

THE RISING TUN

Autumn 2025

Issue 137

Full STEAM ahead for the Swindon Beer Festival 2025



 CAMRA

Est 2016

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Dan, Jamie, Fran, Hayley and Max warmly welcome you to

The Tuppenny



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From the Editor...

Welcome to issue 137 of the Rising Tun. Poor attendance at the Great British Beer Festival in August resulted in that festival making a loss. As a result central CAMRA has announced a number of cost saving measures. While these are no doubt necessary, we would like to assure readers that these will not have any impact on the Swindon beer festival. Our festival is self-financing and does not rely on any funds from central CAMRA. So please come along and support your local festival. Ticket information and other details are on page 6.

Also in this issue we celebrate local and regional winners; both pubs and beers, find out more about Swindon's oldest club, go for a trip on the Kennet & Avon, and learn about beer made with green hops.

Lockeridge 1911

Our Editor was pleased to receive correspondence from Mr Robert Colletts, regarding our article 'Lockeridge 1911' in the last issue of the Rising Tun. Robert became very interested in the proprietor, a Mr Rebbeck, who named the public house, The Who'd A Thought It back in 1911. Robert's late wife's great grandmother was a Rebbeck, so more research into the family name for that period deemed necessary. The public census records for Lockeridge in 1911, seemed a good place to start.

If you have any comments or feedback on things you see in the Rising Tun please let us know. Also if you have suggestions for things you would like to see covered. Our contact details are below.

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THE RISING TUN

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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.

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THE RISING TUN

Previous edition's
available online



Branch News

As we reported in the Spring edition of the Rising TUN, 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, amongst others.

The way that judging for the National Pub of the Year and other categories had also changed. Our Branch nominations would now be judged by a County selection, and if successful, going on to the Region and then on to the National finals.

Our Branch Members voted The Five Bells, Royal Wootton Bassett as our 'Pub of the Year'. As well as a certificate for Pub of the Year the Five Bells also received a certificate marking their unbroken 25 years in CAMRA's Good Beer Guide, a remarkable achievement for Simon, Becci and the team.



Five Bells POTY Presentation

The Ashford, in Old Town, Swindon was once again our 'Club of the Year'. Congratulations to Jenny and the team.



Ashford Presentation

The Glue Pot in the Railway Village, Swindon was once again our 'Cider Pub of the Year'. Well done to Mark and the team.



Glue Pot Presentation

Our nominations went forward to the Wiltshire County judging. The winners there were the Horseshoe, Ebbesbourne Wake (Salisbury Branch) – Pub of the Year, the Ashford, Old Town (Swindon & North Wiltshire Branch) – Club of the Year, and The Cuckoo, Hamptworth (Salisbury Branch) – Cider Pub of the Year.

Since then, the South Central regional selections have been announced with the winners being

the Bell in Aldworth, Berkshire the 'Pub of the Year', the Corfe Castle Club, Corfe Castle, Wareham, Dorset, the 'Club of the Year' and The Woodman in Bridport, Dorset, the 'Cider Pub of the Year'. Congratulations to these worthy winners who will go forward to the National finals.

By the time you read this issue, the new edition of the Good Beer Guide will be on sale.

And then we do it all again, with a selection meeting in February for our Branches entries to go into the next GBG and latterly on to the judging processes towards the National Pub of Britain finalists.



Champion Beer of Britain 2025

Mild by Penzance Brewing Co was crowned CAMRA's Champion Beer of Britain 2025 at the Great British Beer Festival in August.



The long-standing CAMRA award is one of the most coveted and well-respected cask beer competitions in the world, putting the winner firmly in both the UK-wide and international spotlight.

The competition is fiercely independent, with judging taking two years to complete. Each year kicks off with individual nominations from CAMRA members and volunteer tasting panels, then regional competitions. Every round of judging uses a strict blind tasting policy.

The top three were:

- **Gold:** Penzance, Mild
- **Silver:** Sarah Hughes, Snowflake
- **Bronze:** Church End, Fallen Angel

The individual category winners were:

- **Mild** - Penzance, Mild
- **Session Bitter** - Butcombe, Butcombe Original
- **Premium Bitter** - Cairngorm, Wildcat
- **IPAs** - Elusive, Oregon Trail
- **Session Pale, Blond and Golden Ales** - Track, Sonoma
- **Premium Pale, Blond and Golden Ales** - Church End, Fallen Angel
- **Brown and Red Ales, Old Ales and Strong Milds** - Tintagel, Caliburn
- **Session Stouts and Porters** - Cairngorm, Black Gold
- **Strong Stouts and Porters** - Grain, Slate
- **Specialty, Differently Flavoured** - Siren, Broken Dream Breakfast Stout
- **Specialty, Differently Produced** - Allendale, Adder Lager
- **Barely Wines and Strong Old Ales** - Sarah Hughes, Snowflake

The winners of the Champion Bottled Beer of Britain were also announced at the Great British Beer Festival, with St Austell's Proper Job claiming Gold.

SWINDON BEER FESTIVAL 2025



Tickets are now on sale for The 37th Swindon Beer Festival will be held from Thursday 23rd to Saturday 25th October 2025 at the STEAM Museum.

We will be featuring 80 Real ales, plus a selection of Ciders/Perries. There will be music on Thursday night and Saturday afternoon. We will also have a quiz on Saturday afternoon.

The admission price includes a souvenir glass and programme. There will be a free ½ pint beer/cider token for CAMRA members.

This year, for the first time, we are offering a Multi-session e-Ticket which will allow entry to as many sessions as you want, so ideal if you want to visit the festival more than once.

For more details and to buy tickets please scan the QR code.



As in recent years we will have 4 sessions:

DAY	DATE	TIME	ADMISSION PRICE	E-TICKETS?	PAY ON THE DOOR?
Thursday	23 Oct	18:00 to 23:00	£8	Yes	Yes
Friday	24 Oct	11:00 to 16:00	£10	Yes	Yes
Friday	24 Oct	18:00 to 23:00	£10	Yes	Yes
Saturday	25 Oct	11:00 to 19:00	£5*	Yes	Yes
Multi-session	This ticket gives you entry to all the sessions		£16	Yes	No

*Free entry on Saturday if you bring this year's festival glass from a previous session.

EVEN SWINDON CLUB



Established in 1883 Even Swindon club is the oldest club in Swindon. The club is at 44 Percy street, Rodbourne, Swindon SN2 2AZ.

The club boasts a professional size snooker table upstairs, a separate room with a pool table, a separate skittle alley along with dart boards in the large lounge. The club has an adults only bar. There is entertainment in the lounge most weekends along with Bingo weekly. The club has a Cribbage team as well as darts and skittles. The club is also used by the local Women's Institute who have meetings there.

The Even Swindon club recently held a Bank holiday event raising money for the Women's Institute to provide a Defibrillator for the local community. There was also an open Darts competition with a prize fund of £200 sponsored by Carling Black Label. The winner was Mark Cox along with runner up Declan Cox. The organiser was Keith Williams.



The Even Swindon club opened its doors to residents to look around and hopefully join the club. Mark and Shani Humphries are always keen to make new members feel welcome.

The club is a member of the Club and Institute Union. Guests can be signed in at the bar. The club has one changing real ale, usually Wadworth 6X or Arkell's 3B.

Paul New

BARGING TO THE BAR

I had hoped to call this article ‘The Beery Boater’, but not surprisingly someone had already used that name. No matter, 4 CAMRA members on a canal boat doesn’t have the same ring to it, but it was what we had.



We picked up our canal boat on the River Thames above Caversham Lock. Our first few hours were going to be a gentle afternoon cruise down the Thames, through the lock and then a sharp right hand turn into the entrance of the wonderful Kennet & Avon canal.

Completed in 1810 this 87-mile waterway connects the Rivers Kennet and Avon, linking the Bristol Channel to the River Thames. As with many canals it fell into disuse before being fully restored and reopened in 1990. I must confess I had travelled the canal before from Bristol docks to Reading. This time I was going in the opposite direction and with only a week we were aiming for Bath at most.

For anyone who is a fan of the Robbie Cummins and his *Canal Boat Diaries* it will come as no surprise to learn that we would have a few issues to overcome that meant we would not make Bath. In fact we had a gearbox issue before we even made it through Caversham lock and had to moor up almost immediately. The issue was a low oil level in the gearbox and once topped up we were on our way again.

We worked our way through the first of the Kennet & Avon locks and through Reading, including the narrow Brewery Gut, named after Simmond’s Brewery, hoping to reach the Cunning Man at Burghfield Bridge for our evening meal. This we did with just 20 minutes to spare. As well as a meal we enjoyed a few pints of *Calmer Chameleon* from Brew York, a good end to a busy day.

Our next planned stop was Newbury, but slow progress meant we only made it as far as Thatcham that evening. Unfortunately the pub options there were not inspiring and it was an evening on the boat.

The next day saw us passing through Newbury with a quick stop to pick up fresh food before passing through Newbury lock, a favourite with gongoozlers as it is overlooked by the Fuller’s pub the Lock Stock & Barrel. We had to give this a miss as we wanted to push on and try and make up some of the time we had lost.

By evening we had reached Kintbury. Looking at the *Good Beer Guide* the Dundas Arms, sandwiched between the canal and the River Kennet, looked very promising, and so it proved to be. This was once a free house, but is now a Butcombe pub serving their standard range of beers which we enjoyed in their large beer garden.

The next day saw us reach Hungerford and a chance for a lunchtime visit the excellent John O’Gaunt at the bottom of the High Street, only a few minutes walk from the canal. The beer range was good and included a beer called Route Two from Indie Rabble brewery in Windsor which I had not come across before. After a very pleasant few hours in Hungerford we moved on to Froxfield for our evening stop. A short walk brought us to the Pelican, a large roadside pub on the A4. The beer range was fairly standard,



but the Wadworth 6X was in good condition and once again the good weather meant an evening in a beer garden which always makes everything seem better.



We were now just over halfway through our week and it was clear we weren't going to make it to Bath. But the weather was great and we carried on heading west with an evening stop near Wootton Rivers. We walked down the tow path and into the village to visit the Royal Oak. This lovely 16th-century thatched pub serves some beers straight from the cask behind the bar, including Farmer's Best from Ramsbury on this occasion.

Lunchtime the following day saw us arrive at the Barge Inn Honeystreet. As the name implies this was built at the same time as the canal and is very popular with boaters, so we were fortunate

to get a mooring right outside. They had a great range of Stonehenge beers including *Danish Dynamite* and a new one called *40 Summers* brewed to celebrate 40 years of brewing at the Old Mill site which was originally Bunce's brewery. The beer was in great condition and there was almost a mutiny when it was time to leave.



That evening saw us reach Devizes in time to find a pleasant mooring not far from the wharf. To go any further would mean tackling the Caen Hill flight of locks. The 29 broad-gauge locks, spread over 2 miles, make this a quite a slog, especially in hot weather. So we hatched an alternative plan to stay in Devizes for the final two days of the trip. This was really no hardship as Devizes is blessed with many great pubs and we enjoyed visits to the Pelican, White Bear and old favourite, the British Lion. Devizes is also on the Stagecoach 49 bus route to Swindon making it easy to get home at the end of our week.

During our week we had fine weather, visited some good pubs and enjoyed some great beer. The only disappointment had been the poor condition of many of the locks and signs of a lack of maintenance on the canal. Let's hope this is reversed and this wonderful waterway remains available to boaters.

Richard James

GREAT BRITISH BEER FESTIVAL

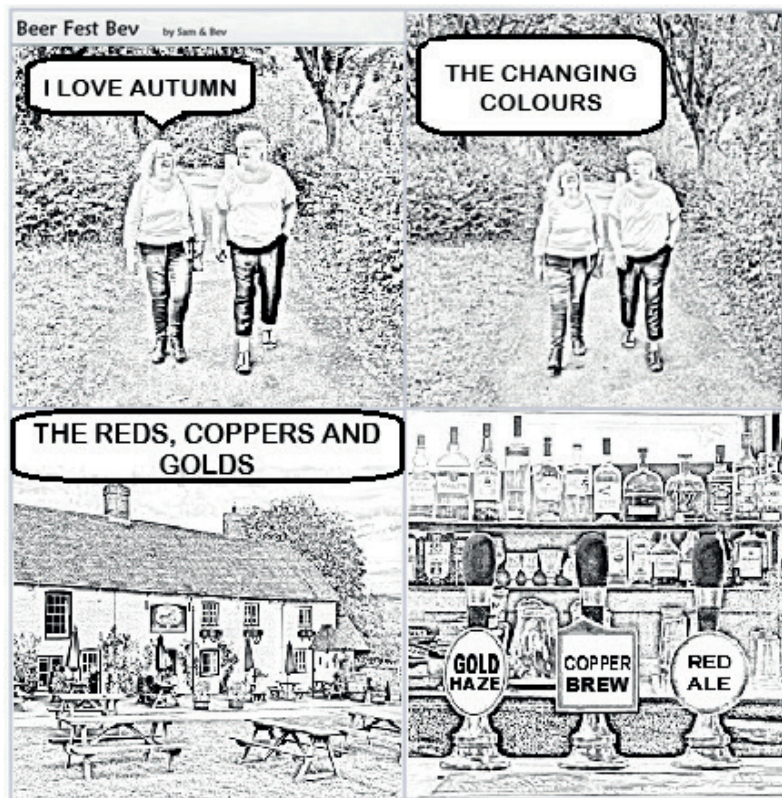
NEC, BIRMINGHAM – AUGUST 2025

My first GBBF was in Brighton in 1990 and I attended most of the subsequent festivals in London. I understand the reasons why it was relocated this year and the festival incorporated all the elements that made GBBF a success including a great range of beers, ciders and entertainment.

I enjoyed the event but it lacked the atmosphere of previous events. Sadly, the attendance was low. The halls emptied out around seven when the day visitors left and were not replaced by a post-work surge as experienced in London.

Yes, it was good not to queue at the bars but the beer was expensive, especially when compared to beer prices in Birmingham. The volunteers seemed bored with little to do.

It has already been announced that there will not be a GBBF in 2026 but hopefully the flagship CAMRA event will return in future.



Green Hop Beers



Autumn gives the unique opportunity to try Green Hop Beers.

Hops are usually harvested in the UK in September and October. Most of the hops are dried to enable brewers to brew with them throughout the year.

However some brewers use the hops fresh from the harvest to create what is known as green hopped or wet hopped beers.

The hops are added soon after picking. The green hops retain volatile oils lost in the drying process. This gives the beers a unique flavour.

Swindon and Cricklade brewer Hop Kettle brew a Green Beer every year with hops donated by customers. The beer known as Home Grown uses a variety of hops donated by customers who have grown hops in their garden. Cricklade brewer Matt George said some of our customers don't know what variety of hops they are donating. Each years brew will have a slightly different taste depending on the hops customers donate.



The green hops ready for delivery

We were happy to donate some Target hops to this years brew. We look forward to tasting the resulting beer.

If you see a Green Hop beer in your local pub take the opportunity to try it. If you miss it you will have to wait to next autumn to try another one.



Hops growing in the garden



Beverley Walker picking the hops



Hop Kettle brewer Matt George in receipt of the green hops

Mayor of Swindon Launches Oktoberfest

Although called Oktoberfest the traditional Bavarian beer festival actually starts in September. When it started in 1810 the celebration was entirely in October, but the festival gradually moved to September over the years to take advantage of the slightly milder weather.

This year Oktoberfest started on Friday 19th September and to mark the launch Fay Howard, the Mayor of Swindon, tapped a specially imported cask of Hofbräu München at the Tuppenny in Old Town. Also present was Swindon South MP Heidi Alexander together with Jeremy Lune from the Prospect Hospice.



Fay Howard - Photo by Gideon Liddiard Photography



Jamie Stapleton - Photo by Gideon Liddiard Photography

This is the same beer as gets tapped in Munich to start the festival there and the money from the sale of beer from this cask will go to the Prospect Hospice. Prost!

Richard James



Help us get cask beer UNESCO status

We've been backing the Craft Beer Channel's Keep Cask Alive campaign and petition to get cask beer UNESCO status. We've gained around 35,000 signatures already, and we need 100,000 to get it debated in Parliament!

UNESCO status will give cask beer the recognition and protection it deserves. Please sign the petition at:

petition.parliament.uk/petitions/716686



SOME BEER FESTIVAL DATES

OCTOBER

Wed 8th – Sat 11th:
Nottingham Beer Festival

Fri 17th – Sun 19th:
Prince of Wales, Farnborough Beer Festival

Thu 23rd – Sat 25th:
37th Swindon Beer Festival, STEAM

Fri 31st Oct – Sat 1st Nov:
Poole Beer Festival

NOVEMBER

Thu 27th – Sat 29th:
Dudley Winter Ales Fayre

DECEMBER

Tue 2nd – Sat 6th:
41st Pig's Ear, East London Beer Festival

Tue 16th – Sun 21st:

Drink Valley, Swindon Town Centre
Beer Festival

Thu 18th – Sun 21st:

Barking Cat, Poole Christmas Beer Festival

Swindon Scoopgen

If you like to be kept up to date with beer offerings/festivals from various places, including a beer festival list which gets updated every 2 to 3 months, please consider joining the Swindon Scoopgen group on Facebook.

As member you will be most welcome to post beers seen, pictures of pump clips, reports or festival information.

BRANCH DIARY DATES

All Meetings begin at 8.00pm.

OCTOBER

Mon 13th:
Business Meeting
The Hop Inn, Old Town

Thurs 23rd – Sat 25th:
Swindon Beer Festival - STEAM

NOVEMBER

Monday 10th:
Business Meeting
The Carter's Rest, Wroughton

DECEMBER

Monday 8th:
Social Meeting
The Beehive, Old Town

2026

JANUARY

Monday 12th:
Business Meeting
The Goddard Arms, Old Town

FEBRUARY

Monday 9th:
Business Meeting
The Sun Inn, Lydiard Millicent.

MARCH

Monday 9th:
Social Meeting
The Roebuck Inn, Marlborough

APRIL

Monday 13th:
AGM
The Ashford, Old Town.

Pubs, Pints, People.

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Set the membership to start on someone's special day!

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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

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