

THE RISING TUN

Winter 2025/26

Issue 138

Historic Swindon pub reopens



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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From the Editor...

Welcome to issue 138 of the Rising Tun. In this issue we are particularly pleased to feature some articles by our friends from Devizes Branch who have joined the Rising Tun.

As you will no doubt have seen in the news our public houses are facing a difficult time at the moment, so we thought it would be nice to start 2026 with a good news pub story.

Our cover picture features the recently reopened Stripey Badger pub in Eldene in east Swindon. Formerly known as the Crumpled Horn, this historic Grade II listed building closed in May 2023 and had been boarded up for more than 2 years. So local people were very pleased to see it reopen in October 2025 under its new name run by an enthusiastic team who are determined to see it back at the heart of the community. We wish them well.

We hope you enjoy the Rising Tun and we would like to thank everyone who has contributed to this issue.

John Richard Cock

Unfortunately local life member John Richard Cock sadly passed away on 24th October as he was on the way to the Swindon Beer Festival. John was a Glue Pot regular and will be missed by his friends there and in CAMRA.

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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Branch Brewery News

ARKELL'S



They have recently brewed Ancestry 3.8% (brewed in collaboration with the Country's oldest Maltsters French & Jupps) and Sir Noel 5.0%.

Their bottled beers did well in the recent British Bottlers' Institute (BBI) Drinks Competition with Kingsdown being particularly well liked by the judges and receiving a Gold award. The judges appreciated the craftsmanship in creating this well-balanced and flavoursome ale. Moonlight and 3B also proved to be favourites, receiving a Silver and Diploma of Excellence, respectively.

2026 is a big year for English sport, with the Six Nations in February and the World Cup in the USA this summer. To help our boys along, Arkell's have got two sport themed beers lined up.

First up is Tap Tackle for the Six Nations. This is dark and moreish with a smooth, light bodied mild ale at 4.7% that will be superbly sessionable for the big games. For the football they have The Showboater, a returning recipe that has always kept the pubs busy during big cup matches. At 3.7% it is light and crisp.

BROADTOWN



They have currently suspended brewing but before that produced, What's the Pint 2.9%; Falling Blossom 4.6% and Brothers in Arms 7.3% (brewed in collaboration with Hop Kettle).

Their Black Llama won silver in the session Stouts and Porters category of the South Central and South West 'Champion Beer of Britain' area competition.

DRINK VALLEY



They are focusing on gluten free offerings for their new beers.

Their next Beer Festival will be Tuesday 31st March – Sunday 5th April.

HOP KETTLE



HOP KETTLE
BREWING COMPANY

They have produced a number of different ales including, Good Fellas 4.9%; Duet No. 22 4.2%; Ventura 4.4%; Snake's Head 6.4%; Super Nova Savro 5.6%; Board Walk 4.9%; Pacific Haze 4.1%; Brisa Del Mar 4.6%; Punch Bowl Pale 3.8% and Home Grown 4.2% (which is brewed using hops donated by Customer's).

They have launched two new low alcohol beers. Star Lite, a non alcoholic lager and Low Loader, a non alcoholic IPA.

More recent brews include Twenty Four Carat, a 3.8% Golden Ale. Satellite, a 3.4% All Day Lager. Fireside, a 4.2% Session Red. Zattler, a 4.1% Challenger Single Hop and Ringslang, a 4.5% Session Belgian Beer.

RAMSBURY



Among their recent brews are Hazy Daisy 3.9%; Red Kite 4.6% (a keg brewed lager); Black Ram 4.4%; Velvet Chocolate 4.4%; Plum Pudding 4.4%; Gold 4.5% and Bison 4.2%.

For the Six Nations Rugby they have brewed Blindside 3.6%, a session pale ale.

Looking further ahead the brewery will host RamsFest on Friday 15th & Saturday 16th May

2026 This will have 30+ beers, camping, coaches, live music.

RUSTY GARAGE



Rusty Garage Brewery

Their latest beer is Hoppy Clutch V2, a 4.2% NEIPA.

There are regular quiz and music evenings at the

Rusty Garage Brewpub.

WORLDS END

They are currently only brewing for special occasions, but did produce Santa's Joy 5.2% for Christmas.

CAMRA
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Branch News

The surveys for the Pubs that the Branch Members have asked to be inspected for inclusion in the Good Beer Guide are well under way.

We visit the nominated Pubs, unannounced, and look for the Quality of the Ale, A Friendly Welcome and Beer Pricing in particular.

A selection meeting will be held, towards the end of February, to vote on our entitlement of entries, which is normally 17, for the publication that is available in the autumn.

There are a couple of reserves, should one of the nominated Pubs circumstances change, like the Pub being closed or a change of Licensee.

During the selection meeting, the votes are counted for our Branches 'Pub of the Year', 'Club of the Year' and 'Cider Pub of the Year'.

Towards the end of June we will join the three other Wiltshire Branches (Devizes, North West Wiltshire and Salisbury), to judge the County winners of each category. These will then go forward to the South Central Region, and then on to the national final.

For 2025 CAMRA announced the four Pub of the Year finalists are:

- The Blackfriars Tavern, Great Yarmouth
- The Pelican Inn, Gloucester
- The Tamworth Tap, Tamworth
- The Volunteer Arms, Musselburgh

The overall national winner will be announced shortly.

ASCOT BEER FESTIVAL

Ascot Beer Festival is organised at the racecourse with the Berkshire South East branch of CAMRA. The festival takes place at the east end of the Grandstand at the race meeting which usually falls on the first weekend in October. In 2025 there were over 160 beers, perries and ciders to choose from and this is one of my favourite festivals as it has a good selection of autumnal ales.

The gates open at eleven and the first race of six commences soon after two. The festival session closes at 5:30 soon after the last race. CAMRA members can buy advance festival tickets at a reduced rate. You can purchase a commemorative festival glass or use a free plastic one. The food concessions are more

expensive than most beer festivals but you are allowed to take your own food.

Ascot Racecourse has a dress code which should be checked but this is not strictly adhered to at the beer festival meeting. There are many people there for the racing, the men in their suits and suits with waistcoats and ladies in their finery with hats or fascinators but most of these stay at the posh end drinking champagne or cocktails.

Once the racing starts the afternoon passes quite quickly replenishing glasses between races and placing bets with the tik-tac men or the bookmakers at the other end of the grandstand. If you are lucky enough to win it makes the day even more enjoyable.



Branch Pub & Club News

As we go to press, we believe that the following information is accurate.

ALDBOURNE

The **Blue Boar** has undergone a refurbishment.

BROAD HINTON

There are new Licensee's at **The Crown**.

CHISELDON

We understand that new Landlord's are being sought for **The Patriots Arms**.

ELDENE, EAST SWINDON

After being closed for an extended period the former **Crumpled Horn** has undergone an extensive refurbishment and re-opened as the **Stripey Badger** under new Management.

GREENMEADOW, NORTH SWINDON

There are new Licensee's at **The Shield & Dagger**.

SWINDON

The **North Swindon Club** is now known as the **North Swindon Social Club**.

In Old Town the lease of the **Victoria** is for sale.

RAMSBURY

A change of use, planning application, has been submitted to change **The Crown and Anchor** into a single residential dwelling.

ROYAL WOOTTON BASSETT

We understand that the lease is for sale at the **Cobb Star**.

RAMLEAZE, WEST SWINDON

The Village Inn has undergone a refurbishment and is under new Management.

UPAVON

The **Ship** is under new ownership and has undergone a refurbishment.

WROUGHTON

There are new Landlord's at **The Iron Horse**.



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OUR FESTIVAL REVIEW



A busy main bar

October 2025 once again saw the Swindon Beer Festival in the Great Western hall of the STEAM museum, Swindon.

Every year we try and make some tweaks to improve the festival experience. One of the changes this year was to have a LocAle bar on the opposite side of the hall to the main bar. The LocAle bar featured 15 beers from breweries in Wiltshire and the surrounding counties.

The reduction in the size of the main bar allowed us to move the music stage to the same side

as the main bar. On Thursday night we had the welcome return of local band 'The Sultans of Swingers' playing the music of Dire Straits. On Saturday afternoon we had music from Geoff Roberts and friends and a beer themed quiz hosted by Sam and Beverley Walker.

Our chosen charity was the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust which was supported by our former chair Hans Hoffbauer. Festival goers donated £424.35 worth of unused beer tokens which we converted to cash and sent to the trust. They will use the money to support their work to achieve

OUR FESTIVAL REVIEW

nature's recovery in Wiltshire and Swindon. Their work is underpinned by two goals: to help nature recover and to connect people with nature.



Geoff Roberts & Friends

The festival was well supported with Thursday evening proving popular again after a drop in numbers in 2024. This seemed to come at the expense of Friday night, so that overall attendance was slightly down. Fortunately beer and cider sales held up and 82% of the available beer was sold. The most popular beer styles were Porters, Stouts and IPAs.



Steam power at STEAM

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 Cheltenham based Ashton coming first for their Jaffa Cake.

Second was Ramsbury for their Plum Pudding followed by Swindon based Hop Kettle for their ESB who were third equal with Kent for their Green Giant.

Everyone who votes for their beer or cider of the festival can have their name entered in a draw. The prize is two tickets to Rams Fest 2026 kindly donated by Ramsbury Brewery. This year the lucky winner was Sarah from Reading.

After a successful 2025 festival we are now planning for this year's festival on Thursday 23rd to Saturday 25th October 2026. Please make a note of the dates in your diary!

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Gloucestershire Cider Musings

Part 1

My journey in the cider and perry world was fledged in my childhood of the late 1950s and early 1960s growing up in the Vale of Berkeley and the Severn Valley.

As many will recognise Gloucestershire, along with Herefordshire and Worcestershire form the Three Counties famed for cider and perry making, along with other fruits notably plums and other soft fruits. Others travelling today on the M5 will recognise the landmark of May Hill (296 metres or 971 feet above sea level) and it's clump of Corsican pine trees planted in 1887 to mark Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee that help define the area. Indeed, it is May Hill that was framed in the view from my bedroom window for some twenty years prior to my moving away from the area.

Thus my life commenced in one of the distinctive doric column fronted bridge-keepers bungalows known as The Castle or Parkend Bridge on the Gloucester – Sharpness Canal. The Castle Lane road over the bridge leads the two miles or so from the old main A38 Gloucester to Bristol (prior to the construction of the M5) to the small villages and hamlets of Epney, Longney, Framilode and Arlingham lining the banks of the Severn. Like much of the rest of the vale the area is predominantly mixed arable and dairy farms, with small copses and woodland interspersed and crossed by small brooks or rimes leading to the Severn. However, a large swathe is today disappearing under the panels of a solar farm.

To the east rises the steep Cotswold escarpment and the old wool mill town of Stroud tucked away in it's own valley together with the Slad Valley made famous by author and poet Laurie Lee and 'Cider with Rosie', like a hidden crease in the escarpment some five or six miles away 'as the crow flies'. While 10 - 14 miles or so to the west the flanks of the Forest of Dean and May

Hill form the skyline, often cradling a blood red sunset at the end of the day. It is perhaps true to say that embers of life style described by Laurie Lee still lingered in little corners and pockets if you looked closely into the early 1960s.



Philip Woodman at the Junction

It was these surrounding farms and small holdings that contained the fruit orchards and lined the winding lanes, which provide the earliest memories of autumn and harvested apples and pears being stacked in sacks or crates under the trees awaiting collection. Indeed, the local parish Norman church of St Stephen's, in Moreton Valence where I was christened was described in a book on Gloucestershire churches as "The Church in the Orchards". Sadly, those orchards which surrounded the church were grubbed out by 1970s. This has however revealed more clearly the moated manor house platform (King Henry III granting to William de Valence of Moreton 10 oaks for construction of a Hall in 1253) which has given the local reference of 'The Castle' mentioned previously.

Dave Woodman

News from CAMRA Devizes Branch

Bad Ass Bert RIP

It is with great sadness that we report the passing of Bad Ass Bert, one of the main stalwarts and characters at the Southgate in Devizes for the past 16 years, on 29th November 2025.

He was much loved by all and especially admired for his deep love and knowledge of live music. He now hands over the reins to his soul mate George.

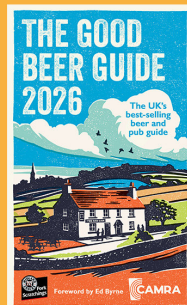


Devizes Branch Christmas Tour

The Devizes branch Christmas Tour of notable establishments around the town took place on Saturday 13th December 2025 commencing in the Southgate before proceeding to the Silk Mercer, the Tap, Pour House, White Bear (thanks Mark for the finger buffet) and finally the British Lion.



Members outside the White Bear.



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Remembering

Hans Hoffbauer



February 2026 marks the 10th anniversary of the passing of former Swindon & North Wilts CAMRA Branch chair Hans Hoffbauer.

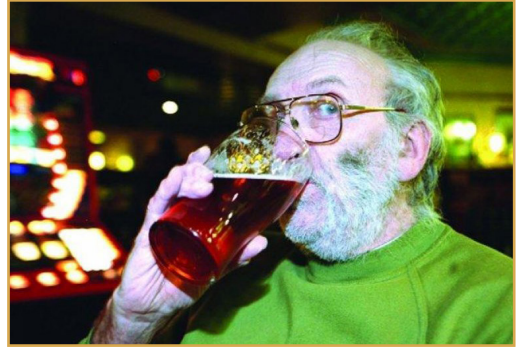
Hans led an extraordinary life. He was born in Leipzig in 1945 in what was then East Germany and his family was one of the last to leave before the 'Iron Curtain' came down in 1961.

Eventually his travels brought him to the UK where he developed a taste for British Beer and following a career move to Swindon he joined CAMRA in 1999. He became a regular attendee at our branch meetings and took over the web master role.

In 2011 he was elected branch chair. His photogenic looks made him a regular face in the Swindon Advertiser, campaigning for lower beer duty and against pub closures. He also played a major role in the Swindon Film Society.

In December 2014, family commitments took him away from Swindon to Dunster where he sadly passed away in February 2016. Hans is still missed by his friends in CAMRA.

Dave Backhouse



It is hard to believe that it is nearly 25 years since former Swindon branch chair Dave Backhouse died in April 2001. Dave was chair when I moved to Swindon in 1989 and he was a huge influence on my 'early' days with CAMRA. Newer members may wonder what Dave did for the campaign, but that is easily answered.

He was a founding member of the Swindon & North Wiltshire CAMRA Branch and its chairman for more than 20 years. He revived the Swindon Beer Festival in 1994 after a break of many years. He was our newsletter editor for many years. He was also an historian of local pubs and breweries; his book 'Home Brewed' is still available.

Apart from real ale and pubs Dave's other love was music. He worked as a music promoter and was instrumental in arranging the only appearance of the Beatles in Swindon, above the former Mcllroys store in the town centre, in 1962 when the 'Fab Four' still had Pete Best on drums.

So a great CAMRA campaigner and a great local character whose achievements we should remember this year.

Richard James

SOME BEER FESTIVAL DATES

JANUARY

Fri 23rd – Sat 24th:

Salisbury Winterfest XXVII

Fri 23rd – Sun 24th:

Lime Kiln, Bristol Winter Beer Festival (12 Ales)

Fri 30th – Sun 1st Feb:

Albert Inn, Totnes Winter Beer Festival

FEBRUARY

Thu 5th – Sat 7th:

29th Tewkesbury Beer Festival

Fri 6th – Sat 7th:

Dorchester Beer Festival

Fri 13th – Sat 14th:

Whitchurch (Hampshire) Beer Festival (35+ Ales but tickets £25 including a glass and 6 x halves)

Thu 19th – Sat 21st:

Liverpool Beer Festival

(Thu 18.00 – 22.00, Fri 12.00 – 16.00 & 18.00 – 2230,

Sat 12.00 – 16.00 & 18.00 – 22.00)

Thu 26th – Sat 28th:

Bradford Beer Festival

Thu 26th – Sun 1st March:

Waddington Village Club Beer Festival

Fri 27th – Sat 28th:

Gosport Winterfest XXXII

Sat 28th:

Devizes Festival of Winter Ales

MARCH

Wed 4th – Sun 8th:

Gryphon, Bristol 28th MetAle Festival

Thu 5th – Sat 7th:

49th Loughborough Beer Festival

Fri 6th – Sat 7th:

Sheffield Indie Beer Festival

Fri 6th – Sat 7th:

Harrogate Beer Festival

Wed 11th – Sat 15th:

Twisted Barrel Brewery & Tap House Stout Festival:

March of the Stouts.

Fri 13th – Sat 15th:

Bishop Sutton Beer Festival

Fri 13th – Sat 15th:

Perseverance (Staines) Spring Beer Festival

Thu 19th – Sat 21st:

Burton and South Derbyshire Beer & Cider Festival

Thu 19th – Sun 22nd:

Pelican, Gloucester Beer Festival

Fri 27th – Sat 28th:

40th Coventry Beer Festival

Tue 31st – Sun 5th April:

Drink Valley, Swindon Beer Festival

APRIL

Thu 2nd – Sat 4th:

Woolpack, Chelmsford Easter 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.

JANUARY

Monday 12th:

Business – The Goddard Arms, Old Town

FEBRUARY

Monday 9th:

Business – The Sun Inn, Lydiard Millicent.

MARCH

Monday 9th:

Social – The Roebuck Inn, Marlborough

APRIL

Monday 13th:

AGM – The Ashford, Old Town

MAY

Monday 11th:

Business – The Shield & Dagger, Greenmeadow

JUNE

Monday 8th:

Social -The Stripey Badger, Eldene

JULY

Monday 13th:

Business – Highworth Hotel, Highworth

AUGUST

Monday 10th:

Business – White Hart, Ashton Keynes

Est 2016

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

The Tuppenny




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- Regular DJ nights
- Board Games
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- Dogs VERY welcome

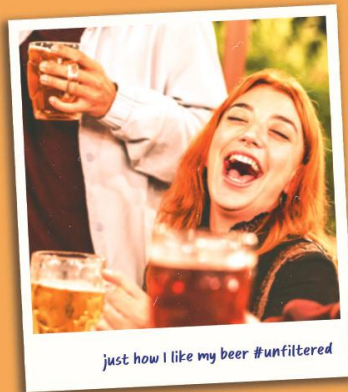


Come and see what all the fuss is about at The Tuppenny, 58-59 Devizes Rd, Swindon. SN1 4BD

These pints don't drink themselves



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A man wearing a tan cap, glasses, a red t-shirt, and a brown apron is smiling broadly while carrying a large, silver metal cask on his shoulder. He is in a workshop or industrial setting with various equipment visible in the background.

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