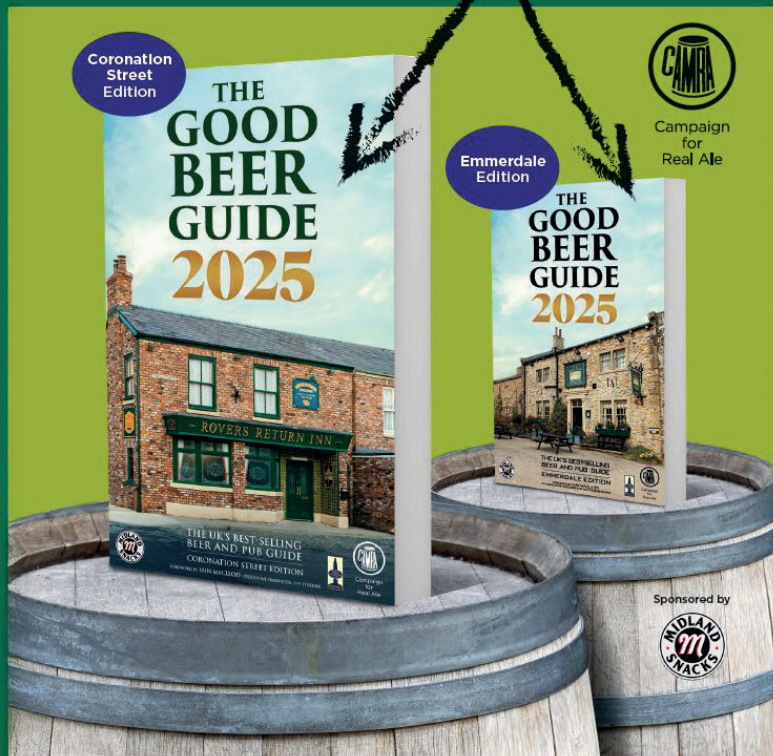


THE RISING TUN

Spring 2025

Issue 135

Find the best UK pubs



CAMRA, for the first time, have published two different front covers for the current 'Good Beer Guide', which is still on sale.

This is a choice between two of ITV's most popular Soaps, the 'Rovers Return' in Coronation Street or the 'Woolpack' in Emmerdale.

Emmerdale Farm, as it was formerly known, was first screened in 1972 at Yorkshire Television, before also being filmed on location from 1976 for twenty years in Esholt near Bradford. The Village Pub in Esholt, the 'Commercial' was used for the series before it was later re-named the 'Woolpack' as fans of the programme visited the Village.



THE GLUE POT

01793 497420

5 Emlyn Square, Swindon, Wiltshire, SN1 5BP

Situated in the heart of Brunel's railway village, the Glue Pot is a fantastic small traditional pub.

The pub is named for the glue pots nearby coachbuilders would bring into the pub at lunchtime and place on the central stove to keep warm.

- ✉ gluepot@hopback.co.uk
- f [gluepotswindon](#)
- t [gluepothopback](#)



5 Regular ales
and 2 changing ales

Opening Times

Monday:
4.30pm to 11pm

Tues-Thurs:
12 noon to 11pm

Fri and Sat:
11.30am to 11pm

Sunday:
12noon to 10.30pm

From the Editor...

Welcome to issue 135 of the Rising Tun. As a branch we have struggled to produce the Rising Tun recently due to a number of factors. As a result there has been quite a gap since the last issue, so we are very pleased to be back.

Producing a regular newsletter is a big commitment and as John Stooke mentioned in issue 132 he was ready to handover the editorship to someone else. At the time we didn't get any volunteers and John produced another 2 issues before officially stepping down.

In total John produced 21 issues of the Rising Tun between 2016 and the end of 2023 and the branch owe John a huge thank you for all his work. Although he has had to step back from the beer and pubs scene he is still very active locally and we wish him the very best for his work with the Kelly Foundation charity.

With John stepping down we are grateful to Chris James for stepping in to act as editor for this issue (despite being Visually Impaired) with some support from myself and other members of the Swindon & North Wilts branch committee. As a result you may notice a few changes including the return of 'Beer Fest Bev' to provide some light relief.

So what has been happening in the world of pubs, pints & people over the last 12 months? As our cover shows the Good Beer Guide is still available and with not one, but two covers, featuring two of the UK's favourite locals: Coronation Street's Rovers Return Inn, or Emmerdale's Woolpack.

Locally we held a very successful beer festival at the STEAM museum in October. More details on this on page 8.

Nationally there has been a reorganisation of the regions branches belong to. While this has not affected the area that the Swindon & North Wilts branch looks after we are now part of the South Central region. More on this and the area the branch covers on page 4.

In the last few months CAMRA has updated its logo. Read about the work that has gone into this on and what the new logos look like on page 7.

ROBERT WATTS

As we were compiling this issue we learnt the sad news that long-time member Robert Watts had passed away. Rob had been an active member of the branch since the early days of CAMRA and worked at many beer festivals over the years, both in Swindon and elsewhere. He will be missed by his friends in CAMRA.

Richard James

Chair

editor@swindon.camra.org.uk
<https://swindon.camra.org.uk>

THE RISING TUN

Magazine published on behalf of Swindon & North
Wiltshire CAMRA by: Neil Richards MBE at Paper Red Media
01536 358670 / 07710 281381
n.richards@btinternet.com or
paperredmedia@outlook.com
www.paperredmedia.weebly.com

Printed by **Zenith Media**, Units 9-13,
Pontyfelin Industrial Estate, New Inn, Pontypool. NP40DQ
www.zenithprintgroup.com

Local Trading Standards

From time to time, drinkers receiving poor standards of service or poor quality products may wish to raise the matter with Trading Standards. You now need to do this through Citizens Advice, an organisation which provides free, confidential and impartial advice on consumer issues.

To contact Citizens Advice Consumer Service call 03454 04 05 06 or visit www.citizensadvice.org.uk and click on Consumer.

Views expressed in this magazine are those of the individual authors and not necessarily supported by the editor or CAMRA. All content © Swindon & North Wiltshire Branch of CAMRA.

Branch News

Nationally, CAMRA have made some changes to the Regions that Branches are part of.

For the past 25 years, our Branch (Swindon and North Wiltshire) have been part of the South West Region, but this has now changed.

We are now part of the South Central Region, joining other Branches in Wiltshire – Devizes, North West Wiltshire and Salisbury, along with Branches in Berkshire, Dorset and Hampshire, among others.

Our Branch boundary remains the same, as the Map below illustrates.

The way that the 'Pub of the Year' judging, has also changed.

In the past, we have nominated a Pub to go forward to the South West Region.

Our nomination will now be judged by a County selection, and if successful, going on to the Region and then on to the National finals.

In February, our Branch Members voted, **The Five Bells**, Royal Wootton Bassett 'Pub of the Year', **The Ashford**, in Old Town, Swindon 'Club of the Year' and **The Glue Pot** in Swindon 'Cider Pub of the Year', as our nominations to go forward.

For 2024 CAMRA announced the National winners as **The Bailey Head**, in Oswestry, Shropshire, as the 'Pub of the Year', **The Firs Club** in Codsall, Staffordshire, as the 'Club of the Year' and **That Beer Place** in Chester, Cheshire, 'Cider and Perry Pub of the Year'.



National Brewery News

Figures in February show the UK has 100 fewer breweries in total as of January 2025 compared to January 2024 – with each quarter of 2024 showing a negative net closure rate – despite reports of strong demand for beer from independent breweries.

The figures, released by the SIBA UK Brewery Tracker and which consider all openings and closures to give the net number of breweries, make for sobering reading – with the UK total number of breweries now standing at 1715 compared to 1815 at the start of 2024. The drop in overall brewery numbers over the last twelve months is much higher than in recent years; at the start of 2023 the total was 1828, dropping by just 8 overall to 1815 at the start of 2024.

“The consumer appetite for independent beer is high and our indications suggest volumes for independent beer at the end of 2024 were up on 2023 – the issue for small independent breweries is lack of access to market and rising costs, making it incredibly difficult to remain profitable. Speaking to many indie brewers who have closed their doors over the last twelve months it is a very similar story; they can’t sell into enough of their local pubs and make enough of a profit to remain viable.”

“Given the demand for independent beer isn’t being met locally you have to wonder whether more local beer in community pubs would help pub closure rates as well.” Said Andy Slee, SIBA Chief Executive.

JENNINGS BREWERY



In more positive news the Jennings Brewery is to reopen. The brewery in Cockermouth, Cumbria was closed in November 2022 by the owners Carlsberg Marston’s Brewing Company, CMBC. The site was bought by new owners Kurt and Rebecca Canfield. Jennings brewed award winning ales such as Cocker Hoop, best beer of Britain 1999, Sneck Lifter and Cumberland Ale.

Kurt, Rebecca and Managing Director Chris France are busy restoring the brewery after floods to get it ready for production in the Summer. CMBC will continue to sell the bottled versions until March 2025 and then transfer the brands to the new owners. The team also look to produce many other ales. It is great to report good news about breweries for once.



SWINDON & NORTH WILTSHIRE BRANCH PUB OF THE YEAR

The **Five Bells** pub in Royal Wootton Bassett has once again proven its mettle by winning the 2024 Pub of the Year competition for Swindon & North Wiltshire. This prestigious award celebrates not only the pub's exceptional service and atmosphere, but also its dedication to Real Ale.

One of the standout features of The Five Bells is its impressive array of seven real ales, which are constantly changing. The landlord, Simon Cole, takes great pride in curating a diverse selection that caters to all tastes, from crisp and refreshing pale ales to rich and robust stouts and milds. This commitment to variety ensures that there is always something new and interesting for ale enthusiasts to enjoy.

Winning the CAMRA Pub of the Year for Swindon & North Wiltshire for the fifth time is a testament to The Five Bells' unwavering commitment to quality. Congratulations to Simon, Becci and their team!



SWINDON & NORTH WILTSHIRE BRANCH CLUB OF THE YEAR

The **Ashford Road Club** is in the 2025 CAMRA Good Beer Guide. The club has been Club of the Year for 2023 and 2024. The inclusion in the guide is a fantastic achievement for the club. It is the first time Swindon and North Wiltshire branch of CAMRA have had a club in the guide along with the Pubs. The members vote for their choices after surveying pubs and clubs earlier in the year.

The club has 3 real ales available for the members and guests, 1 which changes for a seasonal type of ale. The ales are Cask Marque accredited. All CAMRA members are welcome at the Ashford which gives a discounted £2.50 a pint on Mondays from 6pm until close and Friday from Midday until 7pm. Guests can be signed in at the bar. New members are welcome.



Paul New

CAMRA Clubs Co-ordinator,
Swindon & North Wiltshire Branch Campaign for Real Ale

L to R: Matthew Deller, Head Bar Staff,
Jenny Brownley, Secretary, Malcolm
Brownley, Cellar Management/Committee.

SWINDON & NORTH WILTSHIRE BRANCH CIDER PUB OF THE YEAR

As the best pub to drink cider in is not necessarily the best pub to drink beer in, we have an award for the best Cider pub in our Branch area.

Our Cider Pub of the Year for 2024, and also 2025, is the **Glue Pot** in Emlyn Square, Swindon.

Congratulations to Mark and his team!



CAMRA New Look and Logo



A brand-new look for the Campaign for Real Ale has been revealed, encouraging more people with a passion for pubs and pints to become part of the 147,000 strong CAMRA family.

At the very heart of CAMRA's ethos is that the pub is more than just a place to enjoy a drink; it's an experience to enjoy and to savour with friends.

CAMRA is now urging people who see the pub as a place to spend quality time with friends to join up and enjoy the experience with like-minded people. Whether that is visiting festivals, loving your local or being passionate about pubs, CAMRA wants to welcome you.

The brand-new look and logo follows 18-months of in-depth research and development, revealing an untapped group of people who want to explore different beer styles.

The campaigning organisation wants to welcome new people who can help to protect pubs at the heart of the community, while importantly enjoying quality beer and a rich social experience, with like-minded people.

As one of Europe's biggest and most successful consumer organisations, current and new members can work side-by-side. Helping to protect our wonderful pubs, clubs and taprooms for generations to come and making sure they are front and centre in all our communities.

Welcoming the change, Dean Barrett, CAMRA's Commercial Director, said: "Our members are the beating heart of our organisation and by growing our membership we can achieve more together."

"With a rich history spanning more than half a century, we want to celebrate CAMRA's successful campaigning which changed the beer and pub landscape phenomenally, while looking forward to another successful 50 years."

"This change is all about bringing like-minded people together, with a social setting being front and centre. Whether that is visiting pubs, scoring beer, taking part in a campaign or visiting a CAMRA festival, these all bring people together as one."

SWINDON BEER FESTIVAL

Our Festival Review



October 2024 saw the Swindon Beer Festival once again in the Great Western hall of the STEAM museum, Swindon. The dreadful weather of the previous year when storm Babet drenched us on Friday and Saturday and stopped many people attending was not repeated. As a result attendance was up by 10% which meant that by the close on Saturday 90% of the beer had been sold. Put another way this was 5,012 pints of beer sold!

Every year we try and make some tweaks to improve the festival experience. One of the changes was music on the Friday night. This was provided by local band 'The Sultans of Swingers' playing the music of Dire Straits. Music at a festival is often controversial, but overall I think people were pleased to have some live music at our busiest session.

The second change was our new caterers - Bear's Street Food. Although initially they struggled to keep up with demand as everything was cooked to order, by Friday they were coping well and we got a lot of very positive feedback on their food.

Our chosen charity was the Prospect Hospice in Wroughton and festival goers donated £500 worth of unused beer tokens which were converted to cash and sent to Prospect. Following the donation Amelia Channon said *"On behalf of everyone at Prospect Hospice, I want to express our heartfelt gratitude for your incredibly generous donation of £500. Your support truly warms our hearts and is a testament to the caring spirit of those behind the Swindon and North Wiltshire Campaign for Real Ale"*.

Everyone who attends the festival is encouraged to vote for their beer and cider of the festival. Local breweries did very well in the voting with Rodbourne based Rusty Garage coming first for Sump Oil.



Rusty Garage presentation (31 Jan 2025)

Other winners were **Broadtown** for their *Tripel Bassett Belgian Blond*, **Hop Kettle** for *Flapjack Black Marmalade* and **Ramsbury** for *Plum Pudding*.

The Cider of the Festival winner was *Whisky Cask* from **Thistly Cask** from East Lothian.

Everyone who votes for their beer or cider of the festival can have their name entered in a draw. The prize for the lucky winner is a brewery tour

SWINDON BEER FESTIVAL

Our Festival Review

for two donated by Ramsbury brewery. Mike Hurley was the winner from the 2023 festival and visited Ramsbury in July 2024.



Ramsbury visit (19 Jul 2024)

Mike reported that “On probably one of the few hot days of the year, myself and my fellow drinking compatriot caught a bus from Swindon to Ogbourne Saint George and walked the 3 miles eastward, through pleasant countryside, to the Ramsbury Brewery & Distillery.

We arrived hot and thirsty and after being greeted by a friendly and helpful member of staff and the completion of Health & Safety paperwork, we were directed into a pleasant bar area where we were offered a (much needed) small glass of one of their bottled beers by our tour guide Barry.

The tour commenced once all participants had arrived. After a briefing and overview of the brewery conducted in the bar we were shown to a fairly new venture for the operation: a Gin workshop; where you can select flavours to your taste and produce a personalised bottle of Gin using a mini still. This looked most interesting and maybe a consideration for sometime in the future.

The main tour of the Brewery, followed by the Distillery was very interesting and included two tasting intervals; first a selection of 5 (all tasty) beers and then, after the talk on the distilling process; samples from several of their Vodkas and Gins. These were also very drinkable and interesting in flavour. The tour concluded back in the bar with an unhurried large Gin and Tonic. As we were still a little thirsty, we purchased another pint and sat in a nice Garden area across from the main reception before we had to walk back to the bus stop in around 30 degree temperatures!

The Brewery and Distillery site itself was very impressive and worth visiting. It was a good day out, helped by the weather, a friendly and interested group of visitors and a cheerful accomplished tour guide”.

After a successful 2024 festival we are now planning for this years festival on Thursday 23rd to Saturday 25th October 2025. Please make a note it in the diary!

THE RISING TUN

Previous edition's
available online



Branch Brewery News

Our Breweries have been working hard, since our last Rising Tun.

ARHELL'S



At the end of 2023, CAMRA had voted The Strawberry Thief in North Swindon as the winner of the National New Build Award for the best new pub in the U.K.

They have tried some experimental brews – Donkals was a 4.0% lager brewed in collaboration with Donnington Brewery, While Honest John was a 4.0% keg beer.

They continued with Seasonal Ales, which over the months has seen Big Hit 4.2%; Sir Noel 5.0%; Kingsdown 4.8%; Spring Hopper 4.0%; Summer Saison 3.8%; Belt Driver 4.2%; Winter Warmer 4.5%; Moonlight 4.5%; Summer Ale 3.4% and Jack's Juicy IPA 4.5% created by Jack Bridgman, as part of his Brewing apprenticeship.

BROADTOWN



As well as the Hop Chapel Tap Room in the Village, they have now opened a Brewery in Calne.

They have been busy brewing with Rapid Assent 4.2% which was making awareness of a 'Bomb Disposal' Charity.

Also seen in the bars have been Silent Night 4.8%; Framboise Memoise 5.0%; Barnabus 2023 Edition 10.4%; Kettle Belly 6.5%; Shuffle Truffle; Black Llama 6.5%; Bull Head 5.0%; One, Two Hop, Morris Dancing; Narrow Gauge 4.5%; Falling Blossom and Triple Bassett

DRINK VALLEY



They now have two Pubs in Swindon, having recently opened a second in Devizes Road in Old Town.

They regularly hold Beer Festivals at their original brewpub in the town centre.

HOP KETTLE



10 X 10 X 10 IPA 6.8% A brew to celebrate the 1000th ale at their Cricklade Brewery.

Other recent brews include, Flap Jack Black Marmalade Breakfast Stout; Sipping on the dock; Simcoe Ho Ho 4.4%; Element Pale 4.2%; Tropicidelic 4.3% and Sadonia

RAMSBURY



RAMSBURY BREWING & DISTILLING Co. Ltd.

They celebrated their 20th Anniversary last year.

They brewed Aviator 3.7% especially for the 80th Anniversary of D Day.

Among other brews, Milk Stout 4.4%; Plum Pudding 4.4%; Choc Work Orange 4.4%; Blind Side 3.6%; Equinox 3.4%; Belapur IPA; West Country IPA 3.8% and Blonde Ale 506 5.0%.

RUSTY GARAGE



They have moved into new premises in Rodbourne Road, Swindon and their beer 'Sump Oil' was voted 'Ale of the Festival' at our Beer Festival last October.

SHED ALES

Their Pewsey Pub, the Shed Ale House, remains open but they are not brewing, as we went to press.



VIBISH



Vibish, based in Westlea in West Swindon, came up with a unique way to raise funds for a charity, brewing a beer to help domestic abuse victims called 'Empowered IPA'.

A group of five women got together to brew the beer, with the proceeds going towards the Swindon-based domestic abuse service Swindon Woman's Aid.

WORLDS END



Based in the Crown Inn in Pewsey, recent brews include Gurt 4.3%; Ale of Pewsey 4.5%; Might of Pewsey 5.5%; Viking Gold 4.7%; carnivale 4.5%(in celebration of the large Carnival held Annually), Santa's Reward 5.5% and Santa's Treat 5.0%

WADWORTH



WADWORTH
BREWED IN WILTSHIRE SINCE 1875

Although not in our Branch area we have heard that a tradition around the Market Town of Devizes has

come to an end.

The Dray Horses have been retired for a new life in Wales, after plans to build them a new stable, beside The Barge Inn in Seend Cleeve, were scrapped due to building costs. The Shire Horses had been stabled close to the former Northgate Street site, but since brewing has moved to Folly Road, there is nowhere close to keep them.



Branch Pub News

Quite a lot has happened since the last issue of the Rising Tun, but as we go to press, we believe that the following information is accurate.

ALDBOURNE

The **Crown** is under new Management.

CHISELDON

The **Patriot's Arms** has new Landlords, having been closed for a while.

COLLINGBOURNE KINGSTON

The **Barleycorn**, has new Management.

HIGHWORTH

The former Wine Cellar, we understand is now called '**The Tap and Tiffen**'

MARLBOROUGH

There are new Manager's at both **The Roebuck** and **The Wellington**.

NORTH NEWNTON

The **Woodbridge** is looking for new Tenants.

OGBOURNE ST GEORGE

The **Inn with the Well**, is now being run as a Bed and Breakfast.

PEWSEY

We understand that **The Water Front** is currently looking for new Managers.

PURTON

The **Royal George** is under new Management.

ROYAL WOOTTON BASSETT

The **Crown Hotel** has undergone an extensive refurbishment and is under new Management.

The former **Waggon and Horses** has re-opened and is now called **Cobbstar**.



SOUTH MARSTON

The **Carriers Arms** is currently boarded up and closed.

STRATTON

The **New Inn** is currently being advertised for new Tenants, while there are new Tenants at **The Rat Trap**.

SWINDON

New Tenants are believed to be sought to take over **The Tawny Owl** in North Swindon.

The **Sun Inn** at Coate has new Managers.

Branch Pub News

There is new management at **The Swiss Chalet** in Gorse Hill, **The Wyvern Tavern**, **The Rolleston** and **The Waiting Room**.

After being closed for a while, **The Roaring Donkey** in Old Town has reopened under new management and has undergone a refurbishment.

UPAVON

The Ship is understood to be in the process of being sold.

WANBOROUGH

There are new Tenants running **The Harrow Inn** while having been re-opened around a year ago, **The Cross Keys**, presently closed looking for new manager.

WROUGHTON

The White Hart is now in private ownership and recently re-opened after an extensive refurbishment.

The Iron Horse is under new Management.

There are also new Tenants at **The Carter's Rest**, which now boasts 8 Real Ales.



SOME BEER FESTIVAL DATES

Chippenham
Olympiad Sports and Leisure Center
(Fri 25th and Sat 26th Apr)

Christ Church
Old Town, Swindon (Thu 8th – Sun 11th May)

Wanborough
New Calley Arms, Wanborough
(Fri 6th and Sat 7th Jun)

St Mark
St Marks Hall, Railway Village, Swindon
(Sat 12th Jul)

Great British Beer Festival
NEC Birmingham (5th -9th Aug)

Swindon
Steam Museum (Thu 23rd – Sat 25th Oct)

BRANCH DIARY DATES

All Business Meetings begin at 8.00pm.

Mon 13th Jan – The Shield and Dagger,
Greenmeadow, Swindon

Mon 10th Feb – The Five Bells, Royal Wootton
Bassett

Mon 10th Mar - The Goddard Arms,
Old Town, Swindon

Mon 7th Apr - (A.G.M.) Ashford Club,
Old Town, Swindon

Mon 12th May – The Harrow Inn, Wanborough.

Mon 9th Jun - The Sun Inn, Coate Water, Swindon

Mon 14th Jul - The Patriots Arms, Chiseldon.

Mon 11th Aug - The Coopers Arms, Pewsey.

Mon 8th Sep – To be Announced.

Mon 13th Oct – To be Announced.

Mon 10th Nov – To be Announced.

Mon 8th Dec – To be Announced.

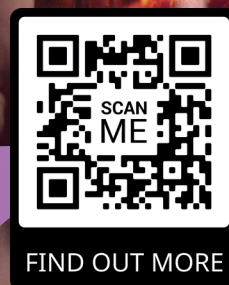
Be part of the CAMRA story

Real ale is just the start...

Our story is your story.
So join us in supporting
everything from pubs and
drinkers rights, to licensees and
breweries, uniting us
in the story we all love.

To thank you for being a hero
in our story, you receive great
membership benefits, such
as **£30 of beer vouchers**,
quarterly BEER magazine,
access to the online news
platform What's Brewing,
**partner benefits and
discounts...** just a few perks of
joining us.

Join the CAMRA story
camra.org.uk/join



Real stories, real people, **real ale**



STONE HENGE ALES

BEERS OF MONUMENTAL TASTE

WWW.STONEHENGALES.CO.UK | 01980 670631

THE BEEHIVE

Swindon's Favourite Local

- Local real ales and craft beers -
- Locally made Pies, Mash and Gravy -
- Regular live music -
- Local art on display around the pub -
- Free Wi-Fi -

Open all day from noon - 7 Days



The Beehive Pub
 55 Prospect Hill, Swindon SN1 3JS
 T: 01793 523187 E: post@bee-hive.co.uk
 www.bee-hive.co.uk



Would you like to advertise in the next edition?

Pre-book your space by contacting us below

We provide advertising & design for a variety of CAMRA branch magazines around the Country

Quarter Page (1/4)	£100
Half Page (1/2)	£150
Full Page	£260
Inside Front/Back Page	£280
Outside Back Page	£300

All prices ex. VAT

Paper Red Media
 Tel: 01536 358670
 Email/s: paperredmedia@outlook.com
 n.richards@btinternet.com
 Web: www.paperredmedia.weebly.com



A man wearing a tan cap, glasses, a red t-shirt, and a brown apron is smiling broadly while holding a large, silver metal cask. He is standing in what appears to be a brewery or a similar industrial setting. The background is slightly blurred, showing some equipment and pipes.

LWC

THE UK'S LARGEST INDEPENDENT CASK WHOLESALER

& Official supplier to CAMRA

LWC is the UK's largest composite drinks wholesaler, we have the largest selection of beers, wines, spirits and soft drinks, along with a designated cask coordinator & wine specialist at every depot.

We pride ourselves on our product range and service.

To find out more about LWC and our product range, please get in touch with us:
01249 474230 | wiltshire@lwc-drinks.co.uk