

THE RISING TUN

Spring 2026

Issue 139

The Red Lion at Avebury



Magazine of the Swindon & North Wilts.
and Devizes Branches of CAMRA





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

From the Editor...

Welcome to issue 139 of the Rising Tun. Following the success of working with Devizes branch in the previous issue we have now made the Rising Tun a joint publication with them.

With summer on the way our cover picture features the Red Lion at Avebury. Not only is this 400 year old thatched pub the only pub in the world to be located within a Neolithic stone circle, but it is also reputed to be haunted! However, as far as the Rising Tun is concerned, it is also handily placed on the road between Devizes and Swindon. It is also a Chef & Brewer pub making it part of the Greene King estate which are looking to reduce their pub estate.

In this issue as well as plans by Greene King you can also read about cider, how to make an award winning 'Jaffa cake' real ale, plans to commemorate the Wadworth Shire horses as well as the usual pub, club and brewery and other news.

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

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.

Chris James
Editor

Richard James
Branch Secretary

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

THE RISING TUN

Previous edition's
available online



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
papperredmedia@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 Wilts. and Devizes Branches of CAMRA.

Branch Brewery News

ARKELL'S



Their seasonal beer for April and May is returning favourite Spring Hopper. This 4% pale ale is light, easy and tempting for Spring.

To coincide with the Football World Cup they will have The Showboater, a returning recipe that has always kept the pubs busy during big cup matches. At 3.7% and light and crisp, this one will have you back for a second pint.



BROADTOWN

They have currently suspended brewing.

DRINK VALLEY



Drink Valley is working on establishing a core range of ales and is soon due to have 2-3 fixed beers on casks available, whilst also retaining its changing ale offer. The quarterly cycle of beer festivals continues at its town centre premises this year and the summer festival expected to take place during the last week of June.

HOP KETTLE



Have a number of new beers for spring:

Enzed - New Zealand Amber Ale 4.4% ABV

Silver Fern - New Zealand IPA 5%

Creme de la Creme - Cream egg

Milk stout 5.3% ABV

Heartwood - English Strong Ale 5.2%

Returning beers include The Good Saint, a Belgian Pale at 4.5%, and Nowadays, a modern Bitter at 4.4% with a revised recipe.

At the Hawksworth brewery the weekly Wing Wednesday has been paused since the end of February while work is undertaken at the brewery.

RAMSBURY



RAMSBURY
BREWING &
DISTILLING Co. Ltd.

Spring sees the return of a firm seasonal favourite – Springer English IPA. This refreshing 4.1% IPA is everything you want as the days get longer. Brewed using the finest UK grown ingredients it has a bright citrus zest balanced with juicy apricot and ripe peach with delicate floral notes for a clean, elegant finish.

The brewery will host RamsFest on Friday 15th & Saturday 16th May 2026. This family friend festival will have 50+ guest beers, cider, local food vendors live music, camping and coaches.

RUSTY GARAGE

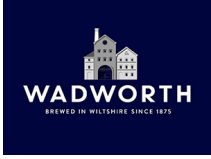


Rusty Garage Brewery

Spring and summer at Rusty Garage Brewpub are set to be bursting with fresh, vibrant flavours as they introduce their new Saison—a light, refreshing brew that captures the sun-drenched essence of a Belgium farmhouse in every glass. For those who prefer a bit more kick they have added some bolder options to the line-up, featuring new selections at 8% ABV.

Of course, the favourites aren't going anywhere with their snappy Raspberry Ale, tropical NEIPA, crisp Helles, and award-winning Milk Stout available.

WADWORTH



Wadworth Beer & Cricket Festival will be at the Devizes Sports Club on Thursday 25th June 2026. The match will see Lashing's World XI vs

Wiltshire Select XI, together with Test Match Special commentator Henry Blofeld. Up to 10 great Wadworth & Folly Road beers on tap at a festival bar. All day hospitality and after match party at Three Crowns in Devizes.

WORLDS END

They are currently only brewing for special occasions.

STONE HENGE ALES

BEERS OF MONUMENTAL TASTE

WWW.STONEHENGEALES.CO.UK | 01980 670631

DEVIZES BEER & CIDER FESTIVAL CANCELLED

It is with regret that we have decided the Devizes CAMRA Beer and Cider Festival will not take place in 2026.

Declining attendance and rising costs mean the festival is no longer viable at the Wharf site, with further pressures from new legal and policy requirements to come. We have explored alternative venues, but none can be delivered in the short term to the standard the festival deserves.

We are now focusing on how these challenges can be addressed for 2027 and beyond, and early discussions with potential venues are already under way.

We know this decision will raise questions and welcome those conversations at branch meetings or down the pub.

Thank you for your understanding

Devizes CAMRA Committee



BEER OF THE FESTIVAL PRESENTATION TO ASHTON



'Brewer Pete Clark receives the beer of the festival award and shield from Bill Bendall while Club Stewart Neil Way pulls a pint of Jaffa Cake

At the Swindon beer festival in October 2025 Jaffa Cake from Ashton Brewery was voted beer of the festival. As Ashton brewery is in Cheltenham we wanted to make the presentation there. However, as Ashton is a nano-brewery, it was agreed that the presentation would take place at the Cheltenham Motor Club. Club steward Neil Way

arranged to have two Ashton beers, including of course Jaffa cake, on draught.

As well as a very good turnout from Swindon & North Wiltshire members there were a good number of Cheltenham CAMRA members which made for a great presentation and afternoon.

Following the presentation Ashton owner and brewer Pete Clark explained how he created Jaffa Cake. "The base beer was the most important part. I started by building a strong milk stout with quality malts and some oats to give it a creamy mouth-feel. I kept the lactose fairly restrained because I didn't want the beer to become overly sweet. The chocolate and orange were from natural ingredients; I used cocoa nibs, which I lightly roasted in the oven to deepen the chocolate character, and orange peel added late in the boil. The goal was balance - I wanted the chocolate and orange to complement the stout, not overpower it, so it's still a proper, drinkable beer rather than a dessert".

Congratulations to brewer Pete Clark and thanks to Neil Way and the team at the Motor Club for hosting the event.

Beer prices in 1978 v 2026

During a pub discussion it was stated that beer was cheaper now, as a proportion of people's income, than it was back in 1978. But is this accurate? Here's what I found:

The median salary in 1978 was £3,269 and 30p for a pint represented 0.0092% of that salary, or £2 in today's value. Now, the median salary is £39,039 and a pint of beer costing £5 represents 0.013% of that salary. So, beer is more expensive now, by a factor of 1.4.

Gary Hodkinson

Branch Pub & Club News

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

ALDBOURNE

We understand that the **Sports & Social Club** is currently closed.

BISHOP CANNINGS

The **Crown Inn** at Bishops Canning is to hold its Crown Fest 2026 music festival on 4th July. Tickets available online, or from the Crown Inn direct.

CENTRAL SWINDON

It is understood that the **Tap & Barrel** in Manchester Road is being developed into residential dwellings.

DEVIZES

The **Fox & Hounds** on Nursteed Road is under new Management following a major refurbishment.

EASTON ROYAL

There was a fire in an outbuilding at the **Bruce Arms**.

LECHLADE

The **Riverside** has re-opened after a major refurbishment.

OLD TOWN, SWINDON

The **Victoria** in Victoria Road is under new Management.

POTTERNE

There has been a small blaze in the thatched roof at the Grade II listed **George and Dragon**, which was quickly extinguished by the Fire Brigade.

ROWDE

The **Cross Keys** is being redeveloped into a retail unit with two detached dwellings being constructed on the site.

SEMINGTON

Investors are being encouraged to buy shares to purchase the **Somerset Arms** that has been closed since 2023.

SOUTH MARSTON

The **Carpenters Arms** is currently closed. Arkell's are planning a major redevelopment of the site, ready to re-open in 2027.

TOOTHILL, WEST SWINDON

It is hoped that the **Village Hub** (formerly the Village Tavern, and before that the Toot & Whistle) will re-open this Summer.

WEST LAVINGTON

The **Churchill Arms** has undergone a refurbishment and is under new Management.

WROUGHTON

We believe that the lease for the **Brown Jack** is up for sale.



Wadworth Shire Horses to be commemorated

Shire horses started working at the Wadworth brewery in 1885, with more than 40 delivering beer around Devizes and surrounding area. Numbers dwindled with many being sold during World War Two, but four were brought back in 1974 to revive the tradition, plus participate in local shows around the country.

Part of the brewery's tradition saw each horse given a pint of beer before being released into a field near Devizes for their "holidays" each year. However, with the closure of the old Northgate brewery building and move to the new Wadworth Folly Road facilities (which are not suitable for stables) a decision was taken in February 2025 to send the two horses – Sam and George into deserved retirement in Wales.

Since then, there has been local comment on how much people have missed the horses which has prompted Devizes locals Martin Armitage and his daughter Michelle to launched plans to commemorate the animals with a statue.

With hope to raise money for a bronze sculpture, plinth and background mural to surround the statue, as well as a plaque to explain the significance of the horses to future generations they have contacted Wadworth, and Backhouse, the property developer behind plans to develop the old brewery site into residential housing, with both giving their blessing to the project.



Wadworth Shire Horses at Bath & West Show in 2023

SOCIAL AT THE SAVOY BEER FESTIVAL

CAMRA were invited to a preview session for their spring beer festival at the JD Wetherspoon pub the Savoy in central Swindon in early March. As well as a chance to try the festival beers before the festival's official opening the next day, manager Kelly set aside an area for CAMRA members only.

Everyone appreciated the chance to sit together and it was a great opportunity to meet fellow members, including some who have travelled especially for the event. We had nothing but positive comments about the evening and would like to thank Kelly, Peter and the team at the Savoy for giving us a chance to hold a social there.



Swindon Vice-chair Gill White with Richard James and Savoy duty manager Peter

Swindon Branch News

Recently our Branch Members voted, The **Five Bells**, Royal Wootton Bassett 'Pub of the Year', The **Glue Pot** in the Railway Village, Swindon 'Cider Pub of the Year' And The **Ashford**, in Old Town, Swindon 'Club of the Year'

We will also be issuing certificates to the runners up in each category, which are **Drink Valley** in Swindon Town Centre, the **Hop Inn** in Old Town, Swindon and the **Haydon Wick Club** in North Swindon.

We also created a new award for the Rural Pub of the Year, which this year is the **Bruce Arms** in Easton Royal.

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

Initially, our selections will be up against the nominations from other Wiltshire Branches, the **Duke of York** in Salisbury and the **Three Cups** in Malmesbury in the Pub of the Year category, The **Cuckoo Inn**, Hamptworth, Cider Pub of the Year and **Netheravon Social Club**, Netheravon as Club of the Year.

Earlier this year, last Year's National winners were The **Tamworth Tap** in Tamworth, Staffordshire (Pub of the Year' and the **Billingham Catholic Club** in Billingham, near Stockton on Tees, County Durham 'Club of the Year'.

We are grateful to have received updates from the Devizes Branch.

Gloucestershire Cider Musings

Part 2

Dave Woodman continues his journey in the cider and perry world which was fledged in his childhood of the late 1950s and early 1960s growing up in the Vale of Berkeley and the Severn Valley. See *Rising Tun 138* for the first part of this fascinating article.

It was through a local agricultural contractor Harold Clissold (an older fore-runner of Kalib on Clarkson's Farm) who produced cider for 'local consumption' from his old vats and barrels at his home. His son-in-law's pub, the Red Lion in Arlingham would also stock any that could be spared. The old stables could be a cosy place on a winter evening, when the old fireplace originally for drying the horse tack, was lit and the 'invited' would sit around passing the large enamel jug to top up your glass or pot. The rule was that the 'tap man' must finish any residue in the jug before refilling for the next pass. Often that 'little extra' soon became evident as the night passed.

My paternal family name first appeared in the church records of Frocester in 1715 and slowly spread across the valley (some even over the River Severn to the fringes of the Forest of Dean). Most were agricultural labours or small farmers, although other elements of the family became mariners on the Severn, plus other occupations associated with the river and Gloucester and Sharpness canal which was completed in 1827.

Family history has identified a distant 2nd cousin Philip Woodman (1829 – 1905) who made that journey initially as a farm labourer before appearing in 1861 as Innkeeper of the Junction Inn at Northwood Green, Westbury on Severn. Subsequent census entries describe him as Innkeeper / Fruit Deal and Farmer of the Junction Inn up to 1901. It is noted that the current Junction Inn at Grange Court occupies a different site to that originally occupied by Philip. A photograph of the latter circa 1910 shows

Stroud Brewery as the owner. The abundant fruit in the area would have been distributed country wide utilising the rail network which gives The Junction its name.



The Junction Inn, Circa 1910

Today only remnants of the once extensive orchards in the area exist with many needing maintenance and regeneration. However, efforts are being made and the likes of Orchard Revival specialises in helping homeowners, farmers, businesses and charities grow, maintain and restore fruit trees and orchards across a wide area of south and west of England from Hereford to Berkshire, Hampshire to Oxford and Somerset and Monmouthshire. Plus they make excellent cider and perry from fruit collected in the area, including from orchards I know well that still exist.

Additionally, valuable work is carried out by the Gloucestershire Orchard Trust which has two orchards called Long Tynning and Bollow at Longney on the banks of the Severn, plus an old remnant orchard which is being revived through replanting with more varieties of apples, pears and plums. The orchards contain 80+ different varieties of Gloucestershire apple collection, 32 of plums, 9 of damsons and 9 of cherry. Plus the National Perry Pear Centre at the Hartpury Orchard Centre supplements the Malvern collection and, Peter Mitchell provides instruction and training through the Cider and Perry Academy also at the Centre.

Dave Woodman

GREENE KING PUB SALES

In March Greene King announced that it was to put 150 of its pubs up for sale, with a further 20 probably going to be closed. Nick Mackenzie, chief executive of Greene King, said: "We are confident that our new pub estate strategy will set us up to deliver sustainable profitable growth for the long-term as consumer habits continue to evolve and the operating environment remains dynamic".

Although Britain's second-largest pub group, Greene King itself was acquired in 2019 by CK Asset Holdings, a Hong Kong-based multinational corporation.

As we went to press there was no confirmation of which of their 2,500 strong pub estate were earmarked for sale or closure. There are over a dozen Greene King owned pubs and restaurants in Wiltshire. These include traditional pubs, the Chef & Brewer brand, family-friendly Hungry Horse venues, and Farmhouse Inns. Most are in and around Swindon, but also some in Marlborough and of course our cover star the Red Lion in Avebury which is under the Chef & Brewer brand.



Kerry Rose R.I.P



It is sadly announced that Kerry Rose our friend and Branch Vice Chairman has sadly passed away.

Kerry was a familiar and cheerful face in the pubs of Devizes and was a man who favoured quality over quantity, often being seen with a paddle of three thirds rather than a pint. He was always happy to have a chat and his knowledge of the lost pubs in the Lavingtons (in particular) was unsurpassed.

Kerry was a passionate supporter of the Devizes Beer and Cider Festival, being one of the main drivers in publicising the event around Wiltshire. He also helped bring sponsorship to the event.

Kerry will be missed by all that knew him and he leaves a hole in Devizes CAMRA. Our thoughts and condolences are with his family and friends.

Don Jones

Chairman, Devizes CAMRA

CAMRA Members — Are You Missing Out?

Not receiving emails from your local CAMRA branch?

You could be missing details of upcoming events, trips, and social activities!

It's easy to fix — simply check your privacy settings on the CAMRA website.

You may not have chosen to receive electronic communications from your local branch.

To update your preferences:

- 👉 Sign in at camra.org.uk
- 👉 Select the circle with your initials → My Profile
- 👉 Edit Profile → Edit Membership Details including email → Save
- 👉 My Profile → Marketing Preferences → Save

Or call 01727 867 201 for assistance.

Stay connected — don't miss out on what's happening locally!



SOME BEER FESTIVAL DATES

APRIL

Thu 16th – Sat 18th:

32nd Tuckers Malting Beer Festival

Fri 17th – Sun 19th:

Lupe, Bedminster (nr Bristol) Spring Cask Festival

Fri 24th – Sat 25th:

Chippenham Beer Festival

Sat 25th:

Yeovil Beer & Cider Festival (14.00 – 23.00hrs)

Sat 25th:

Electric Bear Brewing Co. (Keynsham)
Spring Beer Festival

MAY

Fri 1st – Sat 2nd:

Abingdon Beer Festival

Fri 1st – Sun 3rd:

Churchdown Club, Gloucester Blues & Ales Festival

Fri 1st – Mon 4th:

Prince Albert, Stroud Beer Festival

Sat 2nd:

24th Seend Beer Festival

Sat 2nd:

Witney Beer Festival

Thu 7th – Sun 10th:

Old Town, Swindon Beer Festival

Fri 8th – Sun 10th:

Ludlow Spring Beer Festival

Fri 15th – Sat 16th:

Ramsfest @ Ramsbury Brewery

Fri 22nd – Sun 24th:

Ilfracombe Beer & Music Festival

Fri 22nd – Mon 24th:

The Red Monkey, Redland (nr Bristol)
3rd Beer Festival

Sat 23rd – Mon 25th:

Swindon & Cricklade Railway Beer & Cider Festival

Sun 24th:

Bracknell Ale & Cider Festival

Fri 29th – Sat 30th:

Alton Beer Festival

JUNE

Fri 5th – Sat 6th:

Pelican, Gloucester Beer Festival

Fri 5th – Sat 6th:

18th Stratford Upon Avon Beer & Cider Festival

Fri 5th – Sat 6th:

8th Wanborough Beer Festival (20 Casks)

Fri 12th – Sat 13th:

Winchester Beer Festival

Fri 12th – Sun 14th:

26th Gloucestershire & Warwickshire
Railway Ale & Steam Festival

Tue 23rd – Sun 28th:

Drink Valley, Swindon Beer Festival

Fri 26th – Sat 27th:

Salisbury 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.

SWINDON BRANCH DIARY DATES

All Meetings begin at 8.00pm.

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

Pubs, Pints, People.

FREE ENTRY
to all 100+
CAMRA-run
beer
festivals



Ever seen a Ginger Panther? No, but we've tried one!

CAMRA membership expands your choice of beer, pubs and festivals. Find the best pints, and the places you want to drink them.

Get £30 of beer vouchers, discounts on real ale, free entry to 100+ beer festivals around the UK and more with membership.

Join and save on beer.
camra.org.uk/join



THE BEEHIVE

Swindon's Favourite Local

- Local real ales and craft beers -
- 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

PAPER RED MEDIA

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

Paper Red Media

Tel: 01536 358670

Email: paperredmedia@outlook.com

Web: www.paperredmedia.weebly.com

A selection of branch magazines we produce



Our Prices

Eighth Page (1/8)
£60

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

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](#)

🐦 [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



Quality
REFINED THROUGH THE GENERATIONS
www.arkells.com

WELCOME TO HOOKY COUNTRY

WHERE EVERY SIP'S A STORY
AND EVERY ROUND'S A REASON



BREWERY TOURS, SHOP, CAFE, MEETINGS, EVENTS & WEDDINGS

T: 01608 730384 E: vc@hooky.co.uk

www.hooky.co.uk