

KEIGHLEY & CRAVEN ALESMAN

**Last
of its
kind?**

**Full
article on
Taylor's
pubs in
Taylor's
town -
page 8**





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Good Beer Guide 2026

The 52nd edition of the UK's best-selling beer and pub guide, the Campaign for Real Ale's (CAMRA) Good Beer Guide, is out now.

The Guide, which surveys 4,500 of the best pubs across the UK, is the definitive beer drinker's guide for those seeking the best pints of cask beer in the nation's pubs. It is the complete book for beer lovers and anyone wanting to experience the UK's finest pubs as the Good Beer Guide is independent, with a volunteer-led selection process, and listings based on evaluation by CAMRA members. It is a collectable annual snapshot of excellence in beer and pub culture.

There are 25 pubs in The Keighley and Craven CAMRA area in the new guide, including the Goat's Head in Steeton and the Yorkshireman in Skipton for the first time. The Fleece in Haworth is included for the 40th time since the guide was first published in 1974.

Others in the Keighley area are the Brown Cow and Taylor's On The Green in Keighley, Bay Horse and Dog and Gun in Oxenhope/ Leeming, Friendly and Wuthering Heights in Stanbury and Counting House, Silsden.

Pubs in the Guide in the town of Skipton are the Beer Engine, Cock and Bottle, Narrow Boat, Woolly Sheep and Yorkshireman. In the Craven area between Keighley and Skipton are Craven Brew Co Tap Room and Gallagher's Ale House in Cross Hills, and the New Inn, Cononley. Further afield in Craven are the Craven Arms in Appletreewick, Victoria in Kirkby Malham, Queens Arms in Litton and Fox & Hounds in Starbotton. Also the Talbot Arms in Settle, Station Inn at Ribbleshead, Hoggs 'n' Heifer in Bentham and the Marton Arms, Thornton in Lonsdale, near Ingleton.

CAMRA's national Chairman, Ash Corbett-Collins, pointed out, in a press release in September, that this year's guide is a testament to the remarkable resilience of publicans,

continuing to achieve excellence and choice for consumers despite a backdrop of sky-high tax bills. The Guide is sponsored by Midlands Snacks Pork Scratchings, which has stayed true to the original recipe and method of cooking which has earned them a Great Taste Award, and the Guide is endorsed by Cask Marque. The foreword has been penned by comedian and beer lover Ed Byrne. Known for his #preshowpints on social media, he posts about the beers he samples in various bars and breweries around the UK prior to his shows.

Jenny Baker



Licensee Scott Goodwin is very pleased that the Goat's Head is in the new Guide



Likewise licensee David Holmes at the Yorkshireman in Skipton

ALESMAN ADVERTISING & SUBSCRIPTIONS

Our advertising and subscription details from Summer 2025 are tabled below. Alesman is printed 3 times a year (in March, July & November). Please consider placing an advert in our magazine. Send copy to:

Fred Baker, 170 Long Lee Terrace, KEIGHLEY, West Yorkshire BD21 4TU

or e-mail: fred_baker50@hotmail.com

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1/6 page	61x59 mm	33.60	95.75	90.70
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1/3 page	61x123 or 128x59 mm	65.00	185.25	175.50
1/2 page	61x188 or 128x91 mm	99.75	284.30	269.35
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Alesman Subscriptions - 2 years (6 issues) for £7.50 - sent anywhere in the UK.

The 'Alesman' is produced every four months for Keighley & Craven branch of CAMRA. The views expressed within are those of the assorted contributors and are, therefore, not necessarily those of the editor nor of the Campaign for Real Ale.

DEADLINE FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Please note that the closing date for receipt of articles for the Spring 'Alesman' is **5th February 2026**.

Please send content to **Fred Baker, 170 Long Lee Terrace, KEIGHLEY, West Yorkshire BD21 4TU** or e-mail to **fred_baker50@hotmail.com**

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INN BRIEF

The information in this article was, to the best of our knowledge, correct at the time we went to press in November.

The Mess Room in Skipton changed hands on Monday 1st September. Two handpumps selling Rooster's YPA and Tetley Bitter when we visited.

Peter Thornton of the Victoria, Kirkby Malham, has bought the freehold to the property.

The closed Mill Hey Brew House (formerly Royal Oak) near Haworth station is now in the hands of the Keighley & Worth Valley Railway. We hope to see the downstairs bar reopen while the upper parts of the building are used as office space.

OPEN...

The Willow Tree, Riddlesden, reopened on 10th November following the completion of the expected major refurbishment.

The Inn at Eastburn is open from 11am to 3pm Sunday to Thursday. It's being run by owner Graham Marshall and Sarah Wilks. There are normally three draught beers, all from wooden casks.

The Worth Valley Inn, Ingrow, has finally reopened after a long period of closure.

The Kings Arms, Silsden, reopened in the Autumn following a refurbishment.

Mick & Kelly Coburn and Emma Fannon took over at the Red Lion, Silsden, in early October. Goose Eye Chinook (in firkins) and Bitter (in pins) were on sale on 6.11.25. The pub opens at 4pm Monday to Thursday and at 12noon Friday to Sunday.

& CLOSED...

Y Tapas - formerly Yorkshire Tap micropub - on Cavendish Street, Keighley, is now closed. They decided not to renew their lease and instead to transfer food service to the Albert Hotel function room.

Peaks and Troughs in Ingleton advertised its fixtures and fittings for sale and closed at the end of September.

Crosshills Social Club ceased trading on 21st September.

The Cloth Store on Main Street, Haworth, closed in August.

The Nosey Cow micropub on Low Street in Keighley closed on 27th July. Rachael the licensee did not want to renew her lease.

BREWERY BRIEF

Timothy Taylor's brewery has put up four pubs for sale. The two in Keighley are the Albert Hotel and Royal Oak. The Town Hall Tavern in Leeds and the Inn at Cheltenham Parade in Harrogate are also for sale.

Wishbone brewery in Keighley celebrated their 10th anniversary on 30th August 2025.

* * * * *

SKIPTON BEER FESTIVAL 2026

Next Spring's beer festival will be from Thursday 21st to Saturday 23rd May, again in the Town Hall. Opening hours are 11am to 10pm Thursday & Friday, 11am to 8pm Saturday. Cask beers, KeyKeg beers, Cider & Perry, Wine. Food available.



Featured in the 2026 Good Beer Guide Halifax & Calderdale Cider Pub of the Year 2023 Yorkshire Pub of the Year 2022

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Turned out nice again!



Time for that taste of Taylor's



A NEW CHAPTER AT THE NEW INN

The New Inn at Appletreewick has always had a reputation for breaking the mould. Back in the 1970s it became the first pub in the UK to ban smoking, later gaining cult status among cyclists thanks to endurance rider John Pitchers. Today, it is once again undergoing a transformation.

At the helm are Alexa and Chris Ives, who both know the village well and spotted the potential to restore the New Inn as a landmark destination. Alexa brings eight years of senior hospitality experience from her time front of house at the Box Tree in Ilkley. Chris, meanwhile, is widely respected in the world of beer and spirits, having founded Ilkley Brewery in 2009 and later co-founding Otterbeck Distillery, home of the award-winning Cotton Gin.

Since taking over, the couple have reimagined the pub with a complete interior refresh and a new brand identity. But for them, the final piece of the puzzle was always going to be finding the right chef to shape its food offer. That role is now filled by Mikael (Mike) Paylor, a Grassington native whose culinary journey took him from the Dales to the heart of London's fine dining scene. At just 22, he left Yorkshire to train under

renowned chefs such as Richard Corrigan and Brendan Fyldes in Mayfair, as well as television personality Ronnie Murray. Now, as he nears 40, Mikael has returned to Wharfedale to take full creative control of the kitchen.

His return feels like a natural homecoming. While his skills were honed in London, his roots and passion for Yorkshire ingredients have never faded. With the freedom offered by Alexa and Chris, he is bringing a fresh vision to the New Inn, producing everything from scratch and working with producers and partners to deliver imaginative food-led experiences.

Plans are already in motion for seasonal outdoor feasts and innovative dining events, all with Mikael's signature approach of celebrating ingredients and cooking with integrity. It marks a new era for the New Inn – one that builds on its rich history while setting the standard for modern Yorkshire hospitality.

Please use the contact details below to get in touch. We look forward to welcoming you to our traditional country pub, the New Inn at Appletreewick.

- 07516780023
- hello@appletreewick.pub
- New Inn, Appletreewick, North Yorkshire BD23 6DA



No CBOBs for God's Own County!

We've no doubt that at the 2025 Great British Beer Festival, held in August at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, the judging panellists for the annual Champion Beer of Britain (CBOB) competition did their job with painstaking punctiliousness. But surely we from Up North can still feel a bit disappointed that, unusually, no Yorkshire-brewed beers got into the top three in any of the dozen categories, let alone the grand final.

In fact, only two beers from the North of England reached such a placing, one each from Manchester and Northumberland, while one Scottish brewery reached the top in two different categories, and two beers from different breweries on the same Berkshire industrial estate each won a category!

The three top finalists were, it must be said, of three splendidly contrasting styles and strengths: **CBOB** overall winner, or **CHAMPION BEER OF BRITAIN 2025** was Penzance Mild (3.6% alcohol by volume) from the UK's last town before Land's End. In second place was an 8% barley wine, Snowflake, from Sarah Hughes Brewery at the Beacon Hotel, Sedgley, West

Midlands, while the Bronze went to Fallen Angel, a 5% premium pale ale from Church End Brewery, Nuneaton, Warwickshire.

Winners of other categories were:

Session bitters: Original (4%) from Butcombe brewery in Wrington, North Somerset.

Premium bitters: Wildcat (5.1%) from Cairngorm Brewery of Aviemore, Highlands.

IPAs (India Pale Ales): Oregon Trail (5.8%) from Elusive Brewing of Finchampstead, Berkshire.

Session Pale, Blond and Golden Ales: Sonoma (3.8%) from Track Brewing Co, Piccadilly, Manchester.

Brown & Red Ales, Old Ales & Strong Milds: Caliburn (5.8% old ale) from Tintagel, Cornwall.


Session Stouts & Porters: Black Gold (4.4% stout) from Cairngorm.

Strong Stouts & Porters: Slate (6% porter) from Grain Brewery of Harleston, Norfolk.

Speciality: differently flavoured: Broken Dream Breakfast Stout (brewed with coffee & lactose; 6.5%) from Siren brewery of Finchampstead.




Speciality: differently produced: Adder Lager (5%; cold-fermented with Bohemian yeast) from Allendale Brewery in the Northern Pennines of Northumberland.

CBOB Results summary & comments by DB

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BAKERS' LAMENT

Fred (the ed.) & Jenny Baker – CAMRA members for nearly 50 years - bemoan the demise of Timothy Taylor pubs in the brewery's home town.

When we moved here in 1980 there were 13 pubs owned by Timothy Taylor's brewery in Keighley, the town where it is brewed. Most of these pubs were opened by the brewery in the late 1800s. However, over the last 40 years the brewery has been gradually selling off the majority of these pubs. With the announcement, over the summer, that the Albert and Royal Oak are to be sold this will leave just one of these 13, the **Boltmakers Arms** in East Parade, owned by the brewery.

One of the first to go was the **Eastwood Tavern**, on Bradford Road, which was one of our favourite pubs in Keighley. It was one of a few pubs in town selling Landlord, which at 4.3%, was considered too strong by many locals who preferred Golden Best, a more easily quaffable ale at 3.5%. The pub was frequented by a number of local CAMRA members some of whom formed the Keighley and Craven branch of CAMRA in 1984. Ruggie's Reminiscences article in the Spring 2024 edition of this magazine says more about the Eastwood of the 1980s and includes his lament to the historic urinals destined to be removed. The Eastwood was sold in the late 1990s and is now a café/restaurant.

The Volunteers in Lawkholme Lane, behind the Cavendish, was the first of Timothy Taylor's pubs to open in Keighley in 1859. They sold it in 2013 and it was run as a free house for over 10 years. It was put up for sale again last year, placing its future as licensed premises under threat. However, after a successful bid to have it designated an Asset of Community Value (ACV), it was bought by new owners keen to keep it as a pub. It is thriving once more selling beers from Craven Brewery (of Cross Hills) and was named Keighley and Craven CAMRA Community Pub of the Year this summer.

The Brown Cow, at the bottom of West Lane, was originally four back-to-back houses built sometime in the 1820s. It is uncertain when it was converted to a pub but Timothy Taylor's Brewery are said to have bought it in 1901. It was sold by them in 2003 to Barry and Carol Taylor who ran it as a free house and won several CAMRA awards. They then sold it on,

in 2019, to be run by Paul Feather and Emma Louise Jeffrey. It remains a thriving real ale free house and regular entry in CAMRA's Good Beer Guide.

The Friendly on South Street, was sold by Timothy Taylor in 2012. It was renamed Percy Year's Real Ale House, after a well-known local boxer of the 1920s and 1930s, having been purchased as a free house by Percy's grandson.

Not far from the Percy Year are the for-sale **Royal Oak** and **Albert Hotel**. Both were thriving pubs in the 1980s but their futures are uncertain.

On Church Green was the **Fountain Inn** which was sold as a free house in 1985, even earlier than the Eastwood, stocking beer from Trough Brewery, and its name was changed to the Red Pig. Trough brewery closed a few years later, but 40 years on, the pub remains under the same ownership selling Taylor's Landlord and a couple of changing guest ales.

Opposite the Red Pig is Taylors On The Green, formerly the Lord Rodney and still referred to as this by a lot of locals. Although a Taylor's pub it wasn't owned by them when we moved to Keighley but sold Tetley's bitter, so not one of the original 13.

The Burlington Arms on Market Street, was run by the same family for 30 years before being closed in 2020 and sold to become four separate dwellings, so, like the Eastwood, was lost as a pub.

A bit out of town, in Hope Place, off South Street, was the **Vine Tavern**. It was sold off in 2012 and has remained closed ever since. Its future is uncertain, but it seems unlikely that it will reopen as a pub.

Another pub on the edge of town is the **Globe** at the junction of Park Lane and Parkwood Street, next to the Keighley and Worth Valley steam railway. It used to have a function room upstairs where we sometimes held CAMRA meetings and a local folk group regularly met. Taylors sold this in 2013 and it was run as a free house for a few years, but closed in 2018 and sold on in 2019. Like the Vine it has remained closed ever since and its future is uncertain. However, it still retains Timothy Taylor signage.

Not far from the Globe were the **Masons Arms** and the **Cricketers**. These were both sold to Worth Inns, who were involved with Worth Brewery before the brewery closed in 2000.

The Masons, on the corner of Longcroft and Worth Way was transformed in the late 1990s

into the Brewery Arms, Keighley's flagship real ale pub and the brewery tap for Worth Brewery. After Worth brewery closed, it continued trading as a free-house under new ownership, before finally closing in 2006. The premises are now de-licensed and it is not expected it will ever reopen as a pub.

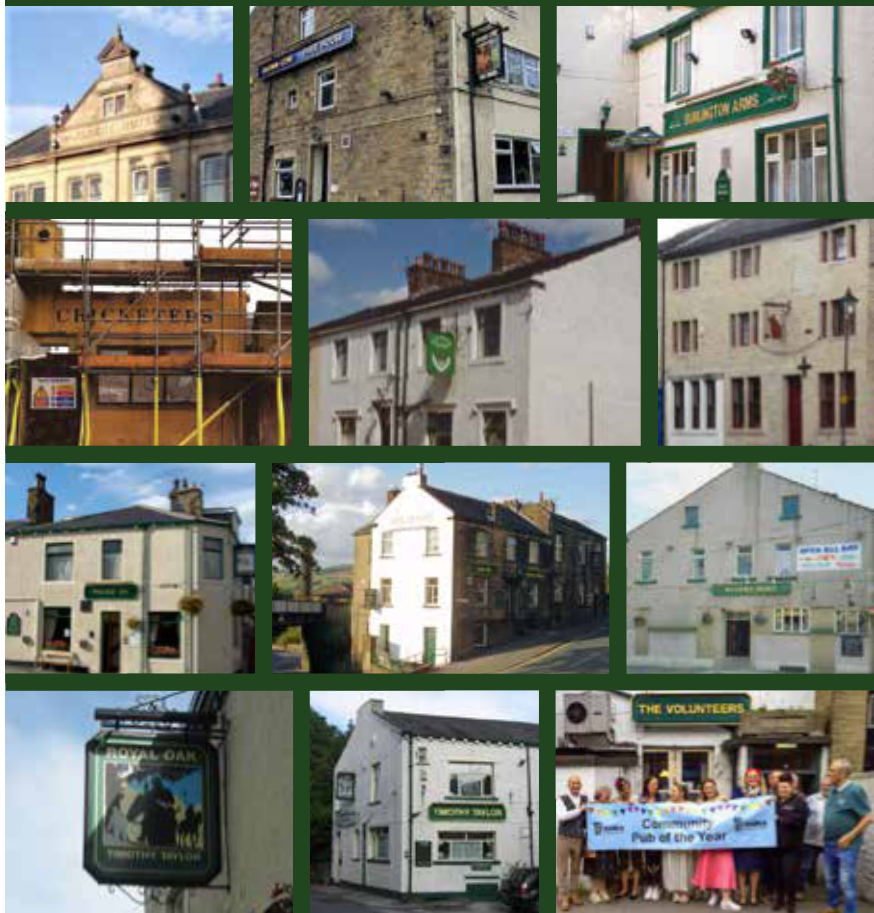
The Cricketers remained under the ownership of Worth Inns but ceased trading in 2022 then was sold to make way for the new Aldi supermarket complex. It was demolished a year later.

Of the 13 Timothy Taylor pubs trading in Keighley in the 1980s five are no longer licensed premises, one has been demolished and four are

trading as free houses. Of the remaining three, two are now up for sale. The brewery has spent a large amount of money in expanding its brewing capacity and to ship beer around the country. It owns more than a dozen pubs outside Keighley, mostly large premises majoring on food, some also providing B & B accommodation. It would appear to be prepared to spend money on these pubs but it seems to have turned its back on pubs in its home town.

More information and photos of some of these, and other closed pubs, can be found in 'Memory Lane' and 'Bygone Days' articles in the Keighley News.

Pictured at various dates: The Albert, The Brown Cow, The Burlington, The Cricketers, The Eastwood Tavern, The Fountain (now the Red Pig), The Friendly (Percy Year's), The Globe, The Masons Arms (later Brewery Arms), The Royal Oak, The Vine, The Volunteers. See front cover for the Boltmakers



A PUB WHERE DREAMS CAN COME TRUE?

(Yes, with a lot of effort!)

CAMRA member and Utley resident Jane Lee tells us about her new-look local.



I had the pleasure recently of interviewing Kendra and Rhys about their first 100 days in the Roebuck, Utley, from the day they got the keys on 1st April.

Whether April Fool's Day was a bad omen for taking over a pub it's too soon to say but plain sailing it wasn't. From April Fool's Day to Good Friday – cleaning, cleaning, cleaning and very little sleep. Nothing seemed to be going to plan. Even moving in upstairs was a nightmare when the van driver cried off at the last minute and Rhys (who only passed his test in February) had to drive the enormous van himself and ask a mate to help with the heavy lifting. Then their intended opening day had to be delayed when they were let down by a major supplier. And the food offer, planned to happen from day one, also had to be delayed by a week, which as it turned out wasn't a bad thing because it gave the kitchen team time to settle in and do another deep clean just to be sure.

So when Good Friday dawned, the publicity had been done and with a slight

feeling of dread they opened the doors to paying customers for the first time on the stroke of midday..... And nobody turned up: time ticked on and for an hour or more, not a soul. But then, slowly at first, people began to come in and the team swung into action. Four hand pulled beers, the usual array of lagers, wines and spirits and complementary nibbles on the bar and by 5pm, when I went in, it was heaving and going with a swing: good beer, good company and good conversation with neighbours and customers old and new! But for Kendra and Rhys their hearts were in their mouths for a while there!

A LOT OF HARD WORK & A BIT OF LUCK!

I was keen to know what help a new landlady and landlord can get, and it's there if you need it, firstly from the 'neighbours'. Local businesses have been encouraging and informative: if the pub does well, Utley does well and all the businesses benefit. Plus there's lucky happenstance like the 30 odd scooters on a run who parked up in the large car park one Sunday morning about 11.30am. When Rhys saw them he was on his own but he opened up and they stayed for refreshments and I'm sure, with a welcome like that, they'll stop again. Just like the pony and trap with a family on board I saw recently in the car park.

The latest development is the monthly Saturday evening band night, and the two bands so far, Liam Jarvis then Night Patrol - very different vibes - have been much enjoyed and they bring in a different clientèle. Well, it's all learned from Kendra and Rhys's years in the hospitality trade. Kendra's first job, as a teenager, was as a barmaid in the Roebuck and they were part of the management team at Taylor's On The Green and worked at The Brontë in Haworth, picking things up along the way.

The food offer is all new as well, with a new menu coming up soon now that Rhys and Kendra know what the punters like. It's all fresh, local produce and all cooked on site! And it's table service as well so no waiting at the bar. Just seat yourself and someone will do the rest. A desire to serve good food cooked from scratch on the premises is one of the driving motives for Rhys and Kendra so if you're looking for something a bit different or an old favourite all cooked to order, look no further!

POSTSCRIPT:

The original article by Jane Lee included a positive outlook. Sadly after the paper edition of this magazine had been printed Rhys & Kendra posted on their Facebook page 'TheRoebuck' on 2nd December, here are some extracts:

"Dear friends, regulars and beloved community of The Roebuck,

With heavy hearts, we must announce that we will no longer be opening our doors, effective immediately. This decision pains us more than we can express. We tried absolutely everything possible to keep The Roebuck alive, late night shifts, cost-cutting, new events, tighter budgets, but as of November, if you have been keeping an eye on the news, you will know that the financial burden has become the final blow. We simply cannot continue this way.

"To all of you who have stuck by us from day one: thank you. Thank you for choosing our pub to spend your days with. Thank you for the laughter, the stories, the pints, the late nights, the community we built together. Knowing there's one less local for you to go to breaks our hearts."

The middle of the Facebook post extended thanks to staff, friends, family, bands, DJs, quiz hosts, and suppliers, before continuing.

"We hate to say goodbye, but we hope you can understand how impossibly difficult this decision was to make. At the end of the day, we are just two people who wanted to make a difference, to bring back some rapport between The Roebuck and the community, to offer a welcoming and social place for those who don't have many, and to do what we love most.

"We hope that if and when the next tenants come into this place, we've set them on the right foot. That they'll find something special here, something worth continuing.

"Before we go, we want to get serious. Unfortunately, our experience is not unique. Across the UK, pubs are disappearing at a tragic rate. Almost one every single day. We want to stress how important it is to keep this industry alive.

"If there is one thing we would like everyone to take away from this announcement, it is:

USE US OR LOSE US - SUPPORT LOCAL

"And finally, we would love nothing more than to see you all again someday."

"Thank you very much, Rhys & Kendra"

Village's only pub gets closer to reopening



Photo taken from the locals' website, showing a few of the Punch Bowl's once and future customers!

The Punch Bowl in Burton-in-Lonsdale had been welcoming locals and visitors since the 18th Century but had become the village's only remaining pub out of the one-time eight.

When the proprietors decided to move on, local residents, worried that it may become delicensed, got it designated as an Asset of Community Value with North Yorkshire County Council

The pub was put up for sale in February 2024, and the subsequent consultation process revealed overwhelming support to bring the pub into community ownership. A campaign to raise funds for the purchase was successful, and the keys were handed over on the 4th of July 2025.

Shortly before Alesman was due to go to press (early November), it was announced that the Punch Bowl's manager will be Andrew Sedgwick, widely known as Sedge, who for 5 years has been co-tenant of the Sun Dial in nearby Low Bentham, and that the pub should be reopening before Christmas.

David Taylor, company secretary for the new owners, commented: "Finding a great manager was always going to be one of the most important things we do, so we are overjoyed to find such a great fit; someone who is not only experienced and hugely likeable but who brings so much local knowledge."

Who we are....

The Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA) is a grassroots consumer organisation with over 200 branches across the UK which are set up and run by local volunteers.

Keighley & Craven branch has been campaigning for over 40 years, covering 250 outlets from Oxenhope, West Yorkshire to Ribbleshead, North Yorkshire and currently has over 470 members. Our mission is to fight for drinkers' rights in both choice and quality of traditional cask-conditioned beers, ciders and perries.

We do this by holding meetings and organising beer festivals. We visit our pubs, clubs, and breweries which we survey for inclusion in a national database. We score beer quality to find the very best cask outlets for our national Good Beer Guide. We host a branch website, plus organise competitions for awards such as branch Pub of the Year. We support pubs under threat and community groups wishing to purchase them. We publish this branch magazine, utilise social media and host beer tasting events...plus much, much more.

We are an active branch and a broad church but all brought together by our common cause. Our committee is a mix of ages and gender and we all believe in the fact that beer is fun. So, as well as serious campaigning we very much enjoy ourselves and we're always looking for more members to join in with our campaign of camaraderie!

Meet the committee:

Colleen Holiday - Chair (fun-loving, ex-brewery worker, allotmenteer, will travel for good beer)

Frank Bryden - Vice Chair

Fred Baker - Secretary

Glynne Davies - Treasurer (looks after the branch funds but also enjoys cask beers!)

Gill Shaw - Membership

Jeremy Brooksbank - Webmaster

Jenny Baker - Social Secretary (organises social events such as bus trips to visit pubs, clubs and breweries.)

Jane Lee - Pub Protection ("I love pubs, beer, the Craic, their heritage, and their culture. I also believe pubs are irreplaceable community assets, which should be protected.")

Sam Weller - Tasting Panel

Colleen Holiday



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BOWLS & BEER – A WINNING COMBINATION

It's not all campaigning at Keighley and Craven CAMRA branch – sometimes there's sport involved ... and a generous sprinkling of fun!

Our branch has built up a strong link with the Broughton Road Bowling Club in Skipton over the last twenty years, through combining beer sampling with games of bowls.

The Club offers a couple of hand pulled ales and very kindly allows us the use of their facilities once a year so that each Summer our Social Secretary can preside over our friendly CAMRA Bowls match. There are some who take it very seriously, having purchased their own set of bowls just for this particular social event and others who play for the fun of it, delighting in the number of times their bowls stay ON the green rather than clattering off it!

It's a very social afternoon and a good opportunity for newer members to meet others in an environment other than a branch meeting or beer festival. It also provides a good overall leg muscle workout!

So, if you're someone who's not tried crown green bowls before (or bowls combined with beer) why not give it a try? Watch out for details of next Summer's event in the Social events section of our branch website.

Why not join us? To join CAMRA go to:

camra.org.uk/membership

Sam Hill



Above, bowling in progress, from 2002



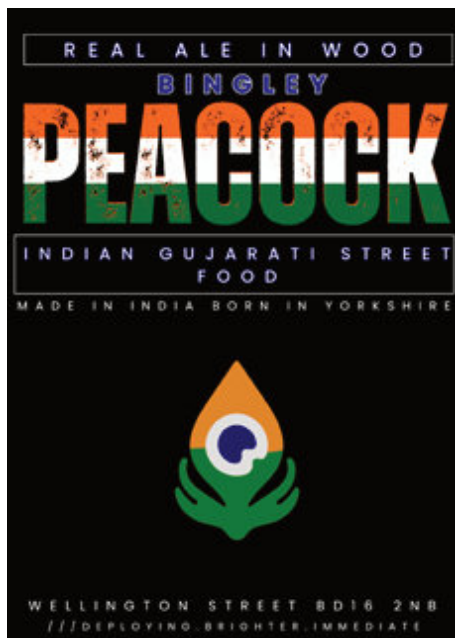
INSULTING BEHAVIOUR!

In mid-October national CAMRA Chairman Ash Corbett-Collins responded to the Government's announcement of a 'red tape review' of the licensing system to better support pubs across England and Wales. He said:

"Making it easier for pubs to stay open later and apply for outdoor seating areas is all well and good, but it is frankly insulting for ministers to suggest that cutting red tape in the licensing system is going to support pubs and boost economic growth when our locals are being taxed to the hilt and are struggling to keep the lights on and the doors open.

"When making the announcement the Prime Minister said that pubs are 'the beating heart of our communities'. If he means that, and if he is really serious about saving our locals, then he needs to urgently commit to cutting the tax burden on businesses in the Budget next month.

"Without bold action on VAT, energy bills, National Insurance and duty to support publicans, consumers and breweries then we simply risk losing more of the nation's locals for good."



YORKSHIRE PUB OF THE YEAR 2025

Having shared the Yorkshire POTY 2024 award with the Three B's Micropub in Bridlington and being one of the four national Pubs of the Year in 2023, the Beer Engine in Skipton won the Yorkshire POTY 2025 award outright. The presentation was made in late September. Below is a photo taken at the event. It shows Yorkshire Regional Director Kevin Keaveney presenting the certificate to Adam Davies (in purple top).



CAMRA's 'fab four' pubs revealed as the competition heats up!

The competition to be named CAMRA's cream of the crop in the prestigious National Pub of the Year 2025 competition is hotting up with just four pubs remaining after months of rigorous judging.

The four fantastic finalists will now battle it out to claim the overall Pub of the Year title, the Campaign's biggest award and one of the highest accolades a pub can win.

The final round of judging is now under way with the result set to be revealed at the start of 2026. Two former CAMRA Pub of the Year winners are in the running, along with this year's Cider and Perry Pub of the Year.

Beating thousands of entries and showcasing their commitment to quality and their communities, they have been judged on their atmosphere, decor, welcome, service, inclusivity, overall impression and, most importantly, quality cask beer, real cider and perry.

The final four pubs for 2025 are:

Blackfriars Tavern, Great Yarmouth: Awarded CAMRA's Cider and Perry Pub of the Year just weeks ago, this Victorian corner pub, next to the 13th century town walls, has made its mark as a must-visit destination. Described as a real gem, the pub focusses on East Anglian produced cask, plus real ciders and perries, with its bar regularly showcasing CAMRA award winning brews and even beers from the on-site brewery.

Pelican Inn, Gloucester: Dating back to 1679, this Grade-II listed, family run traditional ale house is popular with cyclists, cathedral visitors and local Gloucester rugby fans. With up to ten cask beers, twelve ciders and six craft kegs on at all times, plus a collection of rarer beer styles in can, there is something for everyone to enjoy. The multi-award-winning pub has been featured in the Good Beer Guide for more than a decade.

Tamworth Tap, Tamworth: Twice overall winner of National Pub of the Year in both 2022 and 2023, the Tudor building and historic courtyard beer terrace offers striking views of Tamworth's Norman Castle. Home to Tamworth Brewing Company and its tap, it features eight handpulls, with cask from near and far, along with a wide range of ciders, gins, wines and bottled beers. The 'CAMRA corner' at the bottom of the stairs is always popular, along with its display of a complete set of Good Beer Guides.

Volunteer Arms (Staggs), Musselburgh: A superb pub run by the same family since 1858 with a traditional bar and snug, wooden floors, wood panelling and mirrors from now closed local breweries. The pub's interior is of historic interest with an attractive Victorian era gantry topped with old spirit cask barrels. It has a range of regularly changing cask beers and has won many awards, including CAMRA's overall Pub of the Year in 1998 and reached the top four in 2018.

With the announcement of the finalists ahead of the UK Government's Budget, it is a stark reminder of the challenges pubs are facing. CAMRA is calling for pubs to be given specific support as they continue to face their toughest year yet. High costs, heavy tax burdens and business rates are all putting pubs at risk of closure.

Wishbone Brewery Bar Dates 2026

Saturdays 12.00 til 7pm

Jan 31st

Feb 28th

Mar 28th

Apr 25th

May 30th

Jun 27th

Jul 25th

Aug 29th (12 til 8pm)

Sep 26th

Oct 31st

Nov 28th

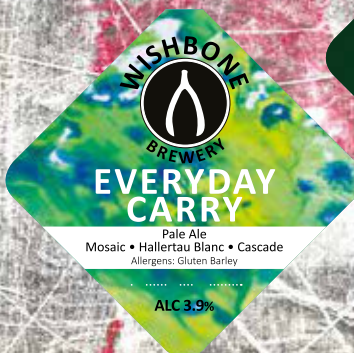
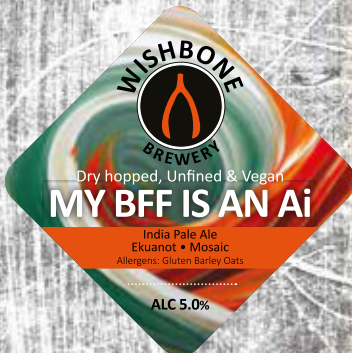
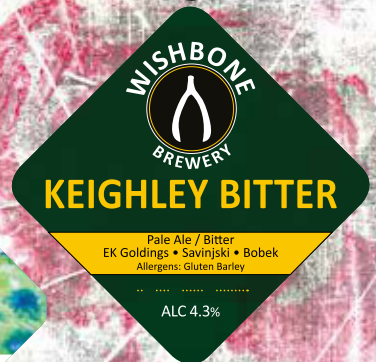
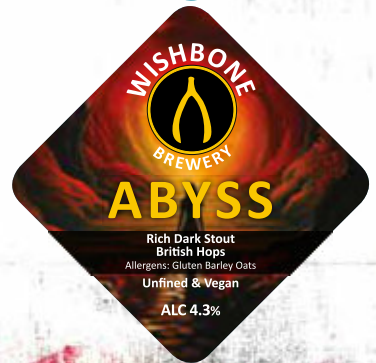
Dec 19th (12 til 8pm)

Food Traders on all dates

6 Handpulled Beers

4+ Keg Beers

Wines & Softdrinks



Trade Sales? Please get in touch 2A
Chesham St, Keighley, BD21 4LG
info@wishbonebrewery.co.uk
Tel. 01535 600412

PUB OF THE SEASON AUTUMN/WINTER 2025

Every four months the Keighley and Craven branch of the Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA) presents a pub in its branch area with a Pub Of The Season (POTS) award. We look for a pub which, as well as selling good quality real ales, is friendly and welcoming catering for visitors as well as supporting people in the local area. The pub is chosen by a vote of CAMRA branch members and the winner for our Autumn/Winter POTS is Craven Brew Co Tap Room in Cross Hills. The Tap Room meets the criteria by selling good quality beer, brewed at the brewery next door, served by friendly welcoming staff.



In the above photo, second left, is local CAMRA branch member, Terri Walker, presenting the award certificate to the team of staff who work at the brewery and tap room. The presentation took place on Saturday 20th September.

The Tap Room is situated off Station Road between the railway bridge and the number 66 bus stop. It is open from 2pm to 9pm Sunday to Tuesday and 2pm to 10pm Wednesday to Saturday.

CAMRA members - are you missing out?

Are you a CAMRA member not receiving e-mails from your local branch about local news and upcoming events? This is easy to fix! Just go to CAMRA website CAMRA.org.uk and login to your account. Go to my profile (the circle with your initials) and edit profile to check e-mail address correct. Then back to my profile, and to managing your marketing preferences, to select e-mail. You can also edit which branches you want to contact you by going to manage branches.

Jenny Baker

CROSSflattsWORD 11: solution & winner

ACROSS: 1 VOLUNTEERS; 5 MILD; 9 UNTOWARD; 10 SPHERE; 12 TON-UPS; 13 BROLLIES; 16 INSIPIDLY; 17 BUM; 19 YES; 21 OVERDRAWN; 22, 24, 26 VICTORIA KIRKBY MALHAM; 27 MONGOOSE; 28 SEXT; 29 POTTERS ROT.
DOWN: 1 VAULT CITY; 2 LATINISES; 3 NEWSPAPERWOMAN; 4 ECRU; 6 ICENI; 7 DREGS; 8 APPLE AND GINGER; 11 DRAYMEN; 14 EMU; 15 IDIOTIC; 17 BLACK MOOR; 18 MONEY BELT; 20 ELI; 22 VAMPS; 23 CALYX; 25 HOLT.

CROSSflattsWORD 11 attracted 11 correct and 5 incorrect solutions. The winner, selected randomly by Poppy at the Livery Rooms, Keighley, is Tamsin Candeland of Settle. A Goose Eye T-shirt has been sent to her.

THANKS FOR PUTTING UP WITH US!

The following venues let Keighley & Craven CAMRA stage monthly meetings from August:

Punch Bowl, Silsden - August
Old Swan, Gargrave - September
Black Bull, Bentham - October
Oakworth Social Club - November

Thanks to everybody involved at each pub/club.



KEIGHLEY & CRAVEN



WHAT'S ON

Saturday 22nd Nov: Aft/Eve social (using B1 and K14 buses) visiting pubs in Stanbury, Leeming/Oxenhope and the Turkey, Goose Eye. Catch B1 bus from Keighley to Stanbury at 12.25pm, then K14 bus from there to Leeming/Oxenhope at 2.47pm.

Saturday 6th Dec: Branch meeting and pre-Xmas meal. Meeting in upstairs room at Gallagher's Ale House, Cross Hills, starting at 1.15pm. Then walk to White Lion, Kildwick, for meal at 3pm. Contact Jenny Baker to book place for meal. See White Lion Facebook page for menus.

Saturday 13th Dec: 40 years in Good Beer Guide presentation to the Fleece, Haworth, at 2pm.

Thursday 18th Dec: Aft/Eve social visiting pubs in Oxenhope using service bus B3, catching bus leaving Keighley at 5.05pm to the Waggon & Horses.

Saturday 20th Dec: 'Stuff the Xmas shopping' CAMRAmble from Cracoe to Linton and Grassington. Catch 72 bus from Skipton to Cracoe at 11.30am. If weather is terrible we'll get the bus straight to Grassington instead.

Tuesday 6th Jan 2026: Branch meeting, venue TBA.

Details of some of these events are still to be confirmed. For up-to-date information see: <https://keighleyandcraven.camra.org.uk/events/> or scan QR code shown here



BRANCH EVENTS ARE POSTED AT THE BROWN COW, KEIGHLEY, GALLAGHER'S ALE HOUSE, CROSS HILLS, AND THE BEER ENGINE & BOAT HOUSE, BOTH IN SKIPTON.

Non-members are welcome at social events, though members who have booked in advance will be given priority on minibus trips.



6 Rotating Cask Ales & 6 Craft Beers



11 Consecutive Years
in the CAMRA GBG

Camra National Pub of
the Year Finalist 2023

Camra Yorkshire Pub of the
year 2024 & 2025



The Beer Engine, 1-3 Albert Street, Skipton, N. Yorkshire, BD23 1JD, tel: 07375789498

Like us
on Facebook!



CROSSflattsWORD 12 by Ruggie.

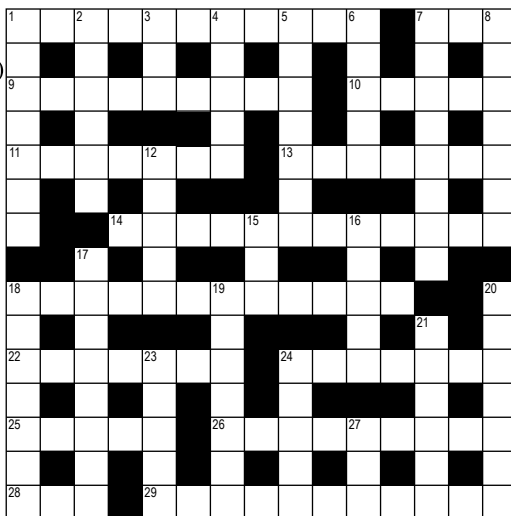
ACROSS

- 1 A CBOB winner: Satan from Nuneaton? (6,5)
- 7 Half-flagon in the past (3)
- 9,10,13 Somehow pay her for your best hike: it goes to the Beer Engine again! (9,3,2,3,4)
- 11 It's true: I try ale differently in this Nottinghamshire brewery (7)
- 14 Absurdly PC men lazed in CBOB's top winner (8,4)
- 18,22 Silly CAMRA crew prob' vote on local award winner (6,4,2,3,4)
- 24 Find answer to New Testament, maybe, being not hopelessly in debt (7)
- 25 Possibly wide description of several beers including one from 18 Across (5)
- 26 A CBOB winner from Sedgley, or Spooner's ophidian of the rising tide? (9)
- 28 Longing for Japanese bread? (3)
- 29 "Mixed olio, darling?" But is it made to William Everard's 1849 recipe? (3,8)

DOWN

- 1 Briefly, Trappists involve this killer often linked to a goddess of love (7)
- 2 To some extent, a caterpillar validates a description of its state (6)
- 3 Golfer Ernie: a South African from the east end of Brussels (3)
- 4 Friendship, but no real ale yet from this Leeds brewery (5)
- 5 Reforming a regent to become more magnificent? (7)
- 6 Drinks like a cat with little energy, to become invalid (5)
- 7 Dwarf evergreen that's gold: bear it in pieces (8)
- 8 Frantically dig for first bit of fuel, having no connection to utility providers (3-4)
- 12 Perhaps the Adler woman whom Holmes met in London may be seen in Saltaire next... (5)
- 15 ... as may this, though it's just a lot of gas (3)
- 16 Burton Bridge Mild or Bitter reported to be surpassingly good (5)
- 17 Just for starters, really awful scoundrel: Russian leader or "mad monk" (8)
- 18 Daft clue: try Spoons? (7)

CROSSflattsWORD is sponsored by
GOOSE EYE BREWERY
 Unit S, Castlefields Industrial Estate, Crossflatts,
 Bingley, West Yorkshire BD16 2AF.
goose-eye-brewery.co.uk; tel 01274 512743



- 19 Dumb, see? Stupid! Bewildered! (7)
- 20 Ingredient of some stouts when meat loaf isn't quite finished and is mashed (7)
- 21 In rage, out of control: get back! (6)
- 23 "Duck, rotter, duck!" M&S is substantially involved in this (5)
- 24 Tours tweaked to see this passing through (for instance) Blandford Forum, Canterbury, Kidderminster and Sudbury (5)
- 27 The sort of tree beneath which Buddha sat in effigy (3)

Hints: the Good Beer Guide contains alphabetical lists of brewers, including by county, and of beer names. Nearly all UK pubs can be found on CAMRA's national website. Reading Alesman may also help – if only to discover what CBOB means!

The prize is a Goose Eye Brewery T-shirt.
Entries, stating preferred size, by 5th February 2026 to Fred Baker, 170 Long Lee Terrace, Keighley BD21 4TU or by e-mail to

fred_baker50@hotmail.com

Any legible copy will do, in grid or list form.

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including
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Pub of the Year 2020 to 2022



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welcome you to the
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COW**
Keighley



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Friday - Saturday 12pm-12am
Sunday 12pm - 11pm

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