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# the tippler

AUTUMN 2025

INSIDE

Cider Special:  
Autumnal Musings  
The Tegestologist:  
Musical Mats



# STROUD BREWERY

WE'RE HERE TO PROVE THAT BEER CAN BE BRILLIANT  
WITHOUT CUTTING CORNERS.



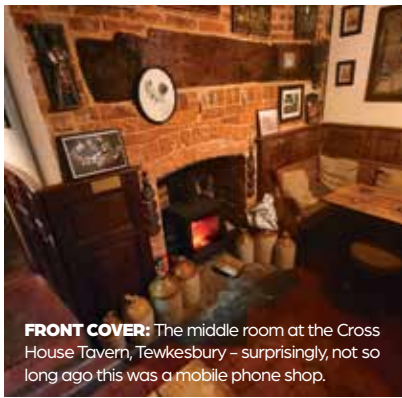
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BEER  
REAL  
TASTE

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STROUD BREWERY: PROUDLY ORGANIC, PROUDLY  
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**FRONT COVER:** The middle room at the Cross House Tavern, Tewkesbury – surprisingly, not so long ago this was a mobile phone shop.

Welcome to



# the tippler

**AUTUMN 2025**

THE MAGAZINE OF THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE BRANCHES OF THE CAMPAIGN FOR REAL ALE

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## Got something to say?

### Then please get in touch!

We value feedback and news from around the county, so, if want to make a contribution, compliment or criticise, contact:

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

### Next contribution deadline: November 7th 2025

Advertising rates available on request at [chris@thetippler.co.uk](mailto:chris@thetippler.co.uk)



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

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

# EDITORIAL . . .



**Blimey! What's all this then? Well, it's a relaunch as it's known in the print trade. This issue marks my 12th year as editor of this august organ and I'm delighted with the result, I hope you are too.**

Big thanks must go to my design partner, Pete Adams, who has struggled tirelessly to bring me into line and make a magazine that looks like a grown up has produced it. What a great job, clean, tidy and much easier to navigate, adults around the county will be celebrating.

The Autumn is a traditional time to start to enjoy the fruits of the orchards and the West Country has a strong tradition in cider, cyder and perry making. Part of the CAMRA mission is to promote these ancient arts, but it is often lost in the clamour for real ales.

We have three different features from cider enthusiasts in this issue and we would encourage more interest from anyone out there who wants to have a go at sending in a feature/story for the Tippler, we'll always take a look.

There are of course, all the usual features and articles and lively letters pages, and of course, the competitions that continue to be ridiculously popular. We must thank all of our sponsors for their generosity, as without them you couldn't enjoy the benefits of the prizes.

Our other advertising supporters should also be mentioned, because without them you wouldn't be reading this. So please support them all, the pubs, clubs, breweries, cider and perry makers, get out into the towns and countryside and enjoy our great drinking heritage.

Cheers!

Chris Leibbrandt

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DOG FRIENDLY

# Letters to the Editor



Hi Chris,

The Tippler has a number of beers that are described as organic and even vegan, but I have yet to see gluten free beers in the magazine.

As someone who is a coeliac I know that there are gluten free beers out there, but they are generally bottled beers from specialist brewers such as the Hilltop Brewery. Maybe your readers can enlighten me as to any that are available in pubs or clubs?

Harold Grouse

**'Many thanks for the email, I'll pass it on to our resident experts, perhaps this could be a feature for the next magazine?'**

**I do know that GWB, now Hop Union Brewery, always brewed gluten free beers, but I am not sure that this is still the case. Whatever, they do make the excellent 'Sallywag', a proper old school pint of bitter: marvellous!**

**I suspect there are quite a few others working on them too, so let's see what the brains trust who write for us have to say about the subject. Cheers!'**

Hi Chris,

I'd like to introduce myself, I'm James (Jim) Fry, North Cotswold Branch Cider and Perry Coordinator. Also Postlip festivals new Cider bar coordinator.

I've been wanting to get in touch with you for some years now, but running a busy Plumbing and Heating Company I just struggled for time.

I have so many stories, experiences and anecdotes from Ciderland, that I've often felt they would make a good article from time to time, as I couldn't commit to a regular article at the moment.

I am contacting you now as I have a potential article I feel I'd like to send in for your consideration for the next edition of The Tippler.

Now I know you have you two regular articles from both Dereck and Guy, your regular and informative scribes, but perhaps if one could be saved/parked for the following edition if there is an overload of Cider articles, as I'm sure the general readers are in fact Ale heads, there's only so much cider they want to read about. But let's not forget that Camra does stand for Campaign for Real Apples?!

Moving on swiftly before the heckling starts, The reason why I feel that this potential articles timing is critical is because it's blossom time and this is situation or experience, as it may be termed, was solely triggered by the blossom.

I look forward to your response.

Jim Fry

The 'North Cotswolds' Cyder & Perry guy (aka Fryder)

**'Many thanks for the offer, the autumn is always the best time for features on cider and perry, so in my view, with our west country heritage we should have as much coverage of these pressing issues as possible.'**

**Let's put it into the next magazine and see what the reaction from the readers is.'**

Hello Chris,

I thoroughly enjoyed reading the latest edition of The Tippler.

I particularly enjoyed the article by Deaf Boy Wanderin' John describing one of our favourite walks and pubs, it's a real treasure.

The picture of All Saints Church in Coddington isn't of the church mentioned in the walk...after a bit of research it's of a church of the same name but in Coddington, Nottinghamshire.

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THE GOOD BEER GUIDE 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 will be published!

It's of little consequence, but the one that's mentioned in Herefordshire has a very prominent spire.

Looking forward to the next edition, it's an excellent publication. Cheers,  
Bill Fleming

**'Great to hear the feedback, very welcome it is too. I've had a word in Deaf Boy's (working) shell-like and he'll be a bit more diligent next time. I've never heard of him being called a treasure, I can only think it's an ancient one. Cheers!'**

Hi Chris,

I managed to find the new Tippler at the Sandford Ale House.

Good luck with improving the ranking of the Tippler... the only way is up I guess. Though some of the winners are poor in my view.

I do like Pints West, and especially like their more thorough review of breweries compared to ours, (better this month), but I imagine it's tough getting contributors.

Perhaps we could have the winning answers in the following magazines and winners names if GDPR allows. That might tick another box and get us up to 7th. Cheers!  
Russell Murfitt

**'Many thanks for the kind worms (doh! is that a tiepin?) they are always welcome. Well, we're doing something right, the last magazine being the biggest ever at 84 pages, (possibly the biggest regional CAMRA magazine in the UK) and I left out around 12 pages. Why, you may ask? Well, we have to juggle the advertising revenue with the print costs and the competition prizes in order to make it work. More advertisers will mean more content, so we go for that.**

**As for the competition winners, you'll find them at the end.'**

Hi Chris,

I've been reading your great magazine at my favourite pub ever, The Plough in Prestbury, surely this should be pub of the year?!

Anyhow, I was after a Tippler T shirt, one for me, and one for my mate, two larges please?

Is this the right address for this? If not who?

I will also be joining CAMRA from reading this great magazine, very good!

Tristan Undy

**'Hello Tristan, many thanks for the email. Pub of the Year is always an interesting one, the great thing is that, by joining, you can vote on the next one. Great to have you aboard and even better news that the Tippler helped sway your decision.**

**On the other note, you certainly are in the right place for the Tee shirts. They're currently £12 each including P&P, so a bargain! You can send a cheque or BACS payment, let me know if that's OK.**

**Cheers! (I like getting letters like yours!)**

Hi Chris,

Very entertaining magazine. Print Rules!

I've always been something of an obsessive about Ivor Gurney, our Gloucestershire poet, composer, WWI casualty and lost cause. I was in Gloucester Cathedral (where he was an organ scholar) recently and a man recommended I go to the pub named after one of his most celebrated poems.

The pub is called the Turmut-Hoer. It's in Abbeymead and has the CAMRA seal of approval.

It's horrible and the antithesis of everything Ivor cared about. He was a free spirit, a wanderer, who enjoyed a beer or two in the context of conversation.

(Cont'd overleaf)

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THE GOOD BEER GUIDE 2025

# Letters to the Editor



The Turmut Hoer is the only pub I have ever been to where if you arrive by car you have to log in just to have a drink.

It has multiple screens blasting out sport that no one present appeared to be watching.

Best of all, it had another unique feature: a single toilet cubicle in the gents and a printed notice telling you not to use the lock because it was broken.

The clientele are mostly local people of advancing years and good luck to them. I am willing to bet that 50 per cent of the men there could fix the lock in seconds for virtually nothing. If I'd had my tools I'd have done it, risking the wrath of the computer-gazing management,

The pub, apparently, is waiting for a brewery-approved operative to arrive. Possibly from the Midlands (whence the brewers hail) or Kent or Scotland or Slovenia. As a result, it stays unifixed. And people put up with it.

In fairness, as is common in Wetherspoons-influenced hostelries, the 'heritage' stuff is quite nicely done. But what a waste. Our real heritage is not pictures of old stuff: it's a tradition of hospitality, sharing and conviviality.

Why would CAMRA endorse such a place?

John Morrish

(Every editor loves a free photograph!

Credit me if you like.)

So what exactly is a Turmut Hoer, I hear you ask? Well according to the Worldwide Interweb, 'a turmut is a kind of vegetable and the hoer is the person who grows and harvests them.' Now you know.

## Turmut-Hoeing – Ivor Gurney

The poem, published 1919

I straightened my back from turmut-hoeing  
And saw, with suddenly opened eyes,  
Tall trees, a meadow ripe for mowing,  
And azure June's cloud-circled skies.

Below, the earth was beautiful  
Of touch and colour, fair each weed,  
But Heaven's high beauty held me still,

Only of music had I need.  
And the white-clad girl at the old farm,  
Who smiled and looked across at me,  
Dumb was held by that strong charm  
Of cloud-ships sailing a foamless sea.



Ivor Gurney was an English poet and composer, born and raised in Gloucester. He fought in the Great War in the Gloucestershire Regiment, writing a book of poems called 'Severn and Somme.'

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Hello Chris,

I thought that you'd appreciate a minor celebration of your birthday, I saw this card and was going to send it to myself, but reckoned you could use it. The plaque offers sound advice for anyone worried about the lack of reservoirs in the country.

Deaf Boy Wanderin' John

'Thanks for that mate, really appreciate it. I take back everything I've said about you, none of it was true.'



## Summer Issue 2025 Competition Winners

### Brewhouse & Kitchen (Gloucester) Prize

#### Crossword:

The featured brewery is 'Tiny Rebel' and the three winners are: Sue Rutherford, Hannah Blackburn & Nick Taylor.

#### Uley Brewery Prize Wordsearch:

The featured phrase was 'Life and beer are very similar - chill for best results' and the four winners are Julie Bunce, Jane Brown, David Jackman & Stephanie Morgan

#### Stroud Brewery Caption Competition:

The two winners are Bill Taylor with 'Nobody's poisoned the waterhole, Woody, it's just two pints is your limit', and Jenny Percival with 'Rocky fails to impress any hens with his limp Woody'

#### Wetherspoons Name That Pub Competition:

The featured pub is The Pelican in Gloucester and the winner is Sherie McKeegan.

#### Tippler Tee-Shirt Prize Letter Competition:

The winner is John Morrish.

## NEW FOR 2025

### PRIZE LETTER

Gloucester Brewery are now the sponsors of the new Tippler Tee-Shirt prize letter where you can win one of our coveted Tippler Tee Shirts.



## GLOUCESTER BREWERY

Send your letters, along with your Tee-shirt size, by either email, or by old-school post, to the Editor at:

The Tippler, 23 Theocs Close,  
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THE GOOD  
BEER  
GUIDE  
2025

# THE HUNTER'S COLUMN

Our intrepid hero heads towards Stow, and on the way, popped in to the ancient watering hole, the Hobnails, and was knocked out by stories of a famous bellicose visitor during the war years...



**Pub Quiz Question: Which Tewkesbury CAMRA pub used to boast Rocky Marciano as a regular customer? Rocky Marciano? Now Rocky might be unknown to the new kids on the CAMRA block but, he was the only undefeated, heavyweight champion in boxing history, and the character, Rocky Balboa, in the 'Rocky' films is named after him. That could get you a bonus pint!**

The name 'Rocky' and the character's fighting style and overall persona were directly inspired by Marciano, whose career lasted from 1947 to 1955. He held the world heavyweight championship from 1952 to 1956." (Wikipedia)

However, during the Second World War (watch out for the coming sequel, courtesy of D J Trump)



Rocky or Rocco, as it states on his birth certificate – he was born to Italian immigrant parents in Massachusetts – was a G.I. in the American Army and based in Swansea. Rocky was attached to Supplies and would visit Gloucestershire calling into the American camps at Ashchurch and Toddington Manor.

Between the two camps lies the Hobnails Inn and it was there that Private First Class Marchegiano (he shortened it to Marciano to make it more pronounceable) would call in to ask 'Pop' Fletcher for "My usual, please" and be presented with a bottle of Scotch in a brown paper bag.

The Fletcher family had been publicans at the Hobnails for 256 years over 13 generations, dating back to 1743. In 1640 it became a drovers' inn and the hardy boots of farmers taking their stock to market lives on in the pub's name. Tomas Shurry, Mrs Farbrother's ancestor, bought it for £25.' (Guardian: August 1999).

The pub itself proudly displays the date 1473 on its east facing wall, although I have seen the year 1280 quoted as the year of origin, but without any authentication. It was originally a manor house, becoming an inn in around 1595, according to Peter Gibson's booklet, 'A Celebration of 250 Years in the Fletcher Family 1743 - 1993'. If you see a copy, grab it, it's quite rare. There is a single copy behind the bar, available on request.

The 'Hobs' has its complement of ghosts and poltergeists of which Steve Farbrother, the husband of Vanessa (née Fletcher), will gladly confirm. Steve and Vanessa were the last Fletcher family link to the pub and retired in 1999.

The ghost is said to be that of young Harry, born out of wedlock and buried in the only grave in the nearby Little Washbourne church – 'The churchyard has only one grave as the ground is waterlogged – legend says it is that of a boy

who drowned and now mischievously haunts the nearby Hobnails Inn.' (Churches Conservation Trust).

There we have it, as if from 'His Master's Voice' himself. Rocky and his G.I. buddies were more likely to have drowned in beer, which despite being in short supply like everything else during the war, Pop Fletcher had an uncanny knack of getting his hands on. Pre-war, in the 1930's, after a visit by Pop to Blackpool, the pub promoted itself as being the first in England to make its own hot dogs. Over time these transmorphed into baps, for which the pub gained some celebrity and punters would come from far and wide to get their snouts into the trough.

So much so that Steve became known as Bapman (De, de, de, de, de, de, de, de).

The pub had a knack of leading the field. 1925 had seen the Hobs introduce the first petrol pumps on the Tewkesbury to Stow road, which were in use until 1954, and the family also provided the first bus service from the Hobnails into Cheltenham.

There were other American connections too. Steve and Vanessa regularly hosted the American Ambassador, Charles H Price II, along with his mate



Henry Ford II, a.k.a. Hank The Deuce (honest!), who were friends of the local Hambro's banking family, and used to stay at the nearby Dixon Hall. I'm not sure whether he used to turn up like Rocky and ask for "My usual, please" but he probably thought that any friend of Bapman is a friend of mine (De, de, de ,de, de, de, de, de).

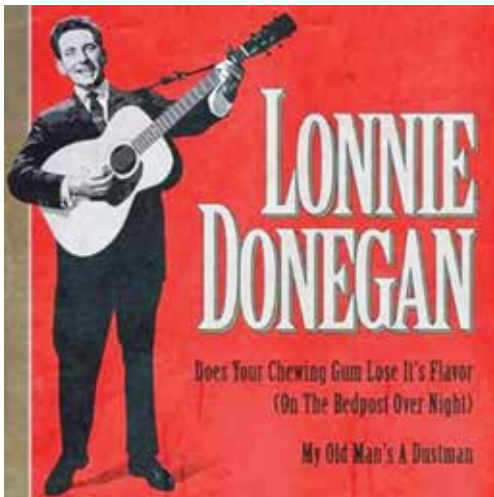
On the CAMRA national website, there is no other listing of a pub with the same name. It has been suggested that the name 'Hobnails' came from Tewkesbury nail making, once a substantial industry in the town. A hobnail is a short nail with a thick head used to increase the lifetime of footwear, and your feet I'd guess.

Personally, I never wore hobnail boots, but Lonnie Donegan's dad did. He used to sing about him all the time:

**My old man's a dustman,  
'e wears a dustman's 'at,  
'e wears cor blimey trousers  
an' 'e lives in a council flat.  
'e looks a proper 'nana,  
in 'is great big 'obnail boots,  
'e 'as such a job to pull 'em up  
that 'e calls 'em daisy roots'.**

Lonnie would have gone down a bomb in the Hobs, bashing out his repertoire of American blues and skiffle tunes in his nasally twang.

He later developed a strange obsession in the flavour retention properties of chewing gum on bedroom furniture overnight. The Yanks would have loved that.



*The Hunter*

## A Tribute to John Pickles

**It is with great sadness to inform you that our friend John has died after a lengthy illness.**

John was originally from Manchester where he studied to be a teacher. He moved to Gloucestershire in the 1980s. John taught at a couple of primary schools here and was known by the children for his patience and kindness.

After retiring, he went to Dunalley Primary School on a voluntary basis to help poor readers improve. He was also involved with the Friends of Pittville, often helping with cleaning-up the Park. He was a volunteer at Cheltenham General Hospital, going round the wards brightening up someone's day.

Athletics was one of John's keen interests. The peak of his Athletics officiating was the 2012 London Olympics. He was the Chief Starter's Assistant\*.

John joined Cheltenham CAMRA Committee some years ago and was our Membership Secretary. He was also the Staffing Office for one of our beer festivals. He could always be relied upon to help with setting-up and other important tasks.

John had a very happy disposition, and he helped enormously with our charity Christmas Sing-alongs. You could count on him and his wife Susan to help with the raffle and persuade people to buy tickets.

An unusual hobby he had was crocheting. He could be seen on the train going on our Ale Ambles with his needle out, totally engrossed. A result of this, he made several gnomes and kindly did one especially for the Ale Amblers. John also made poppies to sell with donations going to the Royal British Legion.

In summary, he was a terrific person and will be missed by us all.

\* John was such a modest man – he not only officiated at the highest level of Commonwealth Games, World Athletics Championships and London Olympics (I'll never forget seeing him on tv behind Usain Bolt just before the 100m final) but also at the Primary Schools Athletics Finals in Cheltenham & Tewkesbury – Pete Adams, Tewkesbury CAMRA




# Make Mine a Treble

## Three Award Wins for the Cheltenham Motor Club

**On July 1st the Cheltenham Motor Club was presented with two CAMRA awards, the Cheltenham Branch Club of the Year and the Gloucestershire Club of the Year.**

In late news it has been announced that the Motor Club has also won the West Central Regional Club of the Year, against the best that Herefordshire, Worcestershire, and Oxfordshire have to offer. The Club now goes forward to the National final – a title that the club has already won three times in twelve years.

“It’s a clean sweep for the Motor Club”, said Cheltenham Branch Chair, Rob Coldwell. “It’s a great achievement, and a tribute to Club Steward Neil Way. He keeps delivering top class beers from across the UK and the continent. Everyone in Cheltenham, and I am sure across the whole county, wish the club luck in the National Club of the Year final.”



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(L to R) Rob Coldwell (Cheltenham Branch Chair), Neil Way (Motor Club) & Peter Bennetts (Gloucestershire CAMRA County Coordinator).

# Cotswold Beer Festival 2025

## Another resounding success

**The 47th Cotswold Beer Festival, in July, was easily the most successful since before the pandemic. Over 2,100 tickets were sold in total for the Friday, Saturday, and the new two-day all-weekend pass.**

Due in part to the great weather, demand for great beer, cider and entertainment saw near capacity attendance. As a result, the 107 firkins of beer (about 7,500 pints) almost completely sold out by the 9 p.m. closing time on Saturday evening. This meant that, for the first time in living memory, there was no Sunday drinking-up session.

As the first firkin to sell out, the 'People's Choice' for beer of the festival was awarded to **Clavell and Hind's Blunderbuss**, a superb Golden Ale. **Tiley's IPA** and **Sarah Hughes' Dark Ruby Mild** were close runners-up.

In the 'Gloucestershire Beer of the Year' contest, a panel of trained CAMRA judges (and representatives of Gloucestershire's beer

trade) awarded the medals. Of the nineteen Gloucestershire breweries, who supplied thirty-eight beers, the winners were:

- Gold:** Tiley's - IPA
- Silver:** Ashton - Jaffa Cake
- Bronze:** Corinium - Centurion II Stout

The cider bar had its largest selection of cider and perry ever, with 35 ciders and 10 perries, nearly all sourced from the three counties, except for three Somerset and one Welsh cider. The two sweetest ciders sold out within 20 minutes of the start of the Saturday opening. The first to go was the Elderflower Infusion by Priors Tipple, local cider maker from Stanway. By 8:00pm on Saturday, the cider was getting incredibly low, and because the beers ran out, cider had a boost and was gone by 10:00pm.

The experienced cider judging panel produced the following results:

**Best cider:** Old Stag Cider's "Oak Cask" whiskey barrel matured medium cider

**Reserve:** Core Cider's (James McCrindles) 'Yarlington Mill' single variety vintage cider

**Best perry:** Oliver's Cider and Perry – a classic Perry

Thanks go to the volunteer cider bar staff – Ali and Dianne, Angela and Carol, Guy, Nubia, Kerry, Isaac, and especially Martin Raven for his years of tireless running of the Postlip cider bar.

Food was again a focal point. The return of the popular 'Postlip BBQ', alongside the food trucks from Cotswold Pizza and Sri-Licious, was a big hit through the weekend.

As usual great entertainment, to complement great beer and cider, helped to draw the crowds. Double Bass Dan and his band (which featured Dan's young son on drums for some numbers) headlined on Friday night. Dan even helped behind the soft drinks stand on the Saturday evening. The

Tewkesbury Town Band returned for their usual ever-popular Saturday lunchtime session, whilst The Mocking Jays had the crowds up and dancing on the Saturday evening.

The emphasis on family entertainment and evening bands mean the festival has a noticeably younger crowd than at many beer festivals.

Due to the kindness of festival goers, from donated token aid, £1,020 was raised for two charities, 'Maggie's Cancer Support in Cheltenham and Papyrus.

Thanks are due to all the hard-working, ever-cheerful volunteers, and to the loyal fans and new festival lovers who make this such a memorable weekend.

We look forward to seeing you back at the 48th Cotswold Beer Festival which, thanks to the popularity this year, will see an increased quantity of great beer, cider and perry.

**POSTLIP 2026**  
**Save the date:**  
**17th to 19th July 2026**

# BREWERS & LANDLORDS

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**WHATEVER IT IS – NEW MANAGEMENT, AN UPCOMING EVENT  
OR A NEW RANGE OF BEERS, JUST LET US KNOW!**

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



# Gloucestershire Beer of the Year 2025

The 'Gloucestershire Beer of the Year' contest has one purpose, to judge all the beers submitted to the Cotswold Beer Festival by our county's top brewers.

**This year 38 beers from 19 breweries were entered into competition.**

Beers from the bigger players like DEYA, Gloucester, and Stroud breweries, were up against smaller or garage producers like Ashton, Tewkesbury, or Little Avon. Whatever the size or reputation, countywide bragging rights were at stake.

A panel of 14, consisting of trained CAMRA judges, tasting panel members and respected professionals from the county's beer trade, was chaired by Leigh Norwood of Favourite Beers.

The competition followed the stringent CAMRA

style guide and scoring system, as used in the national CAMRA competitions. All beers, through both rounds of judging, were tasted blind. Judges only discovered the identity of all the beers after the competition finished.

In the first-round judges were (where possible) allocated a single specific beer style i.e., Session Bitter, Premium Pale Ale, Stouts, etc. When all the judges' scores were in, the top scoring beers from the beer styles went forward to the final round:

All the judges then tasted the seven winning beers, and after tallying, the results were as follows:

## GLoucestershire Beer of the Year – Champion Beers

POSITION	BREWERY	NAME	STYLE
<b>GOLD</b>	<b>Tiley's</b>	<b>IPA</b>	<b>India Pale Ale</b>
<b>SILVER</b>	<b>Ashton</b>	<b>Jaffa Cake</b>	<b>Strong Stout</b>
<b>BRONZE</b>	<b>Corinium</b>	<b>Centurion II</b>	<b>Session Stout</b>
<b>4th</b>	<b>Brewhouse &amp; Kitchen Cheltenham</b>	<b>Crystal Rock</b>	<b>Session Bitter</b>
<b>5th</b>	<b>Inferno</b>	<b>Spark</b>	<b>Session Pale Ale</b>
<b>6th</b>	<b>Inferno</b>	<b>Martha's Revenge</b>	<b>Speciality Beer Flavoured</b>
<b>7th</b>	<b>Gloucester</b>	<b>Gloucester Gold</b>	<b>Session Golden Ale</b>

**The People's Choice Award** (the first beer to run out) was Clavell & Hind's **Blunderbuss**, a 4.2% Session Pale Ale.

Thanks go to the judges for their due diligence, and the difficult task of picking winning beers from a very fine selection of Gloucestershire's best. Thanks also to Steve Williams, for running the competition and to Richard James and Dave Burney for keeping the judges properly supplied.

If you would like to find out more about CAMRA's Beer Styles, then you can view and download a guide from here:

<https://tinyurl.com/CAMRA-BEER-STYLE>

# Gloucestershire CAMRA County Update

Since April this year there have been many notable changes, successes and achievements in the County.

Firstly, the Gloucestershire Branch name could not be sustained as it did not cover the whole of Gloucestershire. A poll was conducted, and the Branch has been renamed **Mid Gloucestershire**.

To establish the new branch, an AGM was held, and I have taken the role of Chairman on a temporary basis. I hope that a permanent Chairman can be found, but in the meantime, I hope to re-establish the Branch and support events and the membership as a whole.

As regards pubs and clubs of the year, it has been a fantastic year for Gloucestershire as it has scooped all West Central regional awards, competing against pubs and clubs in Herefordshire, Worcestershire and Oxfordshire.

**The Regional Pub of the Year is the Pelican Inn in Gloucester;**

**The Regional Cider Pub of the Year is the Carpenters Arms in Westrip near Stroud;**

**The Regional Club of the Year is the Cheltenham Motor Club.**

If you are a CAMRA member, please make sure that you submit beer scores. The Pubs with the best beer scores will be the primary source for selection of Pub of the Year in 2026.

The GBG app and the What Pub website have been closed, and scoring can now be found on the main CAMRA website <https://camra.org.uk/pubs>.



**Peter Bennetts**

Gloucestershire County Coordinator

Chairman Mid Gloucestershire Branch

## CALLING ALL CAMRA MEMBERS!

**Are you feeling ignored? Has your branch not contacted you lately? Wondering why all these activities in the Tippler are going on without you?**

**It may not be because the local branch is a grumpy clique. It could well be that they do not know you exist.**

A surprisingly high percentage of new members either request not to be contacted by their local branch, or if they do want to be contacted, do not include their email address.

In this day and age it can become an automatic response to deselect contact so cascades of emails do not flood your inbox, but this is not trying to sell you anything, merely helping you join convivial events for beer consumption purposes.

**Fortunately this can easily be rectified**

**Go to the Camra website and sign in.**

At the top right you will see your initials in a black circle. Click on that, then on **My Profile** and then on **Marketing Preferences**. This will show you in detail various different types of contact, including **Branch**.

This is the important one to allow. While you are in **My Profile**, check that your email address is there. Many have been omitted.

You will now appear on the membership lists available to the branch – although the change of one in many can be hard to spot, so an email to the Branch Contacts listed in Tippler would speed things up.

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

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

at Moreton in Marsh Cricket Club  
**12th & 13th September 2025**

45 Beers 20 Ciders & Perry

Food & Soft Drinks Live Bands

**Fri-Paige and The Red Shift**

**Sat-Barrons & Hall, The Dropouts**

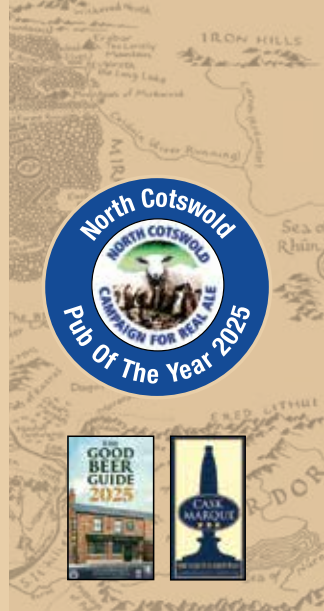
Camping & Parking  
See website for details.

Friday 11am to 11pm Entry £4

Saturday 11am to 11pm Entry £4

CAMRA members receive beer token allowance





# An Inspirational Cotswold Inn

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# A Social Finish to a Whirlwind of a Year

With the Winter Ales Festival and Pub of the Year now behind us, we've recently been enjoying a few social events – in my first year as Tewkesbury Chairman, I've really enjoyed the social scene of the Tewkesbury Branch and getting to meet and know so many members.

## Black Country Rocks

A recent highlight was the coach trip for TWAf volunteers in early July to the Black Country, which incorporated the iconic pubs of The Beacon Hotel, Ma Pardoe's and The Vine.

This was a well-attended trip, a good time was had by all. We all enjoyed the choice of excellent quality ales with the occasional local cob (a bread roll, not a male swan).

## Great British Beer Festival

Utilising local transport, ten members attended the Great British Beer Festival at the NEC on Friday 8th August. The excellent public transport links made access easy and convenient. Along the way, we met up with numerous members from surrounding branches which only added to the enjoyment of the trip. The forward-thinking members had booked an overnight stay in Birmingham to make the most of the festival and the city, a lesson learnt for future GBBF's!

## Summer Social BBQ

Just to prove that you can't have too much of a good time, our **Branch Summer Social** was held on Sunday 10th August at the **Inferno Firepit Bar and Venue**. With 50 people in attendance, and blessed with perfect weather, we had a fine choice and range of award-winning real ales. Members and volunteers from Tewkesbury Winter Ale Festival were able to relax and sample the food from the BBQ.

## Tewkesbury Brewing Open Day

By the time this Tippler is in circulation the branch will have supported the grand opening of **Tewkesbury Brewing Company's** new tap room on 30th August. The venue will be a great addition to an already strong real ale scene in Tewkesbury.

## Other recent trips

As well as all of this, over the summer months there have been minibus trips to **The Three Kings** in Hanley Swan, the **Nags Head**, Malvern and several pubs in **Moreton in Marsh**.

So, all in all, plenty of destinations and chance for members to socialise and enjoy their choice of real ale or cider.



The Tewkesbury table at the Great British Beer Festival (John and Sheridan Roberts leading the toast!)



BBQ fun at the Inferno Firepit

# Looking Ahead - Tewkesbury Diary Dates

Looking ahead, there are several other events planned to enable members to build on the last few months:

## Saturday, 11th October

CAMRA Tasting panel event at The Black Bear, Tewkesbury. Starting at 11:00am, this is a joint event organised by Cheltenham CAMRA and Tewkesbury CAMRA. Cost is £10 per head, book early as capacity is limited to 20 people.

## Thursday, 16th October

Minibus trip to Ledbury leaving The Crescent, Tewkesbury at 18:30 and returning from Ledbury at 22:30. £10 per head

## Saturday, 22nd November

Coach trip to Ludlow leaving The Crescent at 11:00am and returning from Ludlow at 18:30. The cost is £20 per head with a £10 non-refundable deposit. The coach is already 80% full, so spaces are limited and expected to go quickly.

## Saturday, 20th December

Tewkesbury Xmas Bash at Watson Hall, a date to put in your calendar with further details to follow.

Details will shortly be announced about local **Ale Evening Ambles around Tewkesbury** during the autumn and winter months. This is a chance to help support Tewkesbury local real ale venues and provide a chance for members to enjoy each others' company.

If you would like to attend any of the above events please email:

[chair@tewkesbury.camra.org.uk](mailto:chair@tewkesbury.camra.org.uk)

and we will ensure you are put in touch with the right person.

A massive thank you to everyone who has made these social events a success, but a well deserved shout out to **Justin Gowthorpe and Phil Comens** who have put a lot of unseen effort into arranging all our trips.

John Roberts

Chairman, Tewkesbury CAMRA

wetherspoon

## THE ROYAL HOP POLE HOTEL CHURCH ST, TEWKESBURY



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SCAN FOR THE  
LATEST ON  
EVENTS & NEWS



# Steady as She Goes!

**A recent change of hands at The Britannia has brought new life to a well known Tewkesbury establishment**

**There's a new captain of the ship at the Britannia in Tewkesbury High Street. Paula Milton has a wealth of experience in the pub trade, starting as a pub chef in Exeter way back in 1976, so next year is a big celebration!**

Throughout this long career, Paula has worked in various roles in the pub trade, all of the previous years spent in venues big and small along the south coast, the Midlands, up t'North and Wales have been an investment in her new role in Tewkesbury.

'I've worked all over the place and have been on the lookout for a pub that I can bring back to its former glory – the Britannia was an obvious choice' said Paula, 'I know that its recent history has been a bit up and down with short-term lets and changes of hands.

'I'm here to steady the ship and bring some stability. An all-round new lick of paint, some decent sorting out of furniture and we're ready for action. Fortunately the cellar is a good one,

nice and cool in the recent hot weather, and the kitchens are first class too.'

Paula's experience as a chef is already being appreciated around town with an excellent menu – all cooked on site, the Sunday lunches being a standout.

The waves of new customers are beginning to gather momentum as the friendly atmosphere and good beer are being noticed. With three handpumps in action, one thing that is good to see is a regular choice of stronger bitters such as ESB, HSB and the like, with Paula always on the lookout for interesting choices (Hurrah! – Ed.).

Live music has been another irregular feature, but it always brings in trade.

Paula comments: 'I'm looking to be able to put on some decent popular music, with, as the real ales, a choice for drinkers to enjoy. All in all, I have to say a big thank you to the local community for how well I've been received, it certainly makes me want to stay!'



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Opening times: Mon/Tues (bar only) 12–9.30pm; Wed to Sat 12–11pm  
(Kitchen 12–3pm & 5–8.30pm); Sun 12–10pm (Kitchen 12–4pm)



The Thirsty Pine Presents:



# Ostoberfest

## September

Thursday

Saturday

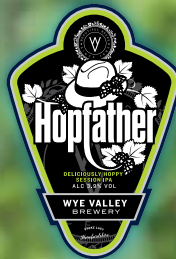
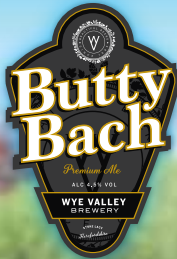
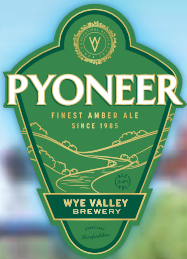
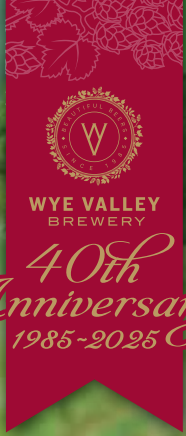
# 25<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup>

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# RAISE A GLASS TO 40 YEARS OF BEAUTIFUL BEERS!





# THE TIPPLER



A newsletter for public house customers, produced by the Gloucestershire Branch of the Campaign for Real Ale.

No 1: JAN 1978

**Geoff Sandles, long-time CAMRA man and pub archivist asks if he's created a valuable archive or just a vast collection of random bits of paper? In amongst the piles is the very first copy of this magazine, the Tippler, still going strong after 47 years...**

**It's difficult to know whether the effort of cutting thousands of newspaper articles relating to Gloucestershire pubs and breweries over the last 40 to 50 years has created a valuable archive or just a vast collection of random bits of paper.**

The newspaper cuttings are housed in dozens of loose-leaf files, each pub being designated its own plastic wallet to keep the collection accessible. Although monetarily worthless, and bordering on clutter, the accumulation of such material arguably gets more interesting with the passage of time. Within those files are memories and details of pubs long-gone, and in the case of demolished pubs the newspaper cuttings may represent the only physical evidence that they ever existed at all.

Besides buying local newspapers over the years, I have been fortunate to have been 'gifted' huge collections of Gloucester Citizens, Dursley Gazettes, and a selection of Forest of Dean papers including the Dean Forest Mercury and Lydney Observer.

I must thank Mark Turner of Cinderford archives. When a mountain of old newspapers, some dating back to the 1960's, were discovered piled up ceiling high in a room of a house of a sadly deceased hoarder in Lydney, the archives simply took the relevant Forest of Dean local papers and disposed of the rest – asking if anyone would be interested in taking them.

Gloucestershire Echo, Tuesday, August 24th, 2009

## Campaigners lose battle to save pub

/pubs-and-bars 25/6/14

### Last orders called but pub campaigners vow to go on

Brockworth: Parish council chief 'disappointed but not surprised'

## Loss of historic pub is bitter blow

IN HISTORIC Brockworth pub faces demolition, despite the efforts of villagers who speed to preserve it as community asset.

By Andy Davies

There are 1,000 pubs in Gloucestershire, but only 100 are still open. The loss of Brockworth pub is a bitter blow to the village.

The Brockworth pub has been a landmark since the 17th century. It was built in 1750, and it was the first pub in the village.

The pub was built on the site of a 17th-century inn. It was built by the same family who built the inn.

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## Prince bows out for conversion to homes

Gloucester Herald, June 16, 2014

### Ten houses are planned for pub site

Last orders called at Butchers Arms

Tears as bar closes down

Regulars are drinking their last beer at the Butchers Arms, but the final time last night.

The pub is being converted into ten houses.

The pub is being converted into ten houses.

The pub is being converted into ten houses.

## Three homes will be built on closed pub site

By Alan Thomas

The pub is being converted into three homes.

The pub is being converted into three homes.

The pub is being converted into three homes.



I somehow acquired enough 'Citizens' to warrant two car trips to collect them. It literally took years to sort through the huge pile, then when that gigantic task was nearing completion Mark asked if I would like a huge pile of duplicate Forest of Dean local papers that were surplus to their requirements. How could I resist?

I have also taken many photographs of pubs, mainly in the 1990's. Unfortunately, they were taken on basic snap-and-shoot cameras, and the prints are not of the highest quality, but they do serve as a reminder on how pubs have changed with the passage of time.

It's a shame that I never recorded the pub scene in the 1970's and 1980's when so many Whitbread pubs dominated the scene in Gloucestershire. Then, again, why would anyone in their right mind want to spend valuable money on expensive film taking photographs of pubs serving Whitbread Trophy and Tankard!

I have, however, been fortunate enough to acquire some interesting archive pub photographs including a fine collection of black and white pub images taken by a property valuer in the 1940's. The photos accompany the newspaper cuttings hidden away in those loose-leaf files. Technology moves on, and for the last 20 years or so pub photographs have been digitalised and consigned to memory sticks and computer hard-drives and no longer easily accessible. It would cost a fortune to print out every one of those digital pub images to photographic paper.

And that's not all. In addition to all those loose-leaf pub files taking up so much room in the garage, I also have accumulated boxes of CAMRA Good Beer Guides, a huge, stacked pile of 'What's Brewing' magazines, and a complete collection of 'Tippler's' dating from the first A4 size publication back in January 1978 to the current edition that contains this article.

It begs the question, am I an academic archivist or a hopeless kleptomaniac? But I have a motive, albeit hopelessly optimistic. That is to bring together all the cuttings from local newspapers, old photos, advertisements etc., combined with digital images and information gleaned from the internet and put them online on my Gloucestershire Pubs website, each pub having a dedicated webpage.

Hopefully the physical collection will be preserved in one way or another after my inevitable demise and I look up to the clouds, where the almighty server apparently saves all this stuff in perpetuity, and hope that all this effort – some 40 years or so in the making – has been all worthwhile.

**Geoff Sandles**



## 'Academic archivist or hopeless kleptomaniac?'



EARTH-CONSCIOUS BREWING

**GLOUCESTER**  
**BREWERY**

- EST. MMXI -

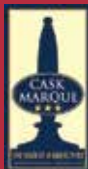
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# Make that a Double!

**The Chalford Sports & Social Club has done it again and scooped the title of Stroud CAMRA Club of the Year – for the fifth year running**

**They made it a double by triumphing in the next round to become Gloucestershire CAMRA Club of the Year.**

Ali and Rob Brady were presented with certificates recording both achievements at a presentation ceremony and celebration on Sunday 1 June.

There was a good turnout of Stroud CAMRA members, perhaps lured by the promise of a game of skittles. We made a point of timing the presentation for when the skittle alley was available.

Skittles is an endangered species in pubs these days, and one of the distinctive features of pubs (and clubs) in the southwest of England and south Wales. Any pub closure is to be regretted, but it is always particularly saddening when it involves the loss of a skittle alley—as with the closure of the

Kites Nest Inn at Lightpill on the Bath Road, where the skittle alley has disappeared under a terrace of new houses. And Shunters in Stroud, where the pub is now Sorrento's, an Italian restaurant, and the skittle alley has succumbed to a cramped courtyard of new flats.

Many Stroud CAMRA members are enthusiastic players. So to find a pub or club with a well-maintained and supported skittle alley is a boon. We played a fiercely competitive game of Killer, which was won by Josie Rawlinson for the club.

The beer range was imaginative and eclectic, confirming the Chalford Sports & Social Club as worthy winners of the double award. There was Sumo (4.7%), an American Pale Ale from Mad Squirrel brewed with Summit and Mosaic hops, Endless Summer (4.5%) from Black Iris, brewed with



Photograph by courtesy of Henry Bloomer.

Mosaic and Simcoe hops, and Ramblers Reward (3.4%), a new Slovenian Pale Ale brewed by Stroud Brewery that ran out as we arrived. All of these beers were new to me and probably to everyone else. So a good range of tastes and strengths was catered for.

The Chalford Sports & Social Club sits right at the top of Chalford Hill with a glorious southerly aspect across its own tennis courts. The club is the sporting and social hub of the village, with around 500 members. It is an astonishing resource at the heart of the community, offering a wide variety of social and sporting opportunities, from craft clubs to skittles, fitness classes to sport on TV. It is a warm and welcoming place, very family-orientated and where children are always welcome.

The club is justifiably proud of its sporting prowess. It hosts four men's football teams, two cricket sides and no less than five tennis teams, with their top players battling it out against the best in the area in the premier division. The club boasts five floodlit courts, including two synthetic clay ones.

The clubhouse is an unprepossessing flat-roofed, concrete-block bunker, but it proves to be an Aladdin's cave when it comes to the range of facilities and activities within. The main hall is big enough to accommodate 150 people and is

a popular choice for wedding receptions, parties, concerts and family events. It is also used for short mat bowls, with several sessions each week. There is a dartboard in the comfortably-furnished lounge.

But skittles is at the heart of the club, with several teams, regular competitive and social events throughout the winter and a weekday league in summer.

Ali Brady became manager in March 2018 and from that point on it was all change on the beer front. In came the handpumps and on came the real ale, and overnight the club changed from serving only pressurised keg beers to an oasis of real ale, courtesy of the Good Beer Company, run by Ali's husband Rob Brady. Rob is solely a volunteer at the club but takes care of beer ordering, line cleaning and also serves behind the bar.

The Chalford Sports & Social Club now goes forward to the next round—to compete for the title of CAMRA West Central Club of the Year. And so on until one pub out of a shortlist of four is crowned national CAMRA Club of the Year for 2025.

Tim Mars, Pubs Officer  
Stroud CAMRA  
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# The Tegestologist



Welcome to a series all about Tegestology, the little known term for the collection of beer mats. This month it's all about Music themed beer mats, of which he has quite a few in his collection . . .

**There are some things in life which always seem to go together: fish and chips; swings and roundabouts; bits and bobs. It's no different in the beer world, but I'm not talking about pickled eggs... It's music.**

How well would Glastonbury go down if it were dry? I don't mean the weather. Take the Cotswold Beer Festival for example, which has several bands performing, from the brass bands to samba troops, just to help the medicine go down.

Hundreds of pubs had juke boxes, though mostly replaced with piped music these days, but lots regularly feature a live band or two. A few pints and some rockin' music is all it takes to get folks up and dancing, and then drinking more. However, I was thinking more along the lines of bands actually making beer, or at very least creating the recipe and promoting it - on beer mats of course.

Here is cat 474 from Robinson's of Stockport, for their popular Trooper beer, which was launched

in 2013. It was developed with Bruce Dickinson, vocalist of the band Iron Maiden, and has become one of their best sellers with 40 million pints sold worldwide. Several Trooper mats feature competitions to win tickets to their UK tours or other rock festivals, and a couple of sets were available only when purchasing a particular music magazine 'Metal Hammer', which I duly did.

Not to be outdone, fellow rockers Status Quo had a beer made for them by Wychwood brewery now sadly condemned to oblivion by their parent company, Marston's whom have also been

culled by their foreign owners. This mat is cat 48 from 2014. I can picture Francis Rossi sampling the beers in the Witney brewery to get that classic English ale taste just right.



It wasn't only current musicians helping to promote beer- there were a few examples in the 1950-60's. Here is Dutton's 29 from 1963 featuring good old Bruce before he became really famous and always on telly. But he was the real deal. Here are two 2024 mats from Castle Rock with beers named in honour of two rock icons, Elton and Bowie. The festival is called Glaston Budget and is billed as the original tribute festival. I've not been, but is probably very good, and much cheaper.

Another set of four, featuring different tribute bands on the reverse of each is for the 2025 Barrow Hill beer festival near Chesterfield. It is held in an operational roundhouse engine depot, not unlike the Winter Ale festival location when previously held in Derby. It is not uncommon for real ale fans to be into trains as well as music. The success of the north Cotswold Rail Ale festival at Toddington is testament to that. Beer, steam engines, and music all on one mat. Can't complain about that. Previous years' mats

featured the sponsoring brewers' logos and not a locomotive, but loco it is for the picture this time.

West Country jazz festivals feature on mats too. Here are two mats promoting jazz, but one is catalogued as a brewery issue, the other merely brewery mention. The reasoning is that one side must be exclusively beer for it to be listed as a brewery mat, and the other can be anything. The Upton mat is Theakston 128 (2010), as the reverse is a standard Old Peculier issue. The one from Bude is the same both sides, thus not attributed to St Austell although they would probably have both been printed (and paid for) by the brewer. There are occasional exceptions to this rule. I know not why, and it makes our life as hard-working, only slightly obsessed tegetologists' life so complicated.

Sticking with London brewers, Watney's used the services of a band from the late 1960's, The Scaffold, whose number one hit was 'Lily the Pink'. They were a folk band from Liverpool featuring non-other than Mike McCartney, brother of Paul. Lily invented medicinal compound, which is perhaps another name for Watneys Pale Ale, judging by these three mats from 1970? However, the lyrics did start with 'we'll drink a drink a drink...'

Now that's a very good idea!

Russell Murfitt





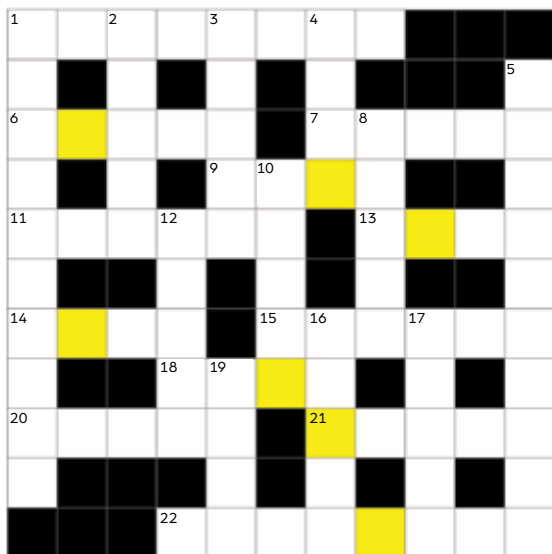
# BREWERY EXPERIENCE DAY

Spend the day brewing a beer with one of our award-winning brewers! Get hands on and involved! Our microbrewery sits right in the heart of our beautiful brewpub. You will be treated to breakfast, lunch and a lot of beers throughout your day. As your day comes to a close you will also get to choose a 5 Litre mini keg of beer to take away with you. This experience is perfect to enjoy on your own (with our brewer of course) or as part of a group!



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## What you can win

Brewhouse & Kitchen Gloucester Quays have donated a brilliant prize of three **Brewery Experience Days** to give away to the winners of this tricky crossword competition.

So get puzzling and send your solutions to the address below.

### Rearrange the yellow squares to find a brewery

#### ACROSS

1. Initially Rachel Webster mixes beer (8)
6. Bird flies North to reach the top (5)
7. Boy in South Africa in a hole (5)
9. Shade ends everything under the sky (4)
11. Sounds like country agrees change to oil (6)
13. Agreement starts pulling all countries together (4)
14. There's a bird in my nature reserve (4)
15. Stream confuses expert (6)
18. Ghastly snake makes you catch your breath (4)
20. Bad A & E is what's provided (5)
21. Wrong oaths become perennial (5)
22. This animal is always the first in order! (8)

#### DOWN

1. Return ham and get game (10)
2. Wear down pole in Eastern Europe (5)
3. Bad signs, the crooner is performing (8)
5. Josh without trousers, no trouble! (4)
6. Talk John into being a toad (10)
8. Forms the words via a keyboard (5)
10. Miser shuffles into French city (5)
12. Promotion time for truism (5)
16. Primate almost concealed by insect (8)
17. Tales about scientist (5)
19. Song from seminar I attended (4)

**Good Luck!**



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



# CASK CHRONICLES

With Alex Jordan

## Our expansion: Bigger brews and bolder dreams!

**At Clavell and Hind Brewery, we're thrilled to announce a major expansion of our operations. This exciting new chapter in our journey allows us to serve our loyal customers even better and opens up fresh opportunities to reach new markets regionally.**

We've spent the past two years perfecting our recipes and throughout this time, we've built a reputation for producing high-quality craft beers. Our bold flavours and attention to detail have earned us a dedicated following. From small batches to seasonal brews, we've always pushed the boundaries of brewing, and we've done so while staying true to our commitment to quality and sustainability.

With this expansion, we're increasing our production capacity by adding two brand new 5000 litre fermentation tanks, which will facilitate our ability to produce more of our delicious beer without ever compromising on the quality you've come to expect from us.

We're also excited to bring our brews to more people. This expansion allows us to distribute our beers further, reaching new regions. It's an exciting opportunity to share our unique flavours with an even broader audience, strengthening our place in the craft beer industry that we all love so much.

As we grow, we're more committed than ever to sustainability. We've already invested in environmentally-friendly brewing practices, from renewable energy sources to water-saving technologies and waste-reduction initiatives. Our new expansion will be designed with these eco-friendly principles in mind, ensuring that our growth doesn't come at the expense of the planet we all share.

As we look to the future, we remain focused on what matters most to us: innovation, quality, and community. With a clear vision of what lies ahead, we're more excited than ever about this next phase of our journey. This expansion is just the beginning, and we can't wait to see where it takes us!

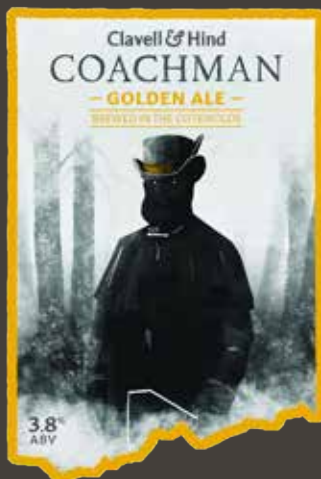
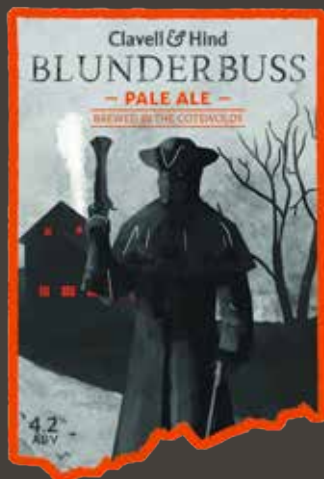


Make sure to come and visit us at Elmstone Business Park, near Cheltenham, to taste our brilliant beers in the taproom, or even book into a brewery tour, which Andre (pictured right) and I (pictured left) host on the last Friday of each month, starting at 18:30, where we'll guide you through the brewing process and give you tasters of all of our exceptional beers.

Alex Jordan - Head Brewer

# Clavell & Hind

QUALITY GLOUCESTERSHIRE ALES



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KEG, CASK, BIB & BOTTLES

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# THROTTLE CLUB

**The 'Throttle Club' is a Turks Head social drinking boys and girls club with only one rule: behave! Recently we decided to head off to the Great British Beer Festival. What could possibly go wrong?**

**So, we decided to go to The Great British Beer Festival in Birmingham. It was a lot cheaper travelling there than to London's Olympia and it's only an hour from Gloucester by train.**

We all met at Gloucester railway station for the Sunday 11.50am train. It was an outing for the grownups, but we did invite a couple of 30 year olds - why not? I thought they could walk the battlements - protect us and repel boarders, that sort of thing!

After a swift train we arrived in Brum and made our way to the festival. Wow! What a large area it covered. There was plenty of seating so we got a table in one of the spaces. Sadly, Christine (our bell ringer) ordered her first half pint and was charged £3.80 Eeek! There were so many beers that we wandered from area to area drinking beers from Wales to Scotland then back down to England.

The slight problem with huge beer festivals is there are so many beers none of us recognise... it made us feel like stealing a few horses together! (For those of who didn't know, this is a literal translation of the German saying "jemand zum Pferde stehlen", meaning a person you can rely on when doing something out of the ordinary together - Ed.) But hey-ho, onward we pressed. It was certainly well laid out, lots and lots of empty seats. I'm not sure the grown-ups final figures worked out too well, but I tried to earn a few brownie points by being a good boy - so really well behaved.

I started with White Rat 4% from the Ossett Brewrey in Yorkshire - this was very nice indeed then next we went to the south coast and Harvey's'

Pells Pale a 3.7% smooth and dry pale a classic. Sticking with Harvey's we then decided on Armada a 4.5% dry hopped, golden ale. Described as "A beer drinkers voyage of discovery". Wow! this one definitely made me want to do that horse stealing thing.

Our next beer involved a 525 mile journey from Harvey's in Lewes back up north to the wilds of Argyll and Fyne Ales Farm Brewery. We tried their Hurricane Jack a 4.4% blonde\* ale. Very nice. There was plenty of time and space to do a lot of wandering through the beer festival, beer festivals in general remind me of when I was young. Englishmen could be bad then. But, thankfully, not today - we all behaved (Throttle Club rule #1) but spent quite a lot as the beer seemed to vary from £4.50 to £9 a pint.

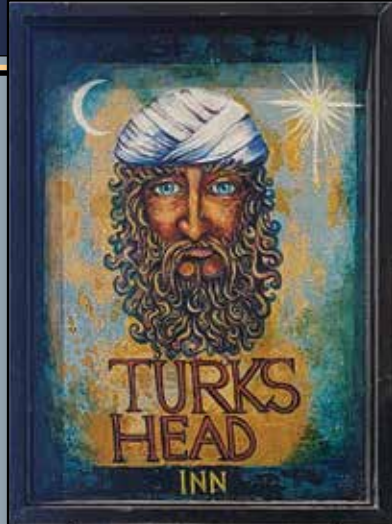
Perhaps the biggest failing of the show, and there were very few, was there were NO PRICES ADVERTISED.

So we all piled onto a train again and headed for The Turks where all ales are £3.80 a pint!

Pete Sheehy



The Turks Head - cheaper than the Great British Beer Festival!



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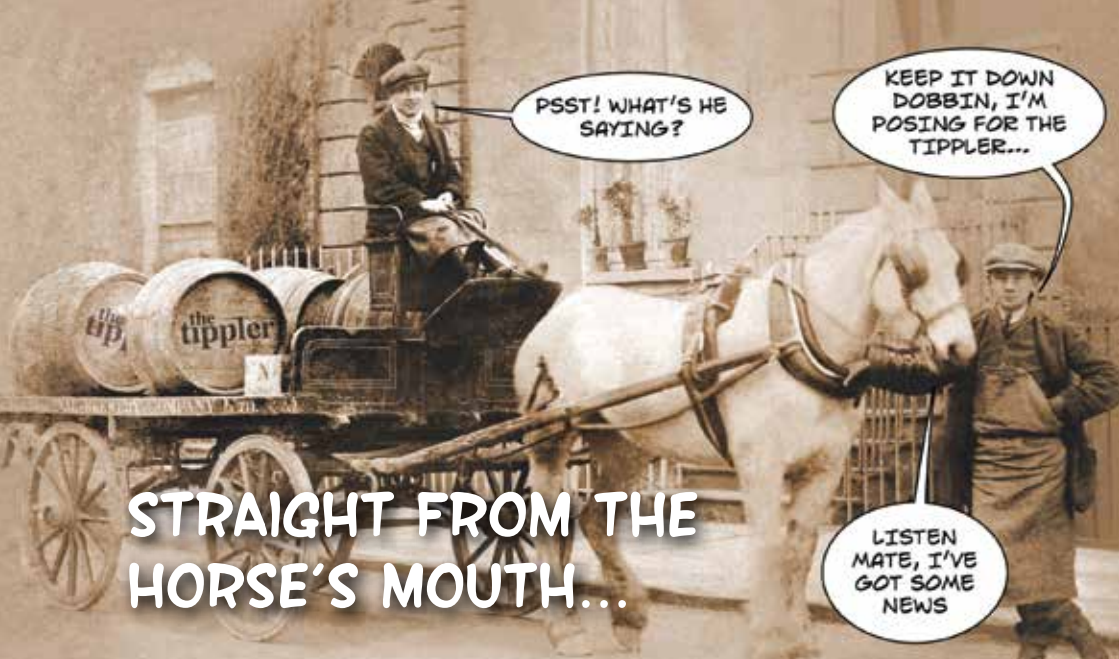


**EXCELLENT!**

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# STRAIGHT FROM THE HORSE'S MOUTH...

## Pub & Brewery News

### BREWERY NEWS

**Arkell's Brewery** is delighted to introduce Jack's Juicy IPA, a brand-new, modern, hop-forward beer created by Arkell's Brewing Operative, Jack Bridgman (pictured), as part of his brewing apprenticeship.

The beer was officially launched at The Moonrakers pub in Swindon, where Arkell's Beer Champions from Managed Houses and the Chair of



Swindon & North Wilts CAMRA branch were among the first to sample it.

This 4.5% ABV India Pale Ale is packed with tropical fruit flavours, showcasing an exciting new hop variety, Krush, which has never been used at the brewery before.

Jack, who has been with Arkell's since 2012, as part of his apprenticeship, was tasked by his university to create a beer from scratch.

When designing Jack's Juicy IPA, Jack wanted to create a beer that fell into the bracket of IPA, NEIPA (New England IPA). Understanding that the key to these styles is a light malt base that allows hop flavours to shine, he carefully selected a blend of Maris Otter, Cara Malt, and Wheat Malt. This combination provides enough body and mouthfeel without overpowering the hops.

From concept to cask, Jack's Juicy IPA is Jack's own creation. Pouring a pale golden hue, it bursts with tropical fruit aromas of guava and peach, complemented by bright citrus and lemon flavours. The key to its juicy character is Krush, a new hop variety that brings bold, modern fruit-forward notes.

## BREWERY NEWS

**Corinium Ales** has seen the fine weather reflected in their summer success. The dry hot weather saw an increased footfall to the brewery tap and orders for BBQs and weddings too, as well as brewing for the fabulous local pubs and bars they supply and the annual Phoenix Festival.

Pliny The Elderflower, their seasonal summer ale, was more popular than ever this year with more being brewed next year. They were also delighted to be awarded Bronze Gloucestershire Beer of the Year Winner for their Centurion Stout at the 47th Cotswold Beer Festival.

Lucy Cordrey from Corinium Ales comments: "This was the first beer we brewed over 12 years ago and since then we have tweaked and refined the recipe to make it an even better stout than it was then. It means a lot to us to win this accolade from such a unique and long-standing local beer festival."

The staff at the brewery also managed a team outing to 'The biggest pub in the world', the Great British Beer Festival, held at the Birmingham NEC.

As they head into autumn and winter, they will be hosting more monthly 'Sup, Sing & Shanties' nights with local musician Daisy Burt & Co. (first Saturday of the month 4:30pm); a Cheese with beer, cider and perry evening, on Thursday 18th September with renowned cheese connoisseur and Roman cheese storyteller Jerry the 'Cheese maker'; a charity quiz night with quiz master Ray on Thursday 23rd October; their XIII anniversary celebration on Saturday 22nd November; a Festive Sing Song with the Counter Measures on Saturday 13th December; and attending a couple of festive markets too.

The brewery tap will go back to Friday and Saturday opening times from October - 3:00pm to 7:00pm.

Keep an eye on their website and social pages for more information.

**Goffs Brewery** has once again held its Birthday Bash in August with music and food at the brewery.

They have been showcasing their special beers at The Bell in Moreton in Marsh, North Cotswold Branch Pub of the Year. Mango IPA and Summer Sesh Pale featuring on the bar. An enticing cask Pilsner will feature at the Moreton Beer and Cider Festival.

**Donnington Brewery.** Nearly two hundred years ago in 1827, Thomas Arkell bought a 13th Century water mill in idyllic countryside. Richard Arkell began the brewing dynasty on the site in 1865.

Today, the mill wheel is still used to drive the pumps and machinery to brew beer the same way nearly 160 years on. To celebrate this, Johnny Arkell and his team have brewed a Cotswold Stout. This made a brief appearance in cask at its pubs and it's now available to be bought from the brewery shop in cans.

**Stroud Brewery** have announced their IPA is officially the best organic beer in the UK! It took the top spot in the BOOM Awards (Best Of The Organic Market) run by The Soil Association. At the same time, the C2S SW Business Awards gave us the CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) Award in recognition for all we do for our staff, the local community and being kinder to the environment. plus a 'Highly Commended' in the Medium Business of the Year category. Needless to say, they're chuffed to bits and grateful to all of you who choose beer that not only tastes great, but also genuinely does good.

Despite all the accolades they're amassing, however, the serious business of brewing goes on and our barrel-aged organic stout, Dark Skies, hits the pumps in time to celebrate 'Organic September'. This rich and complex beer has been aged in oak whisky barrels to develop its unique character. Another exciting development comes to fruition in October, their 'green hopped beer', Brewer's Garden, will be ready - this harvest celebration beer is made using fresh hops grown by local gardeners and allotment holders around Stroud on plants supplied by the brewery.

**Tewkesbury Brewery** is celebrating on a number of fronts. The first big achievement is that they were victorious in Gloucester's Thirsty Pine 'Gloucestershire Brewery Challenge': the idea was to set one brewery against another by putting a barrel of their respective beers on sale simultaneously, the first one to run out being declared the winner. It was a tough route to victory, beating Corinium, Uley and Stroud before being drawn against DEYA in the final, where two barrels were featured, not one, from each brewery. Their

## BREWERY NEWS

featured beers throughout the competition included Fifty and Tewkesbury Pale.

"No one was more surprised that we won than me," said Daryl Tanner of Tewkesbury Brewing. Well done Sir!

Tewkesbury CAMRA members are also attending a social at the Tewkesbury Brewing's Grand Opening as it's officially opening its doors to the public on August 30th.

"After months of brewing, building, and perfecting every detail, we're ready to pour you something special. You can expect our fresh craft ales brewed on-site, tasty burgers and bites and live music from Deltonians, campervans from AVT Campers, classic bikes and a selection of military vehicles - enthusiasts more than welcome to bring your own.

Hope to see some of you there." Said a proud Daryl.

**Uley Brewery's** Autumn specials for their 40th Anniversary continued with the season launch of Severn Boar, 6.0% focussed on Bramling hops. The brown English ale was originally brewed as a one-off special to celebrate 25 years of CAMRA. Severn Boar was launched to a good crowd at the Crown & Sceptre, Stroud on Thursday 21st August.

October's green hopped offering, with whichever hop they collect from Charal Faram will go into their twist on Uley Bitter. The Uley Bitter Harvest Special, 4.0% will be launched sometime in September at the George at Newmarket.

Cheeky Swine will be the name of a brand-new brew for November. Expecting to be around 4.8% 'a sassy Cotswold beer' is expected and will be launching at the Old Spot, Dursley. Updated details available on the brewery website:

[uleybrewery.com/ub40-specials/](http://uleybrewery.com/ub40-specials/)

## PUBS & CLUBS NEWS

**It has been another fantastic year for Gloucestershire pubs and clubs as they've scooped ALL West Central regional awards.**

They were competing against pubs and clubs in three other counties: Herefordshire, Worcestershire and Oxfordshire.

The Regional Pub of the Year:

**The Pelican Inn** in Gloucester

The Regional Cider Pub of the Year:

**The Carpenters Arms** in Westrip, Stroud

The Regional Club of the Year:

**The Cheltenham Motor Club**

Make sure you get out and support them!

**Cheltenham Motor Club**, as we have come to expect, having already won two CAMRA awards, the Cheltenham Branch Club of the Year and the Gloucestershire Club of the Year. Having also won the West Central Regional Club of the Year. The Club now goes forward to the National final - a title that the club has already won three times.

**The Bayshill**, St Georges Place Cheltenham, is open again under new management.

**The Pelican Inn** in Gloucester has won the The Regional Pub of the Year.

**The Carpenters Arms** in Westrip near Stroud has won the Regional Cider Pub of the Year.

**The Whittle Taps**, Regent Street, Cheltenham, no longer serves cask real ale.

**The Royal Oak, Prestbury**, has now been refurbished. It now has permanent cover in the garden and new garden furniture.

**The Sandford Park Alehouse** manager has left to take over at the Beehive.

**The Beehive in Cheltenham** The kitchen at, owned by the Owners of Hatton Court, is currently closed.

The site of the former Fire Station, St James Square, is being relet.

# THE NOTTINGHAM ARMS

Tewkesbury

## EVERYTHING A PUB SHOULD BE

Good beer, good cheer & good food

**4 Ales always pouring**

**Cask Ale Discount Days**

**50p off every pint of cask ale  
all day Monday and Tuesday**

**Quiz Night – Thursday 8pm**



*Join us at The Nott!*

### New Management

*There's a new team at the Nott. Jazz and Ant took over in July and are loving it. 'We feel privileged to be running such a characterful old pub with so much history. Looking forward to great times ahead.'*



### Seriously Good Food

**Bar snacks or pub classics, we've got something for everyone**

### It's all for Charity!

**Wed 24th - Sat 27th Sept.**

*Bingo, Quiz & Karaoke Nights, and a Grand Raffle, all in a worthwhile cause. See our Facebook page nearer the time for more detail.*



*In aid of The Ronald MacDonal Centre in Bristol, a space giving families the chance to stay close to their child whilst they're in hospital*

### Regular Live Music

*Plenty of Live Music to enjoy this Autumn – check our Facebook page to find out what and when it's all happening.*



**01684 211433**

*Dogs welcome*



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[www.nottinghamarms-tewkesbury.co.uk](http://www.nottinghamarms-tewkesbury.co.uk)

**Open:** Mon-Thurs 11am-11pm

Fri-Sat 11am-12am Sun 12pm-11pm

**The King's Arms** in Newent has seen its landlord, Wayne Childs working hard to hard to make the pub a community hub and destination pub to meet and eat.

Since he took over in 2017 he has ensured that the pub has appeared in The Good Beer Guide every year since.

Wayne explains the latest developments: 'In March 2025 they had a complete refit of the Bar by InBev and have excellent ties to St Austell, Butcombe and Brains Breweries, but remain a free house as they love to offer lots of choice from UK breweries and not just staying very regional. As well as the beer, our food menu speaks for itself; I lead a team of chefs bringing brand new specials every day. We're proud to be serving delicious proper pub food everyday.'

It's no surprise that there are other accolades, probably his biggest achievement was to be named in the Top 500 pubs in the UK by the Daily Telegraph. Alongside that, his other awards include: Named in the top 50 pubs in Gloucestershire, and a spot in the Knorr Top 10 Sunday Lunches of Year.

To accommodate all of the prize winning beer and food, the pub boasts three private function rooms, a skittles alley, a beer garden and free parking for motorhomes and campervans. So that more people have easy access to this great little town, the Daffodil bus service has been extended to ever hour with a bus stop right outside the pub with excellent links to Ross on Wye and Ledbury.

## North Cotswolds Pub News is:

### The Good :

**The Hollow Bottom** at Guiting Power is a good news story. After Youngs had closed this iconic pub at short notice we are pleased that it has been taken on by Nathan Eade and Liam Goff who already run Donnington Pubs The Halfway House at Kineton and The Horse and Groom at Bourton on the Hill.

With the Hollow Bottom being a free house it was great to see that they have a selection of

North Cotswold and Hook Norton Ales on offer showing support to local independent breweries.

**The Corner Cupboard** in Winchcombe having closed earlier this year, we are pleased to report that Luke Briffett has now taken over the pub and it is now open for drinks as he works towards getting the full kitchen offering in place. London Pride and Timothy Taylors are on the Bar.

### The Bad:

**The Horse and Groom** at Upper Oddington, a GBG regular and supporter of the North Cotswolds Branch has been sold to a mystery buyer. It is not known what the intention is for the premises, but if our information is correct it will become part of the local portfolio of pubs owned by his lordship, the Daysford Farm Shop owner!

**The Seven Tuns** at Chedworth is still in flux with an offer having been made from a local group, not, however, meeting the valuation of the owners Wellington Inns. As we know, all the time it is empty it becomes less viable as a going concern.

**The Kilkenny** at Andoversford after some false starts this isolated gem of a pub has succumbed to long term closure with it now being boarded up. We hope for a miracle and a new owner or tenant can be found to get it up and running again.

### The Ugly:

**The Coach and Horses** at Bourton on the Water, spare a thought for this sad premises. Having had its five minutes of infamy as part of Clarkson's Farm TV Series when Jeremy Clarkson looked to buy the pub before buying his Farmers Dog at Witney.

As the horror of the condition of the building was revealed it became a sad indictment of current pub closures. It now sits behind fencing with the roof now falling in.



## Award Winning Country Pub

Family and Dog  
Friendly



LISTED IN  
TOP 500 PUBS  
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THE KINGS ARMS, ROSS ROAD, NEWENT GLOS GL18 1BD

## PUBS & CLUBS NEWS

**The Prince Albert**, Stroud has a packed autumn schedule, this little pub sits at the top of a very steep hill just outside Stroud. The pub is many things as well as being a cosy CAMRA award winning pub. Autumn and winter are the busiest times for exciting events and this year's really feel that they're having their best ever with gigs, choirs, shanties and parties. As well as having a fine array of five cask ales, a wide range of low/no alcohol drinks, great pizza and burgers and everything else you'd expect in a pub.

Their 'secret garden' has had a make over with a solar powered gazebo and new walkway that will be cosy and welcoming when you want a bit of alfresco entertainment as the nights draw in.

This year is the 25th anniversary of the Prince Albert Carol Consort, a group of 'singers with a drinking problem', that gather every Sunday from midday in December to sing a collection of traditional but unusual seasonal songs, mostly with four part harmonies. This gathering has become bigger and better each year. There are two

rehearsals in November for newcomers, or those that just want to brush their knowledge, but for most, once you have been to these, the tunes are firmly ear wormed in your head.

Sunday and Monday nights they're a grassroots venue, with ticketed events. This is when the finest array of artists performing to the dedicated listening audience appear. Acts booked for this year include festival favourites: Sheelanagig and Mad Dog McRea, matinee gigs from the outstanding Honeyfeet, folk from Steve Ashley, and evenings with Jon Wilks and OysterBand member Ray Cooper and many more. Saturday nights are your more traditional pub music nights, and they're all free entry. Added to that are quiz nights, afternoon open mics, shanty bants and harp lessons. New Year's Eve is always a big night when everyone gets to let their hair down, or up, and dance, sing and make merry. Don't forget to check out the

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

to find out what's going on.

## 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	
<b>THE BELL HOTEL</b>	<b>TEWKESBURY</b>	<b>10% OFF REAL ALES</b>	<b>NEW</b>
<b>THE BERKELEY ARMS</b>	<b>TEWKESBURY</b>	<b>10% OFF REAL ALES</b>	
<b>BUTFORD ORGANICS CIDER &amp; PERRIES</b>	<b>BODENHAM HEREFORD</b>	<b>10% OFF WEEKEND SHOP PURCHASES (MIN £20 SPEND)</b>	
<b>THE CANTERBURY</b>	<b>TEWKESBURY</b>	<b>10% OFF REAL ALES</b>	
<b>THE NOTTINGHAM ARMS</b>	<b>TEWKESBURY</b>	<b>50P OFF REAL ALES, MON &amp; TUES</b>	
<b>THE PRINCE ALBERT</b>	<b>STROUD</b>	<b>20P OFF REAL ALES</b>	

TOP MUSIC, TOP FOOD, TOP OF A HILL



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**PRINCE ALBERT**  
STROUD

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# Tall Tales from the Cider Shed...

**In which Dennis Healey's 1976 reintroduction of the Cider Excise Tax encounters an inventive interpretation at Flat Farm**

**Back in the 80s and 90s there was a good live Welsh band that I liked listening to called The Alarm, their biggest hit single being 'Sixty Eight Guns'. One of their songs I particularly liked though was called 'Spirit of '76'.**

Trouble was, in the year '76 there wasn't much good spirit around. British Leyland were on strike again, Wolves were relegated to the 2nd Division after losing their last game of the season 3-1 to champions Liverpool, while the cider duty tax was brought back for the first time since 1923.

Not that it was all doom and gloom back then. Despite there being only three television channels, the television of the time seemed a lot better. You had programmes like The Two Ronnies, The Sweeney and the Goodies, not forgetting mother's favourite, Crossroads. There were also a lot of good comedians and impressionists around in the 70s, one of the best impressionists being Mike Yarwood. In his heyday, Mike

would have over 21 million viewers watching his tv show, as he impersonated the stars and politicians of the time. One of the politicians he did a good impression of was the then Chancellor of the Exchequer, Dennis Healey. His catch phrase for Mr Healey was 'Isn't he a Silly Billy' – well he most certainly was, as he reintroduced the Cider Excise Tax.

By the early 80s, father had brought the hydraulic press that we still use today making it faster and easier to press down the cider then when we used the old cider press, meaning that we could make more cider. The only trouble was that

by doing it this way, production levels were up and we exceeded 7000 hectolitres (or 1500 gallons to us old 'uns), meaning that we had to start paying excise duty on all our cider.

So we had to arrange a meeting with the Customs and Excise people, and on November 18th 1982, two gentlemen came out from Oxford

to tell us what we had to do.

Not one to miss a trick, father had heard that cidermakers were allowed free personal consumption every year, so when the customs men arrived at Flat Farm he was ready for them with a gallon container full of cider and a glass, which he kept filling up as the customs men explained the rules.

This story about father has been told many times differently so I will let him tell the story in his own words:

'I asked about my personal consumption and they said 'How much do you drink?' and I said 'A gallon a day' and they said 'Impossible', but after I'd drunk about four pints they

sort of believed me then. Anyway I said 'That'll be 365 gallons every year, but don't forget I shall expect an extra gallon every leap year mind'. They laughed a bit.'

Cider writer and old friend Roy Bailey wrote this of father: 'I suppose it was inevitable such a richly individual character should fall foul of the bureaucrats that infest our lives these days. Such a man should not have to pay excise duty, he should pay Entertainment Tax!'

A lovely thing to say, but knowing father as I did I don't think he would have liked paying that tax either!



**'Such a man should not have to pay excise duty, he should pay Entertainment Tax'**

**Dereck Hartland**



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| New Inn      | Tipputs    |
| Old Spot     | Tivoli     |
| Pheasant Inn | Yew Tree   |
| Plough       | York       |
| Railway      |            |

- 1 Find the listed Gloucestershire hostelries 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 the definition of consternation caused by unfilled beer receptacles, which is the answer we're looking for!



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



# DEAF BOY WANDERIN' JOHN

Back in Gloucestershire again, our tame wanderer explores a quiet corner of the county boasting a nationally famous garden



**Two fantastic gardens, stunning views, links to World War 1, the Cotswold Hills, a good pub; what more do you want in a walk?**

Start from the Butchers Arms in the village of Mickleton, heading straight up the Cotswold escarpment (a steep slope in other words) that dominates the nearby Gloucestershire countryside.

Leave the parish church of St Lawrence behind you as you start your upward journey on the slopes of Bakers Hill. Don't just scramble up it moaning and groaning about how steep it is, PAUSE, turn around, get your breathing and heart rate back to normal and drink in the ever-opening views that unfold before you as you climb higher.

Near the summit of the hill, the route goes along a fairly level plateau and into a stand of tall trees surprisingly called Bakers Hill Woods.

As you walk along, exhorting the merits of flat places like the Netherlands, keep a sharp eye on the tree trunks. Amongst the old carvings on the trunks, you should be able to discern a shadowy carving of the outline of a military person, think Clouseau!

In fact, this was carved at some time during World War 1 by one of a group of wounded Belgian soldiers, who were convalescing at the nearby Norton Hall. Like a lot of large stately homes at

this time, Norton Hall became a VAD (Voluntary Aid Detachments) Hospital, and in November 1914, some 16 to 18 Belgian soldiers arrived there.

Unfortunately, one of the soldiers, Victor-Joseph de Martelacre died from a Cerebral Embolism caused by his wounds, as he had been shot through the lungs. He was buried with full military honours on 7th December 1914, at the age of 32, and was posthumously awarded five medals, including the Croix de Guerre. An exceptional human being.

Back to the walk, sorry, the climb, as the late, great Sly and the Family Stone chorused, 'I want to take you higher!'. The upward route continues through the delightful Cotswold hamlet of Hidcote Boyce, all ten dwellings carefully conserved and protected from the intent of marauding developers by the National Trust. There are two Hidcote hamlets: Boyce, from the noble De Bois family of Norman conquerors, contrasting with Hidcote Bartrim, though no noble connections here. Bartrim is a corruption of Bertram – what a shame it wasn't finalised as Hidcote Bert.

Onwards and upwards, but be careful, don't tumble into the remains of a quarry. Well, they had to get the Cotswold stone from somewhere to build those chocolate-box Cotswold houses.



The Butchers Arms, Mickleton

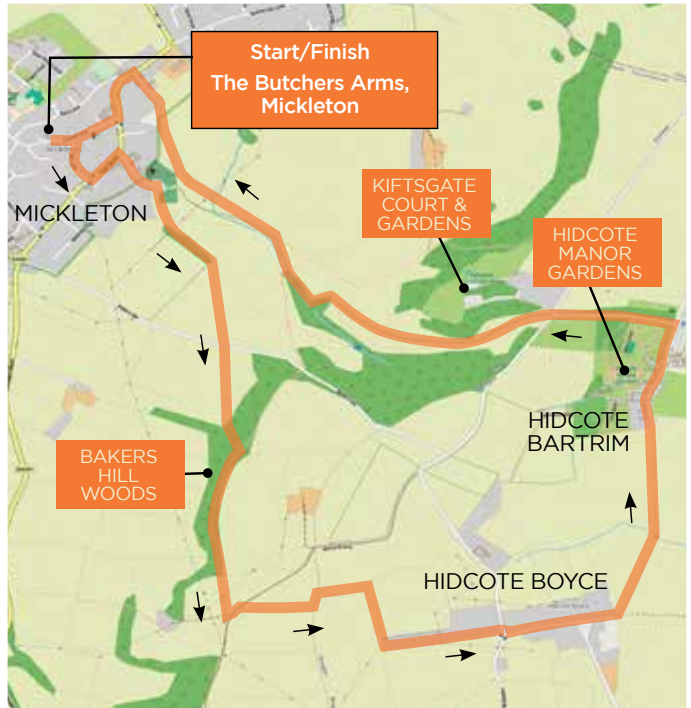


Hidcote Boyce – only ten dwellings here

Now the modern world pokes its nose into this rural idyll in the form of the television/ radio masts built on the nearby Ilmington Downs. Why do you nearly always have to climb up to get to the Downs? They have been placed there because that is the highest point of the Warwickshire/ Gloucestershire border, as anybody who has just climbed all the way up to this point will testify – if they can still talk.

Turning away from such intrusions, the walk now leads to one of the great English gardens at the National Trust's Hidcote Manor. Do not miss the opportunity to enter this floral paradise. It's about halfway through the walk and I'm sure a rest amongst the rare and exotic plants with maybe a visit to the excellent restaurant will be a just reward for all that climbing. If you want an excess of flower power without hallucinogenic drugs, leave Hidcote Manor and stroll two hundred yards, gently DOWNHILL to Kiftsgate Court, again splendid gardens and hilltop views that are probably the best in the country. Don't admire the view for too long, I was taught that everything that goes up must come down. I blame Isaac Newton and his apple tree for that.

To this point, the walk has been up, now the



way back to Mickleton is down that slope you have been looking at. Take care on the descent and, if you can, pause and just enjoy the amazing views, this really is a special part of the country.

The steep descent slackens off and leads to the church graveyard passing right by the grave of the brave Belgian soldier, Victor de Martelaere. A sad parallel to 'The Soldier' by Rupert Brooke, even

where his poem emphasises that, even in death, this part of a foreign field will be 'forever England' or in this case Belgium, as he was never repatriated.

It should be easy to identify the grave as it is coloured with the national colours of Belgium: red, black and yellow. Just pause for a moment and acknowledge the sacrifice of a brave, young man.

Return to the Butchers Arms, an award-winning pub, renowned for its good food and friendly service. The range of real ales is extensive. All in all, just the place to put your feet up after a hard day climbing.

**Deaf Boy**



The National Trust's Hidcote Manor Gardens




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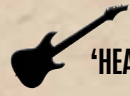
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# The Pub Whisperer

In this series about local pub life we drop in on various pubs around the county as the journey continues...

## A family haven

A husband and wife are drinking with a three young lads spread out in the small bar. They have no drinks, no crisps and only phones. Their mother is on the phone to a client about a motor car and its terms of warranty and in dispute. She gives details with an analysis of what the client has to do including going to court. Her husband is a calm fella who talks quietly to his boys when necessary. The boys hardly talk except the oldest one quizzes one of the regulars, asking him to name any footballer in the world. It goes on for a few minutes until the adult takes a phone call. The parents sit at the bar and the children sit quietly in different seats in the bar.

She discusses her tough day checking on her holiday lets and discusses family issues with the bar person. The youngest lad rests his head on his bent arm and he says he is tired. The second child plays with a ball sat at a high table. These are the only people in the bar apart from us. It's a quiet Friday night which is why we come here but it exemplifies a quiet backstreet local where everyone knows each other and strangers like us are welcomed as we fit into the background.

A new bar staff member arrives and is welcomed by the boys. The staff and the family

are very closely connected as they discuss holiday times. The quiz continues and the middle boy gets one right. The youngest is tested by the adult and looks shamed when he doesn't know but quickly gets over it.

The parents get another pint and are happy that the regular is looking after the children.

## Racing tops the Cup Final

It's cup final day and quiet in the pub. There about 15 people in the pub, and horse racing is quietly on the TV in the main bar, the other in the saloon is playing the final, but quietly, and as it draws to a climax even the racers are watching with only an

occasional raised gasp of frustration. The guv'nor keeps an eye on the racing even though he hasn't had a bet today. There is

no shouting and all who are watching the final do it with respect for the culture of this cosy, comfortable pub.

The crowd at the match are louder than the drinkers in this respectful pub where seats were immediately offered when an elderly couple who joined them. Even when the final whistle went all was quiet. The locals turned back to the bar, the racing and the camaraderie of their family local and some left saying 'see you tomorrow'. They tease the

**"The quiz continues and the middle boy gets one right."**



guv'nor by asking him if he is taking his waistcoat to Benidorm and another couple of nightly regulars join the small group congregating at the bar in the early evening ritual. Nothing moves very fast in this pub or very loudly. This pub is a haven from a fast loud world.

## A quiet haven – The Circus Bar

It's 7.00 pm and this bar has a pleasant atmosphere. There are over 30 varied seats available in a long bar. Three tables looking out onto the main road through large windows and another table the other side of the front door in the window front of the bar. It's an attractive facade for those walking past and those in the front window. The main bar that leads to the back bar with its wonderful long table with high chairs occupies the end of the pub. There's another glass screen looking out on to another well lit street. Imbibing there ensures some privacy for a group at a high table. Or a smaller group can sit with their backs to the large window looking back down the bar observing the populace and expecting reverence on their high stools. All the drinkers talk quietly, that is the culture of this specialist Sam Smith's pub where organic produce is highly valued as is a traditional pub ambience dedicated to conversation. No phones, tablets or music. The warmest pub in Cheltenham and a refuge from party cultures in this Festival town.

“...that is the culture of this specialist Sam Smith's pub...”

## Packed Festival Restaurant

It's busy in this Brasserie bar, packed and noisy for a restaurant, but no visible drunks. I couldn't get a table here on Wednesday or Thursday, but sneaked in early today. The service is incredibly well organised with plates arriving quickly and accommodations being made if possible. The bar across the road is a refuge from the packed loud pubs and bars during the Festival, but the Brasserie bar is packed. Music can be heard by 7.30 in the dance area of the attached hotel and will likely go on until the early hours. There are pop up coffee shops and tented areas surround the hotels. The horse racing Festival is how the town became known as the 'Festival Town' and many other worthy festivals have developed in its wake. Celebrating a

wide cultural life and at the same time home to two prestigious public schools. The town is celebrated for its Irish connections, its literary and music cultural events as well as its food and drink which are located in the wonderful Georgian and Regency environment. Pubs are blessed to be part of this culture even if they must now resort to bouncers at regular times of the year. Life here is a roller coaster.

## An engaged dozen

A dozen women take over the back bar all sitting on the two long benches opposite each other.

They mainly drink beer and soft drinks. They talk

at such a level and pitch that they can hear each others' stories and they all laugh regularly at amusing tales. Nevertheless, they work hard to

ensure this 'meeting' is one where each person is heard and appreciated. The topics are day-to-day life experiences. They are all employed at a local publishing company. They rarely break into small group or duo chats, but when they did, they came back together again quickly. They tell tales using lot of humour and self-deprecation valuing the dramatic moment. The others respond with similar experiences or tales, and they all listen intently and respond as an audience, taking deep breaths of worry with a smile and emphasising "Noooo." It is a pleasure to see and watch this theatre of more social relationships developing and emerging where so much respect is shown to each other.

They just have the one drink and it therefore it appears they are using the pub as an opportunity to engage in social relationships after work and they then wend their way back to their home lives. So be it, but they may return remembering this comfortable place where they can come after work or maybe out if work as a social setting. This pub is, or may become, their after work setting as it is for other trades.

Pubs provide spaces for enjoyment, discussion, business meetings, family engagements and 'getting to know you' spaces. They are social settings that act as social centres for community to develop, maintain and celebrate new and regular present engagements and relationships.

# It's the Cyder Guy!

In this new series, well known local cyder man James Fry relates the story of the Moorcroft perry pear, and in the process comes across a veritable pantheon of perry producing gods: rejoice!

**With my CAMRA hat on I have the pleasure of writing this article. CAMRA of course stands for the CAMpaign for Real Apples. I know some of you have been misled to the real source of the name. I hope it is now clear?**

So, the story all starts with the Moorcroft perry pear. What's this? The Moorcroft perry pear is a 'vintage' variety of pear used solely for the purpose of making the drink, perry. Moorcroft Farm, Colwell, Herefordshire, Nr. Malvern, dates back as far as the mid-1500's, so the exact date the pear started to be seen, used and recorded is unknown. But it's fair to say it's very old! In that time it's ended up with many names, Moorcroft of course, Malvern Hills and the one you'll all know: Stinking Bishop.

Well, legend has it that Mr Bishop, the farmer at Moorcroft farm, was a rather unkempt chap with a foul temper. Despite that, his production of this fine perry was well know and regarded. So locals would say that they're off to 'Stinking Bishops' for some perry. And so the name stuck. But isn't that a cheese? I hear you say. Ahhh, not quite. It's commonly assumed that the cheese gets its name from the fact that it too stinks, much like the host of the name, but it is in fact a misconception. The cheese must be made from the milk of the rare cattle breed the Gloucester. Single Gloucester too, I might add, Double Gloucester is well known, but not the same. The Stinking Bishop cheese created then washed with the glorious perry from the Moorcroft pear which reacts with the skin of the cheese to give the effect we all get when the packet is opened. Marketing has named the cheese rather than the smell.

So, with this in mind, a very good and dear friend of mine and an absolute legend in the cider and perry world, Kevin Minchew, now suffering the effects of a life hard worked and perry well made, asked me if I would drive him on a pilgrimage. He's



Kevin Minchew

been intending on doing this for most of his perry making life. To Moorcroft Farm to see the trees in blossom. What a sight it would be. Perry trees grow tall like mighty oaks, and can be seen for miles if you know what you're looking for. Perry blossom, much like the hawthorn, is the first blossom to show in spring, so you can find perry by getting out in March and April and looking around.

So with a few phone calls and help from Gabe Cook, aka 'The Ciderologist', to gain permission for access to the farm house, we set off one early April Saturday to meet the current owner of the farm. Kevin is pictured holding a 24yr old bottle conditioned Moorcroft perry he made and still has a small stock of (known as The Last Hoorah). Made using the 'Merrets method' which was originally from 1666 and way before Don Perignon and his 'Method Champenoise'. ( I have a great story about 'The Don'

and his theft of a Forrest of Dean technique. But that's for another article).

Sadly on arrival, only one Moorcroft tree still exists. All grubbed out for 'progress' or perhaps they were old and dangerous, given their height. But it was still a fantastic opportunity to learn all about the history of the farm and the in-depth research the owner had done (as a covid project) on the farm and its many inhabitants and legends.

How could we end there, without that spread of stunning blossom yet to be viewed?

Well, we went on to The Hartpury Orchard Centre, Blackwells End, Hartpury. This is the major part of the National Perry Pear collection with over 100 varieties of rare and nearly extinct perry trees, sourced and saved by Jim Chapman and Charles Martel (who, by the way, makes stinking bishops cheese), the rest of the collection can be found around the perimeter of the Three Counties Show Ground.

They were having an open day to show of the acres of white fluffy blossom against the spring blue sky, and their outside bar (open most Sundays in the summer) was serving a selection of cider and perry, one being a Moorcroft!

I had made some previous calls to a few 'Gods' of the cider and perry world to come and have a 'now rare' catch up with Kevin. We had a fantastic meeting and many brought their versions of the Moorcroft perry. Which was amazing to sit and share stories and anecdotes of the cider and perry world and the Moorcroft itself.

With a large fresh loaf of bread, butter, a big lump of cheese (not the stinking bishop sadly) and some pickle and chutney we all sat tasting and admiring the various and delicious, legendary Moorcroft Perries. What a day! One hard to ever forget.



The 'Gods' (and these guys really are the best) we met and chatted with who came to see Kevin were Tom Oliver of Oliver's Cider, David Lindgren of Bushel + Peck, Chris and Morag of Ragged Stone cider, Rob Castle of RTB, James Mrcindle of The Craft Cider Co., and of course Phil from 99 Pines Perry, who is I must add an absolute star in tirelessly championing and running The Hartpury Orchard Centre all for the good and heritage of the perry and the collection. No income or profit made! Please take the time to visit one Sunday, but check the Facebook page for seasonal openings and special events.

I hope this article has been an interesting read and may inspire you to seek out the Moorcroft Perry and try it. Flavour may slightly vary depending on the maker. I can be contacted via the editor if you want me to narrow down the search.

James Fry (aka Jim Fry the Cyder Guy)



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YOUR CAPTION HERE



What do you think these three delighted sisters are saying about this little chap...is it Macbeth? Or a Cross House Landlord in his infancy?

Our thanks go to Laurence Mills at the Cross House Tavern for the use of this interesting piece of historical commentary.



## What you can win

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# 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...

## In the Festival Spirit

**Beer and cider festivals follow each other through the summer, almost like London buses, but there can be quite a difference in offerings. My friend Jim Fry is organizing the Cider and Perry content for all three of the CAMRA festivals which we in Gloucestershire are involved, which is no small undertaking.**

The first one, back in June, was the North Cotswolds CAMRA Ale and Steam Festival on the Warwickshire and Gloucestershire line. I hadn't done this one before, and paying for a £25 rail ticket, without that many trains being steam, means you have to be quite a train buff. I went up to Toddington and sampled three or four ciders and then the same number back down at Winchcombe. Overall Jim had about local 14 ciders and perries available, split between the two stations. It was a very hot day and one of the ciders, although under cover, was almost luke warm.

To some extent this was almost a warm-up (excuse the pun) for Postlip. Jim had most of the same blends on offer, but a considerable number of extras so that he had over 40 ciders and perries on show. I was booked to help serve on the Saturday, but then Jim asked me to do some unofficial judging, so I went over on the Friday

evening too. I had mentioned the little known producer I found last year in north Worcestershire called Lenches Cider; Jim had chosen a perry from them. A north Gloucestershire maker is Prior's Tipple, from Stanway who were offering an elderflower infused example. This was one of only two fruit infused ciders Jim had chosen, and much as I find them quite refreshing, I found this one too sweet and rather overpowering for my taste. By Saturday lunch time it was the first cider to sell out. The most popular perry came from Tom Oliver in Herefordshire, but his offerings are always interesting and worth trying.

Back on duty the next day, I missed my time slot, but thankfully Jim had enough other helpers. I wasn't drinking myself, but found that punters requests vary greatly, often a common denominator comes through like: "What have you got that's medium-ish and not too strong. OK, I'll try that, but can I have a sample." I have always enjoyed Cotswold Yellow Hammer, which is often on pumps here in Cheltenham and that was well received.

What's in a name? Is a question that can provoke a response, so I also mentioned 'Slack ma Girdle' which is made by that venerable maker in Somerset- Heck's Cider. I also find the offerings

from James McCrindle, in The Forest Of Dean under his name of The Craft Cider Company, to be easy drinking and his blended Core cider hit the mark with quite a few punters.

Postlip really is a great festival, and has just three years to go to their half century of appearances, so keep it coming and please keep supporting. Thanks to the good weather and great ticket sales the whole event was sold out by the Saturday close of play.

There is probably at least one CAMRA Real Ale an Cider festival somewhere in the country every week. At the same time some enterprising pubs are also putting on their own festivals. However, these are by no means the same kind of thing. CAMRA are quite emphatic about what makes real cider: NOT from concentrate and NOT made with fruit juice amongst other factors. CAMRA beer and cider festivals are all run by volunteers such as Jim, who thinks nothing of driving many miles around Gloucestershire and neighbouring counties collecting individual BiB from small artisan makers.

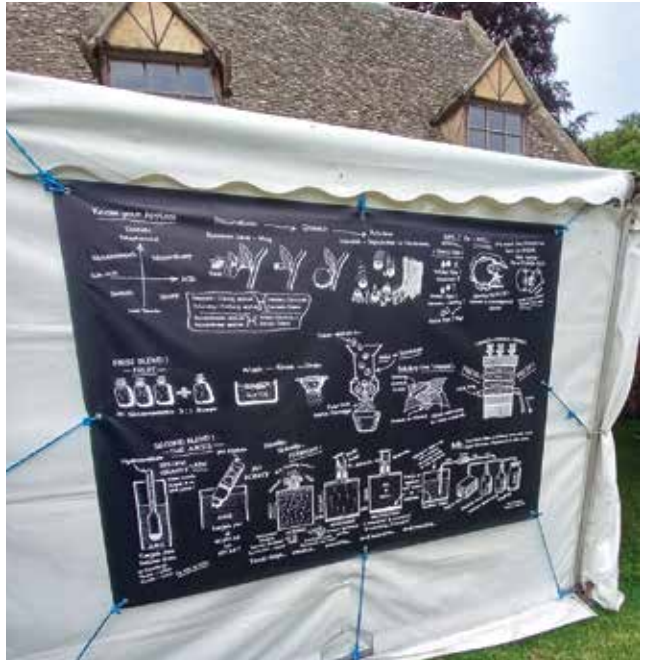
The cider and perry festival at The Plough at Prestbury had over 40 ciders and perries available, but about a third of the ciders were fruit ciders and some of the other mainstream brands would also

not meet the CAMRA criteria. It's an interesting calculation but they sold out of their 40 or so 20 litre BiB containers and were only taking cash outside. By my calculation, at about £4.50 a pint, it makes a rather nice weekend cash taking of £6,000 since they were apparently sold out by Sunday night.

One of our other local pubs having a cider and perry festival was The Old Spot Inn, out towards Coombe Hill, near Tewkesbury. I was fortunate to be passing the day before their festival started but it was all set up outside ready to go. They only had about half the quantity that the Plough offered but again heavily weighted with fruit ciders and the same mass market examples. It may be a coincidence, but not less than 50 metres away is the sizeable drinks wholesaler, Cellar Supplies, who happily now also have a real ale brewery on site - Clavell and Hind.

It's an interesting world for cider and perry drinkers, but there is no doubt that MOST, if not all CAMRA festivals, do show a better quality range of product, in particular, from the smaller artisan producers, who are often difficult to source. In my next article I shall be talking about a visit to the so called Mecca City for Cider Drinkers?

Guy Vowles



# DODGY TICKER?

THE CONTINUING TALES OF A BEER COLLECTOR

This edition, our collector puts beer ticking on the back burner and has a look at the delights and merits of our wonderful historic pubs...

**As a collector, most of my pub choices are based on beer quality and variety. I frequently return to pubs that provide me with high quality new beers and new breweries. But I also enjoy visiting pubs that have an interesting history.**

Very occasionally, an historic pub will also be an interesting beer pub. The Three Kings at Hanley Castle is an excellent example of such a pub. Walking into the Three Kings is like stepping back in time – the interior seems to have remained unchanged for hundreds of years. Even the till is an old wooden drawer, so forget about trying to use your phone to pay for a pint. Sue behind the bar has an extensive knowledge of beers and breweries and I can always be assured of collecting something new when I visit.

The Three Kings is an example of a pub that is recognised by CAMRA as historic. CAMRA maintains an inventory of pubs with historic interiors, compiled by the Pub Heritage Group. The list is the product of over thirty years of careful research and identifies pubs with intact traditional interiors or which have features or rooms of national importance. Pub interiors are eligible for consideration if they have remained essentially unaltered for at least the last 50 years. The Pub Heritage Group considers the layout, notable rooms and historic fittings such as bar counters, seating, fireplaces or panelling. The rarity of these features counts very highly in the selection process, as well as age, intactness, authenticity, design

and craftsmanship. This national inventory has a star rating. One star pubs are described as having special historic interest, two stars pubs are of very special historic interest, while the highest accolade is three stars for pubs with outstanding historic importance. The Three Kings is a three star pub.

Locally, three star pubs are few and far between. There are none in Gloucester (in fact, Gloucester doesn't have any pub on the list at all). The nearest three star pub is the Plough in Prestbury. Then there is the Monkey House in Defford and The Red Lion at Ampney St Peter.

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between. There are none in Gloucester (in fact, Gloucester doesn't have any pub on the list at all). The nearest

three star pub is the Plough in Prestbury. Then there is the Monkey House in Defford and The Red Lion at Ampney St Peter. Going further afield, The National Trust owned Fleece Inn in Bretforton has three stars, as do three pubs in Worcester – the Cardinal's Hat, the Paul Pry and the Punch Bowl. The last of these might be a surprise to you since the Punch Bowl is a 1950s local tucked away in the middle of a housing estate, but crucially the fittings and layout have had little alteration since the pub opened in 1958.

The next closest three star pub is the King's Head in Bristol, which I have visited a couple of times recently. This pub has a glorious Victorian feel to it with its ornate bar-back and the delightful 'Tramcar Bar', a snug shaped like an old tramcar.



The 'Jampot'



The Globe interior



The Viaduct Tavern



The Viaduct interior

It is now owned and run by the Bristol brewery Good Chemistry, so the beer choice is always excellent.

It should have become apparent to you by now that in order to organise a tour of local pubs on the national inventory, you would need to do a lot of travelling. So, when I found myself with a free day in London recently, I felt sure our capital would have plenty of historic pubs on offer and decided to organise a walking tour to visit some of them. Greater London has a total of 294 pubs on the list, 67 of them with three stars, so finding a group of them in Central London that could all be visited on foot in one afternoon was a relatively simple task.

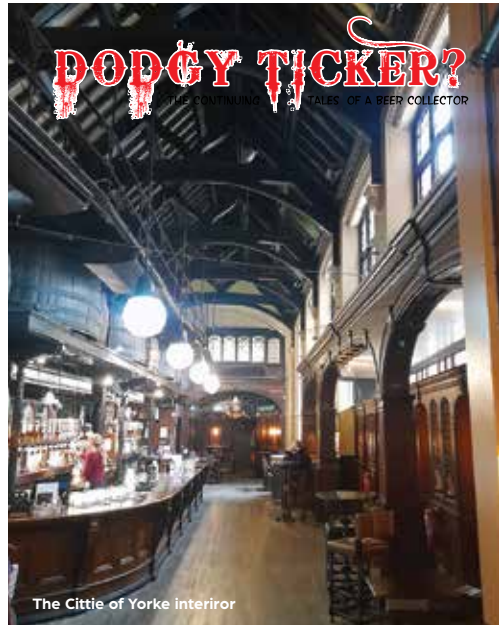
Recently, when I found myself with a free day in London, unlike our capital city of Gloucester, I felt sure our national capital would have plenty of historic pubs on offer and decided to organise a walking tour to visit some of them. Greater London has a total of 294 pubs on the list, 67 of them with three stars, so finding a group of them in central London that could all be visited on foot in one afternoon was a relatively simple task.

From the tube at Bank Station, it was a short walk to my first three star pub, Jamaica Wine House, known as the Jampot, which was built on the site of London's first Coffee House, partially burnt in the fire of 1666 and frequented by Samuel Pepys. Next was the Globe on Moorgate, surprisingly not on the national inventory, despite its elegant rococo exterior and its links to the famous poet, John Keats, who was born next door. Close to Holborn Viaduct is the Viaduct Tavern, once again a three star pub, with an amazing amount of Victorian woodwork and glazing, as well as three magnificent paintings of ladies surrounded by marble work. Ye Olde Mitre (Ely Court) was next, a superb three star pub dating from 1546. This was built for the bishops of Ely and was officially a part of Cambridgeshire up until the 1980s, not part of London at all! In the front bar is the remains of an old cherry tree that Elizabeth I is said to have danced around. This is a Fuller's pub, but there were several very interesting guests on when I visited, which made it the best beer pub of the day. Just a short distance away was the three star Cittie of Yorke (High Holborn), built in the 1800s in medieval style as a reconstruction of the pub's original 1430 design. Above the bar are huge wooden

vats, which would have originally contained port. This is in the centre of the law quarter and there are cosy wood-panelled cubicles where lawyers would have been able to meet clients in relative privacy. The next three star pub was the Olde Cheshire Cheese, a rambling 17th Century building which claims links with a variety of famous literary figures, including Oscar Wilde, Charles Dickens and Mark Twain. This was the first new building to be built after the Great Fire. Of all the pubs I visited on my tour, this was the only one that had the feel of a tourist attraction. I finished off by walking past St Paul's and having a final half pint in Ye Olde Watling (Watling St), another one that I was surprised to find not on the national inventory, despite its links to Sir Christopher Wren, who apparently drew up his plans for the new cathedral in one of its upstairs rooms.

My short tour around Central London took about three hours and was about three and a half miles in length, but included an amazing five pubs awarded three stars on CAMRA's national inventory of pub interiors. Despite a few pubs with a rather disappointing beer choice for a collector, I thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon and would recommend others trying something similar. With both my children now living in London, I for one can be sure that there will be more trips to the capital and there are undoubtedly still plenty of interesting gems for me to find.

Pete Searle



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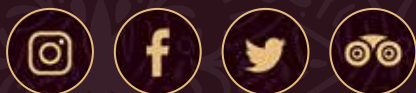
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## North Cotswold Branch

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Call: Martin Jones on 07879 015881.

## Mid-Gloucestershire Branch

Email: [chair@midgloucestershire.camra.org.uk](mailto:chair@midgloucestershire.camra.org.uk) – Peter Bennetts

Email: [branchcontact@midgloucestershire.camra.org.uk](mailto:branchcontact@midgloucestershire.camra.org.uk) – Chris Hall

**Cirencester Area** Email: [cirencester@midgloucestershire.camra.org.uk](mailto:cirencester@midgloucestershire.camra.org.uk)

Meetings on second Tuesday of the month at 8.00 pm.

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**Dursley Area** Email: [dursley@midgloucestershire.camra.org.uk](mailto:dursley@midgloucestershire.camra.org.uk)

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**Forest of Dean Area** Email: [forestofdean@midgloucestershire.camra.org.uk](mailto:forestofdean@midgloucestershire.camra.org.uk)

Meetings every Thursday night for a social at 8.00 pm. See Forest of Dean CAMRA Facebook page.

Call Area Coordinator: Geoff Sandles on 07504 533557

**Gloucester Area** Email: [gloucester@midgloucestershire.camra.org.uk](mailto:gloucester@midgloucestershire.camra.org.uk)

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**Stroud Area** Email: [stroud@midgloucestershire.camra.org.uk](mailto:stroud@midgloucestershire.camra.org.uk)

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Contact Area Coordinator: Tony Hill

**Tewkesbury Branch** Email: [chair@tewkesbury.camra.org.uk](mailto:chair@tewkesbury.camra.org.uk)

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Contact Ian at [secretary@tewkesbury.camra.org.uk](mailto:secretary@tewkesbury.camra.org.uk) or visit the website [www.tewkesbury.camra.org.uk](http://www.tewkesbury.camra.org.uk)



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## NORTH COTSWOLD CAMRA Branch

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