

**win!**

**BREWERY TRIPS TO STROUD & ULEY+ A ONE-NIGHT STAY AT THE CROWN HOTEL, WORCESTER**



**free**

Please take one

# the tippler

Spring 2025

**Inside:**

**CAMRA:  
A New Brand**

**Beer:  
Your Glass Matters**



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



# STROUD BREWERY'S MALTY STORY FESTIVAL 6-8 JUNE 2025

Prince Fatty & Horseman

Deptford Northern Soul Club • Omega Nebula

Future Dub Orchestra • Captain Accident & The Disasters

Earl Gateshead • Scuffed • Thee Ones • The Achievers

Albino Tarantino • Plucking Different • Dub Catalyst

Rafeelya • Sauce & LMSKN • Valley Steppas • Kid Hyena

Kingsonik • The Bob Porter Project • Will Mendoza

Moonlighting • The Lookout • D'artagnan

Big Sis DJs • Comrades of Soul • WAX Sessions • Club Kids

DJ Fade • YouYou B2B Neon Pumps • Full Spectrum DnB Takeover

Rosy Kear • Trudy Turner • The Donnelly Sisters

Esther Wardle & Viv Green • Ragstone

Silly Science • Magnificent Mr Kai

Plus more to be announced!





# the tippler

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

Views expressed in this magazine are those of the individual authors and not necessarily supported by the editor or CAMRA. © Nick of Time Design LLP (E & O E) Errors and omission excepted.

**FRONT COVER:** *The legendary 'Dambusters' session on the Saturday lunchtime at the Tewkesbury Winter Ales Festival*

## In this issue:

<b>Editorial and Letters</b>	page 4
<b>The Hunter</b>	10
<b>News from North Cotswolds</b>	12
<b>News from Cheltenham</b>	14
<b>News from CAMRA HQ</b>	16
<b>News from Tewkesbury</b>	18
<b>The Story of the Hobgoblin</b>	21
<b>Scraping the Barrel</b>	22
<b>Throttle Club</b>	24
<b>Prize Crossword</b>	27
<b>The Tegestologist</b>	28
<b>News from Stroud</b>	30
<b>News from Cirencester</b>	34

<b>Pub &amp; Brewery News</b>	40
<b>News from Dursley</b>	45
<b>Deaf Boy Wanderin' John</b>	46
<b>Tall Tales from the Cider Shed</b>	50
<b>The Pub Whisperer</b>	52
<b>Stroud Brewery Caption Comp.</b>	55
<b>Cask Chronicles</b>	56
<b>Cider &amp; Perry Man</b>	58
<b>Wetherspoon 'Name that Pub'</b>	61
<b>Dodgy Ticker: Need Glasses?</b>	62
<b>Meetings &amp; Branch Contacts</b>	68
<b>Our Advertising Supporters</b>	70

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 and August 2025**



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!



**Well, here's the Spring Tippler, as always packed full of interesting articles, features, news and competitions.**

Coming early in the new year (write-up features on page 18) is the now infamous Tewkesbury Winter Ales Festival. A lot of people did a great job in getting along and almost drinking the place dry by sampling the seasonal ales and supporting the cause. There were over thirty new members signed up!

You'll all have noticed that we now have four regular competitions to choose from, all with great prizes, so get the entries sent in and see if you're a lucky winner.

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.

It's a strange thing, like buses, you can wait for ages for one then two come along at once...you'll notice that two of our regular contributors have written about beer glasses, how odd!

Don't forget to visit your local pubs, clubs and taprooms and give the brilliant breweries and hostelrys all the support we can.

Cheers!

*Chris Leibbrandt*

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# THE CROSS HOUSE TAVERN CYDER & ALE HOUSE



CHECK OUT  
WHAT'S  
POURING  
ON FACEBOOK

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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DOG FRIENDLY

# Letters to the Editor...



Hi Chris,

What is the latest and the chances of the above pub ever reopening (*The Seven Tuns, Chedworth*), it has always been a favourite of mine.

Played cricket in the village specifically because of the pub and have laid loads of hash trails from there over the years.

Regards,

Martin Carloss Clifford

## Chris replies:

**Many thanks for the email. In short, I don't know! I'm always worried about pub closures in the Cotswolds.**

**I may be paranoid, but this will only benefit those who would like to see the Cotswolds as a National Park, terrible for the local communities, many of whom are already dormitory villages with so many**

**properties owned by holiday lets, Air BnB, non-residents and the like. It would effectively ensure that any building of new homes would be in the Gloucester/Cheltenham/Tewkesbury areas down in the valley, whilst the rich property owners could continue to bask in the delight of the sunny uplands of prosperity and exclusive landscapes unsullied by the working citizens of the county.**

**We'll have to see.**

Hullo there, Chris.

Long time no contact, I hope all is well with you. The Tippler continues to be an excellent read. In the Autumn 2024 issue I notice an article by Martin Broadribb who is a Tutshill friend of mine, who is also a regular at the Queens Head Chepstow.

There used to be a magazine called Beer Necessities but alas has been discontinued, perhaps the Wye Valley between Chepstow and Monmouth could be covered by your magazine?

Anyway, bye for now,

Lynn Morgan

## Chris replies:

Hello Lynn,

**Many thanks for the note and the correct answers to the competitions.**

**Interesting about the Wye Valley news, should be in the Hereford magazine I guess, but always looking to increase the size of our coverage.**

**Cheers!**

# Letters to the Editor...

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

SAMMY PEPYS SAYS



Dear Chris,

Another enjoyable column from The Hunter, but Andover is – and as far as I know always has been – in Hampshire, albeit not far from the Wiltshire border.

Incidentally, regarding The Troggs mentioned in the same piece, while three of the original members came from the town the fourth was from Hertfordshire.

All the best for Xmas & the New Year,

Martin Broadribb

**Chris replies:**

**Many thanks for the email, and the correction about the Hampshire cave dwellers and their Hertfordshire colleague. It's all a bit difficult when you live in Gloucestershire, Wiltshire/Hampshire all a bit southern county similar, great trout fishing though!**

**Cheers!**

From: Andy Shaw  
(National Magazine Support Coordinator)

Hi Chris Leibbrandt

Your magazine The Tippler came position 8 out of 8 in the group your magazine was judged.

Here is the feedback of the judge:

- Large (72-page) magazine from four branches.
- Nicely varied content and attractive presentation with a few typos.
- Does a good job of spreading the content around a large county.
- Campaigning content negligible, however.

Cheers,

Andy Shaw

**Chris replies:**

**Hello Andy,**

**Cheers, thanks for the good news, how nicely you couched the idea of being the worst you judged.**

**Can you let me know the seven 'better' magazines that you have judged so I have some idea what you want to see.**

**I have 30-40 different regional magazines (including some 'award winners') that are nowhere near as good as the Tippler. That being the verdict, I am very keen to learn what you consider good enough. As I am sure are our readers.**

**Cheers!**

**CHELTENHAM MOTOR CLUB**  
**CAMRA NATIONAL CLUB OF**  
**THE YEAR 2013, 2017 & 2020**

Winning numerous CAMRA awards in recent years, we have been in the Good Beer Guide since 2005. Our "Wheel Ale" beer festival is held in September.

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**THE COTSWOLDS FOR OVER 100 YEARS**

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**THE GOOD BEER GUIDE 2025**



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

Sir,

**Chris replies:**

I was recently on a trip to the Iberian Peninsula. Many thanks for the email. Great to hear you enjoy the column and your comments have been duly passed to The Hunter, who has apologised and understandably blamed his failing memory for these that, after a few minutes of Deaf Boy Wanderin' John

enthusiasing over the intricacies and relative merits of the electrified section Portuguese train system from Faro to Tunes, he may have been losing his audience.

Yours,  
Percival Everard D'estrian  
Maj. Gen. (Retd)

*(Name and address available  
at all good police stations.)*



**Chris replies:**

Many thanks for the email, and the kind photograph, we are always on the lookout for unusual wildlife studies. I look forward to more of them in the future. Understandably this member of the walking group looks worn out with the information overload that can

become one of the hallmarks of the train enthusiasts discourses. Deaf Boy, like the rest of us, has his crosses to bear.

Hi Chris

I stayed at the Royal Hop Pole at the end of November, which was very good, as were the other pubs I visited in Tewksbury. It was difficult to pick a favourite pub, as the beer quality was excellent in all of the GBG hostelrys in the town, and also the Berkeley Arms.

Thanks again for my prize!

Adrian Smith

**Chris replies:**

Many thanks for the email. Glad to hear you enjoyed not only the stay at the Hop Pole, but also the other pubs in town.

Just shows you how you get a 'honeypot' effect with all of the towns pubs (well most of them) benefitting from your stay.

# WHY NOT



# ENTER A COMPETITION

## WE'VE GOT LOADS TO WIN!

NEW! TIPPLER TEE-SHIRT IN PRIZE CROSSWORD - SEE PAGE 27

BREWERY TOURS TO ULEY BREWERY - SEE PAGE 39! BREWERY TOURS

TO STROUD BREWERY - SEE PAGE 55! ONE NIGHT STAY FOR TWO AT THE CROWN HOTEL - SEE PAGE 61!

SEND YOUR ENTRIES TO



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



**The Bell Inn**  
 was visited by the author  
**J.R.R Tolkien.**  
 It has been utilised  
 as the inspiration for the inn of  
**The Prancing Pony**  
 which features in  
**The Lord of the Rings**  
 mentioned in the Stone of Erech. Book  
 a staying price includes a cask ale, beer  
 and hot food too.

# An Inspirational Cotswold Inn

Considered by many to be JRR Tolkien's inspiration for the Prancing Pony, Middle Earth's most famous pub in The Lord of the Rings, The Bell Inn is a fine example of a traditional coaching inn providing quality food, drink and accommodation in welcoming surroundings.

We take great pride in the consistency of our draught beers and cask ales and endeavour to serve you a perfect pint every time. Discounts are available to CAMRA and Caravan Club members.

Like music? Then you'll enjoy our regular Live Music evenings - see our website or Facebook for what's on:



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



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 Opening hours: Mon to Thurs 12 noon – 11pm; Fri/Sat 12 noon – 11.30pm; Sun 12 noon – 10.30pm



# THE HUNTER'S COLUMN



**Our intrepid hero heads north into Worcestershire (only just), on a trip up the Avon, on his way discovering the pub where Norman, Albania's King of Comedy Met the Hammer of the Gods...**

**The Fleet Inn at Twynning has sat next to Shakespeare's Avon since the 15th century, according to our (non-Salopian) Oracle Geoff Sandles, on his most excellent Gloucestershire Pubs website - [gloucestershirepubs.co.uk](http://gloucestershirepubs.co.uk).**



To any 'Glos' pub lover, this epic work is on a par with another Gloucestershire lad's, William Tyndale, translation of the Bible into 'plowboy's English around 1530, and no doubt in some far distant time there will be erected a Sandles Tower, high on a Gloucestershire hillside with, hopefully, a pub very close by. Both worthy tomes stand out as a path to enlightenment; a sanctuary for the soul; a retreat for the wretched and I know which one I prefer. I couldn't plough a field if they paid me.

If The Fleet goes back that far, Shakespeare (1564-1616) must have known it. On the Avon, the motorway of its time, it's all downhill from Stratford. He and his merry band of thespians are reputed to have performed at the New Inn, Gloucester. I can't see that

they would have missed the opportunity of cavorting about and making a few florins at the riverside Black Bear, Tewkesbury, on their way down river. His younger sister Joan's descendants are buried in the town, which Will gives a mention to in his Henry IV, Part II, "his wit's as thick as Tewkesbury Mustard". He probably took a few jars home with him.

It was slightly after Shakespeare's time that I first came across The Fleet, probably sometime in the 90's, when there was a small menagerie there with Vietnamese pot-bellied pigs, chinchillas etc. It wasn't those that attracted my attention but a group of small photographs on the bar wall of Sir Norman Wisdom at the Fleet Inn, pulling faces for the camera and doing all of his 'Our Norm' poses right there in Twynning.

Sir Norm was a comic hero of his time and one of the last of the old music hall acts. From dire poverty in London, he eventually became a major star of TV and films, found success on Broadway and he '...gained celebrity status in



lands as far apart as South America, Iran and many Eastern Bloc countries, particularly in Albania where he became a cultural icon and his films were the only ones with Western actors permitted to be shown..." (Wikipedia).

Our Norm was always the class-less underdog beating the system. But what was he doing at the Fleet in Twynning? It was only later when I started to hear stories about the Fox and Hounds, Bredon, just upriver from the Fleet, that all was revealed.

Albert 'Gerry' Hardwick became landlord of the Fox and Hounds in 1948. Wikipedia tells us that in 1944 he fathered a son, Michael, who was born to Doreen Brett. The complication was that Doreen was married to Norman Wisdom at the time. They separated that year and the marriage was dissolved in 1946. Mike eventually took over the pub from his dad and went on to develop a sound reputation as a raconteur and imbibor extraordinaire. By the mid 70's another Mike, the pub's young chef, was living upstairs and like many a young dude at the time was a Led Zeppelin fanatic,



shaking the pub to its foundations by blasting out heavy metal vinyl from his upstairs room.

One day, to his complete shock and awe, John Bonham, drummer of said band, was stood there, large as life, drinking at the bar. John by this time had also developed a reputation as an imbibor extraordinaire. Young chef Mike said that Bonzo, that was Bonham's

nickname, would get up to all the usual rock'n'roll antics, including standing in the car park lighting his cigars with £20 notes. They became mates, (here they are below, with Mike on the right) to the extent that one day Bonzo walked in the pub and not only signed young Mike's copy of Led Zeppelin II but

presented him with a framed platinum album of Physical Graffiti - now rated number 2 in Rolling Stone magazine's list of Best Ever Led Zep albums - that he had taken off the wall in the record company's office. Well, he did own the record company! There is no 'record' of William Shakespeare ever 'going platinum', but for a local lad with Tewkesbury connections, All's Well That End's Well.

## The Hunter



## 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 before 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

A successful day away was had by branch members on the 12th October who were joined by our friends from Cheltenham Branch in Oxford, although the queue to enter the *Turf*

*Tavern* left us getting split up – but still some excellent pubs visited apart from the *Jolly Farmers* which unfortunately made us feel unwelcome as CAMRA members.

## 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 will be in October from Bourton on the Water to Stow and Oddington area. See the website for details.**

## BEER FESTIVALS 2025

**23rd Ale and Steam, 13th - 15th June  
Gloucestershire and Warwickshire Steam Railway**

**18th Moreton C.C. Beer Festival  
12th - 13th September 2025**

**Further information on our website:  
[www.northcotswoldcamra.org.uk](http://www.northcotswoldcamra.org.uk)**

# 23rd GWR ALE & STEAM WEEKEND

13th to 15th June 2025

10:30 to 18:00 (Fri)

10:30 to 19:00 (Sat) to 16.00(Sun)

at **Winchcombe & Toddington  
Stations**

50 Beers total-20 at Toddington

Hot & Cold Food with Soft Drinks

**CAMPING near station at Winchcombe**

Come by Train: Extra trains for this event.

Frequent trains will operate between Cheltenham RC and Broadway

Additional early and late trains on Fri/Sat

See timetable on GWR Website.

A train ticket on the day is required.

or you need a platform ticket for entry.

Plenty of car parking at Toddington



## Anthony 'Tony' Aburrow

### A tribute by Ken Burney

#### This is a story of a long and lovely friendship ...

For many years, Tony was Chairman of Gloucestershire CAMRA. In retirement, he was very active in getting around our county and promoting real ale and good pubs. He loved the Cotswold Beer Festival at Postlip, near Winchcombe. He was insistent that the beer, the cider and, indeed, the food had all to be of the highest quality. Tony always presented a framed certificate to the brewer of the Beer of the Festival; this involved him making some very long trips such as to the Harviestoun brewery in the central lowlands of Scotland and to Skinner's brewery in Truro! Tony always went by train so that he could fully enjoy his trip.

Tony encouraged me to join CAMRA, which I did in the early 1990s. We have drunk many pints together over the years. He loved both Cheltenham Motor Club (CMC) and Sandford Park Alehouse. Tony and I went to SPA on its opening day on 23 April 2013 - it was a lovely sunny day, and we enjoyed the beer together! It soon became CAMRA's National Pub of the Year. CMC has been CAMRA's National Club of the Year three times. Tony and I were regulars. After a couple

of years, one of the members came up to me at the bar and referred to Tony as my dad! He had made this assumption because we drank together so regularly.

When Tony was 80, Neil Way at CMC allowed him to select all the beers on the handpumps for his birthday. Tony's choices included, I think, Dark Star Hophead, Oakham

JHB, Salopian Oracle, Sarah Hughes Dark Ruby and Stonehenge Danish Dynamite.

Tony really appreciated good beer and always drank out of a pint glass with a handle - where available. He was a great ambassador for CAMRA. As Chairman of Gloucestershire CAMRA he took his duties seriously, rarely missing

a regional meeting - often at Bristol or Exeter for example.

He was keen to ensure that active CAMRA members got around the pubs within our county. At that time, we had a green and gold card system for marking beers and pubs. The process for selection of pubs for the Good Beer Guide was often hotly debated but Tony always wanted a thorough process.

I will miss him.

*Anthony (Tony) Aburrow passed away on 19 January 2025 aged 89.*





## The Battle to Save the Bell

**In December 2024, the Bell's owner submitted plans to Cheltenham Borough Council to convert the site into a house, flats, and commercial space. The Bell's 78-year-old landlord of 30 years, Chris Evans, only became aware of the plans after they were reported in the press.**

However, a campaign to save the 200-year-old, grade II listed, Cheltenham pub is gathering increased support. More than four hundred people have already signed a petition, organised by Rich Newman, to save the Bell. There have also been twenty-six formal letters sent to the Council, objecting to this proposed conversion.

Cheltenham's Conservative group, backed by Cheltenham's former MP Alex Chalk, has launched a petition to register The Bell Inn as an asset of community value. This would give the community an opportunity to buy and save it. You can sign the petition at <https://www.gloucestershireconservatives.com/bell-petition>.

Mr Evans only discovered the planning application after reading about it on Gloucestershire Live. He has been running The Bell Inn in a self-employed capacity since January 1995. The Bell has four B&B letting rooms and serve a popular Sunday lunch. The pub employs three part-time staff, and Mr Evans was looking to increase opening times and create two more jobs next year.

The owner's proposal would provide a two-bed house with a garden, three one bed flats and a studio flat. The ground floor would be commercial space.

Cheltenham Chair, Rob Coldwell said: "This is a poor way to treat a popular landlord, particularly someone who has devoted 30 years hard work running a community local. In such tough times for small businesses CAMRA will continue to support the Bell, and any other threatened pubs. It goes to the heart of what we stand for, as CAMRA's slogan says – campaigning for pubs, pints and people since 1971."



## New National and Local Branding for CAMRA



Since the early days of CAMRA, the 'Tankard' logo has been the recognisable symbol of the campaign.

Although it has served CAMRA well over the years, a rebrand was thought to be overdue, together with a new (and more inclusive) campaign slogan - 'campaigning for pubs, pints and people since 1971', or in its short form 'Pubs, Pints, People'.

A CAMRA HQ spokesman explained: "This is the result of around 18 months of research and development with a range of our members, the public, who are interested in CAMRA, and external stakeholders. It was felt a new look was essential to further grow and

celebrate our organisation. As one of Europe's biggest and most successful consumer organisations - successfully campaigning for more than half a century - we want people who share CAMRA's passions and values to join."

All the resources necessary, e.g. new National and Branch logos, full brand guidelines, colour palette, a toolkit showing the dos and don'ts of using the logos, document templates (all set up to use) can be found at the CAMRA Brand Hub:

<https://members.camra.org.uk/volunteers-area/core-important-documents/camra-brand-guidelines-assets/>.

The Brand Hub page also lists FAQs to clarify the most asked questions.

The first meeting of the new West Central Region (covering Gloucestershire) takes place in Worcester on February 22nd. A timetable to implement the brand changes will be discussed and communicated to Branches and Members.

### Did you know?

Research commissioned by CAMRA found that people who have a 'local' are happier and have higher levels of life satisfaction than those who don't.



Source: Dunbar, JL, "Friends on Tap" (2018)



### Did you know?

Research commissioned by CAMRA found that people who have a 'local' felt significantly more connected to their communities



Source: Dunbar, JL, "Friends on Tap" (2018)



## CAMRA Regional Reorganisation – West Central

*Peter Bennetts, Area and County Coordinator for Gloucestershire explains the changes and the new WEST CENTRAL REGION*

**CAMRA has undergone a major national reorganisation, creating new regions based along county boundaries.**

For many years Gloucestershire fell within the South West Region, which covered an area as far away as Devon and Cornwall. Gloucestershire is now part of the new West Central Region. The other members of the new region are Herefordshire & Worcestershire and Oxfordshire.

### **The West Central Region encompasses: Gloucestershire Branches**

Cheltenham, Gloucester (with Forest of Dean, Dursley, Stroud and Cirencester subbranches), North Cotswold and Tewkesbury.

### **Herefordshire and Worcestershire Branches**

Hereford, Redditch & Bromsgrove, Shakespeare (part), Worcester, Wyre Forest.

### **Oxfordshire Branches**

Aylesbury, Vale & Wycombe (part), North Oxfordshire, Oxford, South Oxfordshire, White Horse.

This reorganisation gives us the opportunity to have more venues nearer to our county, instead of being on the periphery of the South West region.

There are no changes to any of the pubs in the region and Dursley retains all the pubs in South Gloucestershire with GL postcodes.

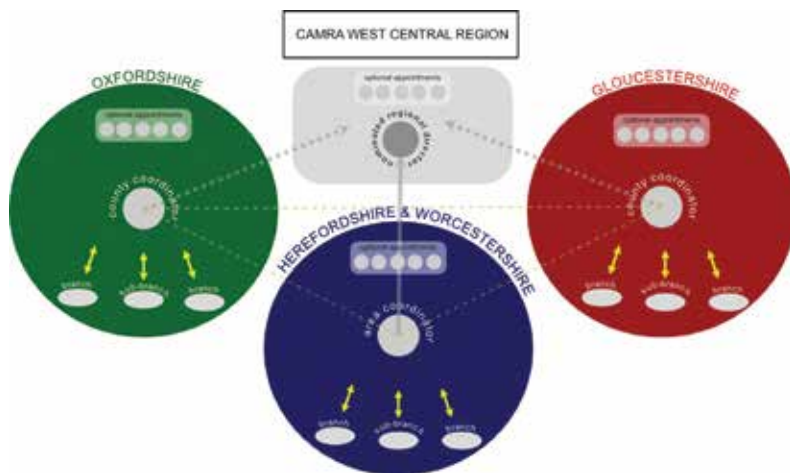
A regional meeting is being held at the Saracen's Head in Worcester, at 12pm on 22nd February, where the Regional Director will be elected. The new CAMRA Chair Ash Corbett-Collins will also be there.

I will also be hosting a County meeting in March and will let everyone know date and venue in plenty of time.

I am hoping that this new region can help CAMRA rejuvenate itself and I look forward to playing my part supporting this.

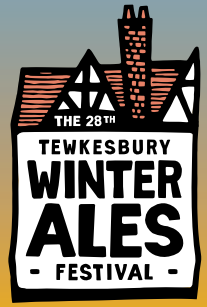
**Peter Bennetts**

*CAMRA Area and County Coordinator for Gloucestershire, email address is: [acc.glos@westcentral.camra.org.uk](mailto:acc.glos@westcentral.camra.org.uk)*



# TWAF 2025

The 28th running of The Tewkesbury Winter Ales Festival was a big success, reports Tewkesbury's newly appointed Festival Director, Callum Willis



## Wow what a Festival, how did we get here?

**So, this summer I was elected to becoming Tewkesbury Branch Festival Director. Very excited, and supported by one of the best teams around, I charged ahead.**

Given the reputation of our 'little festival', we had a high bar to keep. The meetings started, everything seemed easy enough until it was 'round the corner' and a bit of panic started to set in. Our final meeting lasting for hours, constant emails, phone calls and unfortunately having to work the weekend before (missing out on all the heavy lifting... oh no), it was suddenly the day before the festival and everything was done.

Our great volunteer team had gone above and beyond and we were ready early! After a nervous night's sleep, I walked in to the hall, which had a delightful smell of ale.

Members' Evening started us off on the thursday. BANG BANG BANG, on the stage, a shout of "THE BAR IS OPEN!" and we were off - beers constantly being poured, smiles all round. Excellent start. Our new chairman John Roberts gave a welcoming speech and the Town Mayor pronounced the Festival open, while I grinned like an idiot up on stage.

I joined the Mayor, his wife and the Chairman for the evening, leaving every so often to run around, but everything ran smoothly... until word got out about an issue on the A38 which had turned two buses back and meant that people were being forced to leave early. A blessing in disguise, we later found out. At 11 o'clock we asked the last of the stragglers to leave and the first night was done.

The next two days seemed like a blur, beer constantly being poured, laughter all around, and every time a new member joined CAMRA,

we would ring a bell and a cheer would erupt! Seventeen joined us on the Friday alone and another fifteen on the Saturday! Thirty two new members, beating our past record of thirteen. I'm very much looking forward to seeing all the new faces at our next meeting.

On the Friday morning we held our blind tasting competition for the Gloucestershire Beer of the Festival. Each Gloucestershire brewery at the Festival nominated one beer and this year's winners were:

- 1st The Fresh Standard Brew Co - 2024 Anniversary Porter, 8.0%**
- 2nd Corinium - Imperial Porter, 8.5%**
- 3rd Ashton - Jaffa Cake, 6.2%**

The Festival then peaked with the Town Band erupting into a rendition of Dambusters and a fleet of paper aeroplanes took flight! A sight to behold.

Next up, the rugby. Then, between the games, our first fully sold out ale, winning the accolade of Beer of the Festival, which was **Jaffa Cake by Astons** - congratulations to a new Gloucestershire brewery on the block.

During the rugby, a fire alarm! Disaster! Vaping in the bathroom, issue found and we were back in action. The cider sold out by 3pm and just as the festival came to a close, we were out of beer too. Perfect - nothing down the drain in the morning.

Thirty two new members, sell out on cider and ale, my first festival and a baby due next month. I think we did alright.

Thank you to every volunteer, punter and for all the positive feedback.

See you all next year!

**Callum Willis**  
Festival Director, Tewkesbury CAMRA



6th - 8th February 2025



Dambusters at lunchtime



Yes, we were enticing new members with free beer. Could this possibly have had anything to do with a record 32 people signing up? Well done Bill!



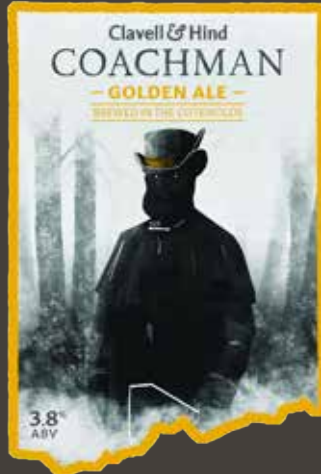
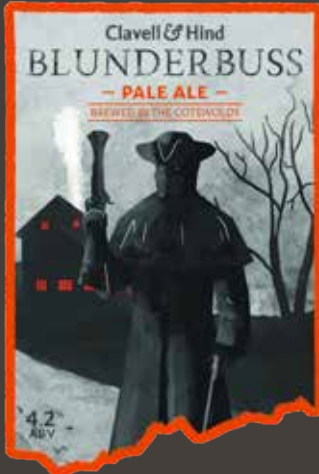
Our Festival Director looking strangely relaxed



The calm before the storm...

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# POETIC LICENCE...

poetic licence | pəʊ,etɪk 'laɪsəns |

In the dog(gerel) house

noun (mass noun)

the freedom to depart from the facts of a matter or from the conventional rules of language when speaking or writing in order to create an effect: *he used a little poetic licence to embroider a good tale.*

In a brand new series where readers can send in their poetry contributions, we are setting the tone with a ditty from our resident poet/bard/minstrel, Timothy Taylor-Coleridge. He's been out and about strolling the lanes and alleyways of sunny Tewkesbury...

## The Cross House Tavern

*There's a little pub on Tewkesbury Cross  
Its called The Cross House Tavern.  
Run by Laurence, Mersey man,  
Brought up near the Cavern.*

*But you don't come here to catch the ear  
Of John Paul George or Ringo  
The only famous fixtures here  
Are Wobbly Bob and Spingo.*

*No lager here or alcopops  
And wine is red or white.  
Want a Carling? Sling yer 'ook  
We just don't do that s\*\*\*e!*

*So come on down and spend a crown  
And tell us what you're thinkin'.  
No juke box here, just banter 'n beer  
It's proper old school drinkin'.*



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# SCRAPING THE BARREL

with Ernest and Verity Dregg

**Nine years ago, Ernest and Verity Dregg, retired snipers and fleet street hacks swapped their life as anti-woke, unreconstructed bigots and gossip columnists opened their dream pub. We find them hard at it on Monday 24th February...**

**Verity was hard at it, getting the decorations in the pub, the Victory, ready for tonight's special celebrations. The residents of Mugsborough will have something to celebrate: local dedication to duty and the community, not just in their small town but globally, today is 'World Bartender Day'.**

Last night the Temperance Society were in again, it doesn't make any difference to them, she thought, they'd celebrate anything. Yesterday was all about National Hospitality Workers Appreciation Day, so today would be continuing the theme. More important for Ernest and his right wing friends in the Reform Party, it had been Fatherland Defenders Day.

Verity was busy rummaging through the debris, they make a colossal mess when they get partying, goodness knows what they be like if they got stuck into any of Ernest's latest brews. Mind you, there's always the added benefit of her favourite tee-totaller, an energetic type who doesn't seem to have an off button. I could get used to the abstinence, she thought, with all the energetic fringe benefits that come with a visit from the Temperance Society.

Ernest's new beers were selling like hot cakes, he still hadn't gone the whole hog and started on lagers, just as well, what with the Fatherland Defenders Day going on yesterday, too much of the Teutonic stuff would have been enough for anyone.

"I've had a great idea about the brewery," called Ernest. Verity carried on cleaning up, hoping that a studious silence

would save her from a long and painful explanation.

"I know you can hear me, no point hiding under the pool table, you spend enough time on that anyway. Anyway, my favourite politician in the whole world, Donald John Trump, leader of the free world and world class deal maker has given me the idea."

"Yes dear, I am sure he has, what's this latest scheme all about?" Asked Verity.

"Right then, it's about where we can build a new brewery, the one at the end of the garden is at capacity, but I'm worried about all the workers they've started deporting, nobody

said reducing immigration would affect our cheap labour, I dunno what the world is coming to. Anyway, that

**'...but where around Mugsborough is there war torn real estate? There's the war torn council estate, but we wouldn't want to buy that!'**

wasn't the point, what I've done is identified a bit of war torn seaside real estate and I'm going to buy it and set up there."

"Yes dear, it really does sound like a such a good idea, but where around Mugsborough is there war torn real estate? There's the war torn council estate, but we wouldn't want to buy that!"

"You just don't think big enough do you? We are looking at a poverty stricken, down-trodden population that will be no trouble to talk into the plan. The long-suffering residents of Clacton. If they don't agree with me, we can get a self righteous right-wing nation to bomb the living crap out of it, then we go in, foist the survivors on their neighbours in Suffolk and buy it up, what could be easier? What's even better we don't even have to go that far, just

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## SCRAPING THE BARREL



pop over to Essex and enlist the aid of their MP." He exclaimed.

"Not only would we have a perfect place to build our new brewery, we'd have a cheap workforce who'd do anything not to be starved and we can set up a new seaside resort with nothing to do but clear away the rubble and start again. Piece of cake!"

"I'm not sure that we want to go into real estate and seaside holiday venues, we've got enough to be going on with here. The pub is doing great, with lots of locals, clubs and music, why do we need to get any bigger, especially if it means dealing with foreigners in Essex."

"Well, the trouble is this Government, they want to go round paying people a fair wage," grumbled Ernest. "It was a lot easier with the other lot, when we did legally employ a foreigner we could pay them 20% less than a home grown worker, it was brilliant. Now they're even wanting a proper place to live, they're even leaving the barges, we need some new people to deliver our beer to the local pubs."

Verity groaned to herself, will it ever end? She wondered. More madcap schemes to make money.

"I thought we were doing OK, you said we were going to buy that canal side pub 'The Pirate' it's great outlet, brimful of noisy boys

who love our beer and even better, don't come down here."

"Forget about that," called out Ernest, "my latest plan to hand out free beer to freezing pensioners is going great guns, they all get a bag of old tabloid papers to burn, after all, they're not worth reading. Not only is that scheme doing well, but my brand new advice centre for destitute farmers to fill out their tax forms, is also raking it in. Every day it's packed, especially with all the old ones planning to die and leave their stuff to their kids,



they're both working brilliantly!"

"Yes, I am sure they are," mumbled Verity, "but can't you just for once focus on the pub, all the political stuff drive me nuts."

"I'll tell you what drives me nuts," cried Ernest, raising his voice "and that's the faceless bureaucrats we've got running the country since the election, we were supposed to get rid of them with Brexit. Mind you, it did work quite well what with the parade of ministers, Secretaries of State and Prime Ministers we had all making undignified exits. This new lot are just so boring, getting on with the job, not indulging in any hilarious sound bite social media twitter storms, or whatever they call it now."

"Yes dear, very boring, well never mind," comforted Verity, as she looked forward to another evening of revelry with the latest bunch from the Temperance Society.

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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!

So Cheltenham was, our next pub crawl visit, and why not? We caught the bus from Gloucester and got off outside the old Cavendish House, then a quick walk up the high Street to the edge of town.

First stop was *The Sandford Ale House*, a traditional real ale house. Very nice, 10 ales on (Wow! what a lot) plus 16 kegs. There were, however, no customers for a Monday afternoon, that's a little quiet. Never mind.

I started with Goffs *American Pale Ale* at £4.90. Not too bad for a posh pub. Plus of course, they have a bar billiards table (for shouting over) and very nice rock music on their system. Although the strange imitation plastic flowers in glass jars on each table were a bit curious! Anyway, we all enjoyed ourselves, then onward for our second pub visit.

*The Whittle Tap* in Regent street. Yet again a new name for the pub, but inward we went. This one had no customers, but *Timothy Taylor* was £5.20 a pint and one of our crowd, a lager sipper had a pint of Moretti at £6.05! He nearly fainted and had to sit down. Never mind. Lots of staff and lots of background music.

Just around the corner we found the *Eagle Social Tap* on the High Street. A massive boozier full of people who couldn't afford the dentist. Still, with *Reverend James* bitter at £1.80 a pint, we were amazed. We were told they normally sell four ales, but the others had been drunk. It looked a little like a Wetherspoons, it is huge inside. Very neat and clean and full of poor people. It's one of the Amber Taverns chain and worth a visit.

Next we trekked to the Lower High Street to visit the renovated old brewery and arrived at *The Brewhouse and Kitchen*. Wow! What a lovely pub. And don't argue with the brewer behind the bar (seen here). He's either 7 or 8ft tall with a ginger beard. But very nice and far too big to be argued with. So being thirsty we ordered *Whiskey Stout* best bitter, *Colonel Jack* session pale ale and *Tin Man* golden Ale.

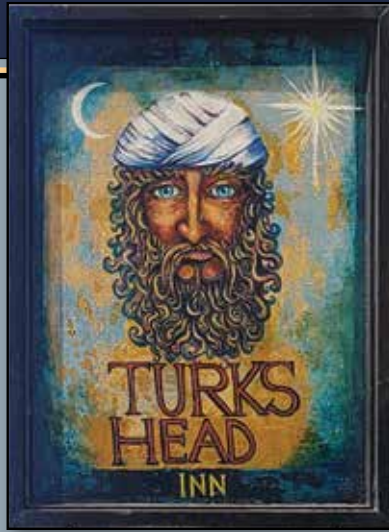


Wow! Wonderful lovely beers, nice and cold and not a bad price at all.

We then gathered around a table and voted for the 'Pub of the Day' and awarded the prize (a handshake) to the Brewhouse & Kitchen who won the competition for the day. He seemed happy with it and allowed us to take his photo!!

So, all in all, it was a satisfying day. Mondays aren't too bad for pub crawls as they can be quite quiet, so very civilized. Once back in Glos we had a goodbye beer and I had to tell everyone that sadly my pub *The Turks Head Inn* by Kings Square is only open Thursday, Friday and Saturdays. I'm not so much a boring landlord anymore, just a poorly one heading to his graveyard...

**Peter Sheehy**



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# NEW FOR 2025

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

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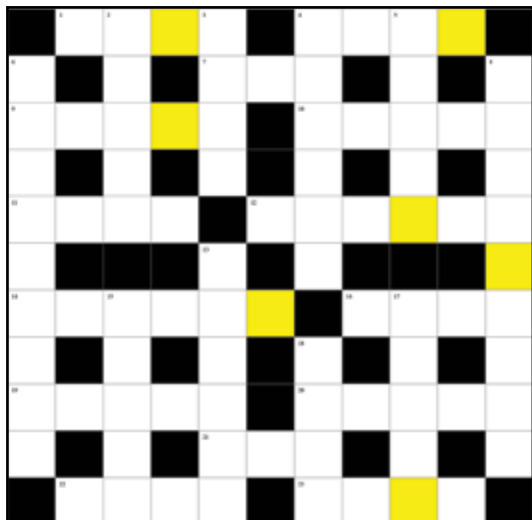
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## What you can win

**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

1. Shop for mixed beer ingredients (4)
4. Tim's idea has edge (4)
7. Oh my God, it's beginning to measure resistance (3)
9. Spring festival without eggs, but flour is left, I hear! (5)
10. I hand out the dream (5)
11. Thoughtful type (4)
12. God is in another mess (6)
14. Lose battle over device (6)
16. Bar returns - sorry, that's not true (4)
19. Start your horse, but lose direction - you're dizzy (5)
20. Crosby adds nothing to this game (5)
21. Deceit leads to life in exile (3)

22. It's not made up about Alan (4)
23. Up until now I haven't seen this creature (4)

### DOWN

2. Frequently comes in packs of ten (5)
3. His type will start sending over rude texts (4)
4. Sonia is with a boy - she's happy (6)
5. Armed attack is a nightmare (5)
6. Support leg behind the scenes (9)
8. Coral and moss damaged in learning space (9)
13. Is local gardener alter ego in classic horror novel? (6)
15. Annoy endlessly for medal (5)
17. That's very informal isn't it? (5)
18. Award Yvette for following orders (4)





# 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 he knows what he's talking about . . .

## Pub Games

Two big questions asked in many pubs these days are "Are you here for the big game?" and "Where have all the beer mats gone?" (Perhaps the latter is not as popular a thought outside my circles!) Yes, there are a lot of screens in pubs these days, even in traditional boozers, and there are now plenty of sports bars. There is a brand new one in Cheltenham, the Eagle, named in honour of our local Olympic hero, and yes, they do have beer mats. Long may that continue, because you'd be right. A lot of pubs don't use them, but when they do... It certainly gets my attention and custom.

For the pubs that do use mats, a lot of them are private issues, just for their bar or pub-chain, and fewer advertise the brews. There are a lot of competition mats too. Some to win big holidays or a free ticket to a footy match, usually in exchange for 'liking' them or posting a picture on Instagram. You had to put the mat in the post-box in my day!

It was quite common for brewers in the 1970's-80's to have little games. Harp and Guinness are typical of this idea, seen here

in cat 60 from 1974 and cat 374 from 1978. This one from Tennant in Sheffield is an older example dating from 1950. It exists in quite a few collections like mine, with the grid filled in, so the marketing obviously worked in those days.

But, here's the thing though, there still are mats done just for entertainment in the pub. Even now when every conceivable game can be played on one's phone and you no longer need to write someone's number on a beer mat (I've got a few of those too, perhaps I'll ring one? After adding the extra digit inserted in 1995 naturally).

Wordsearch, noughts & crosses, and Sudoku etc. can all be found. Here are a couple of examples from last year from Tennent's in Scotland (unconnected to the Yorkshire brewery); and Greene King, surprisingly only discovered in Norfolk, to date. (*The beer mat, not the beer - Ed.*)

What I had planned to write about this time is jigsaw mats. Not a simple doodle mat, but a fully-interlocking six, or eight piece picture. A few existed during the beer mat heyday, but they are back again with brewers such as Everard's 2018 set 329-324 and Ulverston Brewing co. 17-20. Both breweries issued four similar themed sets, and are





evidently a bit more complicated to produce. The funny thing about this last set is that the board and cutter have been misaligned by 90 degrees, so as you can see, the cut-outs don't match the designs. One also requires a little dexterity in exchanging mats from other tables to complete the set, though it does get a conversation going.

Perhaps a more conventional system is to just have square mats that form a larger design on one side. These are much more common, and are normally made up of four mats. However, Carling did a set of four pie-shaped mats to form a large circular mat, and Greene King have done two sets of six forming the engine of a Triumph motorcycle, for their 1998 Triumph brew. The one pictured here is cat 160-165. Cool eh?

A common set of six in the 1980's was for Benson & Hedges cigarettes, which of course are now banned. (The advertising not the fags, though for the serious collector it should be the other way around). I think I still have the set somewhere just for posterity, as they don't fall within my parameters for collecting. Like most tegestologists, I collect beer advertising, and cider too if I'm honest. I also keep non-brewery mats from before 1965, when they were printed on a rougher material. The B&H mats, like many others are on bleached board, so I can say no to them without FOMO.

I think the prize for the largest set, must go to Dark Star brewery in Brighton, for their jigsaw of 30 mats. One needs to find a good-few pubs selling the beer, to complete that picture, especially as it's not easy to distinguish the pieces. You do end up with a few duplicates to swap with your mates

though. This set was from 2012, which I remember was in the Stroud Alehouse a year ago. Dark star also did a smaller set of 24 with a picture of all their pump-clips overlapping one another. It's really difficult to see where they go when you've only found half a dozen.

Have a look around. Perhaps there is a jigsaw set in the pub where you found this Tippler. Maybe there is a set with jokes on, or quiz questions. Sporting ones are quite common... which gives me an idea for next time!

Meanwhile, who's winning in the match on telly?

**Russell Murfitt**



## Special Certificate: 15 Years 'in harness'

**Stroud CAMRA presented a special certificate to Rodda Thomas to celebrate his 15 years at the helm of the Crown & Sceptre on Tuesday 30th July. The pub lease was being advertised, but Rodda expected to still be at the pub for Guy Fawkes on 5th November - which proved to be the case.**

It is Rodda's proud boast that 'we never closed' in all that time, even during lockdown when the pub became a local shop selling food and other essentials as well as take-away beer.

Rodda is a proud Cornishman and the pub regularly featured Spingo Middle (5%) brewed at the Blue Anchor pub at Helston in Cornwall. This is a distinctive and unusual dark beer, lightly hopped so that it drinks like a strong mild. It is a close relative of Sarah Hughes Dark Ruby Mild brewed at the Beacon at Sedgley in the Black Country. Spingo Special (6%) and Extra Special (7.5%) also made occasional appearances on high days and holidays, always at the pub's Easter and August Bank Holiday beer festivals, held in a marquee in the garden. Rodda reports that the Crown & Sceptre used to play cricket against the Blue Anchor team. The landlord would tap a cask of Spingo from the back of a van which, Rodda said, may explain why the Crown & Sceptre never won.

Alas, there was no Spingo on offer at the presentation, but the guest beer, from Bristol Beer Factory, was most acceptable.

Under Rodda's stewardship the Crown & Sceptre became the quintessential Stroudie pub, and a fixture in the Good Beer Guide since 2011. It is a lively backstreet local at the heart of its community. The walls display an eclectic mix of framed prints, many of vintage motorcycles (one of Rodda's passions), and old film posters, and the ceiling of the side room is covered with band posters. An elaborate mantelpiece clock, a cuckoo clock and a Che Guevara clock argue over the time.

There is some new stained glass, look for the Crown & Sceptre in the fanlight over the front door and the 'Gents' above the passage to the men's loo.

A large oak table in a side room is popular with local groups—including Knit and Natter on Tuesday and the Friends of Daisy Bank (the park and children's playground directly across the road). The pub also has its own motorcycle society. The Hat & Stick (as it is affectionately known) raised £1,800 for a public defibrillator, which is housed on the terrace at the back of the pub and available 24 hours a day.

During Rodda's reign the pub was famed for its Up the Workers good-value set meal on Wednesdays, and its Sunday roasts. Saturdays are pasty days, the first Wednesday of the month is steak night, the second pie night and the last Wednesday of the month is curry night. Meat-free Mondays are on the last Monday of every month. Football, rugby and cricket are screened in the back bar. A south-facing terrace to the rear offers panoramic views across the Stroud valley to Rodborough Common.

The new landlady, Rhiannon, is committed to preserving the character and continuing the traditions of the pub as established by Rodda and intends to get the feel of the place before making any major changes. One welcome change, however, is in the guest beer selection, which recently featured Fresh Standard's toothsome Red Mild (6%).



**Left to right: Stroud CAMRA's Tim Mars, Pubs Officer, Tony Hill, Chair, and Andy Burston, Secretary**

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## CIRENCESTER CAMRA PUB OF THE YEAR 2025

**On Tuesday 11th January, Patrick Mills, Chairman of Cirencester CAMRA presented its annual Pub of the Year award to Matt and Jordan Selby from The Drillmans Arms in Stratton. There was an excellent turnout of CAMRA members who then went on to visit The Marlborough Arms which came a close second in the voting.**

Cirencester CAMRA are really pleased to see The Drillmans Arms kept in the Selby family by Matt and Jordan and to see what a great job they are doing with it. This excellent local makes the pub fabulous asset to Stratton, which demonstrates what can be done through hard work and with a public house in the right hands.

The Pub of the Year was last awarded to The Drillmans in 2012 to Dick and Denise Selby, so it's fantastic to be able to award it again for 2025 and am sure that Dick and Denise would be very proud, congratulations to all who help run this fabulous proper local pub. Matt and Jordan Selby are seen below receiving the Pub of the Year certificate.

During the rigorous selection process, we take into account beer scores on the Whatpub app when assessing for inclusion so we encourage as many CAMRA members as possible to score their beers.

The Cirencester CAMRA sub-branch area covers from Lechlade across to Didmarton and we visit pubs across the area to select six. The listing below shows the candidates that were finally chosen.

These pubs are then entered into the CAMRA Good Beer Guide which is published annually and from that, members vote on what they consider to be the best pub for that year.

Cirencester CAMRA Good Beer Guide pub selection for 2025 are:

- The Drillmans Arms***, Stratton
- The Marlborough Arms***, Cirencester
- The Hop Kettle***, Cirencester
- The Royal Oak***, Leighterton
- The Bell***, Avening
- The Bell***, Sapperton



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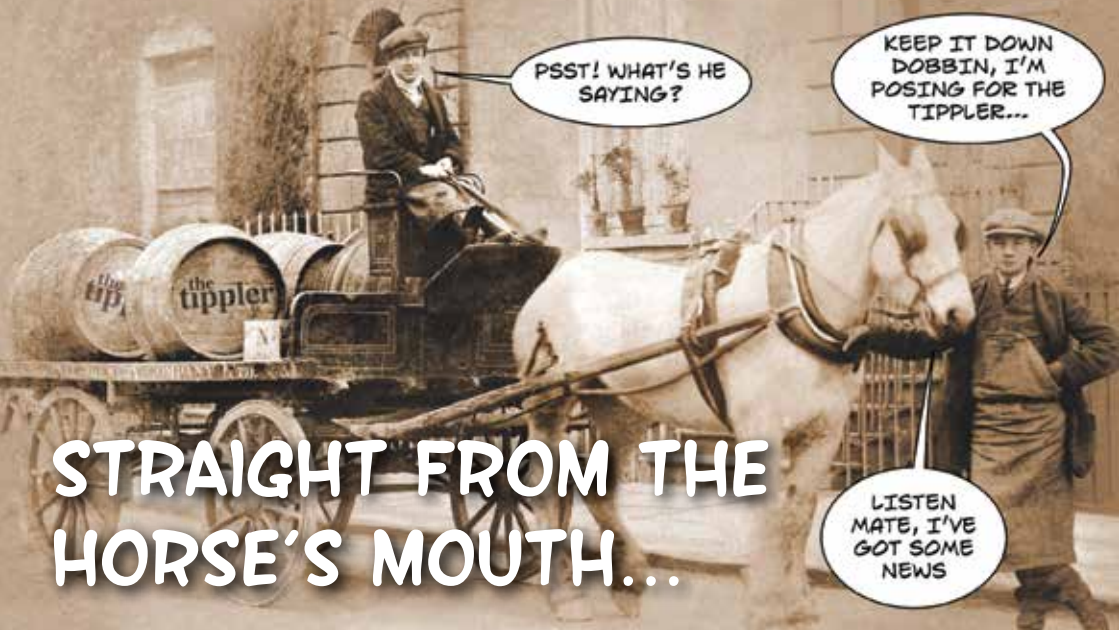


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Hare and Hounds  
Hog  
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Malt Shovel  
Mount  
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**Ormond  
Railway  
Ram Inn  
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Royal  
Star  
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York**

- 1** Find the listed Gloucestershire hostelrys 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 a relevant quote from our dear friend Anonymous.

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.



## PUB & BREWERY NEWS...IN BRIEF

### BREWERY NEWS...

**Arkell's Brewery** have announced their line-up for 2025, a heady mix of core classics, a couple of favourites dug out of the brewing logs, seasonal delights, something to keep us cheerful as the weather changes, and finally, something special; a pair of new experimental beers, never seen before. These beers are spread throughout the year to tickle our drinkers' taste buds as the months roll by.

Among the newer recipes, we have an exciting beer designed by one of our brewing team, who is studying for his brewing qualifications this year. Jack's Juicy IPA is set to be a superb flavour bomb, with Jack selecting a unique hop variety called Krush to build the hoppy aromas - a hop we've never used here before.

Another new beer, coming to the pubs in October and November, is a collaboration with our friends

at French and Jupps. This is the team who take barley from farmers and roast it in their beautiful traditional kilns to impart the caramel, chocolate, and nutty flavours we achieve in so many of our beers. Together, we are pooling our 500+ years of experience to brew a beer that accentuates all these superb characteristics.

Lots to try... Cheers to 2025!





**Corinium Ales**, in Cirencester tell us that their latest batch of Imperial Porter (8.4%) is going down a treat both in bottle and on tap. Roasted coffee beans have been added to a remaining barrel and bottles of this version will be

available soon. A toasted coconut version is still to come. We also recently brewed Red House Ale (4%) a classic English amber ale brewed with Painswick Rococo Garden grown hops (fuggles and magnum). It's available on draught from the brewery bar with 20p/pint going to Rococo Gardens. Bottles can be purchased from Rococo Gardens. We'll be brewing their Pan's Pale Ale later in the year.

We have some fun 2025 brewery events lined up too, including "Sup, Sing & Shanties" with Daisy Burt (we saw the piece in The Tippler about her shanty bants at The Prince Albert and invited her to join us); brewery tours & tastings; Jamaican & Italian foodie pop ups; original outdoor community theatre "Love on Tap"; an evening of beer, cider & perry paired with artisan cheeses; charity quiz night and lots more!



**The Fresh Standard Brew Co.**, the Woodchester-based husband and wife brewery, is celebrating after their 2024 Anniversary Export Porter was awarded

Gloucestershire Beer of the Festival in a blind tasting at this year's Tewkesbury CAMRA Winter Ales Festival.

The festival, known for showcasing some of the finest winter beers in the region, saw a

range of exceptional ales go head-to-head in a rigorous tasting process. The Fresh Standard's Anniversary Export Porter stood out for its bold flavours, rich malt character, and expertly balanced depth, securing it the top honour.

Head brewer and owner Richard Taylor shared his excitement about the recognition:

"Tewkesbury Winter Ales Festival is always the highlight of the year for us, and it's particularly nice for them to recognise a beer of ours like this."

Anthony Hill, Chair of Stroud CAMRA, also praised the win:

"On the Friday I was made aware that one of our breweries, The Fresh Standard Brew Co, may win an award. Moving to the judges table it became apparent that Fresh Standard had done far more than scooped an award but taken top spot beating off some real heavyweight competition from twelve other County brewers. We look forward to trying more Fresh Standard beers at local hostelrys around Stroud and at the brewery Tap Room throughout 2025."

To celebrate the win and kick off a new season at the brewery, The Fresh Standard will be reopening its taproom on Friday, 1st March for its Re-Awakening event on 1st March.

The evening will feature Smoke Tin Kitchen, serving a delicious Greek-inspired menu from 5:00 pm, and live music from Stroud band Albino Tarantino, taking the stage from 8:00 pm.

Beer lovers can also look forward to an exclusive pour of The Fresh Standard's 2024 Barrel Aged Porter, alongside a selection of their best brews. Additionally, they'll be



# BREWERY NEWS...IN BRIEF

pouring Running Man, a standout beer from fellow local brewery, Mills Brewing.

Join The Fresh Standard for an evening of award-winning beer, fantastic food, and top-tier live music as they raise a glass to another exciting year ahead!



**The Little Avon Brewery** in Wick is new to the Dursley area and they have been producing a number of very good beers including a Best Bitter (4%), Jodhpur IPA (6.2%) (and a weaker version Jodhpur Light at 4.3%), a Hoppy Pale (4.3%) and an excellent India Export Porter at 5.0%ABV. The brewer is currently experimenting with a red ESB (5.2%ABV), that may or may not continue. We wish them well for the future.



**Lucifer Brewhouse's** Trickster IPA was recently available in pubs, and was as good as ever, they're looking forward to selling their beers further afield in the county.

whilst the Imperial Port Stout from Tiley's Brewery is excellent, but at 9%ABV, is better suited for walkers or those with bicycles!



**Stroud Brewery** is delighted to announce that all its beers are now 100% vegan as well as organic, and it seems the brewery is the second UK brewery to be both vegan and organic. Keg and canned beers have been organic for a while, cask was the missing link. But no more! So, along with its core range of Budding, Tom Long and OPA, of course, the latest seasonal beers are vegan - Red Rum, a 5.3% ruby mild infused with organic rum and oak chips, and Stonecutter, a 4.2% hoppy ale.

Dates to note: Popular demand sees the return of the Brewery's Malty Story Festival, 6th to 8th June with three days of music, DJ sets and entertainment to please everyone, look up: [www.stroudbrewery.co.uk](http://www.stroudbrewery.co.uk) for details. Also, Greg's a speaker at Hawkwood's Climate

Action Lab, 20th - 21st Feb: discussing the importance of organic food, farming and nature in tackling the climate crisis. Details [www.hawkwoodcollege.co.uk/our-programmes](http://www.hawkwoodcollege.co.uk/our-programmes).



**Uley Brewery** begin a really important year as they celebrate 40 years of brewing. To celebrate in recognition of this, they will be brewing 10 'one-off' special beers, starting with a reappearance of Hog's Wallop, a 5.2% ABV robustly hopped IPA. Others will appear during the year and we'll update the Tippler as they arrive.

## CLUB NEWS...

**Cheltenham Motor Club (CMC)**, winner of the CAMRA South West Region Club of the Year Award, did not reach the final four clubs for Champion Club of Britain. The 2024 National Club of the Year is the Firs Club, Codsall.

Next year the CMC will be judged in the new West Central Region, comprising Gloucestershire, Herefordshire, Worcestershire and Oxfordshire.

## PUB NEWS...

The owner of the **Bell Inn**, Bath Road, Cheltenham has put in an application to turn the pub into flats. There is a petition running to save the pub. See separate article on page 16 for details.

**Planet Caravan**, Bath Street, Cheltenham now has Timothy Taylors Boltmaker on cask, and they will continue to rotate a cask beer. This complements their 16 keg lines of UK and international craft beers.

**The Botanica Bar**, another pub in Bath Road, Cheltenham, adjacent to the Millar bar, is now closed. Their Google listing notes it's 'temporarily' closed, we await developments.

**The Crown Inn**, Lechlade is now for sale at £375k

**The Fire Station**, St. James Square, Cheltenham has been closed for several years. Workmen are stripping out the premises, which were purchased by a hospitality company several years ago. Its future use is still unclear.

**The Greyhound**, Tetbury now has planning for change of use so is no longer a pub.

**The Miller Bar** (former Bierkeller), adjacent to Cheltenham's Moon Under Water, is closed

**The Queen Matilda**, Avening is still closed and awaiting decision from Cotswold District Council for change of use but we now note that it is for sale as a pub at £645k.

**The Spectre**, High Street, Cheltenham no longer serves real ale.

**The Tavern**, on Royal Well, Cheltenham is now under new ownership. Cheltenham businessman, Linden Holliday, bought the pub from the Young's Group. He has revamped the building and introduced a new food menu.

**The Tunnel House**, Cirencester remains closed.

**The Twelve Bells** in Lewis Lane Cirencester is now under new ownership but sadly there

is no sign of the Pub opening its doors to the public any time soon. In the past The Twelve Bells has been winner of many of our Pub of the Year awards and was trading well until its sale in November 2024. There is no excuse for this pub to not be trading so we will wait to see what action Cotswold District Council will take as a number of letters have been sent objecting to the pubs closure.

**The Wheatsheaf**, Cirencester has had an application for change of use submitted by the new owners who are a development company. The application had 12 objections including an excellent one from Cirencester Town Council and we are now awaiting on a decision from Cotswold District Council

**The Wild Duck** at Ewen has had planning permission for the works to completely refurbish the site to a new hotel, restaurant and pub which was dated 2nd February 2024 and the applicant has 3 years from that date in which to start the works. It appears that the pub is still owned by Youngs so we will continue to monitor the situation and hope that building work starts soon.

**DURSLEY CAMRA CIDER PUB OF THE YEAR 2025**

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## **DURSLEY CAMRA PUB OF THE YEAR 2025**



**The New inn in Woodmancote, Dursley is the Dursley CAMRA sub-branch Pub of the Year 2025.**

Seen here are owners Mick and Mandy Nichols posing behind the bar with the presentation certificate.



## **DURSLEY CAMRA CIDER PUB OF THE YEAR 2025**

**The Dursley sub-branch Cider Pub of the Year is the Hoptician in Dursley.**

Fancy trying a selection of different ciders and perries, look at the extensive, currently with 15 real ciders, although they do peak normally at 20, listed right.

You'll note that, as a micro pub, space is at a premium, and therefore the cider lists are not only on the wall, but also on the doors of the ladies and gents loos!

The certificate is yet to be presented, so no images of the certificate have been included.





# DEAF BOY WANDERIN' JOHN

'It's got to be a Gloucestershire walk', we said. 'Never mind that, I'm off to Worcester', replied our wilful wanderer, who this time out gets excited about Civil War history.

**This walk is a 6-mile foray across the border into darkest Worcestershire, taking in the site of Powick Bridge, 'where England's sorrows began and where they were happily ended'.**

All right if you were on the winning side, as this is an obviously unbiased quote from a Puritan vicar, who fully supported the parliamentarians. Anyway, less of that for now.

Once past the border guards, head for the Three Nuns at Collets Green. This is the ideal starting point for a circular walk with



*The Three Nuns, Collets Green*

the Misty Mountains (aka the Malvern Hills) framing the horizon.

Walking to the rear of the pub, the route leads into the gently sloping valley of Careys Brook. The path eventually crosses the brook on a bridge, that bears no resemblance to the nearby Severn Bridge in width or engineering beauty.

Whilst walking through this idyllic landscape of family farms, lush verdant pastures abound. A little further on, the tall remains of the former Powick Hospital can be clearly seen. Surprisingly, Edward Elgar, he of the Enigmatic Variations, Pomp and circumstance and so on, was appointed

bandmaster at the young age of 22 at the Worcester City and County Lunatic Asylum, no prissy covering up of titles here in 1879; they called a spade a spade!

This great English composer, the pride of Worcestershire, was paid £32 a year to train and conduct a band of inmates, and compose ditties and dance music for them to play and for the other patients to react or listen to.

Well, as Jimmy Page said a long time ago, 'everybody has to start somewhere'. This institution attained world-wide fame as it became the first hospital to introduce LSD therapy in 1968 man! Powick became the global centre for this treatment and I wondered if Timothy Leary had taken, 'a few trips around the bay there'?

Most of the site was demolished when the hospital was closed in the 1980s, but that didn't stop the builders from redeveloping the site for housing, hopefully not of the executive type.

The walk continues around the outskirts of Bastonford and runs roughly parallel with Carey's Brook. The next point of interest is the parish church of St Peter, perched on a rise that overlooks the nearby Old Powick Bridge. The tower made an excellent lookout for the Scottish Royalists during the Battle of Worcester in 1651, so that Cromwell and his troops found it necessary to attack and then occupy the tower.

Evidence of small-bore cannonballs are easily found as holes scattered across the south face of the tower. It is alleged that Cromwell himself surveyed the successful progress of the last Civil War battle obviously pleasing Hugh Peters, the quotable Parliamentary chaplain.

However, he seems to have suffered from short-term memory loss, as the first battle took place in the same spot nine years previously, when the first battle or skirmish took place.

With a thousand men on each side and in 15 short minutes, the Royalists won 1-0 and the Parliamentarians ran all the way back to Pershore 15 miles away.

I suggest that, if you have time, go down to Powick Old Bridge and see the memorial stones that are there in memory of the people who died there.

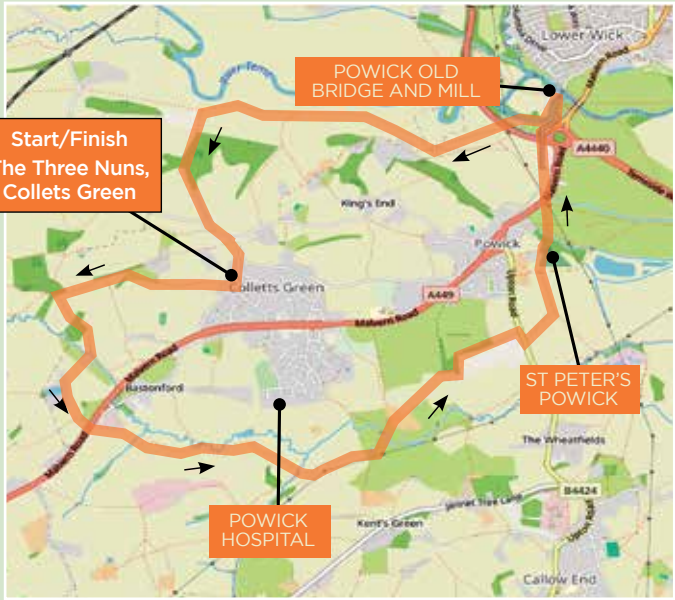
Before leaving the bridge, look around at the amazing former water mill, which was converted in 1894 to become the first combined steam/hydro-electric power station in the world. Electricity from this mill gave Worcester 50% of its needs and was only shut down in the 1950s. As with Powick Hospital, the builders turned it into residential units.

Turning your back on the bridge pick up the riverside footpath that runs parallel to the River Teme, in times of flood wear wellies and life-jackets – be warned. The path leaves the river and heads back across more bucolic farmland to the Three Nuns pub at Collett's Green. (Who was Collett, maybe he knew Carey?)

A warm welcome awaits in a pub that

is definitely traditional, right down to the delicious and inexpensive range of 'meals in a basket.' A 1970s pub experience I was delighted to repeat. The pub has a full range of beers and spirits and the meals are home-cooked and provide a fitting end to a truly historical walk, hopefully, unlike Powick in the Civil War, it won't be your first and last walk.

**Deaf Boy**



*Powick Hospital*



*Powick Old Bridge and Mill*

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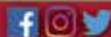
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# Tall Tales from the Cider Shed...

**The Putley Cider and Perry Trials is a competition for cider makers held every Mayday Bank Holiday in the picturesque Herefordshire village of Putley. The competition itself is judged blind by the cidemakers themselves, making it a very prestigious event.**

It was Kevin Minchew who first told me about Putley, telling me about the fifty to sixty ciders and twenty to thirty perries to sample if you enter the competition. I was intrigued. 'How do you stay the distance with so many ciders and perries to sample?', I asked him. 'Take plenty of mouse trap with you' was his reply. Mouse trap? - what was he on about I wondered. It was Kevin's way of saying 'take plenty of cheese with you'.

So with a pocket full of cheese, I entered



*Stop smiling Dereck, this is serious*



*Now which one did I prefer? Tough job this*

our first Cider and Perry competition in 1994, and with beginner's luck we actually won first prize for our cider, which was obviously very satisfying.

So how does the competition work you might ask? Well firstly you have to enter your cider and/or perry in advance, and on the day of the trials you have to get your glass jars to Putley before midday, so that the organisers can get everything ready for the competition to start at 2 o'clock.

This means you have a couple of hours to while away the time, so what better place to go to than one of the local pubs. Realising the hard afternoon's work ahead trying so many ciders and perries, most of us drank soft drinks, although one year I remember a lot of Kevin Minchew's friends heading straight for the cider - they certainly had a good day.

Following the session in the pub, it would be back to the village hall where you would be surrounded by all the Cider Superstars of the three counties and further afield. People like James Marsden, Paul Stephens, Mike Johnson, Denis Gwatkin and Tom Oliver (manager of the Scottish band *The Proclaimers* no less!)

Once the rules were read out, you were free to try all the ciders and perries in the categories that you had entered, so with your pen, paper, cup and cheese at the ready, you could start to sample all the drinks on offer.

All the bottles were marked with a number, so if you liked a particular cider or perry, you would put the number down on your paper. If you didn't like it, you would put a mark through the number.

Going around the bottles in the hall, you would hear the experts shouting out 'mouse' the dreaded cider word for not a very good drink, you just hoped it wasn't your cider or perry they were talking about!

After going around the table sampling your favourites three or four more times, you would then put down your top three in order.

At about 4:30pm all the votes were in and the judges added the scores up. By five o'clock the results would be ready to read out. You waited for your name to be called out and more often than not you would be disappointed not to have won anything. But it's the taking part that counts, isn't it?

I must admit, I haven't been to Putley for years and have lost touch with a lot of the Cider Superstars, although a few of them have made friends with me on this modern day Facebook thing, which is very gratifying.

So all you cider and perry enthusiasts out there, if you are looking for a day out over Mayday Bank Holiday (May 4 and May 5), why not head for Putley. The competition is now held at Dragons Orchard and not the Village Hall, where you can sample all the ciders and perries that have entered the competition.

You never know your luck, you might even meet the legendary Spaceman there! One thing's for sure, you will certainly enjoy the experience. But don't forget Mr Minchew's advice and take plenty of mousetrap with you!

*Dereck Hartland*

## Like this article?

For more information about this year's Cider and Perry Competition at Putley, visit [www.bigapple.org.uk](http://www.bigapple.org.uk) or scan this link:



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# The Pub Whisperer

**In a series about local pub life entitled 'The Pub Whisperer', we're looking out for readers to make contributions to the series, even if they're new to writing. Here we drop in on various pubs around the county as the journey continues...**

## Walking the baby

It's Monday evening. A young man wheels a pram into the pub with a baby fast asleep and buys a pint and a packet of crisps. Were these for the baby? There is some chat with a member of staff about babies telling him about a friend of hers whose baby hardly sleeps. He decides to sit outside and the staff member takes his drink out to him. How pubs have changed? After his pint he heads home with the baby crying. Taking a baby to the pub is as good an excuse as taking the dog for a walk.

## On come the Bouncers for the Festival

The pub had the racing on during the day and the pub was busier than normal although they were spread out across the pub. We got a window seat easily about 4.45 in time for the 4.50 and 5.30 races, and the main bar was not easy to negotiate. It was strange not to

be able to hear the commentary on the two races, so one wondered why bother to have the telly on as most of the customers were not that interested anyway. Things livened up about 6.30 as people returned from the races and bouncers appeared with official armbands. There were five staff on and two more due. One of the bar staff warned us that

**'One of the bar staff warned us that it would be packed and noisy soon, but by 7.15 it was busy, but not crammed...'**

it would be packed and noisy soon, but by 7.15 it was busy, but not crammed, although some women groups were sat outside on tables without heating on both sides of the pub. The festival has started, but will the doom mongers be correct that the festival is losing its attraction due to exploitative costs at the race course and cost of living rises? Are bouncers now necessary?

## The Locals Race Day

It's pouring with rain outside and pub welcomes those racers who have been enjoying new year's racing day. It's a meeting that mostly entertains local for it is a one-day meeting. Children under 14 are allowed into the course free. The pub is packed at 6.30 with race goers having looked for refuge but also celebrating a day out, whether winners or losers, all are jolly, dressed in racing jackets,

not so much fancy hats but anything they can find. There are no Irish here or those from across the major jump racing areas in the UK. These are all locals and celebrating the end of Xmas and the beginning of the new year. It's all with some loud voices rising above the general banter but it feels like a locals' event of working-class people out for their last mid-



winter day out for some time. They will mostly not be able to attend the Festival meeting as it is expensive, unbelievably crowded, but they get their day at the January meeting. However, this meeting draws together the local population when they are all enjoying a bank holiday with all their friends and the family. For the ordinary people of Cheltenham this is their day before going back to work and normality. No bouncers are needed.

## Lads

It's early evening in a local boozier on a Thursday. It's quiet and miserable outside on 12th June, about 10 'lads', all in their 20s drink, mostly Guinness, and a number have been abroad, probably on a sports tour. They take control of two tables along a long bench in the back bar and talk loudly entertaining each other with stories of women they came across recently on their trip and show the photos. They talk about Romanian girls mainly, in disparaging ways, and tell stories of engagements. This goes on for over an hour. It sounds like something from 30 years ago before 'new men' appeared. It is strange to hear it and so loud and clearly full of raucous enjoyment. They don't talk about their sporting tour, but about the women. It feels archaic but it appears, unfortunately, that boys will still be boys in some circumstances.

## Pub Staff Party 27 May

It's a quiet Sunday afternoon at about 4.20m. There are half a dozen in the main bar some watching the Formula 1. Four people are in the back bar watching a minor premiership game. Half a dozen are out front and 10 out the back. There are four staff plus the manager. A member of staff who has finished her shift has been organising a party for another staff member's 50th birthday, collecting best wishes on a card and donations unknown to her. Music thumps quietly away in the background. At 4.40 balloons start to float from coat pegs and archway frames and staff not on duty start to appear. The celebrant wanders around the pub with drink in hand, dressed in her usual black outfits and

eventually sits with a small group in a window seat. More regulars begin to appear for the celebration and Ness accepts a drink from them.

At about 5.15 the 'Happy Birthday' song blasts out from the juke box and the manager presents a cake and the card signed by lots of regulars and staff together with a bunch of flowers. Meanwhile, the organizer sits quietly in the group. It's over as quickly as it started as things get back to normal. The punters outside stay outside and probably didn't hear the celebration and were not aware of its significance. The show must go on in the workaday friendly boozier.

## Rat Capture - All in a Day's Work

A rat entered the pub from the gardens across the main road and began scuttling around the back bar. Someone spots it and raises the alarm. One of the female members of staff leaps to the rescue. She gets a broom and a bucket, and everyone puts up their feet. She chases it round the back bar as it hides in the corners and then races round those corners.

She tells it she is not going to hurt it and the dog in the bar stays out of the way. The rat

leaps on to one of the bar bench seats and she leaps into action capturing it in the box provided by another female member of staff. She takes it across to the park and releases it and comes back triumphant. The staff here are resourceful, dynamic and in total control of any miscreants.

## No Income Problems Here

Four working class blokes are having a drink and talking about their trips abroad. They talk about seven days in Zanzibar, then a week in the Maldives and two of them find they're both going to Zanzibar so they agree to swap notes. They mention Australian venues. These are the generation after the baby boomers, but still have capital and retirement income and they are spending it. How do they vote? More acquaintances join them, and they discuss gym activities and golf arrangements. They seem to be leading a good life and the local is a big part of that life.

**'She gets a broom and a bucket, and everyone puts up their feet. She chases it round the back bar...'**

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# CAPTION COMPETITION

Sharpen your pencil, as well as your wits, and come up with a suitable caption for this interesting photo.



**Another bit of comic history here...**

What do you think these two hapless clowns are saying to each other?

*Thanks go to the staff at the St. Georges Vaults in Cheltenham for the use of this image of Stan and Ollie.*



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# CASK CHRONICLES

With Alex Jordan

## Pour Decisions? Choosing the right beer glass!

The type of glassware used for serving beer can significantly impact the drinking experience by influencing the beer's aroma, flavour, head retention, and visual appeal. Different beer styles benefit from specific glass shapes that enhance their unique characteristics. Here's a breakdown of popular glass types and their importance:



### Pint Glass (Straight/Nonic)

**Best For:** American Lagers, Pale Ales, IPAs, Stouts, Porters

**Design:** Straight-sided with a wide mouth or a bulge near the top (Nonic).

**Importance:** Simple, durable, and easy to stack, making them common in bars and pubs across the world. The wide opening allows for easy drinking but doesn't concentrate aromas, which is fine for beers that don't rely heavily on nuanced aromatics. Due to the wider opening, the glass is known for not retaining the head of the beer very well, as the surface area is much greater than the following glasses.



### Tulip Glass

**Best For:** Belgian Ales, Double IPAs, Barleywines, Strong Ales

**Design:** Curved bowl with a flared lip, resembling a tulip flower.

**Importance:** The bulbous body traps and concentrates volatile aromas, while the flared lip supports a thick, foamy head and directs beer to the front of the tongue, enhancing malty sweetness and hop bitterness.



### Snifter

**Best For:** Barleywines, Belgian Quads, Strong Ales

**Design:** Short stem with a wide bowl and narrow opening.

**Importance:** Ideal for strong, complex beers. The bowl allows for swirling, which releases rich aromas, while the narrow opening concentrates them as you drink towards your nose. Perfect for sipping high-ABV beers with complex flavour profiles, although this choice of glassware is often used for spirit sipping and whisky tasting.



## Weizen Glass

**Best For:** Hefeweizens, Dunkelweizens, Wheat Beers and Bock Beers

**Design:** Tall and slender with a slight curve, and a wide mouth.

**Importance:** Enhances the presentation of wheat beers' thick, frothy heads. The shape traps yeast and sediment while amplifying banana and clove aromas typical in German and other central European wheat beers.



## Mug (Stein, Seidel, Krug)

**Best For:** German Lagers, Bocks, Märzens, Ales

**Design:** Thick glass or ceramic with a handle.

**Importance:** Durable and great for large servings. The thick walls help insulate, keeping the beer cold longer. The handle minimizes heat transfer from your hand, which again, could warm the beer inside to undesirable temperatures.



## Footed Pilsner Glass

**Best For:** Pilsners, Lagers, Kölsch

**Design:** Tall, slender, and tapered.

**Importance:** Showcases the beer's clarity, carbonation, and golden color. The shape helps retain carbonation and focuses hop bitterness and crispness on the palate; which are essential for tasting the truest qualities that the brewers intended for the consumption of this beer style!

## Why Glassware Matters

There are many reasons mentioned in the highlights of each individual style of glass as to why the format of glassware is so important for the overall benefit of your beer of choice.

But to summarise - different glasses give different perks to different beer styles! Whether it be aromatic concentration, head retention, temperature control, flavour enhancement, or purely for the aesthetic appeal from the brewery, you'll notice a difference in your beers if you had two of the same in different serving styles!

If you have any questions about beer, brewing techniques or just fancy a chat about beer, email me at: [alex@clavellandhind.co.uk](mailto:alex@clavellandhind.co.uk) or book onto one of our Meet the Brewer events at the brewery Taproom to learn all things about beer!

Let's raise a glass to the dawn of spring-time, and enjoy some great beers in the upcoming warm weather. Cheers!

*Alex Jordan, Head Brewer, Clavell & Hind*

# CIDER & PERRY MAN



In this series, the cider representative for Cheltenham CAMRA keeps us up to speed in the world of cider and perry in and around Gloucestershire...

## It's All About 'Character'

**The word could be described as being above the normal, and certainly memorable. We could start with 'P' words – so People, Places and most importantly Pubs.**

My memory goes back a long time, and lost pubs with character certainly live in the memory, such as locally The Five Mile House, which was just off Ermin Street near Duntisbourne Abbots. With my cider hat on, I remember The Coronation Tap, in Clifton outside Bristol. They were famous for their genuine strong stuff, and if you wanted Medium, you had to ask for half and half. Many years ago, I took my wife there, and she giggled all the way to our dinner at an Italian restaurant after just one half.

A Character pub can also be remembered by it's landlord or even Publican. Again locally, The Cheltenham Motor Club would hardly be known for it's actual character, but Neil, the long standing manager, is definitely one, and offers a great range of different real ales.

The cost and difficulty of running a traditional pub has caused many new enthusiasts, wishing to enter the trade, to

think outside the box a bit. I spotted in a previous edition of this magazine, the mention of a new micro pub in Dursley called The Hoptician. It wasn't just the name, which was after a previous use in the premises, but the also the prominence given to their large range of ciders, so I took up an offer by Peter Bennetts, our new county coordinator, for an evening visit down there.

Micropubs are an interesting new phenomenon. Generally very small, with no garden, and not much food, and possibly on a short, attractively priced lease.

We have no known micropub in Cheltenham, but I have now visited four others scattered around the county, and all with a great range of ciders. As you will see from the photo on the opposite page, the Hoptician has a very quirky layout and definitely has the C word. They have around twenty different ciders available with many being dispensed from Bag in Box. It wasn't just the drinks either, since the locals were extremely friendly, and very interested to hear where we had come from.

The other unusual factor was that Dursley would hardly win the 'The Most Attractive' town of the county, and until recently had only one pub worth remembering. However The Old Spot has won many awards over the last decade or two, and is still going strong. We 'repaired' there after The Hoptician, since Peter was meeting up with the local CAMRA committee for their weekly get together. This was another friendly little group, and enhanced for me by another good selection of ciders. I was drinking a local artisan cider, Pagets, produced within a mile of the pub, but no one could give me any contact details. Surely the pub must have had an invoice, or maybe they didn't! Such are the vagaries of cider production!

My youngest son, Nick, can always be depended on for his choice of interesting Xmas presents, and this year it was a fascinating book called Cider Country by James Crowden. This is mainly historical, but contains some fascinating facts, in that there are presently some 650 cider makers in the UK, of which about 90% are small artisan

makers, but they only provide 5% of the total produce. Gloucestershire has lost 75% of its producers in the last fifty years, and my own records show just 19 with a website. There is a whole chapter given to Cider in Jersey, where I may go for a short holiday later in the year. In early Victorian days they were shipping over 300 thousand gallons of the fruity stuff every year over to the mainland, let alone what they consumed on the island. German occupation during World War 2, combined with increased potato and tomato growing, unfortunately put paid to that.

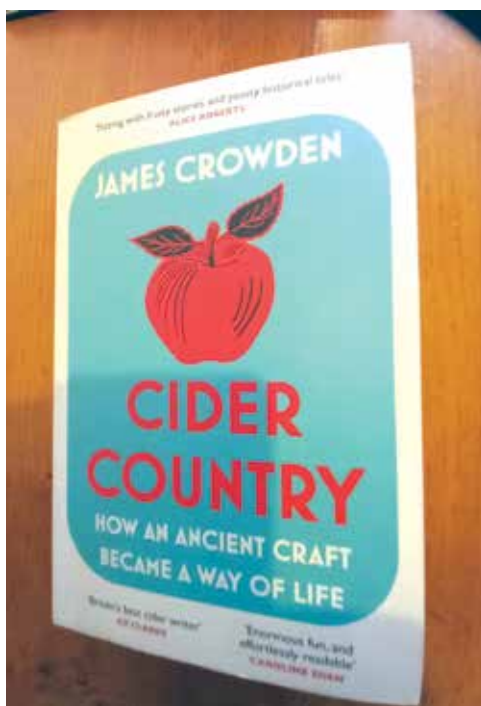
Another mention in the book is the prevalence of cider clubs in Dorset. Admittedly these were, and are often on, small farms, with some artisan production, but wouldn't it be 'Luvverly' as Professor Higgins said, to have a few meetings here in Gloucestershire. We could meet by arrangement at a suitable producer or a micropub or anyone's home. Small numbers-four+?

**Guy Vowles**

[guyvowles@talktalk.net](mailto:guyvowles@talktalk.net)



*The Hoptician, Dursley*



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# DODGY TICKER?

THE CONTINUING TALES OF A BEER COLLECTOR

It's all a matter of shape, or is it, are they any good? In this edition our tick box hero takes a look at some of the options for beer glasses...

**I still remember going into a pub, ordering a pint and being asked, "Straight glass or handle?" Those days seem long gone and the range of different glasses that appear on the bar with my beer is surprisingly wide.**

There are still a few places where the dimpled jug is king - try the Cross House Tavern in Tewkesbury or Three Kings in Hanley Castle if you hanker for such a glass - but straight glasses for pints are the norm mostly and goblet-like stemmed glasses are increasingly popular if you order a half pint. Some bars seem to have a different style

glass for just about every brew and you may be told that such and such a beer will taste better from a certain glass shape. So,

I thought I'd delve into the history of beer glasses a little and try to find out if there is any science behind their design, rather than just clever marketing.

People have been drinking beer for thousands of years. It is likely that the first vessels they used were made from animal skins. Clay was then used to shape bowls and jugs and the invention of the potter's wheel made more elaborate clay drinking vessels possible. Glass blowing was mastered by the Ancient Phoenicians probably around 50BC, but it would take many hundreds of years for this art to develop, evolve and spread. In the meantime, beer was generally drunk from a tankard, firstly made from wood bound with iron or leather, then pewter became a popular material to use. It wasn't until the 19th century

that glass became popular, possibly spurred on by drinkers' eagerness to actually see the brew they were being served, but more likely simply due to the increase in large-scale manufacture of glassware making them the cheapest option. A ten-sided handled glass with straight sides (sometimes called a lantern tankard) was popular from the 1920s. The dimpled glass appeared in the 1940s and is said to have become so widespread because the amber malty brews that were popular then looked better through the dimples. It is a chunky and sturdy glass and the dimples

prevented it from slipping out of the fingers in a washing up bowl. This, however, became

**'But, does Science have a part to play here? Are some shapes better for your beer than others?'**

less important when manual washing was superseded by machines in the 1960s. A straight glass with a slight bulge at the top (known as a Nonik, because it was supposed to reduce the number of glasses ruined by 'nicking' or chipping the rims together) then followed.

A variation on this with a waist and the rim pulled in slightly to avoid nicks became popular in the 1970s and quickly became the classic Guinness glass.

You may think the stemmed glasses so popular in craft beer bars today are a modern phenomenon. However, the snifter glass, with its bulbous bowl-shaped middle, short stem and round glass bottom for stability, has been the glass of choice for brandy drinkers for centuries. Glasses of this sort are now

very popular for beers, particularly powerful imperial stouts or double IPAs.

Obviously, many modern glasses are simply designed for the purpose of marketing the beer within. So, you get the beer or brewery name prominently displayed on the outside and a distinctive shape (below right) that will be easily recognised. This can be the only reason for the totally impractical Kwak glass with its rounded base, (below middle) which requires a wooden stand to support it - or the elegant elephant trunk stem on a Delirium glass (below left). But, does Science have a part to play here? Are some shapes better for your beer than others?

The answer is almost certainly yes, but it's not as simple as there being one perfect beer glass - the best shape seems to depend on the style of beer you are drinking. One of the factors that comes into play here is the head, so it is worth going a little further into why beer develops a head at all and why it is important for your drinking enjoyment. A foamy head is caused by the formation of bubbles, a process called nucleation. Nucleation occurs because of the presence of proteins in the beer which are hydrophobic. These proteins attach to CO<sub>2</sub> and rise to the surface, forming a coating on the bubble of CO<sub>2</sub> which stops it from simply bursting. Nucleation occurs where there are minute irregularities on the surface of the glass. In fact, some modern glass manufacturers deliberately etch the base of the glass to encourage more nucleation. A good head will enhance your beer-drinking experience in a

number of ways. The foam slowly releases aroma molecules, its texture will make the beer feel smoother in the mouth, it insulates the beer so that carbonation is maintained, it looks appealing and it can be a key indicator of freshness. Certain beer glasses are better for head retention in some styles of beer. Pilsners are highly carbonated, so the wide tip and thin bottom of a typical Pilsner glass allow the head to form from the quickly dissipating bubbles. In contrast, low carbonation beers, such as most real ales, need a wider bottom to encourage more nucleation, so a straight-sided glass is more appropriate.

The next consideration is aroma. Many modern styles of beer have a big powerful or complex aroma. These beers lend themselves to glasses with a bowl shape, like the snifter described above. This shape allows the beer to be swirled, releasing more of the aroma molecules. The top usually tapers in to catch the aroma in the bowl, giving the drinker the maximum opportunity to take a good sniff. This sort of glass will improve your experience of any beer that is big on aroma, but are particularly popular for strong ales, imperial stouts, double IPAs or fruited sours.

The final player is temperature. If you like your beer cold and to stay cold as long as possible, then wrapping your hand around the glass will cause you problems. To be fair, this is rarely much of an issue in the UK,



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but it explains the Worldwide love of stemmed glasses and the popularity of handled straight glasses, especially for lagers or pale ales that benefit from a cold dispense. Holding a stem or a handle keeps your body warmth away from the beer.

Contrastingly, if

you want to warm up a dark beer to savour all its flavour in full, then a wide bowl that fits in your hand is ideal.

Interestingly, scientific studies have shown that the shape of a beer glass can also have other psychological effects on us. In one study, guinea pigs were given the same beer in glasses with straight or curved sides (that's my kind of science!). The majority of participants rated the beer as fruitier and more intense from the curved glass. There is also plenty of evidence to link certain glass characteristics to drinking speed. Glasses with a wide rim will cause a faster flow, while delicate narrow rims will promote a slower flow. Participants in another experiment drank their beer more slowly from a straight-sided glass. The scientists involved in this work suggested this was due to the difficulty in judging the halfway point on a curved glass.

To sum up, we should be choosing the style of glass to go with the style of beer we are drinking. The effects may be only small, but to maximise our enjoyment of a beer's

## POGGY TICKER?

THE CONTINUING TALES OF A BEER COLLECTOR

appearance, aroma and temperature, shape can matter. Some have tried to come up with a 'perfect' glass and this has resulted in the growing popularity of a shape known as a Teku glass (above). This is usually a stemmed glass, but un-stemmed versions are also available. It has a tulip-shaped bowl and a flared rim that encourages a foamy head and the release of plenty of aroma compounds. The delicate lip on this glass feels better while drinking than a thicker rim too.

If, like me, you frequent beer festivals, you will have a cupboard full of glasses! My wife regularly despairs, so we have a sort through and thin them out a bit, but the numbers soon creep up again. There was a time when festivals would take back their glass and you'd get a refund – this practice seems to have disappeared. I have been to a few smaller festivals which don't go to the expense of branded glasses, but issue old festival glasses of all sorts, happily taking them back again as you leave. This is, sadly, not the norm, however, and so the glassware collection in all our homes steadily increases. I have a wide variety of glass styles in my cupboard and some are pretty old now (the oldest dated glass I could find was from a festival at The Bell in Shurdington from 1995), but in reality I use only three or four regularly. I have even been to one or two events (not CAMRA festivals, I must add) which have issued me with a plastic 'glass'. Don't get me started on that subject!

**Pete Searle**







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*Call: Rob Coldwell 07752 740488 For more details see website [www.cheltenhamcamra.org.uk](http://www.cheltenhamcamra.org.uk)*

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*Business Meetings are first Thursday bi-monthly.*

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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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[secretary@northcotswoldcamra.org.uk](mailto:secretary@northcotswoldcamra.org.uk)

### TRADING STANDARD DEPARTMENT

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Telephone: 01452 426201 Email: [tradstds@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:tradstds@gloucestershire.gov.uk)

# Our advertising supporters

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STROUD BREWERY	pages 2, 54, 55
THE CROSS HOUSE TAVERN	5
CHELTENHAM MOTOR CLUB	7
THE BELL INN	9
NORTH COTSWOLD CAMRA	13
CLAVELL & HIND	20
TURKS HEAD	25
GLOUCESTER BREWERY	26, 27
THE CROWN & SCEPTRE	31
THE PRINCE ALBERT	32
THE PELICAN	33
CORINIUM ALES	35
ULEY BREWERY	34, 35

HOP KETTLE BREWERY	36
THE NOTTINGHAM ARMS	4-9, 37
ST. GEORGES VAULTS	44
THE HOPTICIAN	45
THE INN AT FOSSEBRIDGE	46
ARKELL'S BREWERY	46
THE OLD SPOT, DURSLEY	47
THE ROYAL HOP POLE	47
JD WETHERSPOON	60, 61
THE MEZBAAN	64
CELLAR SUPPLIES	71
THE BLACK BEAR	72

## 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.

Establishment	Where	Offer	
THE BELL HOTEL	TEWKESBURY	10% OFF REAL ALES	<b>NEW</b>
THE BERKELEY ARMS	TEWKESBURY	10% OFF REAL ALES	
BUTFORD ORGANICS CIDER & PERRIES	BODENHAM HEREFORD	10% OFF WEEKEND SHOP PURCHASES (MIN £20 SPEND)	
THE CANTERBURY	TEWKESBURY	10% OFF REAL ALES	
THE NOTTINGHAM ARMS	TEWKESBURY	30P OFF REAL ALES, MON & TUES	
THE PRINCE ALBERT	STROUD	20P OFF REAL ALES	

# Cellar Supplies Clavell & Hind

YOUR RELIABLE, LOCAL DRINKS WHOLESALER  
& BREWER OF LOCAL ALES

6 DAY PER WEEK DELIVERY WITHIN 20 MILES  
6 DAY SAME DAY LOCAL DELIVERY  
FULL RANGE OF NATIONAL, REGIONAL & LOCAL BRANDS  
LOCALLY BREWED DRAUGHT & CASK BRANDS:



COME AND ENJOY OUR BRANDS & OUR FAMOUS OUTLAW  
HOSPITALITY AT OUR PURPOSE BUILT TAPROOM AT:

UNIT 2, ELMSTONE BUSINESS PARK, ELMSTONE HARDWICKE, GL51 9SY



## 01242 677118

WWW.CELLARSUPPLIES.CO.UK  
WWW.CLAVELLANDHIND.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**

**REGULAR LIVE MUSIC, QUIZ NIGHTS, GREAT FOOD**

**LARGE RIVERSIDE GARDEN**



## **QUIZMASTER WANTED!**

We are looking for a permanent quizmaster for our regular tuesday 8.30pm quiz.  
Please email [luke@freehouse.co.uk](mailto:luke@freehouse.co.uk) if you're interested.

68 High Street, Tewkesbury GL20 5BJ

Hours: Mon closed; Tues – Thurs 10:00-0:00 Fri – Sat 10:00-1:00 Sun 10:00-0:00