their website as a brand they distribute, but are extremely coy about the manufacturer or provenance. My guess is that they use the name as an outlet for a competitively acquired cider from a national distributor. A similar example to this is Herefordshire cider sold in small Bag in Box by Morrisons which has small print at the rear of the box showing Westons. At about £7.50 for three litres, it's rather good drinking!

Names don't come much more way out than Dickies Dribble, shown here. Detective Guy found this by a rather obscure route, in that I was holidaying last year down in the rather nice town of Lymington in Hampshire, and spotted in the GBG, a reference to a pub nearby, that offered genuine cider from a farm nearby. So I went in search, and having extolled my CAMRA connection, I was

invited to view his production line. On the way, we passed an orchard which didn't look nearly large enough for his growing business. I had mentioned Gloucestershire and he then said: "Do you know of a place over that way called Much Dewchurch?" which is where his extra



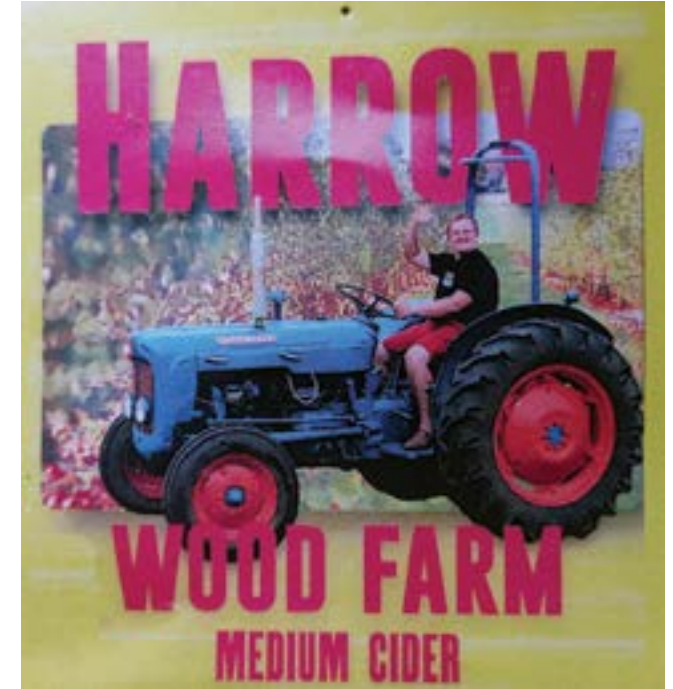
apple juice was travelling from. I was able to tell him that I had passed through the village when walking the Herefordshire Trail. Dickies main business was actually a very large camp site, where many of the habitués were good cider drinkers!

Just this last Bank Holiday weekend, I managed to get across to the small little Herefordshire village of Putley, which is just beyond Ledbury. Firstly, on the Saturday they have The Putley Trials which is a serious Cider and Perry judging competition. I could have probably donned an official hat and gone on the day, but during the next two days there is a Blossom Time Festival held in the village hall with lots of different stands and a chance to sample all the different entries from the previous day. The free samples were very small, which was probably just as well, but one could have bought normal measures and take away bottles. The great majority of the 100 or so entries were unknown to me and probably only available in limited quantities.

I have just been on yet another of Veronica's Ale Trails and this one to Worcester. Apart from visiting cathedrals, it must be said that cathedral cities rarely let you down on plenty of good pubs. Worcester turned out to be 'the tops' and especially for your cider scribe. Even the first port of call at a Wetherspoons had two real ciders on offer and we then visited the most immaculate architect designed Cocky Anchor Micropub. I also wanted to see what The Cardinal Hat Pub was like since it is the oldest pub in Worcester and is owned by The National Trust. Unfortunately the girl on bar duty was rather bored but they did have a Perry on tap which was unusual. The National Trust also own several other pubs of which the most famous must be The Fleece in Bretforton, which is just to the east of Evesham and has extremely

good food, as well as a considerable range of beers, and more importantly to me, Ciders.

I have a very good friend who has just bought a run down cottage in the village, so hope to become a regular at The Fleece. They also mentioned a nearby shop in the village of Wickhamford, fittingly called The Wayside Farm Shop, and which apparently had its own cider, so I called there and had a fascinating chat with the owner Tom Cumberland. Apart from making his own,



quite limited range of ciders, he also makes sausages from his own pigs. I mentioned Cumberland sausages but he said: "Not quite the same thing!" The most interesting thing of all is that every Friday night between 6.00 and 8.00pm they have a Cidery evening with different food offers and also local music. I am waiting (may be a while) for my friend in Bretforton to finish his mammoth refurbishment, so that I don't have far to go for a bed, after a Friday night at the farm shop!

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# PODGY TICKER?

THE CONTINUING TALES OF A BEER COLLECTOR

**Our tick box hero needed a break, so he packed his bags and sets off to do some beer collecting on holiday...**



**I am always on the lookout for opportunities to add to my beer collection by finding and drinking new beers.**

A particular passion of mine is to search out beers from breweries that are not yet in the collection. This can be quite a challenge and, despite the brilliant efforts of some local pubs and bars in providing unusual beers, I can go several weeks without adding a new brewery to the growing list. I guess it is inevitable that the larger a collection gets, the further you are required to travel to find

anything new. My wife is very understanding of my strange hobby ... but disappearing to far flung parts of the country each week to look for newbies would be quite unfair (and prohibitively expensive!). It is, therefore, important to make the most of any trips away that do come around. May I add a note of caution here, however. There is a fine line between adding interest to a holiday with loved ones by visiting one or two pubs and dominating said holiday by taking over the itinerary completely. The former is usually

tolerated and may even be welcomed, the latter is a recipe for disaster!

I had a long career as a teacher, which definitely had an impact on our choices of holiday destination for many years. Firstly, money was often quite tight with mum at home looking after two littluns. Add to that the huge increase in prices during school holidays, it meant that the vast majority of our holidays over the years have been within the UK. This has made adding to the collection relatively straight forward. A few hours researching the area local to the holiday using the Good Beer Guide and the internet is all that is needed to produce a list of pubs worth visiting and breweries to look out for. Add to that the fact that for many years we were campers (much to my daughter's disgust!); a trip to a pub is viewed in a very positive light when the alternative is

sitting inside a dripping tent watching the rain driving horizontally off the hills and hoping the wind doesn't snap another pole. I, therefore, have very happy memories of beer collecting in some wonderful areas.

One of our favourite destinations is the Lake District, which has an amazing number of breweries and some stunning pubs. I would thoroughly recommend the Kirkstile Inn (Lowswater), Hawkshead Beer Hall (Staveley), Watermill Inn (Ings), Old Crown (Hesket Newmarket), Tweedies Bar (Grasmere), Black Bull (Coniston), Drunken Duck (nr Ambleside), Unsworth Yard (Cartmel) and a growing list of interesting bars in Kendal such as the Fell Bar, Barrel House and Factory Tap. Several of these are home to small Cumbrian breweries and there is little better than supping fresh real ale a few yards from where it was brewed.

These days I would add Untappd to the list of tools that come in handy when researching

# PODGY TICKER?

THE CONTINUING TALES OF A BEER COLLECTOR

interesting beer venues on holiday. The Untappd app has a map function, which allows you to search for a location and it will show you all the pubs, bars and taprooms local to that location that have had recent beer posts. Indeed, if they are verified venues (i.e. they pay an annual amount to Untappd to have full beer listings), you are one click away from a live listing of all the beers they are currently pouring.



For a collector, this is brilliant – to be able to see that a bar four miles away from where I am staying has a beer on from a new brewery is all I need to add a quick beer detour to our plans for the day! I have found Untappd to be particularly useful when visiting areas that seem to be lacking in GBG entries or nearby

breweries. So, areas that historically have been somewhat bereft of unusual beer (for example, the mountains of North Wales or the Scottish Highlands) start to become more interesting. In fact, there is something particularly satisfying about tracking down new beers and new breweries in such areas compared to the easy job of collecting in established beer centres with a plethora of pubs, bars and taprooms to visit.

Up until recently, I had done very little collecting overseas as we have taken remarkably few holidays away from the UK in the past 30 years. However, early retirement has given us the opportunity to start stretching our wings a little. Our first retirement treat was a month visiting relatives and travelling around New Zealand in November 2023. Like many others I suspect, New Zealand is a destination I have longed to visit for many years. I wasn't sure, though, what to expect of its beer. Before our trip the

collection contained draught beer from just a handful of NZ breweries. Not surprising, I guess, when you consider how far those beers have had to travel. I certainly knew about New Zealand hops, but it wasn't until I started to do some research in the months leading up to flying out that I realised what a good state their beer industry appears to be in.

My first step was to find an online list of NZ breweries. I then used this to create a special holiday spreadsheet which I could use to aid my collecting while we were there. To my surprise I found 200 breweries listed – considerably more than I had anticipated and a very healthy number when you

	A	B	C	D	E
136	Raglan	Raglan	N	2017	
137	Raindogs	Christchurch	S	2011	
138	Regent 88	Christchurch	N	2013	
139	Renaissance	Berhain	S	2006	Cumka
140	Rhyme and Reason	Wanaka	S	2017	Big Banana
141	Riverhead	Riverhead	N	2019	
142	Rocky Knob	Tauranga	N	2013	
143	Roosters	Hastings	N	2002	
144	Ruapehu	Chalone	N	2019	
145	Rud's	Auckland	N	2017	APA keg 4/11
146	Sawmill	Matakana	N	2007	Coconut Stout
147	Scots	Camaru	S	2009	1005 keg 21/11
148	Searchlight	Queenstown	S	2020	Boysenberry
149	Seven Brins	Napier	N	2016	
150	Shakespeare	Auckland	N	1986	
151	Shining Peak	New Plymouth	N	2020	Ducky Barrel's
152	Ship Hop	Timaru	S	2020	
153	Shortjaw	Westport	S	2022	
154	Shunters Yard	Matangi	N	2010	
155	Sidewinder	Wanaka	S	2017	
156	Slab	Tauranga	N	2019	
157	Small Gods	Auckland	N	2021	
158	Southpaw	Christchurch	S	2018	
159	Sparks	Auckland	N	2014	
160	Sprights	Dunedin	S	1876	Gold Medal Ale
161	Spring and Pans	Richmond	S	2002	CAN Headliner
162	State of Play	Auckland	N	2021	CAN IPA 0.5 3l
163	Steam	Auckland	N	2004	
164	Steamer Basin	Dunedin	S	2014	
165	Sunshine	Gisborne	N	1989	Stickers keg 2l
166	SUP	Masterton	N	2018	
167	Sweet Shop Brew	Auckland	N	2015	
168	Ta Aro	Upper Hutt	N	2017	
169	Test Lab	Nelson	S	2022	
170	The Brown Beer Co	Christchurch	S	2019	
171	The Experiment	Christchurch	S	2018	

remember that the population of New Zealand is just five million. Next, I used Untappd to find suitable collecting venues near to the places we were staying: Auckland on North Island, then Queenstown and Twizel up in the mountains on South Island. Auckland, the country's largest city, soon proved to have a wide range of exciting looking bars and taprooms, many with live lists of between 10 and 20 taps, mostly from breweries that were new to me. Queenstown, New Zealand's adventure capital, also looked like there were a number of promising places to visit. Even little Twizel (population only 1650) close to Mount Cook, NZ's highest peak, listed a couple of bars and a local brewery. So, although there appeared to be little or no real ale available anywhere, the craft beer scene was clearly alive and kicking and I felt very well prepared for some successful beer collecting even before getting on a plane.

I was not to be disappointed! During our four week stay I managed to collect 76 different draught beers, including beer from a staggering 45 new breweries. Those numbers perhaps make it sound like all we did was sit in pubs and drink beer, but by adding in a visit to a pub, bar or taproom regularly through the month and ordering a flight (or paddle) of tasters, the total rose remarkable quickly. It did indeed prove very difficult to find cask beer – just 4 places we visited offered anything on hand-pull and I soon discovered that the cask beer offered was not always well kept. This is presumably either because the bar staff are not very expert in the care of live beer or such beers are not popular with kiwi drinkers, therefore stick around too long and start to spoil. The word 'pub' is also a tricky one to use in relation to New Zealand: we would probably use the word 'bar' to describe most of the venues in the country that serve beer, since they have few buildings with any sort of history to speak of. But the vast majority of beers I tasted were excellent and every style was well represented, from pilsner to hefeweizen, IPA to porter, fruited sour to imperial stout. What particularly impressed me was the range of NZ breweries on offer – often



10 or 12 different breweries at any one time, which makes collecting a doddle. We visited a number of excellent brewery taps, including Behemoth in Auckland, Ground Up in Wanaka (South Island) and Canyon, Searchlight and Altitude (all three in or near Queenstown).

For those readers who find themselves contemplating a similar trip to the other side of the globe, rest assured that you will be well supplied with very good quality beer.

The only thing that I found confusing when ordering beers in New Zealand was the lack of a standard measure. In the UK, if you order a pint you get exactly that – an imperial pint of 568ml. The US has its own version of the pint at just over 470ml, but it seems that in NZ a pint can mean anything between 400ml and 570ml. The word 'pint' typically seems to describe the biggest glass beer is served

in! So, in one bar it might mean a full imperial pint, in another it might be a 500ml or half-litre measure, while in others it might only mean 440ml. Half pints were rarely half the 'pint' measure, either, just the next glass down in size. Ordering a tasting paddle was even more confusing, with anything between three and eight beers included and glass sizes differing considerably, but generally no more than 200ml. This

made it quite difficult to compare prices from one venue to the next, so I found it best to go around with a relaxed 'I'm on holiday' attitude. It certainly isn't a cheap country for beer, however, expect London prices and you'll probably be about right!

The main message from this article is that, with a little careful research, holidays should be seen as great opportunities to continue collecting. The beer spreadsheet is now, of course, brimming with NZ breweries (over 50 in total), shooting it up to second place in the list of most prolific overseas countries (still well behind the USA with over 120). I may now have got a taste for 'foreign' collecting too, so I wonder where our next holiday should be?

Cheers!

*Pete Searle*

**HERE ARE A FEW OF MY FAVOURITE VENUES:**

- 16 Tun – Auckland – 2 cask beers and up to 20 other craft keg beers**
- Brew on Quay – Auckland – 1 cask beer and 10 other craft keg beers**
- The Brewers Co-operative – Auckland – Up to 20 craft keg beers**
- Atlas Beer Café – Queenstown – 2 cask beers and up to 10 other craft keg beers**
- Beech Tree Craft Beer – Queenstown – Over 20 craft keg beers**
- The Fork and Tap – Arrowtown (South Island) – 3 cask beers and up to 8 other craft keg beers**

**MY FAVOURITE BEERS FROM THE TRIP (IN NO PARTICULAR ORDER):**

- Searchlight Lessons in Lunacy Vol 1 (chocolate and cinnamon stout)**
- Rhyme and Reason Big Banana (hefeweizen)**
- Altitude Sweet Cherry and Boysenberry Sour**
- Sawmill Coconut Stout**
- Burke's Unforgiven (porter)**
- Baylands Skullcracker (strong malty ale)**



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Contact is Tony Hill. Anyone interested in Stroud meetings should contact us by email at [chair@stroud.camra.org.uk](mailto:chair@stroud.camra.org.uk) and ask to be added to our email list.



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**Branch Secretary & Branch Contact:**  
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**Branch Contact:**  
Rob Coldwell 07752 740488  
[chair@cheltenhamcamra.org.uk](mailto:chair@cheltenhamcamra.org.uk)



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07879 015881

[chair@northcotswoldcamra.org.uk](mailto:chair@northcotswoldcamra.org.uk)  
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## Pubs offering CAMRA discounts



A number of pubs and businesses are offering discounts to CAMRA members, a scheme backed by CAMRA National with promotional posters available to landlords.

It's getting new business through the door and let's face it, our members rarely have just one pint and leave, so it works from both points of view.

The ones we know of are listed below - just wave your CAMRA card and you'll be entitled to the discount. If you know of any more, please get in touch and we'll add them to the list.

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