

SPECIAL 40TH ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

# WETHERSPOON NEWS

YOUR **FREE** MAGAZINE | OCTOBER 2019



## **40** wetherspoon **YEARS** 1979 – 2019

### **PUNT THAT BEGAN IN A BOOKIES**

Tim Martin opened his first Wetherspoon pub on 9 December 1979

### **BIG, BIGGER, BIGGEST – BLIMEY!**

Wetherspoon's pubs are record-breakers

### **MEET THE BREWERS**

Brewers which have supplied our pubs with their excellent beers since 1979

### **THE ART OF CREATING A NEW PUB**

The framed artwork and local historical references which make our pubs unique



 **Table service?**  
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 **FREE**  
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1982

INTRODUCING. . . . .

# J.J. MOON'S

FREE HOUSE & COCKTAIL BAR

LANDSEER ROAD, HOLLOWAY, LONDON N.19

(ESTABLISHED JUNE 1982)

## TRADITIONAL ALES

FROM ADNAMS, ARKELLS, BELHAVEN,  
GODSONS, GREENE KING, SHEPHERD NEAME,  
TIMOTHY TAYLOR, TISBURY, WADSWORTHS  
& MANY OTHERS.

## PLUS

A WIDE RANGE OF EXOTIC COCKTAILS,  
ENGLISH COUNTRY WINES & TRADITIONAL  
CIDERS ON HAND PUMP.

ALSO AVAILABLE AT "MARTINS FREE HOUSE"  
89 COLNEY HATCH LANE, N.10 AND "DICK'S  
BAR", 61 TOTTENHAM LANE, N.8.

*This advertisement appeared in CAMRA's London Drinker magazine in 1982.  
Our pubs continue to serve beers from some of the brewers listed.*

# Enjoy our 40-year journey...

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A year of notable events – not least in a placid corner of north London		Unusual monikers adorn many of our pubs to commemorate a notable person or event	
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Efforts have been made in every area of our business to lessen our impact on the environment		Our longest-serving people – Serena Phillips	
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Opened in 1983 and is now the company's oldest pub		Our Wetherspoon News magazine has come a long way since it was first published 28 years ago	
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For giving £1m every year since 2002		Posters, over the years, have compared our prices with those of other pubs and supermarkets	
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Offer a combined 1,239 rooms across England, Scotland, Wales and the Republic of Ireland		Wetherspoon superfans – The Latchford family	
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Moon in Manchester took unofficial title in 1995 – and official one two years later – but was later overtaken by our huge attractions in Cambridge, Blackpool and Ramsgate		Wetherspoon led to many fine old buildings being repurposed for today's world	
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Fake JDW pubs have been popping up in holiday hot spots for at least 19 years		The framed artwork and local historical references which make our pubs unique	

Written and edited by Eddie Gershon, along with welcome contributions from Wetherspoon staff.

Using paper from sustainable resources, this is printed in the UK.

Price and participation may vary per pub. All J D Wetherspoon food and drinks in this magazine are subject to local licensing restrictions and availability at participating free houses. Photography is for guidance only. J D Wetherspoon plc reserves the right to withdraw/change offers (without notice) at any time. See main menu for additional details of our terms and conditions.

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# MARGARET THATCHER, MOTHER TERESA, PYTHON, PUNK AND A NUDIST BEACH

## 1979

was a year of notable events – not least in a placid corner of north London

**When the first Wetherspoon pub opened, in Colney Hatch Lane, Muswell Hill, north London, in 1979 – what was happening in the UK and around the world?**

**UK NEWS:**

The average cost of a house is £13,650 and inflation is 17 per cent.

Crisis? What Crisis? – said The Sun newspaper headline in January, as Prime Minister James Callaghan denies that the country is in crisis.

A public sector strike paralyses the country, the biggest stoppage since 1926, as uncollected rubbish piles high in the streets, marking the beginning of what becomes known as ‘the winter of discontent’.

In May, Margaret Thatcher is voted in as the UK’s first female prime minister. The cost of milk increases by 10 per cent to 15p per pint.

The Times newspaper is published for the first time in almost a year, following a dispute over manning levels and the introduction of new technology.

Brighton becomes the first major resort in Britain to officially set aside part of its seafront for nudists.

The Housing Bill is published to give more than five million council house tenants the ‘right to buy’.

**WORLD NEWS:**

Mother Teresa is awarded a Nobel peace prize.

China instructs citizens to have no more than one child per family.

Small pox is eliminated.

Ayatollah Khomeini returns to Iran from exile in Paris.

Pope John Paul II is cheered by two million people on his return to his native Poland.

United States President Jimmy Carter and Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev sign Salt II, the first arms-reduction treaty between the two superpowers.

The first European-built rocket, Ariane 1, successfully completes its maiden flight.

**TELEVISION:**

BBC One’s Life on Earth airs for the first time, presented by David Attenborough.

Comedy sketch show Not the Nine O’Clock News also launches.

Popular TV shows during the year include Are You Being Served?, Last of the Summer Wine, Dallas and Charlie’s Angels.

**CINEMA:**

Film premières this year include Monty Python’s Life of Brian and the 11th James Bond film Moonraker, starring Roger Moore.

The 51st Academy Awards name The Deer Hunter as winner of the ‘best picture’ Oscar. Jon Voight (best actor) and Jane Fonda (best actress) are honoured for Coming Home.

Actor John Wayne dies aged 72.

**MUSIC:**

The Clash releases London Calling, Pink Floyd releases The Wall (selling six million copies in two weeks) and The Cure’s debut album Three Imaginary Boys is released.

Among the songs in the UK charts are Message in a Bottle (The Police), Y.M.C.A. (Village People) and Rod Stewart’s Da’ Ya’ Think I’m Sexy?

Sid Vicious dies of a heroin overdose, aged 21, while on bail for murder of his girlfriend Nancy Spungen.

**SPORT:**

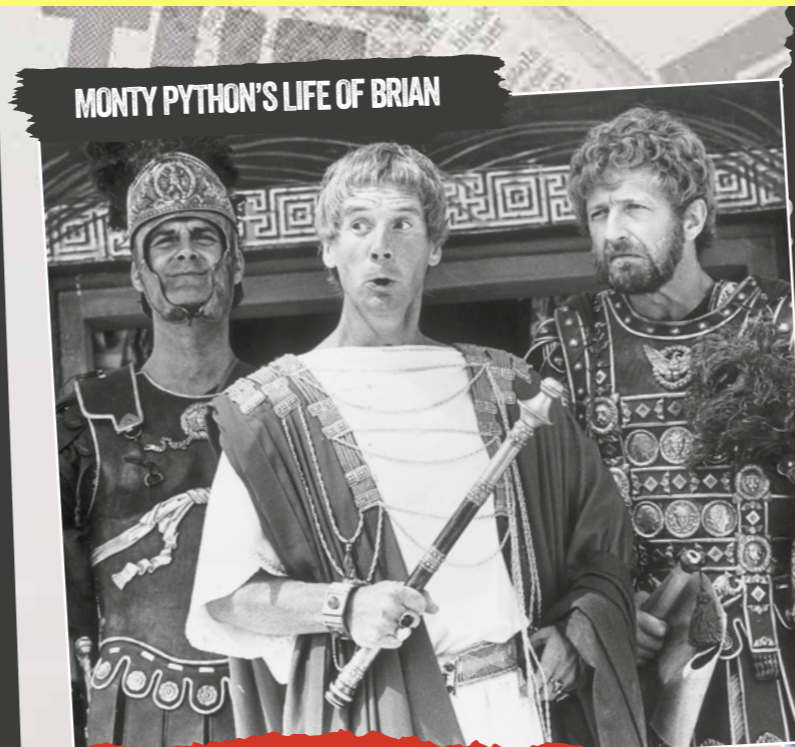
Trevor Francis becomes the first £1-million footballer, following his transfer from Birmingham City to Nottingham Forest. Forest also beat Malmo FF 1-0 in Munich to lift the European Cup.

Arsenal beat Manchester United 3-2 at Wembley Stadium to lift the FA Cup and Liverpool become First Division Champions (1978-9).

Martina Navratilova beats Chris Evert Lloyd to win Wimbledon, while Björn Borg wins his fourth consecutive title at the All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club, with victory over Roscoe Tanner.

Seve Ballesteros wins the British Open Golf, with Jack Nicklaus finishing as runner-up for a record seventh time.

Jody Scheckter of Scuderia Ferrari wins the F1 World Championship.



MONTY PYTHON'S LIFE OF BRIAN



TREVOR FRANCIS BECOMES THE FIRST £1-MILLION FOOTBALLER



BRITISH LEYLAND ANNOUNCES END OF MG CAR PRODUCTION

THE FIRST J D WETHERSPOON PUB IS ESTABLISHED BY TIM MARTIN



A PINT OF BEER COSTS 35P



COMEDY SKETCH SHOW LAUNCHES: NOT THE NINE O'CLOCK NEWS

ROGER MOORE IN MOONRAKER



THE FORMER SEX PISTOLS BASSIST, SID VICIOUS, IS FOUND DEAD

Photo credit: Getty Images



# PUNT THAT BEGAN IN A BOOKIES TURNED OUT TO BE A GOOD BET

The louder the clamour for new pubs, the faster we counted our Spoons



Photo credit: Getty Images

JD Hogg (known as Boss Hogg), from the American TV series *The Dukes of Hazzard*

**T**im Martin opened his first Wetherspoon pub on 9 December 1979, in a former bookies, in Muswell Hill, north London.

Originally called Martin's Free House, after its owner, it was renamed Wetherspoons a month later, after Tim's teacher who'd taught him at school, when he lived in New Zealand.

That geography teacher, Mr Wetherspoon, could not control the class – and Tim thought that he would be unable to keep order in his pub.

The 'J D' in the company name is a reference to a character in the American TV series *The Dukes of Hazzard* – JD 'Boss' Hogg.

The first pub has long since been sold – with the company's oldest trading pub now being *The Rochester Castle* (Stoke Newington), also in north London. When it first opened in May 1983, it was one of seven pubs.

The earliest-known pub on the Stoke Newington site was *The Green Dragon*, known to have been in existence in 1702.

This present pub replaced that one in 1801 and is called *The Rochester Castle* because it was built by Richard Payne, from Rochester.



The Rochester Castle, Stoke Newington

The Rochester Castle is now one of just five current pubs which opened before 1990, *The Drum* (Leyton) in east London is the second oldest, trading since December 1986. *The Moon Under Water* (Enfield), *J.J. Moon's* (Kingsbury) and *The Toll Gate* (Harringay) were all opened during 1988.

## Station

In 1991, we opened our first pub in the City of London, *Hamilton Hall*. Refurbished this year, it was also our first pub at a train station, located at *Liverpool Street*.

Transport hub pub firsts continued the following year when, in 1992, we opened our first airport site at *London Heathrow*.

In 1993, *The Old Manor* (Bracknell) was our first pub outside of the M25 and, the same year, *The Bell Hotel* (Norwich) opened as we moved further afield from Greater London. The year also signalled our 50th pub opening, *J.J. Moon's* (Chiswick).

Further expansion throughout England continued apace, with *The Square Peg* (Birmingham) marking our first pub in the Midlands, in 1994.

Also that year, *The Moon Under Water* (Watford) became our 100th pub opening.

In 1996, we opened our first pub in Wales, *The John Wallace Linton* (Newport), and built our first pub from scratch – *Wetherspoons* (Milton Keynes).

*The Sun* (Redhill) also opened that year to become our 150th pub.



Wetherspoons, Milton Keynes



The Square Peg, Birmingham



The Crown Rivers, after security, Terminal 5, Heathrow Airport



## WETHERSPOON FIRSTS

### Glasgow

Scotland next, as 1997 signalled our first foray north of the border with the opening of The Counting House (Glasgow).

The Regal Moon (Rochdale) was our 200th pub opening during the same year.

We opened our first hotel in 1998, The Shrewsbury Hotel (Shrewsbury). In July that year, our busiest-ever opening period, we opened 20 new pubs and concluded the year with our 300th pub milestone – The Rodboro Buildings (Guildford).

Our 20th anniversary was celebrated in 1999, with the new millennium marking our 400th pub opening. Also in 2000, we opened our first pub in Northern Ireland – The Spinning Mill (Ballymena) – and bought 10 Lloyds bars from Wolverhampton & Dudley Breweries plc.

The milestones continued with our 500th pub in 2001 – The Picture Palace (Ponders End); our 600th pub in 2002 – The Winter Gardens (Harrogate); even a national distribution centre at Daventry in 2004.

The Silkstone Inn (Barnsley) became our 700th new pub opening, in 2008, with our 30th anniversary celebrations the following year.

### Milestone

The Unicorn Hotel (Ripon) pub and hotel opened in 2011, to signal our 800th pub, and our 900th pub milestone was reached in 2013 with The Poulton Elk (Poulton-le-Fylde).

Wetherspoon pubs opened outside of the UK in 2014, when we launched our first pubs in the Republic of Ireland – The Three Tun Tavern (Blackrock) and The Forty Foot (Dún Laoghaire).

Expansion continued with our hotels, as we reached more than 50 hotels and over 1,000 rooms by 2016, investing in existing pub sites, as well as some new openings.

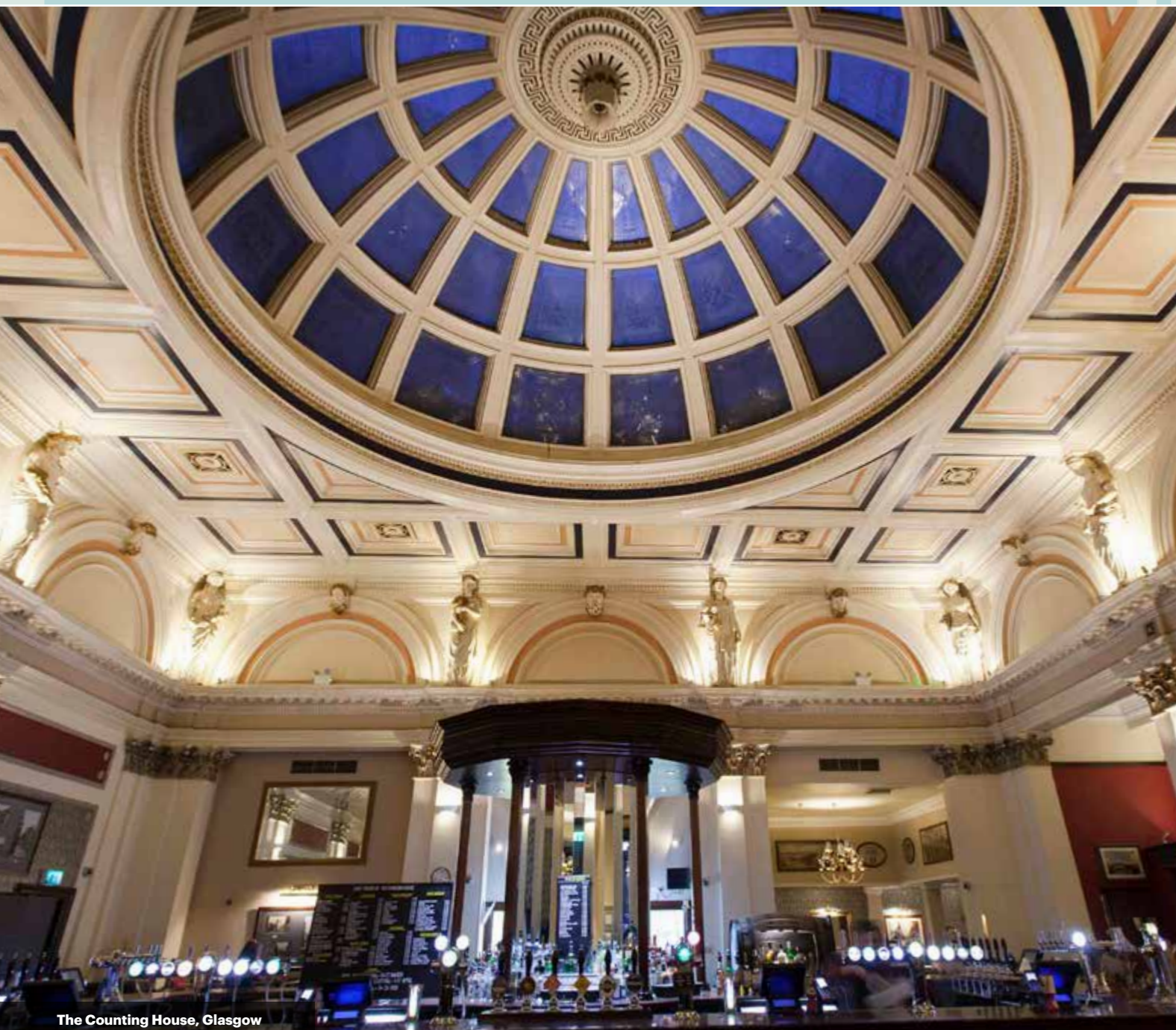
That investment has continued throughout 2019, with the refurbishment, upgrade and expansion of our existing older pubs, as well as further new openings during our 40th anniversary year – and is set to continue into the future.



The Shrewsbury Hotel, Shrewsbury



The Winter Gardens, Harrogate



The Counting House, Glasgow



The Rodboro Buildings, Guildford



The Three Tun Tavern, Blackrock



The Forty Foot, Dún Laoghaire



# THE **A-Z** OF WETHERSPOON

From ale festival to Zululand Brewery, with many red-letter days in between, the moves we have made in 40 years offer something for everyone

**A** IS FOR AIRPORTS  
Wetherspoon opened its first two airport pubs at Heathrow Airport in 1992 – and currently operates 15 pubs at seven airports in England and Scotland: in Birmingham, Doncaster, Edinburgh, Gatwick, Glasgow, Heathrow and Stansted.  
Serving many of the Wetherspoon favourites, our award-winning airport pubs are conveniently placed for our travelling customers.



**B** IS FOR BREAKFAST  
Our pub breakfast revolution began in 2002, when we opened all of our pubs for food from 10am, six days a week. Three years later, thanks to a new Licensing Act, that was extended earlier to 9am.  
And now the majority of pubs serves breakfast from 8am.  
Today, our breakfast menu (served until 12 noon) offers something for everyone, from a full, cooked, traditional plateful to a bowl of porridge.



**C** IS FOR **CURRY CLUB**  
Launched in 1999, initially with a choice of five curries and three drinks, our Wetherspoon Curry Club has become a Thursday-night institution.  
Now running for more than 20 years – ‘we are the nation’s biggest curry house, every Thursday night’, with the vast majority of pubs offering a choice of seven curries.

**D** IS FOR DRAUGHT CRAFT  
First bringing American import beer to our pubs in 2014, Wetherspoon has been at the forefront of the craft revolution.  
Our ever-growing craft beer collection boasts brews in bottles and cans, as well as some terrific draught craft beers, including BrewDog Punk IPA (5.4% ABV), Hop House 13 Lager (5.0% ABV) and Shipyard American Pale Ale (4.5% ABV).



**E** IS FOR EGGS  
Wetherspoon’s eggs are all free-range British Lion Quality-marked shell eggs – and we sell more than 50 million a year across our pubs.



**F** IS FOR FREE REFILLS  
With more than one million cups of coffee sold per week, our pubs provide great-tasting, great-value Lavazza coffee, with free refills on any coffee or tea – and our new self-service machines ensure consistent quality with every cup of your bottomless brew.



**G** IS FOR GOOD BEER GUIDE  
The Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA) Good Beer Guide 2020 includes 245 Wetherspoon pubs across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.  
In the 2020 guide, The Old Manor, in Bracknell, celebrates its 21st consecutive year of inclusion.



**H** IS FOR HOTELS  
We opened the door to our first hotel in 1998, at The Shrewsbury Hotel, Shrewsbury, and now offer a combined 1,239 rooms across our 58 hotels in England, Scotland, Wales and the Republic of Ireland.  
With every hotel conveniently attached to a Wetherspoon pub, we combine the very best customer experience with quality accommodation and value.

**I** IS FOR IRELAND  
The Three Tun Tavern, in Blackrock, Dublin, was our first pub to open (in July 2014) in the Republic of Ireland. We currently have seven pubs and one hotel, with more planned, including Keavan’s Port Hotel (due to open during June 2020), set to be our largest, with an 89-bedroom hotel and pub.  
The company also runs four pubs across Northern Ireland.

**J** IS FOR J.J. MOON’S  
Wetherspoon has five pubs named J.J. Moon’s, located in Wembley, Ruislip Manor, Kingsbury, Tooting and Hornchurch.  
JJ Moon is a fictional ‘King of the Surf’ character, although believed to be real in the mid 1960s – famous on every beach on the US West Coast and with more surfing titles than there were championships. With fan clubs and merchandise, the character, which started as a joke, became a surf media personality, national phenomenon and a ‘true’ folk hero.

**K** IS FOR KOPPARBERG  
When Wetherspoon’s employee Fred Gibson suggested, in 2005, that Wetherspoon should serve Sweden’s Kopparberg cider, no one imagined how popular it would become.  
Within two years, our pubs were selling more Kopparberg than sold in its entirety in Sweden.  
The fruit cider company is now producing its drink here in the UK, available in our pubs on tap.



**L** IS FOR LEEDS BECKETT UNIVERSITY  
The Wetherspoon Professional Diploma in Leisure Retail Management is run in partnership with Leeds Beckett University. To date, 361 Wetherspoon employees have completed the diploma since we launched the partnership in 2009. The class of 2018/19 also included, for the first time, 16 employees gaining a BA (Hons) degree apprenticeship in business management in practice.

**M** IS FOR MOBILE APP  
Ever the innovator, we rolled out our Wetherspoon app in 2017, enabling customers to place an order and be served... without leaving their table.  
The app, available across Apple iOS and android mobile devices, has since achieved a 4.7 rating from more than 600,000 reviews.

**N** IS FOR THE NORTH WESTERN  
The North Western, Liverpool Lime Street station, opened in July 2015 at a cost of £2 million. It is one of numerous Wetherspoon pubs at railway stations across the UK.  
The first was Hamilton Hall, in 1991, also our first pub in the City of London; the newest is The Barrel Vault, in London’s St Pancras International.







**O IS FOR OPERA HOUSE**

In 2007, at our pub Opera House, in Tunbridge Wells, an annual opera production was first staged. The venue, which opened as a Wetherspoon pub in 1997, reverts to the building's original use to a sell-out audience every year.



**P IS FOR PIZZA**

Introduced in the summer of 2016, the Wetherspoon pizza range is proving a massive hit. The vast majority of our pubs across the UK and the Republic of Ireland is now serving our freshly made pizzas, in original 11" and small-plate 8" versions.



**Q IS FOR QUIET**

Well, maybe not quiet, but certainly music free. Wetherspoon's pubs have always been a place where you can eat, drink and talk in peace, without unwanted music.

Founder and chairman Tim Martin has always believed that good conversation, together with food and drinks, is key to a popular pub.

However, if you want tunes with your pint, our Lloyds No.1 bars do play music.

**R IS FOR REAL-ALE FESTIVAL**

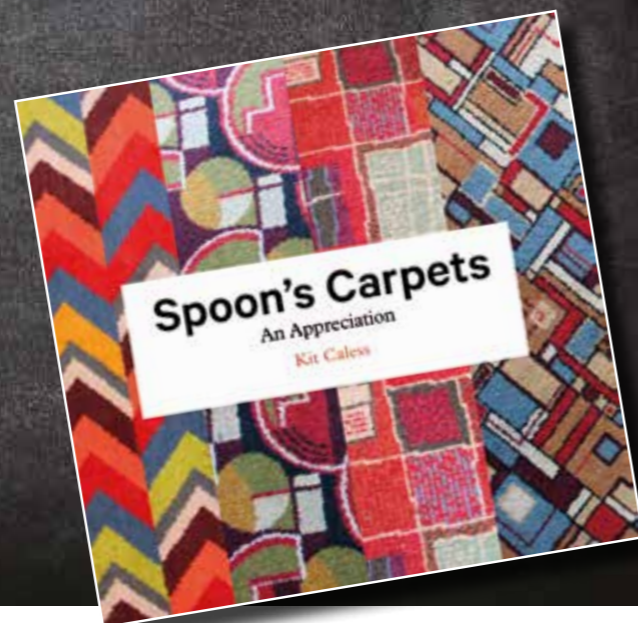
Real ale is the cornerstone of our business, with our pubs being renowned for offering an unrivalled selection of well-kept beers. Our quarterly guest ale list sources ales from more than 400 breweries, throughout the UK and Ireland, while our twice-yearly real-ale festival showcases beers from award-winning UK breweries and those worldwide.



**S IS FOR SPOON'S CARPETS**

Thanks to writer and broadcaster Kit Caless and his band of Wetherspoon carpet-spotters across the UK, Wetherspoon's carpets became such a social media talking-point that Kit was approached to write a book on the subject, which was published in 2016.

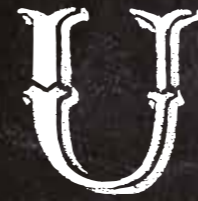
Spoon's Carpets: An Appreciation features 75 of our bespoke carpets.



**T IS FOR TOP EMPLOYER**

Wetherspoon was named as one of Britain's Top Employers for 2019, one of only 90 organisations across the UK to be recognised.

It is the 16th consecutive year in which Wetherspoon has been certified by the Top Employers Institute, the independent organisation behind the Top Employers project.



**U IS FOR UNLIMITED Wi-Fi**

Most of our pubs and all of our hotels offer unlimited free Wi-Fi, with The Cloud. To access this, simply select 'Wi-Fi - The Cloud' from the available network list on your device and follow the instructions. We are sorry, but this service is not available in our airport locations.



**V IS FOR VEGETARIAN/VEGAN**

So many of our customers are either vegetarian or vegan - and we are keen to offer as much choice as possible on our menu.

Among our great vegan and vegetarian choices are our new vegan burger and gourmet vegan burger options, as well as our ever-popular and award-winning sweet potato, chickpea & spinach curry.

Vegan burger and gourmet vegan burger



Sweet potato, chickpea & spinach curry



**W IS FOR WINNING AWARDS**

Wetherspoon is proud to have been recognised and awarded for many aspects of its business, with numerous accolades and trophies from local, regional, national and international organisations.

During the past 40 years, we have won recognition for our people, pubs and practices, as well as for food and drinks.



**X IS FOR XBOX**

From abseiling to Xbox tournaments, cake sales and head shaves, raffles, runs and rowing, our staff and customers have raised more than £17 million, in charity fundraisers, for CLIC Sargent, since our charity partnership began in 2002.



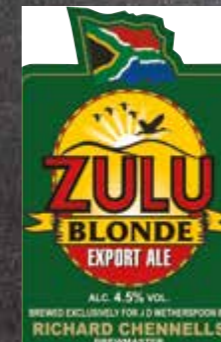
**Y IS FOR YOUNG ARTISTS**

Wetherspoon's hotels across England, Scotland, Wales and the Republic of Ireland are decorated with specially created artwork by young artists. Pupils of all ages from local schools, near to each hotel, embark on projects to produce the pieces to display in our bedrooms and hallways.



**Z IS FOR ZULULAND BREWERY**

Our international brewers' project, which began in 2008, has seen overseas brewers from all five continents producing real-ale festival beers at host breweries right here in the UK. Among our numerous visitors, Zululand Brewery has made five trips to the UK, from South Africa, to brew its beers for us.





1984

J.D. WETHERSPOON ORGANISATION LTD PRESENTS  
**THE GREAT BRITISH BEER FESTIVAL**  
Well it should be Great, it's definitely British and there's a lot of Beer involved.

AT THE NINE MOST DISTINGUISHED FREEHOUSES IN NORTH LONDON

ON  
**FRIDAY SATURDAY & SUNDAY**  
13TH, 14TH & 15TH SEPTEMBER

• STARRING •

**59p PINT HOUSE BITTER XX**  
SUPERIOR HOUSE ALE WITH MYSTERIOUS ORIGINS (JUST LIKE THE MARSHY)

**69p PINT MARSTONS PEDIGREE**  
THE MOST FINEST OF TRADITIONAL ALES

**79p PINT SAMPSON HANBURY EXTRA STRONG**  
A BEER WHICH MEANS WHAT IT SAYS

★ GUEST BEERS ★

Friday Evening **Hook Norton Old Hookey 69p Pint**  
Saturday Evening **Felinfoel Double Dragon 69p Pint**  
Sunday Evening **Wadworths 6X 69p Pint**

**YARD OF ALE CONTEST**

PLUS SPECIAL ATTRACTIONS  
AND  
HAVE A 1/2 PINT IN EACH HOUSE  
AND WIN A 1/2 GALLON OF HOUSE BITTER

If you fancy A Quick One this weekend drop in to see J.D. Wetherspoon

The Great British Beer Festival poster promotes our first beer festival

*Kwame Tefe . Watford*

# MARATHON MAN KWAME STILL GOING, 28 YEARS ON



When, in 1991, Kwame Tefe arrived in the UK, he was a geography and resource development degree student, as well as a marathon runner.

In November this year, pub manager Kwame celebrates 28 years' work with Wetherspoon.

Kwame competed for his university in Ghana, in the 16th World Student Games in Sheffield in July 1991. After the two-week long competition ended, he decided to stay on to find a temporary summer job and make the most of his six-month visa.

He stayed with two families, living in Yorkshire, working on a farm picking vegetables and regularly taking the bus to continue his running with Barnsley Athletic Club.

Kwame recalled: "The second family I lived with helped me to stay longer, contacting the Home Office and getting my stay extended to two years.

"I remember the day my passport came back, with the letter confirming a two-year working visa - I was so excited."

Kwame then moved to London in October 1991, looking for a full-time job. He was living in a room in a house in Willesden and saw an advert in the Evening Standard newspaper.

He remembered: "I went for my first job interview as a part-time cleaner at a new Liverpool Street station pub, called Hamilton Hall.

"I planned to work hard in the UK for two years and then study for a master's degree."

The pub manager at the newly opened Hamilton Hall was Su Cacioppo - now Wetherspoon's personnel and legal director.

Kwame recalled his first day: "I was asked to come in at 7am to clean for a couple of hours, after the builders had finished, before the brand-new pub opened.

"When the builders eventually finished and the pub opened, it was so busy that Su asked whether I could stay on and help to collect glasses. I was given a uniform... and what started as a two-hour cleaning shift turned into a full day and evening!

"Su was impressed by my hard work, meaning that, as well as cleaner, I continued as glass-collector.

"The pub got so busy that she took on three more cleaners and four more floor workers - and I was put in charge of the team." From those early beginnings, it was clear that Kwame was eager to learn and even more keen to work. He spent two years at Hamilton Hall, moving from cleaner to bar and learning the ropes in the kitchen too.

The area manager at the time, now chief executive John Hutson, was very impressed and offered Kwame a role at Wetherspoon's original bar at Heathrow Airport T4.

Kwame said: "I was living in Enfield at the time, so the commute was two hours each way, but I was determined to make it work and worked hard. I was put forward to be an assistant manager, did all the training and courses on days off and passed within six months.

"I then ran the airside pub for two years, before being encouraged to start to apply for my own pub.

"I was asked to help out at The Barking Dog, Barking, east London."

Kwame was up for the challenge and joined the team in October 1995. However, the pub managers left soon afterwards - and he found himself in charge for a very busy Christmas season.

He laughed: "They say every misfortune is a blessing! I managed to run the pub well and broke records. Wetherspoon was happy with the job I had done, and I was rewarded with a new pub of my own.

"That was The New Crown, in Southgate, with my name above the door - I was so proud to see that and so excited."

Kwame spent four years there, the last two training to become an area manager, with his assistant Michael Wilkins (pub manager at The Windmill, Stansted Airport) running the pub in his absence and enabling Kwame to prepare for his new role.

He spent six months in charge of six pubs in the City of London and a further year with the responsibility of 12 pubs across north London.

Kwame admitted: "I didn't enjoy the area manager role so much. The best times were engaging with customers and training staff - I am a hands-on manager and wanted to have my own pub again."

Long before the introduction of Wetherspoon's diploma course, he took on a part-time master's degree course in HR at Middlesex University and took over at The King James (Cheshunt) in 2002, yet another difficult challenge.

Kwame reported: "It was a very tough first three months there, but I wanted to prove that I could do it.

"You should never let ignorant people dictate your life.

"I worked the door myself... and word soon got around that poor behaviour would not be tolerated. It was a well-run pub - and I was quickly respected by my regular customers."

On the move again, for the opening at Palmers Green, Kwame spent three years at The Alfred Herring, before moving to The Moon Under Water (Watford) where he marked 10 years in June.

He said: "This is the longest I have been at any pub - and I am very involved in the town, including the past three years (2016-19) as BID vice-chairman and then two years as chairman, which makes the job more interesting and enjoyable."

Father and grandfather, Kwame concluded: "As a student in Ghana, it was everyone's dream to end up in London... something I have achieved.

"Life is good with Wetherspoon."



# RECYCLING, REDUCING AND REUSING TO PROTECT OUR PRECIOUS PLANET

Efforts have been made in every area of our business to lessen our impact on the environment

**W**etherspoon takes its business and social responsibility seriously, promoting ways to protect the environment, with strict company policies and procedure regarding recycling and sustainability.

Our planet is precious: as a responsible retailer, we are doing everything possible to protect it.

## Recycling

Recycling is one key initiative, promoted throughout our business. We also look to minimise energy consumption and maximise efficiency, wherever possible.

This includes installing free-air cellar-cooling systems in our pubs (bringing in outside air, when the external temperatures are low enough), LED lighting (using 50 per cent less energy) and sensor lighting.

We have adopted more efficient waste management to stop unnecessary waste being sent to landfill, segregating waste into five areas (glass, tin, cooking oil (converted to biodiesel for agricultural use), mixed recycling and general waste), with food waste separated and sent for anaerobic digestion.

## Zero

Any remaining non-recyclable waste is sent to waste-to-energy power plants, which reduce CO<sub>2</sub> and the use of fossil fuels. We currently send ZERO waste to landfill.

Our national distribution centre for food, some bottled drinks and non-consumable products also includes a recycling centre, to help in minimising waste.

When making deliveries to pubs, our lorries collect mixed recycling, used cooking oil, textiles and tin, for return to the recycling centre, helping to reduce our carbon footprint from reduced road miles.

Wetherspoon regularly trials new ideas and energy-saving technology to reduce consumption and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, including, among others, solar panels, wind turbines and rainwater-harvesting systems.

Our target is to reduce annual electricity, gas and water consumption by five per cent, led by a dedicated energy steering group, by implementing a combination of initiatives and introducing energy-efficient technology. In turn, this will also reduce our annual CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

## Sustainability

Sustainability is paramount to our efforts as a responsible company: for more than three years, we have been a member of the Sustainable Restaurant Association (SRA).

We were named winners of the 'Waste No Food' award, at the 2018 Food Made Good Awards, run by the SRA.

Being part of the SRA has raised our awareness to so many more areas where food is or has the potential to be wasted. We continue to make small changes and amplify them, with the SRA's support, throughout our estate.



Pictured (left to right): Wetherspoon's quality assurance manager, Sophie Finn, FareShare commercial officer Samantha Lai and FareShare senior marketing and communications officer Vicki Evans (food industry)

These changes have included reducing and separating prep waste, tackling plate waste (offering smaller portions on favourite dishes) and donating unavoidable waste to charities across the country, through our partnership with FareShare.

Wetherspoon redistributes surplus meat, ready meals and desserts to the food distribution charity FareShare – helping to create thousands of meals for vulnerable people in towns and cities across the UK, through more than 100 frontline charities.

## Younger

Our food for our younger customers has also received recognition for sustainability, as well as a great range of healthy options, achieving first place in the 2019 'Out to Lunch' restaurant league table for children's meals.

Our kids' menu options of organic fruit juice, free-range RSPCA eggs, British beef, sustainable fish and a great range of veggie and vegan choices gained particular praise.

However, it is not just on the children's menu that these options are offered – it is across the board.

Wetherspoon was named 'UK Newcomer of the Year 2019' for our sustainable fish, awarded by the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC), highlighting our commitment to preserving our oceans.

We use only the MSC blue fish label cod and haddock on all of our menus, assuring customers that the fish sold have been caught using sustainable methods, are fully traceable and certified sustainable.

Wetherspoon has a 'food-sourcing policies, practices and guidelines' document; this includes animal welfare commitments and policies.

It encompasses all of the meat sourced for our menu, as well as 100 per cent of our shell eggs from RSPCA Assured free-range hens.

We also use farm-assured and fully traceable British and Irish beef.

Our self-service coffee machines use only Lavazza 100-per-cent Rainforest Alliance-certified coffee, which we have been serving since 2005.

Lavazza supports projects which help coffee farmers and producers, in their homelands, as well as supporting reforestation and environmental protection.

## Plastic and packaging

We are taking steps across the business to reduce consumption of single-use plastics.

Plastic straws were removed from our pubs in December 2017 and replaced with biodegradable, recyclable paper straws and wrappers.

In an effort to encourage refilling water bottles on the go, we joined the 'Refill' app and introduced complimentary chilled water available in all pubs.

The 'Refill' app is available nationwide and locates where free water-filling stations are available.

We are working with our major suppliers and with the support of the Sustainable Restaurant Association (SRA) to reduce, and remove where possible, the use of plastic packaging for food.

The majority of hot drinks sold in pubs is consumed on the premises, including unlimited complimentary refills, all served in a china mug, to reduce the need for disposable coffee cups.

In 2019, we introduced new napkins to all pubs, created from recycled paper, in a move away from virgin white-paper napkins.



# WE CAPTURE THE CASTLE

The Rochester Castle, in north London, was opened in 1983 and is now the company's oldest pub

**T**im Martin opened his first Wetherspoon pub in Muswell Hill, north London, in 1979.

The pub, named Wetherspoons, was sold in 1983. And, on that day, Tim purchased and then opened (1 May 1983) The Rochester Castle, in Stoke Newington, north London.

Formerly known as The Tanners Hall, it was one of seven Wetherspoon pubs at the time and is now the company's oldest pub.

The pub was originally built in 1801, by Richard Payne, from Rochester – hence its name.

It replaced an earlier pub on the site, called the Green Dragon, known to have been in existence in 1702.

Historic England lists the current building as a three-storey, plus attic, premises (grade II), 1892–93 by architects Messrs Crickmay and Sons.

## Exuberantly

Its history notes reveal: 'This is a characteristic and exuberantly decorated pub from the height of the 'gin palace' phase of pub-building. Stylistically, it looked to the early 17th century for inspiration.

'It has undergone considerable alteration, yet remains a fine example of the type, with unusual tiled decoration.

'The architects, Messrs Crickmay and Sons, were specialists in the field.

'Permission to erect the pub, on behalf of a Mr Heaven, was sought from the London County Council in November 1892.'

Of the pub's interior, inspected by Historic England in 2003 (20 years after Wetherspoon first opened the pub), it reported: 'The compartmented ceiling is carried on slender cast-iron columns.

'The front part of the side walls retains glazed tiling, with arabesque-enriched pilasters and mirrors: figurative panels depicting the seasons, set within borders, remain in situ along the north wall.'

## Original

Those original wall features, entitled 'spring', 'summer', 'autumn' and 'winter', as well as tiled wall decoration, are still on display, in the dark-wood-floored front section of the pub, which houses the bar and evokes an era of days gone by.

Other displays include various history artwork, photographs and paintings, including those of Rochester Castle, with its 12th-century keep, on the east bank of the River Medway, in Rochester, Kent.

These adorn the walls towards the rear of the pub, in a carpeted dining area, featuring a fireplace and sunlit by a complete glazed roof, with a decorated black-and-white moulded surround.

A modern conservatory backs onto this room, providing additional dining space, with doors opening to an enclosed, tree-shaded paved beer garden, at the rear of the pub.



The British History website records that a social club met at The Rochester Castle in 1839; during 1840–66, it was the meeting place of the True Brothers of Stoke Newington and Hackney Improved Birmingham benefit society.

During 1852–68, the Ancient Order of Foresters used it as its base and, in 1861, so did the Combined Friends of Stoke Newington Improved Working Man's Friend benefit society.

More recent history recalls the venue, before Wetherspoon's arrival and its no-music policy, being the place to catch one of the up-and-coming bands, during the 1970s and early 80s.

## The Jam

The Jam, with front-man Paul Weller, was among the acts playing at The Rochester Castle, as well as Gary Numan, Bad Manners, The Police, XTC, Dire Straits and Adam and the Ants.





The striking exterior of the pub, with its ground-floor projecting central bay, set between Doric columns of red granite, stands proudly and elegantly on the high street.

The entrance doors have mosaic decoration spelling the name of the pub, as well as tiled decoration on the inner walls of the entrances.

There are decorative moulded tiles, with a panel showing a grape-cutting maiden.

Above, a red brick fascia with a central shallow segmental bay window (on first and second floors) rises up to an elaborate stepped gable, displaying decorative cartouches, at second-floor level, and depicting garlands amid acanthus leaves.

At its heart, The Rochester Castle is a real community pub, attracting local residents, workers and visitors alike.

The pub is a much-loved hub in a vibrant, yet laid back, eclectic and wonderfully diverse little corner of the capital.

● 143-145 Stoke Newington High Street, Stoke Newington, London, N16 0NY

*Alan Hope, Fleet*

# ALAN FINDS OUR PUBS ARE SOMETHING TO HOWL ABOUT

LOONY PARTY LEADER MAKES WETHERSPOON VISITS A POLICY

**Watford**

By spring 2017, he clocked up his 600th visit, at The Moon Under Water, in Watford, with his superfan total currently standing at 700.

Alan's first Wetherspoon pub visited was The London Inn (Torquay), although not knowing at the time that it was one of ours!

Alan recalled: "Customers would come into our hotel and talk about this pub in Torquay, so I paid a visit.

"I couldn't believe the prices and was very impressed, realising afterwards that it was a Wetherspoon pub."

His Wetherspoon admiration took hold in the mid 1990s with a visit to The Old Gaolhouse (Winchester) and continued after selling up in Devon, in 1999, and semi-retiring.

He said: "I had more time on my hands and needed a hobby, so decided to see how many Wetherspoon pubs I could visit.

**Directories**

"A customer showed me one of the Wetherspoon pub directories, back in 2002, and it was then that I realised just how many Wetherspoon pubs there were."

Alan continued: "I have always taken a keen interest in those pubs which have been cinemas or theatres in a past life.

"It is good to see that the ethos and history of all of the pubs are kept in place for all to see and not to be forgotten.

"Wetherspoon is one of the very few businesses to have restored and renovated old historic buildings, instead of knocking down and replacing; it deserves a lot more praise for reversing the trend."

Alan takes every opportunity to express his admiration and praise for his favourite pub company, wearing elaborate rosettes promoting Wetherspoon during his political campaigning.

One such accessory, worn for television interviews on his campaign trail, declared 'JDW Vote Loony', while annual party conferences often include group visits to the local Wetherspoon pubs in the area.

**Conference**

The autumn 2018 annual conference saw Alan promote a 99p coin!

He promoted the party's idea live on television and said: "This would come in very handy, especially in Wetherspoon pubs, as almost every pint is either £1.99 or ends in a nine."

Alan is the longest-serving leader of a political party in the UK, with 21 years' service, and stood in Theresa May's Maidenhead constituency during the 2017 general election.

His campaign 'office' was The Bear, our pub in the Berkshire town, where he was joined by friends and supporters.



**M**onster Raving Loony Party leader Alan 'Howling Laud' Hope may be one of Wetherspoon's most high-profile superfans.

He may not have reached the 1,000-pubs-visited milestone, just yet, but he certainly promotes the company at every opportunity on his political travels.

Originally from Hampshire, where he again now resides and is a regular visitor at The Prince Arthur (Fleet), Alan and his wife Norma once ran The Golden Lion hotel, in Ashburton, Devon.

It was fitting that another Golden Lion – Wetherspoon's pub in Rochester – provided the venue for Alan's 500th pub visit, when Wetherspoon News met him in spring 2015.







# THANKS A MILLION FOR GIVING £17M SINCE 2002

**wetherspoon**  
proud to support  
**YOUNG LIVES vs CANCER**  
CLIC SARGENT



**Pub-goers and staff's generosity and can-do spirit have enabled us to send £17m to CLIC Sargent - our chosen UK-nominated charity - over the past 17 years**

**W**etherspoon is proud to support numerous local and national charities through fundraising initiatives across our pubs and at head office... none more so than our chosen UK-nominated charity CLIC Sargent.

Summer 2019 marked another amazing milestone on Wetherspoon's charity fundraising mission, as we collectively topped an incredible £17 million raised for children and young people with cancer.

The partnership between Wetherspoon and CLIC Sargent began in 2002. We are CLIC Sargent's longest-standing corporate partner.

#### Children

In the subsequent 17 years, YOU have carried out countless fundraising events for the charity which provides practical, financial and emotional support to children and young people with cancer - and their families.

We began our association with CLIC Sargent when Wetherspoon's chairman and founder Tim Martin was on a train and happened to sit opposite the then chief executive of the charity.

They struck up a conversation - and Tim was inspired to launch a partnership, with an initial target of £100,000.

That campaign was extended to £500,000 and has gone on to exceed even the most optimistic of dreams.

#### Wonderful

Since 2002, £17 million has been collected, thanks to the overwhelmingly positive support from our staff and customers everywhere, who have taken part in some weird, wonderful, wild and wacky events, raising cash and awareness for the cause.

You have played football, darts, ten-pin bowling and bingo; had quizzes, raffles and bake sales; hiked up mountains, run marathons and jumped out of aeroplanes; had your legs waxed, heads shaved and been tattooed; sung, danced and cycled; sat in beans and showered in ice; worn wigs, crazy costumes and next to nothing - all in the name of charity.

CLIC Sargent's lead account manager, Liz Lowrey, said: "The support and dedication of staff and their pub communities continue to amaze us year on year - and we are incredibly grateful for their continued commitment to helping young lives against cancer."

"The funds raised make a huge difference to what we can do to support children and young people with cancer - and their families."

"CLIC Sargent is there from diagnosis onwards to provide grants, as well as help, such as social workers who give practical and emotional support and Homes from Home near hospitals where parents can stay during a child's treatment."

Wetherspoon's personnel and legal director, Su Cacioppo, said: "Our staff and customers continue to show tremendous support, dedication and generosity for this extremely important charity."

"We are enormously proud of the fact that we have raised more than £17 million for CLIC Sargent, through thousands of fundraising activities each year."

Our pubs in the Republic of Ireland have LauraLynn as their nominated charity. Since 2015, staff and customers at our pubs have raised €85,000 for Ireland's children's hospice.

A MASSIVE THANKYOU TO YOU ALL





# ROOM FOR EVERYONE AS OUR HOTEL TOTAL RISES

**En suite dreams guaranteed when you book a room at one of our 58 hotels, each of which is attached to a Wetherspoon pub**

**I**n June 2020, Wetherspoon is set to open its biggest hotel so far, in Dublin.

Keavan's Port Hotel, a development on the site of disused buildings in Camden Street Upper/Lower, in Dublin's city centre, will incorporate a pub and an 89-bedroom hotel.

It will be our newest and largest hotel.

To date, our 58 hotels across England, Scotland, Wales and the Republic of Ireland offer a combined 1,239 rooms.

From Cornwall to Cumbria, there are 45 hotels throughout England; from the Highlands to the Scottish Borders, Scotland offers seven places to stay; there is a warm Welsh welcome in five hotels in Wales; in the Republic of Ireland, you can sleep soundly in Swords.

**Unlimited**

Each of our hotel rooms features an en suite bathroom, complimentary tea- and coffee-making facilities, hair dryer, flat-screen television with Freeview TV (Saorview Freesat TV in Ireland) and unlimited free Wi-Fi, as well as digital air-conditioning and temperature control.

The hotels all offer 24-hour reception service – and our rooms can accommodate a mixture of double, twin and family occupancy, many being interconnecting, and there are also accessible bedrooms, with wet-room facilities, suitable for visitors with disabilities.



Keavan's Port Hotel, Dublin

Artist's impression



The Wyndham Arms Hotel, Bridgend



The Greenwood Hotel, Northolt



The Old Borough, Swords



We opened the door to our first hotel in 1998, in Shrewsbury, Shropshire. The Shrewsbury Hotel, still open today, boasts views of the River Severn from many of its 22 rooms and has a long history of happy customers.

Our first hotel outside of the UK, in Swords, in the Republic of Ireland, was opened in 2018. It is located on the first floor above our pub, The Old Borough, which opened in July 2015.

The 14-bedroom hotel provides six double rooms, six twins, one family room and one accessible room, complete with full DDA-compliant bathroom facilities.

**Cumbria**

Our largest hotel so far is at Barrow-in-Furness, in Cumbria. The Furness Railway offers 50 en suite bedrooms: a mix of double and twin rooms, as well as two specially adapted for guests with disabilities. There are also conference room facilities available at the premises which opened as a Wetherspoon pub in 1998.

Our smallest hotel is located at Sittingbourne, where we converted the old magistrate's court, in the Kent town, into The Golden Hope pub and three-bedroom hotel.



The Old Borough, Swords



The Golden Hope, Sittingbourne



The John Francis Basset, Camborne



The Furness Railway, Barrow-in-Furness



The Crown Hotel, Biggleswade

Two of the bedrooms' names, 'Petty Sessions' and 'Legal Eagle', recall the building's former use and offer either double or twin occupancy. The third room, a master suite, named the 'Captain Vallance Room', features his and hers sinks, an Edwardian roll-top bath and walk-in double shower.

Our hotels combine the very best customer experience with superb quality and value – and many have won awards for their service and design.

**Deals**

Every hotel is also attached to a Wetherspoon pub, serving breakfast, lunch and dinner, including our excellent club deals, as well as our range of hot, soft and alcoholic drinks, all conveniently located for hotel guests to enjoy during their stay with us.

At our hotels, the motto remains the same: quality accommodation at great prices. Whether it's a convenient one-night stay or a much-needed weekend break, we have a collection of hotels across the UK and the Republic of Ireland, each with its own unique style and character.

Selected hotels offer meeting and conference rooms, step-free access and car-parking facilities – visit the hotel's website page for more information.

**58 HOTELS NATIONWIDE**  
Book direct for best rates\*  
[jdwwetherspoon.com](http://jdwwetherspoon.com)

\*Non-refundable advanced purchase rates, available to book direct via telephone and our website.





**THE MOON UNDER WATER**

68-74 DEANSGATE, MANCHESTER, M3 2FN

Having originally opened in January 1914, the cinema was completely redesigned by G Allen Fortesque and reopened on 17 November 1930.

It was known as the Deansgate Picture House and was one of the most popular cinemas in Manchester's city centre.

By 1937, it was part of the HD Moorhouse Circuit, later taken over by associated British Cinemas (ABC) in 1959, and was extensively modernised in 1960, when a huge screen was installed.

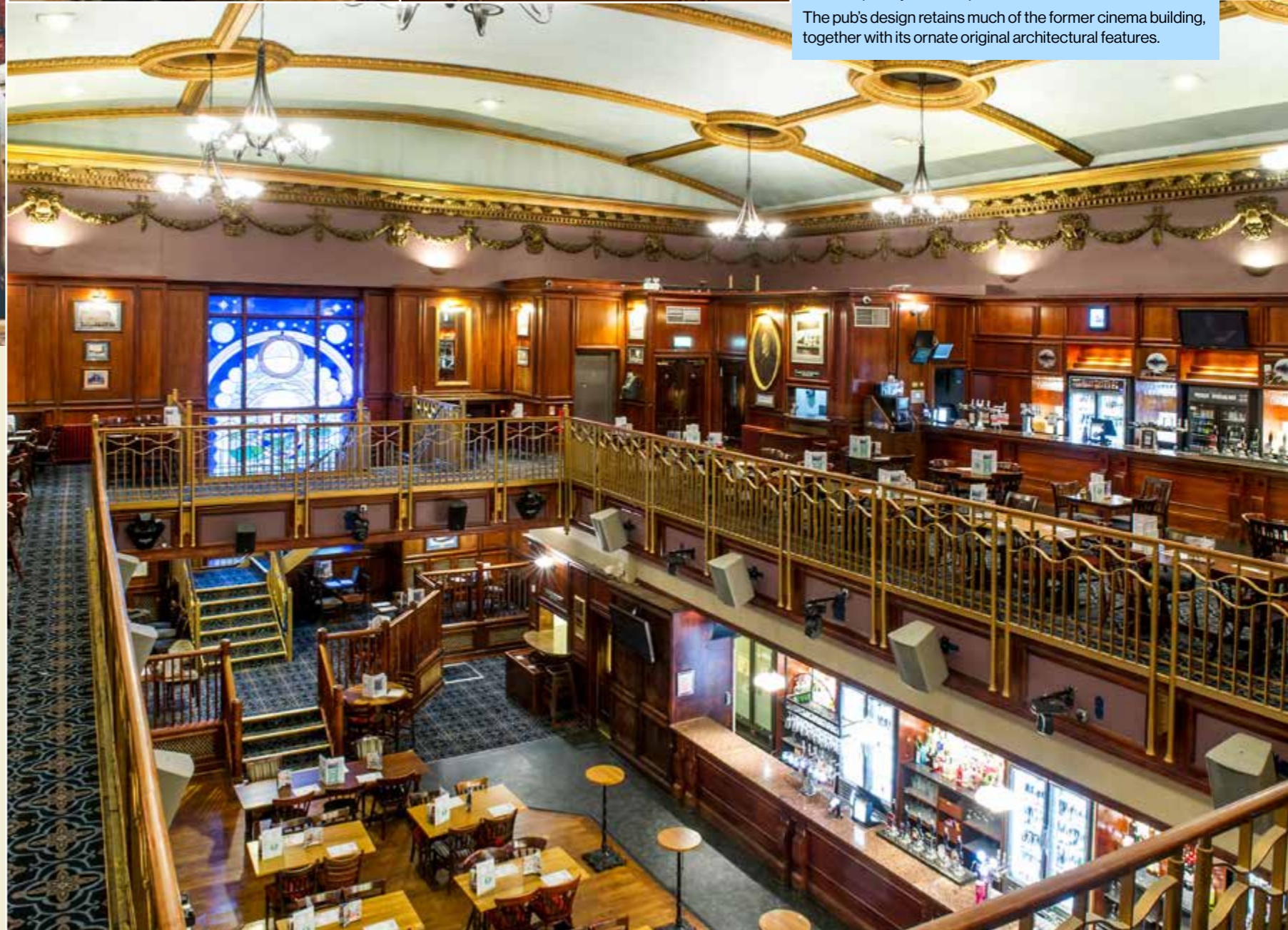
The auditorium, supremely comfortable, now seated 450 in the stalls and 250 in the balcony, decorated with twinkling star-shaped lights.

In 1971, a second cinema opened, the 167-seat ABC 2, made from the former café.

This was again a plain, but comfortable, cinema. ABC was bought out by Cannon in 1986 – on 9 August 1990, both screens closed.

After lying empty for a while, the building was bought and redeveloped by Wetherspoon.

The pub's design retains much of the former cinema building, together with its ornate original architectural features.



**BIG, BIGGER, BIGGEST – BLIMEY!**

**Moon in Manchester took unofficial title in 1995 - and official one two years later - but was later overtaken by our huge attractions in Cambridge, Blackpool and Ramsgate**

**W**etherspoon's pubs are record-breakers, not just once or twice, or even thrice, but four times – it's official.

When The Moon Under Water opened in Manchester, in August 1995, it was hailed as the biggest pub in Britain.

In fact, in 1997, Wetherspoon entered Guinness World Records for the first time, when The Moon Under Water, was officially recognised as the largest public house in the UK.

The former Deansgate Picture House, itself having originally opened in 1914, was transformed into the record-breaking Wetherspoon pub.

It boasts customer space of almost 7,800 sq ft over two floors, featuring three bars and three cellars.

The Regal, in Cambridge, which opened in September 1999, subsequently took that Guinness World Records title. The Lloyds No.1 bar boasts customer space of more than 9,000 sq ft.

In May 2015, The Velvet Coaster opened on the sea front in Blackpool. The old Lucky Star amusement arcade took the 'largest Wetherspoon pub' crown from the former Cambridge cinema, following a £3.86-million redevelopment project.

The then new record-breaker also boasts three bars, but this time on three floors, as well as a first-floor balcony terrace and roof garden.

However, Britain's current biggest pub opened just over two years later, in August 2017, at another UK seaside location.

Royal Victoria Pavilion, our pub in Ramsgate, boasts a customer area of just over 11,000 sq ft, with two bars on two floors, plus a huge first-floor terrace.

Derelict and empty for more than a decade, the site of the Victorian/Edwardian pavilion building, previously a casino and dance hall, bar and nightclub, was transformed into a Wetherspoon pub at a cost of £4.5 million.





### THE REGAL

38-39 ST ANDREWS STREET, CAMBRIDGE, CB2 3AR

This Wetherspoon pub is the former Regal cinema, purpose built in 1937 as part of the ABC chain.

Later renamed Cannon and MGM, it closed in 1997.

It was originally advertised as 'the latest and most up-to-date cinema in Cambridge... on which neither time nor money has been spared' and dubbed by cinema-goers of the 1930s as a 'veritable palace'.

After the opening ceremony on 3 April, the main feature was *Swing Time*, starring Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers - the movies' greatest-ever dancing team.

There was also the added attraction of Wilfrid Southworth at the 'Mighty Compton Organ'.

The Regal, designed by John S Quilter & Son, was built on the site of The Old Castle Hotel, a well-known local landmark.

It was one of the city's leading hotels and the terminus for the London-to-Cambridge stage coaches, later destroyed by fire in 1927.





## THE VELVET COASTER

501–507 PROMENADE,  
BLACKPOOL, FY4 1BA

Blackpool Pleasure Beach, located just 150 metres from this pub, is Britain's 'most visited tourist attraction'. It began in 1896 as a small fairground among the sand hills.

The Velvet Coaster was one of the exciting new rides introduced in the early 1900s.

Its open carriages, with velvet seats, climbed a white wooden structure, before sweeping down 'humps' and around 'curves' on two circuits of the track.

The Velvet Coaster was rebuilt in 1933, known simply as Roller Coaster until 2010. It is now named Nickelodeon Streak.

The pub's design itself is full of 'fun fair' elements – the carpet and fireplace area are waltzer themed, with rollercoaster and sea movement-based designs throughout.







## ROYAL VICTORIA PAVILION

HARBOUR PARADE, RAMSGATE, KENT, CT11 8LS

The grade II listed building was carefully restored, working to photographs and designs, keeping as close as possible to the original concept, designed by notable architect Stanley Davenport Adshhead and originally completed in 1903.

A new zinc roof was installed on the large main roof, in keeping with the original building, and the pub's design also includes the reinstatement of the pavilion's classic dormer oriel (circular) windows.

This striking example of seaside architecture was built on the site of an old stone yard as a concert hall and assembly rooms. It is said to have been built in six weeks.

The opening ceremony was performed by HRH Princess Louise, Duchess of Argyll, on 29 June 1904.

She was greeted at the railway station by large crowds and given a golden key to open the grand pavilion.

It was named in memory of her mother, Queen Victoria, who had spent several summers in Ramsgate as a young princess – a name which continues in the name of the pub today.





*Josie Kennedy · Hatch End*

# A LONG WAY FROM TIPPERARY TO THE SWEETEST JOB JOSIE KNOWS



In March, Josie Kennedy, pub manager at The Moon and Sixpence (Hatch End), celebrated 30 years with Wetherspoon.

Originally from County Tipperary, in the Republic of Ireland, she has spent three decades managing just three pubs – and her four sons all work for the company.

In 1989, Josie and her husband Liam started out as assistants to the pub manager at our then pub in Lordship Lane, Tottenham, north London, when there were just eight pubs in the entire estate.

Josie recalled: "I couldn't even change a barrel of Guinness and distinctly remember thinking: 'This is never going to happen!'"

"But we stuck at it and, a year later, opened The Moon Under Water, at Colindale, where we spent four years getting to know the 'Wetherspoon way'.

"We had to call on our own resources, as there wasn't the training or expertise available as there is now.

"It has certainly made me realise how important training is – and those early days have really stuck with me.

"Now, you can ring head office and someone there will know the answer to your question – which is brilliant."

Josie and Liam went on to open The Moon Under Water (Watford), in December 1994, the company's 100th pub.

Liam then became an area manager, a role he pursued for six years, before leaving the company for a different career, while Josie went on to spend 15 years running the Watford pub, as well as raising a family.

She said: "I fell pregnant with Justin soon after joining the company and wasn't sure whether I could stay.

"He was probably one of the first 'Wetherspoon babies' – and now, aged 29, works at head office as a maintenance administrator."

Teddy is a full-time shift leader at The Moon and Sixpence, while Conor and Kilian work at the pub during breaks from their university studies at Liverpool and Bournemouth.

Josie, who marked 10 years at the Hatch End pub in June, continued: "It is a lovely little pub – and I couldn't stay in a job which I fundamentally didn't like.

"My mother never drank and, years ago, pubs were very different places.

"My main aim and big driving force, when I started out, was to run a pub in which older people would feel safe and comfortable.

"I also need my team to want and like to come to work.

"Many team members have been here a long time – we have great stability.

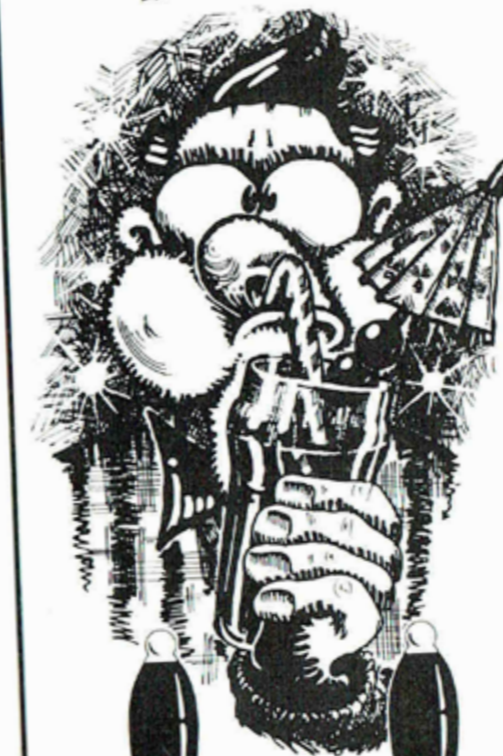
"A pub is a very sociable place to work – and ours is great in that respect."

Josie concluded: "The years have flown by. It certainly doesn't seem like 30 years – and things are always evolving with Wetherspoon.

"Those changes sharpen you up – and keeping up with those new innovations keeps you in touch with the younger staff members."

1988

**IF YOU'RE FED UP WITH PUBS THAT LOOK LIKE DISCOTHEQUES AND BEER THAT TASTES LIKE DISHWATER –**  
*Try a J D Wetherspoon Freehouse*



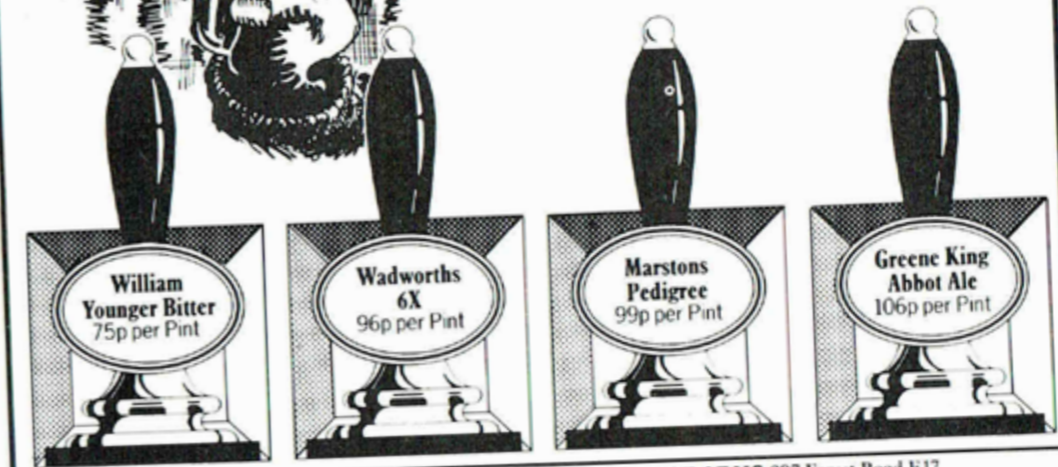
All our establishments offer good real ales and beers at sensible prices in traditional pub surroundings free of music of any kind.

Most also offer good pub food and snacks for a satisfying lunch.

Come along and see what a pub should really be like – we reckon you'll enjoy it!



17/19 Archway Road N19  
 Telephone: 01-281 2167/8



- THE DRUM 557/9 Lea Bridge Road E10 • THE COLLEGE ARMS 807 Forest Road E17
- WHITE LION OF MORTIMER 125/127 Stroud Green Road N4 • OLD SUFFOLK PUNCH 10/12 Grand Parade N4
- THE MORTIMER ARMS 405 Green Lanes N4 • THE GOAT 414/416 West Green Road N15
- THE TANNERS HALL 145 High Street, Stoke Newington N16 • THE ELBOW ROOM 503/505 High Road N17
- THE NARROW BOAT Reedham Close N17 • THE BOAR 413 Lordship Lane N17
- THE DOG 17/19 Archway Road N19 • J J MOON'S 37 Landseer Road N19
- THE MOON UNDER WATER 423 Lordship Lane N22 • THE MOON UNDER WATER 148 High Street, Barnet

*Advertisement from CAMRA's London Drinker magazine*





# HOW HAMILTON HALL SCORED A DOUBLE FIRST

**Busy, beautiful pub, opened in 1991, was company's initial foray into City of London and into a railway station**

**W**hen Wetherspoon opened Hamilton Hall at Liverpool Street station, in November 1991, it signalled two 'firsts' for the company.

It was Wetherspoon's first pub in the City of London and also the first to be opened at a railway station. Of course, more were to follow in the City of London, as well as at travel hubs across the UK.

Located at the UK's third-busiest train station, Hamilton Hall is one of Wetherspoon's busiest and most beautiful pubs.

It is named after Lord Claud Hamilton, chairman of the Great Eastern Railway Company (1893–1923), the concern which originally built Liverpool Street station.

#### Aide-de-Camp

Lord Hamilton, born 1843, held the offices of a member of parliament (MP) for Londonderry (1865 and 1868), Lord of the Treasury in 1868, MP for King's Lynn (1869–80), MP for Liverpool (1880–88), Aide-de-Camp to HM Queen Victoria (1887–97) and MP for South Kensington (1910–18).

He was invested as a privy councillor in 1917 and as Knight of Justice, Order of St John of Jerusalem and held the office of High Steward of the Borough of Great Yarmouth and of Harwich.

However, his principal contribution to British public life was as a director of the Great Eastern Railway Company from 1872, becoming vice-chairman in 1874 and chairman during 1893–1923.

It is reported that 'he devoted the main energies of his life to the company, constantly travelling over the system, observing its conduct and operation'.

In 1900, Great Eastern Railway named the first of its new class of 4-4-0 express passenger locomotives (designed by James Holden) after its chairman... and the whole class came to be known as the Claud Hamilton type.

The Great Eastern Hotel, built close to Liverpool Street station and finished in 1884, was designed by Charles Barry.

In 1901, a further building was added, designed by Colonel Robert Edis, and built mainly in red brick, with white stone decoration.

#### Listed

Now grade I listed, the hotel was renovated in 1998 and reopened under new ownership, as London's five-star Hyatt Andaz Hotel.

Hamilton Hall, with its large and ornate interior, is located on the Bishopsgate side of the premises, in this Victorian railway hotel building. It has a small pavement-style outdoor area at the front.

The pub is housed in the former high-ceilinged ballroom and still retains today many of its original decorative features.

The highly embellished ballroom interior design was copied directly from the Palais Soubise, in Paris, in 1901.

The smaller (but still good-sized) mezzanine floor, in one corner, which now boasts an upstairs bar, is where the orchestra was once situated.

Golden chandeliers, inspired by the building's original design, and rococo flourishes adorn the vast space.

Decorated in gold, white and pale blue, it is full of mirrors and marble, paintings and plasterwork figures.

The flamboyant Victorian baroque décor is mixed with contemporary design, including a large mirror bar counter in the main customer area, designed to represent the station building, as well as modern tables and chairs.

#### Sumptuous

Historic England reported: 'Hamilton Hall in sumptuous rococo plasterwork and panelling, including painted scenes set in rococo frames, is modelled on an apartment in the Palais Soubise in Paris.'



Early in 2019, essential repairs and meticulous restoration work were carried out, in order to maintain the stunning Victorian beauty, as well as the safety, of the pub.

The grade II listed décor – especially the ceiling, built from cinder block, a concrete-type substance popular in the 19th century – was in need of some desperate TLC, to rejuvenate and preserve it for future generations.

With the help of City of London Conservation Team and Locker & Riley, the UK's world-leading fibrous plaster expert, Wetherspoon maintained and restored all elements of the property to the highest standards possible – from the cornices to the colour scheme.

The chandeliers will hang securely for at least another century, before any further work needs to be done... and the cherubs will continue to rest on the ceiling, watching over the city workers and travellers pausing for refreshment in this spectacular pub.

● **Street-level Concourse, Liverpool Street Station, City of London, EC2M 7PY**



1999

# The Perfect Gift...



## ...for any occasion.

Visit one of J D Wetherspoon's pubs to experience a great time. With an excellent menu and a wide selection of beers, wines and spirits at reasonable prices, your WetherVouchers will go a long way. WetherVouchers are available in £5 denominations and can be redeemed at any J D Wetherspoon freehouse. With more than 350 locations in the UK to choose from, they're more local than most.



The grooviest pubs in the world!



*Our first gift voucher advertisement. Gift cards are now available at the bar.*

*Mags Thomson, Livingston*

# HOW MONKS' RETREAT INSPIRED A PUB PILGRIMAGE

MAP IN HAND, MAGS REACHES MAGICAL MILESTONE



**I**n December 2016, Wetherspoon devotee and Scottish superfan Mags Thomson reached her magical milestone of 1,000 pubs visited.

She marked the occasion at the opening of The Caley Picture House, in her native Scotland's capital city Edinburgh, just a short train ride from her home in Livingston.

That 1,000-pub milestone includes pubs which have since closed; in addition, she has also clocked up 57 hotel visits, enjoying overnight stays in them all.

Mags has travelled thousands of miles throughout the UK, by train, bus and the occasional taxi, as well as a lot of walking, in her quest to visit all Wetherspoon pubs and hotels. Her superfan total currently stands at 1,043 pubs.

### Collection

She started her collection with husband Ian, more than 25 years ago, their first visit being The Monks' Retreat, in Reading.

Ian, sadly, passed away in July 2010 and, following his death, Mags took a two-year break from the 'Spoons travelling, something she had enjoyed so much with Ian.

However, Mags slowly rebuilt her self-confidence again, one short trip at a time, until she was back touring on her own, to continue their Wetherspoon collection – remarkably, all by public transport.

Mags, 70, spends a lot of time mapping her trips and working out transport between each pub, trying to achieve numerous pubs per trip, using the venues as her reason for holidays and travel, sometimes with her friend Evelyn Mitchell.

Wetherspoon News first met Mags in the summer of 2015, when she had already clocked up 960 pubs and hotels, with a visit to the newly opened The North Western, at Liverpool Lime Street station.

### Holiday

She recalled: "It all started back in August 1994, on a holiday in Reading.

"Ian was a railway enthusiast and I was bored and cold standing on the platform at Reading station one day, so told him I was off to look for a pub.

"We hadn't heard of Wetherspoon then, but I found a lovely pub, The Monks' Retreat, and he joined me there for something to eat and drink.

"After a couple of hours and a couple of pints of real ale later, we discovered that it was a Wetherspoon pub.

"With Ian, we visited 708 together and, when he died, I didn't think I could bring myself to do it alone.

### Bug

"However, in the two-year gap, 13 new pubs opened in Scotland, so I started with those and got the bug again."

Mags continues their hobby with great passion and a real zest for life, meeting some great new friends along the way.

She said: "It takes me to places which I wouldn't necessarily think to visit.

"I have seen many lovely towns and cities and have been warmly welcomed everywhere I go.

"Most of the pubs are no problem to get to by public transport.

"However, there have been occasions when the journey hasn't been quite so easy, and I have asked myself: 'Why do I do it?'

"The hotels in particular are great to visit.

"Some of them are absolutely beautiful, particularly The Hippodrome, in March – just as good as some five-star hotels."



# FROM MYANMAR TO TENERIFE, THESE 'SPOONS ARE BENT

**Fake JDW pubs have been popping up in holiday hot spots for at least 19 years, but those tourists lured in are sorely disappointed**

**W**hen The Three Tun Tavern opened in Blackrock, Dublin, in July 2014, the pub signalled Wetherspoon's first foray outside of the UK.

We now have seven pubs in the Republic of Ireland, with more planned.

Wetherspoon's customers (and avid readers of Wetherspoon News) may be forgiven for thinking that our overseas venues extend further afield than the Emerald Isle and long before 2014.

**Fakes**

Over the years, our eagle-eyed customers have spotted 'We(a)therspoon's' pubs and restaurants all over the world – all of them, of course, being fakes.

Once you have left a UK airport, where we have many excellent (official) venues, rest assured, unless you are travelling to Ireland, any 'Wetherspoon' pub beyond these shores is not what it may appear, but we know that you are well aware of that.

Back in December 2000, we reproduced a story in Wetherspoon News which first appeared in the diary column of The Times.

**Turkey**

The 'JD Wether Spoon Pub Restaurant' sign was snapped in Oludeniz, a village on the Mediterranean coast of Turkey.

In October/November 2002, former Wetherspoon employee Lorraine Fellows and her husband Gary told us about 'J. D. Weatherspoons Pub Company' in Benalmadena, Andalusia, in southern Spain.

Gary said, at the time: "All of the signage, as well as the menu, has Weatherspoon emblazoned on it. However, that's where the similarity ends. The drinks are far more expensive and the food not nearly as good."

From Europe to Asia – Joe Tones spotted 'Weather Spoon Café' at Bagga Beach, in Goa, India, back in June/July 2003.

**Copycat**

Four years later, Tony Wright got in touch to let us know about a second copycat pub in Goa – Weather Spoon – although more a shack on the beach than a pub.

Tony wrote to us again, a few months later, to tell us about another establishment, 'Timothy Weatherspoon', in the resort of Playa Paradiso, in Tenerife, an obvious reference to Wetherspoon's founder and chairman Tim Martin.

In 2014, Garry Hawkins was on holiday in Myanmar (formerly Burma) and stumbled across Weatherspoon's Bagan Restaurant.

Garry said: "You can imagine my surprise when I saw the restaurant. I guess imitation is the sincerest form of flattery. Unfortunately, there was no cask ale available; however, they did make a mean Burmese curry."

Three years later, Alice and Philip Radford (pictured), from Perranporth, in Cornwall, got in touch. They happened across the same establishment, although the signage had since changed.

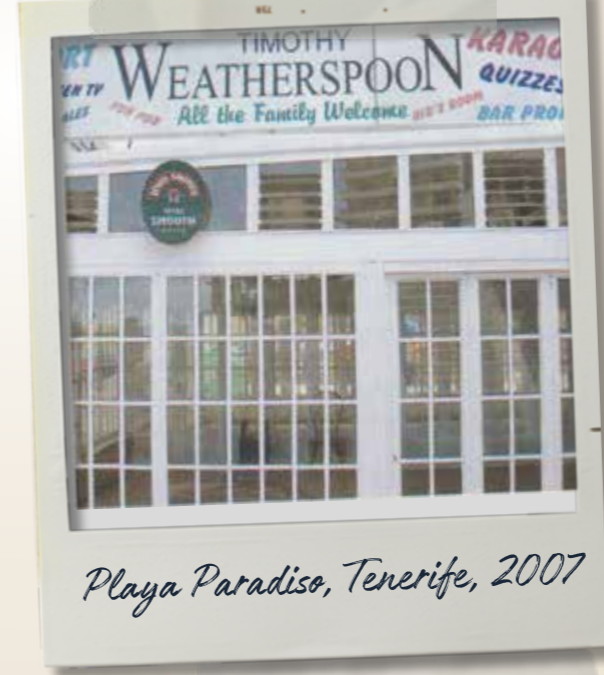
Tim Martin said: "Other than our excellent pubs in the Republic of Ireland, we have no pubs in other jurisdictions. I'm afraid to say that all of these pubs are fake – as I have no doubt you are aware..."



*Benalmadena, Spain, 2002*



*Goa, India, 2007*



*Playa Paradiso, Tenerife, 2007*



*Oludeniz, Turkey, 2000*



*Goa, India, 2003*



*Bagan, Myanmar, 2017*



# PUB NAMES STRIVE TO KEEP PAST GLORIES ALIVE

Unusual monikers adorn many of our pubs to commemorate a notable person or event

**A**ll Wetherspoon pubs offer a warm welcome, great food and drinks choices and deals; however, we do like to make all of our pubs individual.

We take great pride in researching the history and character of an area and displaying information and details of local events and connections.

This historical detail is often reflected in our pubs' names.

Here, we highlight some of the more unusual and less obvious origins.



## THE LORD KEEPER OF THE GREAT SEAL

This name (one of our longest) recalls Sir Nathan Wright, Lord Keeper of the Great Seal (1700–5) and later lord of the manor of Oadby.

Kings and queens have used a seal for centuries to authenticate their orders.

96–100 THE PARADE, OADBY, LEICESTERSHIRE, LE2 5BF

The Great Seal dates from the reign of Edward the Confessor.

After the Norman Conquest, its use continued, and the custody of the seal was entrusted to the care of the chancellor of the time.



## THE GENERAL SIR REDVERS BULLER

This was named after the distinguished general born in 1839 at 'Downes', the Bullers' fine seven-bay mansion to the southeast of the town centre.

Crediton's most celebrated son of modern times was General Sir Redvers Buller.

His distinguished military career included campaigns in the Sudan and the Boer War.

37 HIGH STREET, CREDITON, DEVON, EX17 3JP

## THE LORD HIGH CONSTABLE OF ENGLAND



The pub stands on the east side of the docks, between Llanthony Warehouse (now Gloucester Waterways Museum) and Llanthony Road, where it crosses Llanthony Bridge.

The name 'Llanthony' is taken from the now-ruined medieval priory on the west bank. Llanthony Secunda Priory was established in 1136 by Miles de Gloucester.

Like his father and grandfather, Miles was High Sheriff of Gloucester and Lord High Constable of England.

LLANTHONY WAREHOUSE, LLANTHONY ROAD, GLOUCESTER DOCKS, GLOUCESTERSHIRE, GL1 2EH



## THE CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE COMMON PLEAS

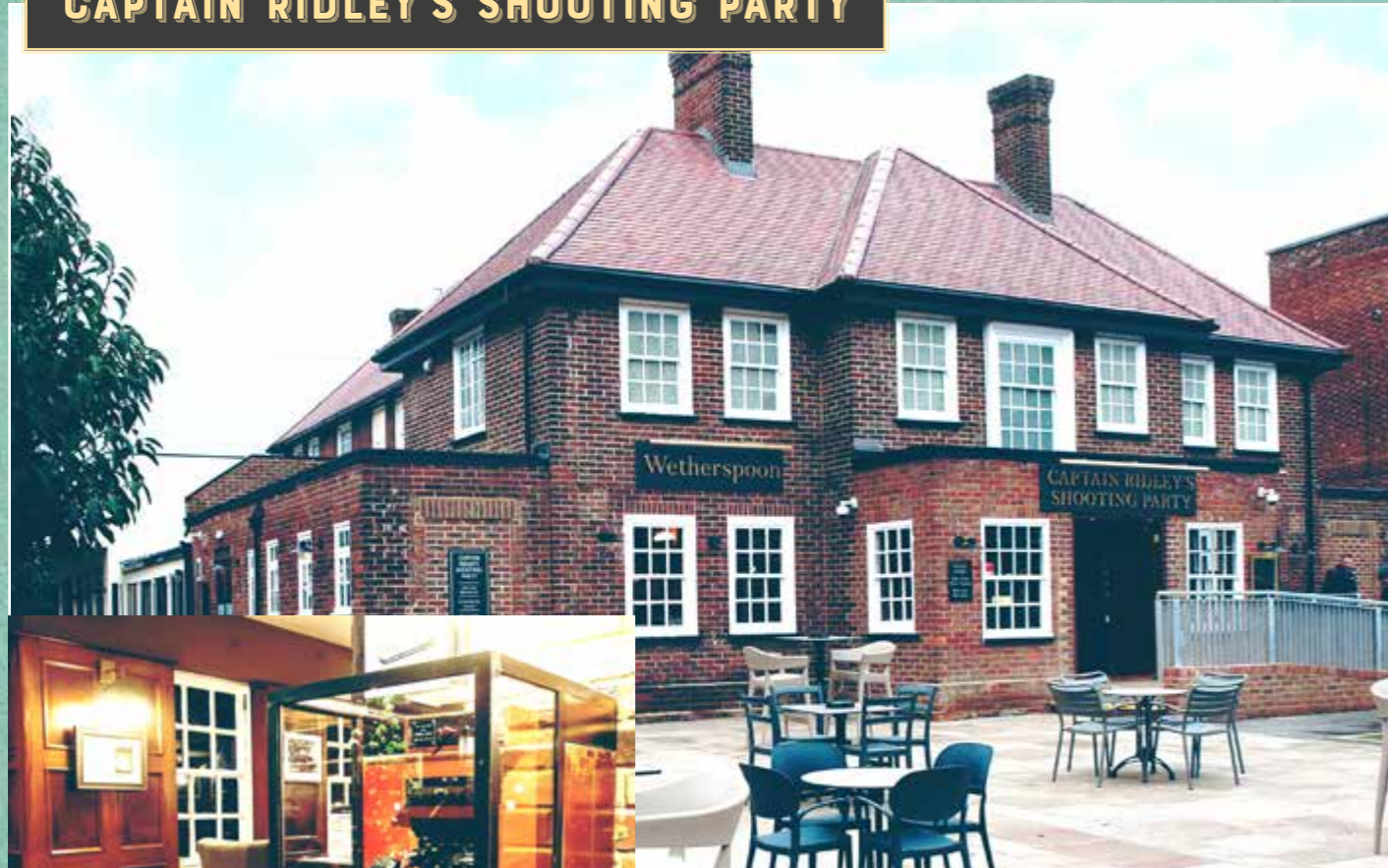
This former magistrates' court and police station was built in 1901–2, remaining in use until 2000, on the site of a 'workhouse', founded in the will (dated 1642) of the eminent lawyer and judge Sir John Banks. Born in 1589, he was called to the bar, elected as an MP and knighted in 1631.

Three years later, he was appointed Attorney-General and, in 1640, became Chief Justice of the Common Pleas – one of the highest judicial officials in England – until his death in 1644.

2 BANK STREET, KESWICK, CUMBRIA, CA12 5JY



**CAPTAIN RIDLEY'S SHOOTING PARTY**



Bletchley is best known as the World War II headquarters of Britain's famous codebreakers – Bletchley Park.

Sir Herbert Leon, a wealthy stockbroker, had bought the estate in 1882 and was key in its development.

In 1937, the estate passed into government hands.

183–185 QUEENSWAY, BLETCHLEY, MILTON KEYNES, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE, MK2 2ED

Then, an undercover MI6 group arrived using the name 'Captain Ridley's Shooting Party', with 'an air of friends enjoying a weekend at a country house'.

Their real purpose was to see whether Bletchley Park would work as a wartime location.

**YR IEUAN AP IAGO**



Virtually outside this pub is a memorial stone commemorating James James (bardic name Iago ap Ieuan) who composed the national anthem of Wales.

The five-foot-high memorial stone was mined at a quarry just north of Aberdare.

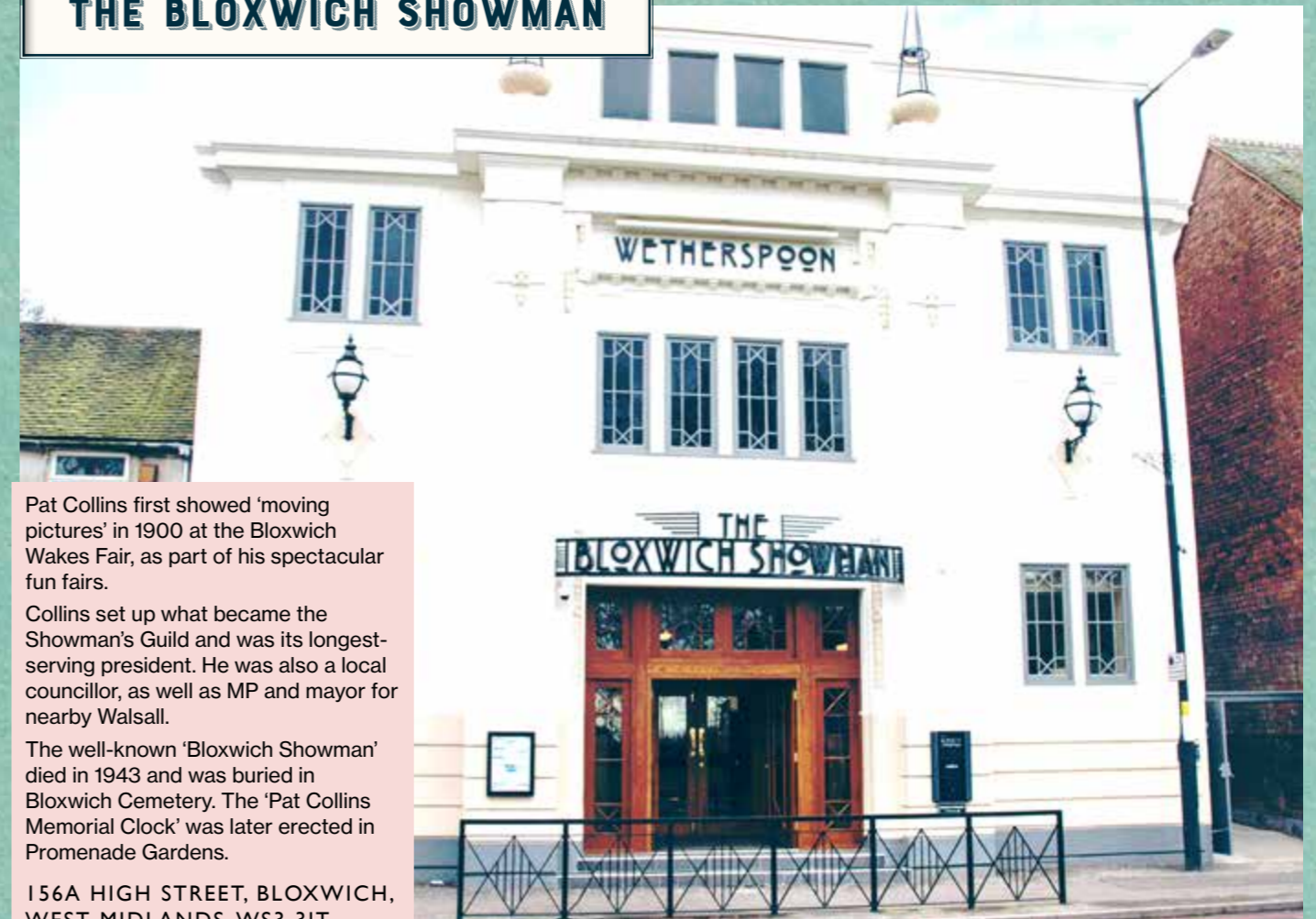
The commemorative plaque set into the stone is of north Wales slate.

James moved to the Cynon Valley (which includes Aberdare) in 1873 and spent his last years in Aberdare itself.

He was buried in 1902 in Aberdare Cemetery.

6 HIGH STREET, ABERDARE, RHONDDA CYNON TAFF, CF44 7AA

**THE BLOXWICH SHOWMAN**



Pat Collins first showed 'moving pictures' in 1900 at the Bloxwich Wakes Fair, as part of his spectacular fun fairs.

Collins set up what became the Showman's Guild and was its longest-serving president. He was also a local councillor, as well as MP and mayor for nearby Walsall.

The well-known 'Bloxwich Showman' died in 1943 and was buried in Bloxwich Cemetery. The 'Pat Collins Memorial Clock' was later erected in Promenade Gardens.

156A HIGH STREET, BLOXWICH, WEST MIDLANDS, WS3 3JT

**THE COMPANY OF WEAVERS**



For centuries, Witney was associated with the making of woollen cloth and blankets which carried the name of the town around the world.

In 1711, 'the blanket-weavers inhabiting in and near Witney' obtained a royal charter to establish a company to regulate their trade.

In 1721, the company of weavers erected a 'Blanket Hall' in the high street. In 1844, the hall was sold and became the 'Blanket Hall Brewery'.

The Baroque-style building is now a private house.

31 MARKET SQUARE, WITNEY, OXFORDSHIRE, OX28 6AD



## THE CORRYVRECKAN



This pub is named after the Corryvreckan whirlpool, between the islands of Jura and Scarba, just south of Oban 'Gateway to the Isles'.

According to tradition, the famous whirlpool is named after the Norse king Breachan, who had to prove his bravery in order to marry a princess of the isles.

THE WATERFRONT CENTRE, RAILWAY PIER, OBAN, ARGYLL AND BUTE, PA34 4LW

## THE MECHANICAL ELEPHANT



The name of this pub recalls the popular attraction which gave hundreds of children rides on the promenade. The mechanical elephant was one of many seaside attractions, including a circus, to entertain summer visitors. There is another elephant in Margate, New Jersey, USA. When it was built in 1881, this six-storey structure, later known as Lucy, is thought to have been managed by two men from the circus in Margate.

28–30 MARINE TERRACE, MARGATE, KENT, CT9 1XJ

## THE ELECTRICAL WIZARD

Until 1999, this pub's building was the Coliseum cinema, having opened in December 1926.

In the early 1930s, few packed them in like Dr Walford Brodie, known as 'The Electrical Wizard of the North'.

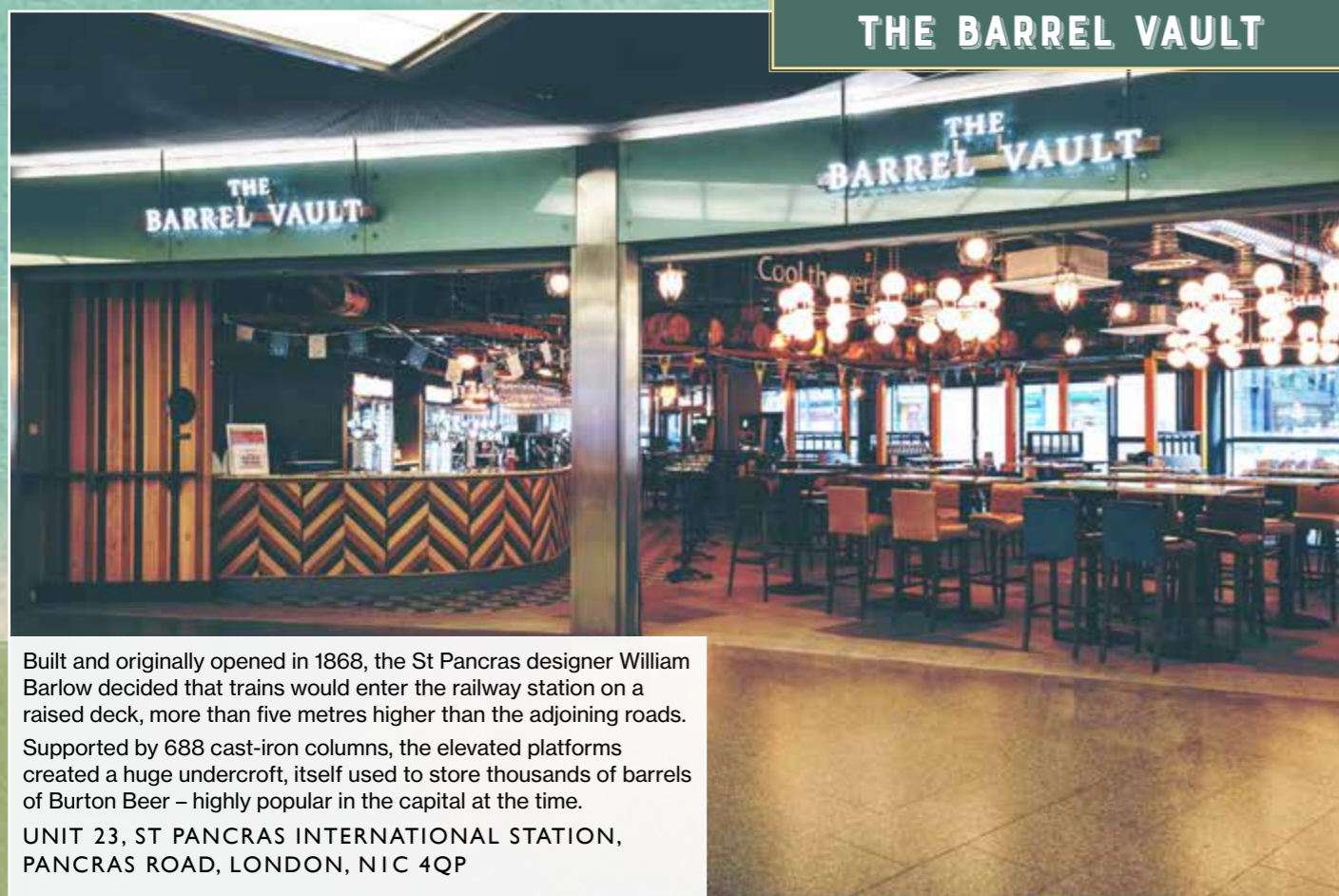
The smartly dressed Brodie, with his waxed handle-bar moustache, was once a very big name in showbusiness.

The Scots-born entertainer was famous for 'shocking' magic tricks, using electricity and even an electric chair.

11 NEW MARKET, MORPETH, NORTHUMBERLAND, NE61 1PS



## THE BARREL VAULT



Built and originally opened in 1868, the St Pancras designer William Barlow decided that trains would enter the railway station on a raised deck, more than five metres higher than the adjoining roads.

Supported by 688 cast-iron columns, the elevated platforms created a huge undercroft, itself used to store thousands of barrels of Burton Beer – highly popular in the capital at the time.

UNIT 23, ST PANCRAS INTERNATIONAL STATION, PANCRAS ROAD, LONDON, N1C 4QP

## THE SHAY WAKE



When Shaw and Crompton was a booming mill town, the Wakes holiday traditionally started on the first Saturday after 13 August.

In the words of the dialect song Shay Wake, it was a chance to 'lay aside aside yur wheel un loom' and head for 'Shay Wake', where 'Thur's flying boxus, boats and shows, Un fruit, un pies, un tay cakes'. 'Here's a pig cun wissle tunes' and 'Red herrins con yur fortin tell'. In fact, 'Thur's every thin ut Shay Wake'.

2–10 MILNROW ROAD, SHAW, OLDHAM, GREATER MANCHESTER, OL2 8EQ



# HOW TONY THE WALRUS HELPED KEEP ME AFLOAT

In a revealing Q&A, Wetherspoon's chairman Tim Martin tells of the twist of fate which prevented his fledgling pub company from going under in 1979

## You were training to be a barrister – why did you decide to give that up and run a pub?



I studied law at uni. In the first term, I tried to understand 'the rule against perpetuities' from a textbook called The Law of Real Property, but just couldn't – an ominous sign.

I ploughed on and scraped through the exams, but could see that others understood the law more easily than I, so chucked it in on graduation.

In the following year, I worked for six months in a pork pie factory and then sold advertising for the Newcastle Journal and Belfast Telegraph newspapers.

I decided to give the law another crack and studied for my bar exams in London, scraping through at the second attempt in 1979.

Just up the road from where I lived, in Wood Green, north London, a clever chap called Andrew Marler somehow got a licence (very difficult, at the time) to convert a bookies into a tiny pub.

I used to go for a pint there after a day's legal studies and really liked it.

Andrew got fed up with running Marler's Bar – and I took over his eight-year lease on 9 December 1979 and changed the name to Martin's Free House.

Someone put an advertising board through the window on 31 December 1979, when I wouldn't let him in, so 'Martin's' disappeared from the frontage.

When the window was replaced, the sign-writer, Tony the Walrus, a regular, asked me whether I wanted to change the name.

Everything seemed to be going wrong, so I decided, on a whim, to name the pub after a very nice primary school teacher in New Zealand (where I lived aged 10–15) who struggled to control the class, just as I struggled to control the pub.

That story has morphed and become "he told me I'd never make it" – which isn't true.

## Were you a good publican from day one?

I was terrible and had to learn many hundreds of lessons. I couldn't understand, to start with, why I shouldn't drink a few pints with the regulars every night – a potential slippery slope.

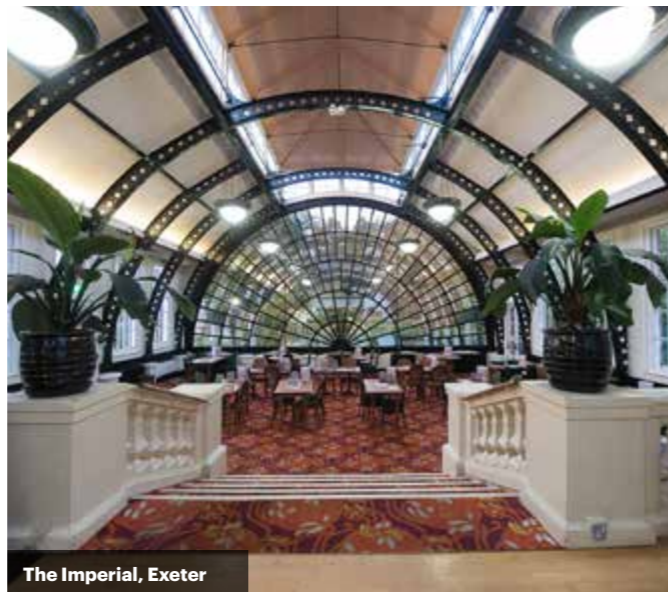
I had very little technical knowledge too, and running a pub well requires a lot of training and practical experience. I found that things started to improve after a few years, when I asked customers and colleagues "what do you think I should do?" about almost everything.

The Wetherspoon mantra, that customers and colleagues know best, developed from there.

## What is your favourite Wetherspoon pub?

I was asked this question while giving a talk to university business students, a few years ago, and said it was like asking Tiger Woods who his favourite girlfriend was – there were so many at the time. Joking aside, I don't have a favourite.

The old listed buildings like The Imperial (Exeter), Hamilton Hall (London), The Counting House (Glasgow), Opera House (Tunbridge Wells) or The Prince of Wales (Cardiff) are difficult to beat.



The Imperial, Exeter

Customers especially appreciate the restoration of empty local landmarks which have lain dilapidated for years.

I'm also proud, however, of the transformation of small buildings in towns like Abertillery, Brixham and Elgin – which have made such great pubs.



The Muckle Cross, Elgin

## What are your highlights of the past 40 years?

The early years were tough, financially, so floating on the stock market after 13 years of pressure was a relief.

Every pub opening is a highlight.

Believe it or not, the contribution Wetherspoon makes to the country is a highlight.

The company, its employees and customers pay about £750 million per annum in taxes, including VAT, business rates, excise duty and so on.

That is about one-thousandth of all UK taxes.

The biggest highlight, though, is that thousands of people have received valuable work experience with Wetherspoon and many have made successful careers. We're not Amazon or Microsoft, but it all adds up.

## Where do you see the company in the next 40 years?

I naturally hope that we continue to do well – and avoid the pitfalls and fashions of the crazy corporate world.

We need to plough our own furrow, listen to customers and colleagues and value common sense more than some of the daft 'corporate governance' rules which emanate from the City. Making lots of small changes, at the suggestion of customers and colleagues, is where it's at.

## Why did you make your pubs music free?

I like music, but I don't like having to listen to other people's on a visit to a pub or restaurant.

The first pub had music to start with, but I found it impossible to get the right volume or choice of tracks.

Music can be very divisive.

After about a year, we took music out – it's still controversial and very unusual, but, as Belgian singer Plastic Bertrand says: "Ça plane pour moi."

## What is your tippale?

Unlike some real-ale drinkers, I'm not promiscuous and stick to the same beers: Abbot Ale, Adnams Broadside, Exmoor Gold or similar. There are thousands to choose from in the modern world, so sorry to have left out so many excellent alternatives.



## Are you ever recognised in your pubs; if so, what do people say/ask you?

Since the referendum campaign, in which I was involved, I do get recognised.

I spend about two days a week calling on pubs around the country.

The most frequently asked question is whether I say, in advance, where I'm going, but I never do and usually plan a route at the last minute.

## Tell us something about yourself which your customers might not know.

I've walked an average of 11.2 kilometres a day in 2019, mostly so I can enjoy a guilt-free pint in the evening.

## What is the secret of your success?

Bill Marriot, the founder of Marriot Hotels, one of the world's biggest hotel companies, said that the most important words in the English language are: "What do you think?"

Knowing that you don't personally know much is the key to success in most businesses.



**What are your interests outside of Wetherspoon?**

Surfing.



**Who would you like to have a drink/meal with in Wetherspoon and why?**

William Shakespeare – the greatest writer, but mostly a mystery. Very little is known about him.

**Wetherspoon often restores and saves historic buildings – why do you choose these properties and do you have a particular passion for history/architecture?**

Old buildings often have a tremendous sense of history and character.

Most people say that they choose pubs for ‘atmosphere’ – and it’s easier to create this elusive element with historic buildings.

**Wetherspoon has opened more than 1,000 pubs (some now sold and run by others) – do you still get a thrill from walking into a new Wetherspoon pub?**

Absolutely – yes. For example, I recently visited our new pub, Palladium Electric, in Midsomer Norton, Somerset.

Many customers were enthusiastic about the restoration of a disused cinema which they had frequented in their youth.

**Of which aspect of your pubs are you most proud?**

The fact that so many customers appreciate them and that so many colleagues learn a trade, as I have done.

**What is the single best decision you have ever made, in regard to Wetherspoon... and the worst?**

I read a book in 1998 by Sam Walton, founder of Walmart, who said that his best decision was to award shares in the company to employees.

We introduced a free share scheme that year and now have 10,000 shareholders. That’s my best decision.

My worst decision was to choose a fixed interest rate for Wetherspoon’s bank loans in September 2007.

Interest subsequently dropped like a stone.

If I’d just done nothing, the company would have saved £100 million!

Silly me...

**Wetherspoon is a successful company, but, with hindsight, is there anything you would have done differently?**

I was a bit of a big head to start off with, but, like Édith Piaf: Non, je ne regrette rien.

**How did you get involved in the debate about Brexit?**

By chance. As John Lennon said: “Life is what happens to you when you’re busy making other plans.”

In 1990, the UK joined the forerunner of the euro, the exchange rate mechanism (ERM), which tied European currencies together. It was a disaster. UK interest rates rose to 15% within two years. There was a massive recession. My personal monthly mortgage payment doubled (as it did for millions of others).

That’s one reason why so many ‘old’ people voted leave!

Unemployment rocketed and banks were on the verge of collapse. The UK left the ERM in 1992 – and the ‘mechanism’ fell apart. Interest rates dropped like a stone and the economy recovered. Phew!

But... stone the crows – about 10 years later, an older, male, Oxbridge political faction, as I said at the time (Michael Heseltine, Ken Clarke, Tony Blair, Peter Mandelson, Chris Patten and their counterparts at the CBI and the Financial Times etc), proposed that the UK should join the successor to the ERM – the euro.

Once bitten, twice shy. Never having been involved in ‘politics’ before, I said that, for a currency to work, you need a government to back it up – the euro didn’t have one and its forerunner had failed.

For the first time, I was propelled into the debate, appearing on Panorama, Question Time and so on.

We won that argument and, apart from pub issues, I retreated from ‘politics’ for about 15 years.

However, in 2016, I agreed with David Cameron that the EU needed ‘fundamental reform’ – especially in respect of its ‘democratic deficit’.

I felt that Cameron had fibbed in 2016, when he said that his negotiations had produced fundamental reform – and I have campaigned ever since, although I had hoped to stop after the referendum.

The main lesson I took from the ERM and euro débâcles was that an Oxbridge elite (but not all Oxbridge graduates) had a peculiar quasi-religious belief in ‘Brussels’ which overrode economic common sense and democracy itself.

This faction, then as now, is more comfortable with its EU counterparts (les énarques, the French call them) than with the voting public.

Les énarques are generally well-meaning people – they just don’t understand that the public knows best and democracy can’t be safely watered down.

We need more democracy in the world... not less.

Oddly, les énarques often have a very poor understanding of economics, especially those who specialise in the subject in the City and the media.

“Strange days indeed,” as John Lennon also said...

*Pete Spinner. Heathrow Airport*

**PETE HAPPY TO REMAIN AT AIRPORT, AFTER ARRIVAL IN 1994**



What started out, for Pete Spinner, as a temporary part-time job turned into a role lasting 25 years... and counting.

A fully qualified engineer, specialising in press tool-making, he successfully applied for a bar associate job at Heathrow Airport, in 1994, and has remained there ever since.

Pete said: “It was only going to be for a couple of weeks, between engineering jobs with my friend John Wigmore.

“I was a member of a ‘job club’ at the time – and they told me about the bar work, knowing that I lived near the airport and also had some experience.

“Jon Randall (now head of acquisitions and new developments) was the pub manager at the pub in T4 (airside) – and John Hutson (Wetherspoon’s chief executive now) was the area manager.

“Even though I was already 38 then, a lot older than most of the bar staff, I had some experience and was told ‘if you can do the job, it doesn’t matter about your age’.”

Pete’s friend John then sadly passed away – and the engineering jobs to which Pete was expecting to return went with him.

Pete, who now works at The Flying Chariot (T2 landside), has clearly seen plenty of changes during a quarter of a century, not only in Wetherspoon itself, but also at the airport.

He said: “Although I am now working landside, the main changes I have seen are the security measures. Sometimes, it seems a bit over the top, but people have got to be safe.”

Recovering from a knee-replacement operation when he spoke, Pete has now returned to his part-time role at The Flying Chariot.

He added: “Although there have been a lot of changes, I still enjoy my work. Many of my colleagues are youngsters, but that keeps me on my toes.

“I never wanted to step up to management level, as I didn’t want to move around. I am happy doing my job.

“Until last year, I was also helping to take care of my elderly parents, so was happy to stay where I was – although I never imagined that I would be at the pub for 25 years.

“But I know what I’m doing, and I must be doing something right to be here all this time.”

Pete, 64, concluded: “I am due to retire in July 2020, but I might carry on... I do enjoy it.

“There have been some ups and downs over the years, same as with any job, but I have had a good time.”



1990



PENELOPE WAS NOT ENTIRELY HAPPY TO HEAR THAT FRED HAD FORGOTTEN TO BOOK THEIR CHRISTMAS TABLE AT J D WETHERSPOON

Avoid any catastrophes - book now for Christmas

Superb 3 Course Christmas Meal £10.95

Parties Welcome  
Pick up a leaflet at the bar



Christmas meal poster

Richard Nixon, Grantham

# FROM GRANTHAM STATION, YOU CAN GO ANYWHERE

LNER WORKER RICHARD ENJOYS FIRST-CLASS JOURNEY AROUND OUR PUBS



**W**etherspoon superfan Richard Nixon joined the very exclusive '1,000 club' in March 2017, following his visit to The Linen Weaver, in Cork.

Richard, a station customer service assistant with LNER, at Grantham Station, joined his fellow Wetherspoon superfans, having collected 1,000 pubs.

That magical milestone saw Richard travel from his home in Grantham, Lincolnshire, with his friend Paul Cragg. Paul had alerted us to Richard's achievement – and we reported it in Wetherspoon News (summer 2017 edition).

**London**

Richard started his Wetherspoon collection back in 1994, at Wetherspoons, London Victoria Station. When returning from France with his friend Paul, he spotted the pub.

He was then in Birmingham and found another one, before discovering a list in the centre pages of Wetherspoon News.

Richard said: "It started all quite by accident, but, once I had a list (and one highlighter pen later), I was already on my way.

**Travelling**

"I have always liked travelling about, and this hobby takes me to places I probably would never have dreamed of going.

"I'm not obsessed by it, but it gives me an interest and something to focus on, which I enjoy."

Among those pubs visited across the UK, Richard was most impressed by The Imperial (Exeter). He reported: "That one particularly sticks in my mind, as it was like a big country house. I also like the converted cinemas too.

**Fraserburgh**

"One visit I remember clearly was to The Saltoun Inn. I travelled to Aberdeen and then took a bus to Fraserburgh.

"When I walked inside the pub, the first beer I noticed was from Brewster's Brewery, made in my home town of Grantham!"

Richard, whose current superfan total stands at 1,038, concluded: "Wetherspoon has certainly changed over the years: it was once all about cheap beer and no music.

"Today, the new openings are all so totally different, with a huge variety of customer types.

"Many of my visits are during the day, around lunchtime, and so many people are enjoying lunch at the pubs. Wetherspoon always did food, but the menu now is so extensive.

"I love doing this hobby for myself – and take it at my leisure."



*Serena Phillips . Monmouth*

# SERENA'S DRAWN A LOT OF PINTS AND A FEW OSTRICHES IN HER 20-YEAR CAREER



Serena Phillips, this year, celebrates 20 years' service with Wetherspoon.

Having just graduated from art college in Camberwell, southeast London, where she also ran the students' union bar, she joined the team in October 1998 at The Surrey Docks (Rotherhithe) as a shift manager.

Originally from Abergavenny, Monmouthshire, she moved to The Thomas Ingoldsby (Canterbury), before taking on her first pub as manager in 2000 – at The Paper Moon, in Dartford (now sold).

In March 2001, Wetherspoon opened its new pub in Abergavenny – and the chance to return home was an opportunity which Serena could not turn down.

She said: "Dartford was a real town-centre pub, while Abergavenny offered a different challenge, in a market town, and the opportunity to go back home, after almost eight years away.

"It was lovely to get back, where my parents still live, and I enjoyed my spell at the pub there."

By Christmas 2002, another move was on the cards, when The Kings Fee (Hereford) first opened.

Serena, 45, said: "Hereford was a bigger pub and another great challenge. I loved it there – and it is probably my favourite pub as manager."

Two spells at The Mail Rooms (Ross-on-Wye) separated by a move to The Bank House (Cheltenham) followed, before The George Hotel (Brecon) opened in February 2017, where Serena spent one year as pub and hotel manager.

She reported: "I then took a 12-month sabbatical. I wanted to do something with my degree, which was long overdue, so returned for a year to my artwork. Working mainly in pastel drawings, I started producing commissioned pet portraits.

"Clients would send photographs of their pets, usually cats, dogs or horses (although a picture of three ostriches has to be my strangest commission, so far) and I would draw them."

Serena returned to work in a part-time capacity in March 2019, in a totally different role.

She is a hotel receptionist at The Kings Head (Monmouth), two days per week, and still producing her artwork in a studio she has created at home.

Serena concluded: "I love my art, but I also love being part of a team.

"I really enjoy my job and the interaction with my colleagues and the hotel guests.

"The art is a solitary pursuit, so it is great to get out and create a happy balance."

# LOOK AT US NOW – HOW A HUMBLE MAG GREW UP

**Fat tome in your hands has come a long way since its début as a black-and-white eight-pager in 1991**

**O**ur Wetherspoon News magazine has come a long way since it was first published 28 years ago.

Today's full-colour glossy production, boasting more than 100 pages in every issue (a record-breaking 116 pages for spring 2019), enjoys a loyal readership of two million per edition.

It has always been a free magazine, but not always a technicolour tome!

The first issue, published in September 1991, comprised just eight black-and-white pages, with around 3,000 copies produced.

Printed on a basic duplicating machine, it was then hand-delivered by editor Eddie Gershon to just 25 London pubs.

#### Editor

Still under the guidance of the same editor since day one, we now print 300,000 copies of each issue of this ever-popular magazine.

It is also now available in digital format, as a PDF to download from our website.

Four editions of the main magazine are published every year, with a specific Ireland edition introduced in 2015, also produced four times annually. Magazines for Scotland and Wales are printed every other year, alternately.

Regional versions and even those for individual pubs have also been produced, as well as special issues for Brexit and 'tax equality', along with our first-ever Welsh-language version in 2018.

#### Message

'Tim's Message' – by Wetherspoon's founder and chairman Tim Martin – has featured in almost every edition.

His passionate and enthusiastic thoughts and views, on numerous subjects, usually create debate and provoke discussion among customers, as well as across the media.

The magazine has featured thousands of stories and photographs, highlighting events, good causes, community issues, awards and some extraordinary people, not only among our staff members, but also you – our Wetherspoon customers.

The aim of the magazine has always been to focus on our pubs, staff and customers. It continues to do just that – with the stories (from the everyday to the remarkable) representing the heart and spirit of the company.

Our stories have also regularly made the news, appearing in the national press, as well as being mentioned on television and radio.

#### Ideas

Always innovating and leading the way with ideas and new products, Wetherspoon News is also the place to read about company launches, promotions, initiatives, new products and collaborations.

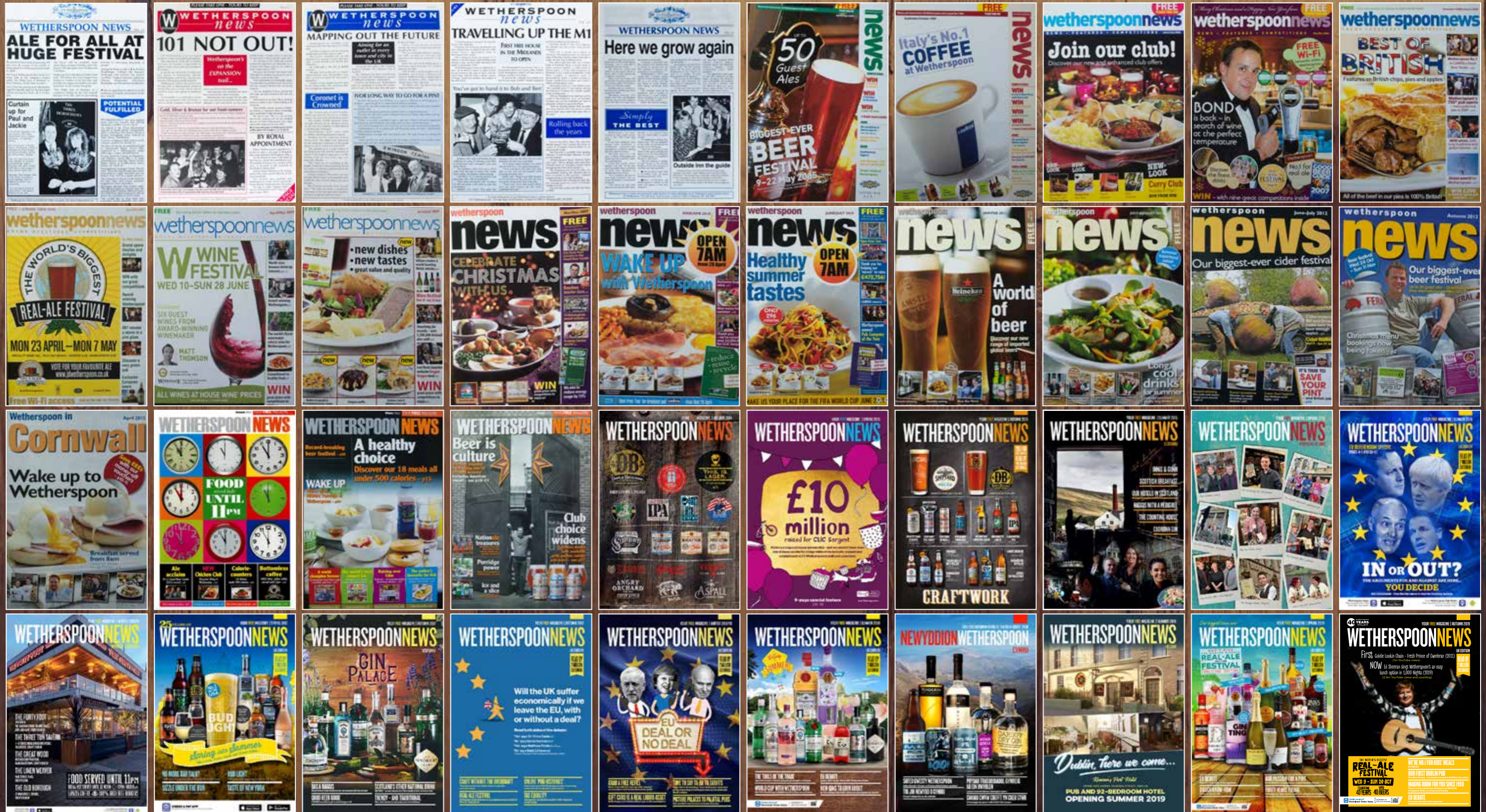
Our readers continue to fill the Wetherspoon News postbag with their thoughts and views, while our crossword competition (having appeared since the very first edition) is more popular than ever before.





1991

40 FRONT COVERS OF WETHERSPOON NEWS



2019



# KEEPING TROPHY ENGRAVERS BUSY FOR 40 SILVERWARE-STREWN YEARS

**From Casque Mark to Loo of the Year, Wetherspoon and its pubs have been recognised for their excellence and innovation hundreds of times since our first pub's 1979 debut**

**D**uring the past 40 years, Wetherspoon is proud to have been recognised and awarded for many aspects of its business.

With accolades from local and regional organisations to national and international recognition – our people, pubs and practices, as well as food and drinks, have received praise, together with certificates and trophies, throughout the decades.

Recognition from independent organisations, for our excellent business practice, highlights our commitment to responsible retailing and offering the best environment possible for our staff and customers.

Wetherspoon was named as one of Britain's Top Employers for 2019, the 16th consecutive year in which the company has been certified by the Top Employers Institute.

The independent organisation behind the Top Employers project recognised Wetherspoon as being a company with 'outstanding HR policies and offers excellent working conditions'.

Other achievements for the company have included Pub Company of the Year (The Publican Awards), Winner Best Company (Retailers' Retailer of the Year Awards), Pub Chain of the Year (The Good Pub Guide), British Institute of Innkeepers National Training Awards 'Supreme Award' and 'most responsible managed pub chain' (Responsible Drinks Retailing).

Numerous Wetherspoon pubs across the UK have gained the top rating in councils' Food Standards Agency Good Hygiene Rating Scheme – for their levels of hygiene – aiming to highlight hygiene standards in pubs, restaurants, take-aways and clubs.



## BENCHMARKED

Inspectors judge outlets on how hygienic and well managed the food preparation at the premises is, with each business benchmarked against the same criteria (ie hygiene, structural and confidence in management), and award ratings from zero to the highest possible five.

Many of our pubs across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland have received individual 'best pub' awards from local Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA) branches, as well as Best Bar None (at local, regional and national level) and local BID (Business Improvement District) initiatives.

Best Bar None is an accreditation scheme, with national awards, supported by the Home Office and the drinks industry, aimed primarily at promoting responsible management and operation of alcohol-licensed premises.

It was piloted in Manchester in 2003 and found to improve standards in the evening and night-time economy, with premises now competing to participate.

It has since been adopted by 75 towns and cities across the UK.

Campaign for Real Ale is considered the custodian of the great British pint of beer.

Its annual CAMRA Good Beer Guide, the UK's best-selling beer and pub guide, is the ultimate list of pubs serving tip-top real ale.

The 2019 edition included no fewer than 243 Wetherspoon pubs, consistently more than any other pub company.

Of those, 83 pubs have been listed in the guide for the last five consecutive years – a remarkable achievement.

And the 2020 edition (published in September 2019) listed 245 Wetherspoon pubs.

Independent real-ale quality assessor Cask Marque has been inspecting Wetherspoon's pubs for the past 20 years, gauging the quality of the real ales being served.

Checking for the beers' temperature, clarity, aroma and taste, every pint must pass for the pub to gain or retain its coveted Cask Marque award.





## OUTSTANDING

During 2018, 1,889 visits were made by Cask Marque inspectors to Wetherspoon pubs in the UK and the Republic of Ireland. Overall, they received a 95.8 per cent pass rate, with 876 of the company's pubs accredited – an outstanding statistic.

Wetherspoon was the only pub company to win an award at the SIBA (Society of Independent Brewers) Business Awards 2018, winning the 'Best Independent Craft Beer Promotion – On Trade' award, in recognition of its support of more than 100 independent craft breweries.

Wetherspoon has the best toilets in the pub industry and beyond, winning numerous plaudits in the Loo of the Year Awards 2018, aimed at highlighting the standard of away-from-home toilets. The company was awarded the Overall Loo of the Year Trophy for the third time in the awards' 31-year history.

It was the first time a company has won the award on three separate occasions.

Wetherspoon was the only pub company to win an award at the 2018 Food Made Good Awards.

The company won the 'Waste No Food' award for its positive approach to food waste and was praised for offering smaller portions, donating food surplus via the FareShare charity and recycling unavoidable waste.

Many of our menu dishes and choices have been recognised and awarded, in various categories, by independent industry initiatives.

Accolades have included PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) Vegan Food Awards winner, Menu Innovation and Development Awards (MIDAS), Soil Association 'Out to Lunch' Awards and BFFF (British Frozen Food Federation) awards.

Design, restoration and conservation of old buildings, during new pub projects, have also gleaned numerous titles and further praise from conservation societies and design award competitions.



## RESTORATION

Pubs recognised more recently, in numerous awards ceremonies, for their outstanding design and sympathetic restoration, include Royal Victoria Pavilion (Ramsgate), The Caley Picture House (Edinburgh), The Greenwood Hotel (Northolt), The Golden Hope (Sittingbourne), The Velvet Coaster (Blackpool), The Iron Duke (Wellington) and The Old Swanne Inne (Evesham).

The Windmill (Stansted Airport), Wetherspoon (Birmingham International Airport) and The North Western (Liverpool Lime Street station) have all been recognised by FAB (Food & Beverage) international awards. The Windmill was named 'best airport bar in the world' in 2016.

Our pubs across the UK have also been individually praised for their support and commitment to local initiatives, charities and community projects, as well as winning numerous 'In Bloom' competitions and access awards.

Along with that, many of our hotels have been 'highly rated' by guests and awarded for their excellent standards and customer service.

Some of our amazing staff members have also been recognised for various activities, actions and achievements, including 'public commendation', 'awards for excellence' and 'outstanding contribution to society'.

We are all very proud of their accomplishments.



# PUTTING PRICES ON ICE SINCE THE 70s

Posters, over the years, have compared our prices with those of other pubs and supermarkets

Wetherspoon has always prided itself on offering excellent choice, as well as great prices, on food and drinks – and our customers recognise that fantastic value for money.

As a company, we have never been shy at proclaiming our competitive prices, often the lowest on the high street, and have always been keen to emphasise this fact to our customers.

Over the years, posters and price matches have drawn attention to the fact that the cost of our food and drinks is often rarely matched.

The success of our business, for four decades, has been based on offering great quality and choice – at affordable prices for everyone.

Our customers know that Wetherspoon means great value.

We have made sure that that message is clear to all, with poster campaigns showing the financial facts.

Price watch posters in our pubs have offered comparisons with other pubs, coffee shops and even supermarket chains, with Wetherspoon leading the way on value for money and price-busting deals.

Whether it is one of our unbeatable meal deals (usually including a drink as part of the price) or low-price drinks (both alcohol and soft), we always ensure that our customers are getting the best-possible price.

1998

## POCKET THE DIFFERENCE

Every little helps.

	JD Wetherspoon	Tesco	Sainsbury's	Asda
Theakston Best <small>PER PINT</small>	£1.10	£1.58	N/A	£1.42
Directors <small>PER PINT</small>	£1.25	£1.39	£1.55	N/A
Murphy's Draught Stout <small>PER 500ML BOTTLE</small>	£1.35	£1.49	£1.49	£1.49
Newcastle Brown Ale <small>PER 550ML BOTTLE</small>	£1.25	£1.55	£1.55	£1.39
Villa Maria Sauvignon Blanc <small>PER BOTTLE</small>	£6.25	£6.49	£6.49	N/A

FROM FRIDAY 2ND - FRIDAY 30TH JANUARY 1998

Good drinks cost less at Wetherspoon

The prices shown for J.D. Wetherspoon represent the normal selling price as shown on 21/11/1998. The products from Sainsbury's were purchased at Oxo Non-Food Ltd. The products from Tesco were purchased at the Wetherspoon on 20/11/1998 and 21/11/1998. The products from Asda were purchased at Asda, Wetherspoon on 20/11/1998 and 21/11/1998. Where our price and quoted price are identical, all equivalent price per unit at the normal selling price of a 4 x 400ml pack. Subject to availability.

*The Latchford family, Kidderminster*

# PUB ACHIEVEMENT IS RELATIVE FOR FIRST FAMILY OF FANS

KEITH AND SHEILA, AND SON CHRISTY, CLOCK UP 1,000 VISITS



**T**he Latchford family are the most recent Wetherspoon superfans to clock up 1,000 pub visits, that we are aware of, at our opening in Midsomer Norton.

Keith and Sheila, together with their son Christy, reached that magical milestone in September 2018 at our official opening of Palladium Electric.

Their Wetherspoon collection started in 2007 at The Penny Black (Kidderminster), where their daughter Amy had started work.

The family visited the pub to see where Amy was working and to have a drink. However, her brother was under 18 at that time and, because they didn't have a meal, they were unable to stay – which upset Christy.

Amy (now Jones, and duty manager at the pub) recalled: "My parents told him that, when he was old enough, they would visit every Wetherspoon pub.

**Routes**

"Christy, who has autism, took it quite literally and started planning routes around all the pubs."

However, Keith and Sheila kept their promise as soon as he turned 18 and, within six years, the trio had visited 900 pubs all over the UK.

Keith said: "It is a lovely thing for the three of us to do together and has got us around to places we would never have gone to, certainly off the beaten track.

"Our trip to Northern Ireland, to take in all nine pubs at the time, in one holiday there, is a particular example.

"We lived in London, many years ago, and used to go to Tim Martin's first pub, so our connection goes back quite a way."

**Cornwall**

It was on a short family break in Cornwall, in the summer of 2018, when the Latchfords marked their 999th visit, on the opening day at The King Doniert, Liskeard, shortly followed by their 1,000th in September, in Somerset.

Keith added: "It took us six years to reach 900, but then got a little trickier and took the next four years for the additional 100."

A thousand pub visits in a decade is still a remarkable achievement and a real family pursuit, which began with that placating promise to Christy, on a visit to the family's local in Kidderminster.

Their superfans family total currently stands at 1,004.

**Favourites**

Favourites along the way have included Cabot Court Hotel (Weston-super-Mare), The Man in the Moon (Newport, on the Isle of Wight) and The Caley Picture House (Edinburgh) which Keith describes as 'stunning'.

He said: "Everyone tends to say that the historical buildings are the best... and it is true. There are some beautiful conversions of old premises... and some of the newer pubs, in particular, are fantastic.

"It is a great hobby for us to enjoy together – and Christy loves it."

Sheila added: "The response from everyone has been amazing and has helped us along the way."



# ARCHITECTURAL GEMS SAVED FROM THE WRECKING BALL

**There was a time when pub premises were boring – until an infusion of imagination from Wetherspoon led to many fine old buildings being repurposed for today’s world**

**F**rom the very beginning, Wetherspoon has had a passion for saving old buildings.

It is in the DNA of the company, therefore, to rescue and restore once-fabulous town landmark buildings which have fallen into disrepair, often become derelict and completely unloved, sometimes even ready for demolition – and transform them, giving them a brand-new lease of life and a new purpose within a community.

When we breathe new life into a much-loved old building, the town itself can often follow suit, and that renovation can be the catalyst for further local regeneration.

Many important historical and beautifully architectural treasures would, quite simply, no longer be standing without Wetherspoon’s intervention and innovation.

The company takes immense pride in the careful restoration and refurbishment of some wonderfully stunning and, in several cases, totally unique buildings – to create our pubs.

Among our gems are the transformations of former banks and post office buildings, theatres and cinemas, court houses, schools and churches.

They are always sensitively designed and, wherever possible, with many original features retained.

But you don’t have to take just our word for it – many of these conversions have won much praise and numerous awards from relevant organisations and experts in their field.

Here, we highlight four of our pubs which we consider to be among our best building conversions.

## THE CROSSE KEYS 9 GRACECHURCH STREET, CITY OF LONDON, EC3V 0DR



A plaque on the front of The Crosse Keys, which opened as a Wetherspoon pub in June 1999, recalls that a famous coaching inn of the same name once stood near this site from the 1550s. The premises which houses our magnificent pub, however, is the former headquarters of The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.

The grandiose building was originally designed by W Campbell Jones and first opened for business in October 1913, after the purchase of land by the bank the previous year, in Gracechurch Street, having previously leased 13 Lombard Street.

Campbell Jones created ‘one of the largest spaces on one floor, in the City of London, devoted to banking’. The room was for meetings of the London Consultative Committee, established from 1876, with agencies also in San Francisco, New York, Lyons and Hamburg.

Among the original retained features are the marble pillars in the main room, which houses the pub’s huge oval bar. A large glass dome dominates the ceiling directly above the stairwell, with the wooden-panelled main dining area displaying the building’s marble fireplace.



## THE COMMERCIAL ROOMS 43–45 CORN STREET, BRISTOL, BSI 1HT

Designated by English Heritage as a grade II listed building, The Bristol Commercial Coffee Rooms were designed and built by architect Charles Augustus Busby – to become a new centre for Bristol businessmen.

The foundations were laid in 1810 and The Bristol Rooms, as they were also known, were officially opened in October 1811, intended to rival London’s famed Lloyds Coffee House. They housed a merchants’ gentlemen’s club – with the weathervane on the roof helping the merchants to estimate their ships’ arrival times.

The Great or Grand room was used as a news room and for general public business. The smaller room at the rear was known originally as the Reading Room and later as the Conference Room. The Silent Room did not always have a gallery and raised glass roof, with its architecture altered in the mid 19th century to give a much ‘grander’ impression to visitors.

Wetherspoon purchased the building and converted it into a pub, opening in August 1995.

As well as a stunning interior, including magnificent fanlight, which evokes the grandeur of the original surroundings, a list of former presidents (1811–1981), secretaries (1808–1990) and treasurers (1808–1988) of The Bristol Commercial Coffee Rooms is still on display.





# THE PALLADIUM

7 GLODDAETH STREET, LLANDUDNO, CONWY, LL30 2DD



This pub, which first opened as a Wetherspoon in August 2001, is the former Palladium cinema, originally built in 1920 on the site of the Market Hall.

It first opened its doors in August 1920 and was designed from plans produced several years previously, as a cine-variety theatre.

Inside the 'splendidly robust' auditorium, seating was provided on three levels (stalls, dress circle and balcony). It also boasted four boxes on either side of the 55ft-wide stage and a further three at the rear of the dress circle.

Externally, the imposing baroque stuccoed façade, with its domed side towers, flanks a central recessed entrance leading to the circular foyer, complete with classic columns.

During the 1950s and 60s, the venue was a theatre, with bingo introduced, later subdivided into a cinema and bingo hall, before closing in September 1999.

Following extensive restoration, the magnificent grade II listed building, converted back into its original single space, reopened as The Palladium pub.



# THE CALEY PICTURE HOUSE

31 LOTHIAN ROAD, EDINBURGH, EH1 2DJ

This wonderfully inspired conversion of an original cinema opened as the Caley Picture House, which had opened in December 2016.

The present grade B listed building was the Caley House, which had opened in January 1923 with the silent film – Game of Life.

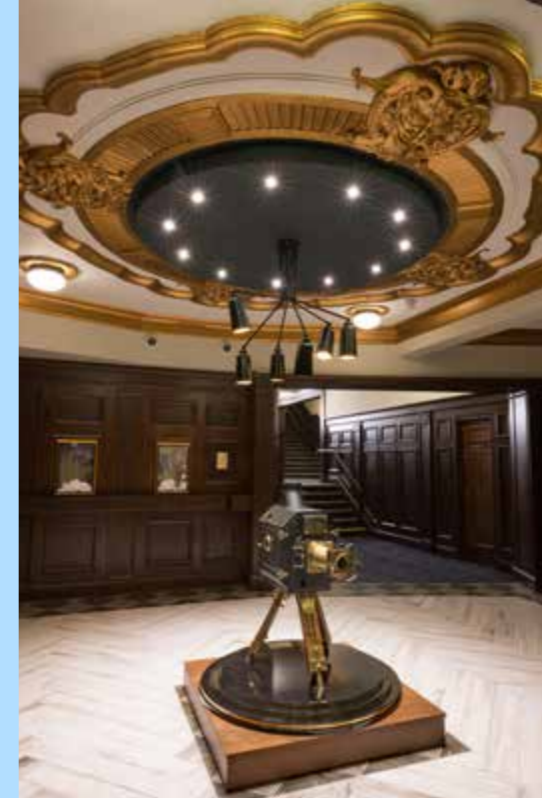
The venue was, itself, a partial conversion of the County Hotel, the site of which is marked on the 1876 OS Map and a map of 1846.

By 1928, the building was enlarged for the new 'talkies', with an imposing entrance block added with its large stained-glass window. It now houses an original cinema projector on display in the foyer.

The last picture show at 'the Caley' was in 1984, before the landmark cinema became a nightclub named the Caley Palais, later renamed Century 2000 and Revolution.

The building later stood empty for several years, until it reopened in 2008 as The Picture House, a live music venue which then closed after a farewell party on Hogmanay 2013.

The Caley Picture House is a fine example of Art Deco architecture, with various original ornate details retained, alongside Art Deco-inspired in-house design features.





Real ale has always been at the heart of Wetherspoon's pubs since the company was founded.

Over the past 40 years, our pubs have served thousands of beers, from brewers across the UK, big and small, as well as those from overseas.

We are proud that several brewers have supplied our pubs with their excellent beers since 1979.

These include Arkell's, in Swindon, Devizes-based Wadworth, Southwold-based Adnams and Greene King, which brews in Bury St Edmunds which we feature here.

To celebrate our 40th anniversary, our pubs are hosting a special beer festival (9–20 October, inclusive), featuring 40 beers from a range of brewers, including those which have supported us from the very start.



**Brewery's name:** Arkell's Brewery, Swindon, Wiltshire



## LO TECH, HISPEC

**Arkell's Brewery made its name in the 1800s, supplying beer to workers maintaining the Great Western Railway - today, its brews are still produced by steam power**

Head brewer Alex Arkell (left) with head of sales Nick Arkell



**W**etherspoon is proud to be celebrating the 40th anniversary of the company this year. However, we are relative newcomers, compared with one of our long-standing real-ale producers and suppliers.

In 2018, Swindon-based Arkell's Brewery marked an incredible 175 years in business.

Established in 1843, by John Arkell, as an offshoot of the family farm near Swindon, it is the Wiltshire town's oldest company and one of the oldest traditional breweries still operating in Britain today.

### Farm

After emigrating to Canada, where he established the village of Arkell, John returned to England in 1833, growing barley on the farm and brewing on a small scale in the farm brewery.

When Isambard Kingdom Brunel's Great Western Railway arrived, together with thirsty railway maintenance workers, Arkell's beer and brew pub began to flourish. The Tower Brewery, still the brewing site today, was built in 1861.

The head brewer is Alex, one of four members of the Arkell family currently at the helm, along with his father, chairman James Arkell, cousin Nick Arkell, head of sales, and Alex's brother George, who is managing director.

Alex, a sixth-generation brewing Arkell, said: "We are very passionate about the manual side of our steam brewery, with the wheels and belts rattling and creaking in a unique and very original way.

"It is part of what we are and how we do things here."

### Chicago

Alex continued: "I joined Arkell's Brewery 10 years ago, after studying to become a master brewer in Chicago.

"After producing beer with a modern computer system, where you dialled in numbers and worked out equations, I came to a brewery with a steam locomotive engine in the cellar.

"A lot of the guys here have known this place for 40 or 50 years. We have eight multigenerational families on the staff, partly because the knowledge of how to understand our unique equipment is passed down; also, we are a proud family business."

The brew house team of 15, including production and an additional team of draymen, are all part of that proud hands-on tradition – producing beer for more than 175 years.

### Oldest

Their flagship classic best bitter 3B (4.0% ABV), the oldest-surviving recipe, dating from 1910, is the fitting contribution to our 40th anniversary real-ale festival.

Originally known as Arkell's Best Bitter Beer (BBB or 3B), this copper-coloured ale was the first cask beer to be supplied by Arkell's to Wetherspoon's pubs, in the early days of our company.

Now, 40 years on, Wetherspoon's customers are able to enjoy the pleasantly fruity and bittersweet flavour of this festival brew from Arkell's, thanks to our long-lasting partnership with the family brewery.

### Thoughts from 40 years ago...

Head of sales Nick Arkell, who was a sales manager when Arkell's first supplied its beer to Wetherspoon, recalls:

"I remember meeting Tim Martin at his first pub, in Colney Hatch Lane, when he took it over.

"There weren't many breweries trading in London at that time – and we delivered Arkell's 3B to Martin's Free House.

"I also remember us supplying his pub in Landseer Road.

"That was a long time before the craft revolution and when it was easy to drive around London. Arkell's had three or four lorries a week going into the capital.

"I was a sales manager then, the man selling our traditional ales to individual pubs in London, on the road visiting the sites... happy times."



# NEW BREW AIMS TO SWEEP CLEAN

Wadworth's head brewer Rob Jacobson, now long recovered from a baptism of fire, hopes that his bespoke single-hopped golden ale will burn brightly at our festival



Head brewer Rob Jacobson (left) with brewhouse supervisor Glyn Merritt toasting Glyn's 38 years with Wadworth

Brewery's name: Wadworth, Northgate Brewery, Devizes, Wiltshire



**H**ead brewer Rob Jacobson was instrumental in the recipe for Wadworth's contribution to our 40th anniversary real-ale festival.

A completely bespoke single-hopped golden ale, JD Boss Hogg (4.7% ABV) was a brand-new recipe especially for the event.

Rob said: "It was a great opportunity to draw up a completely new recipe for the festival and flex a little."

"My brewing colleagues and I had a couple of ideas and penned this one, which used just Cascade hops for the recipe."

Rob, who hails from South Africa, studied at the University of Cape Town and worked at two microbreweries, before spending eight years with South African Breweries, the country's largest beer producer.

#### Ireland

With an Irish mother, Rob had previously travelled to Ireland and was then drawn to the UK, when the job at Wadworth came up.

He said: "The UK is the only place in the world with a thriving cask industry. As a brewer, I am always looking to learn new things – and this great opportunity came up."

Rob had never heard of Wetherspoon when he joined the team at the Devizes-based brewery in January 2018. However, it certainly didn't take long to become acquainted with the company.

He recalls: "I arrived in the UK two days before I started the job... you could say a baptism of fire!"

#### Hosted

"Within the first month, we hosted the international brewers for Wetherspoon, from Green Beacon Brewing Co, to produce the festival ale for spring 2018."

"The brewery was Australian, but when I saw the head brewer Johann van der Walt's name, I knew instantly that he was a fellow South African... you could say 'a soft landing'."

Rob is head brewer in a 15-strong team at Wadworth, which was co-founded in Wiltshire by Henry Alfred Wadworth in 1875.

It is now in the fourth generation of ownership, by the Bartholomew family, the descendants of founding partner John Smith Bartholomew.

The brewery site combines the tradition of craft beer with modern production techniques and systems. Brewing skills and craft are key, backed up by a state-of-the-art Steinecker brew house.

#### Recipes

Rob said: "We have kick-started a programme of new product development in our in-house microbrewery. We create a number of new recipes every year, produce small amounts for sampling and, if successful, then brew on a larger scale."

"It is very exciting to get to try new ideas and fresh recipes, as well as brewing traditional ales which have made Wadworth beer experts for more than 140 years."

JD Boss Hogg festival ale, named after a character in the American TV series The Dukes of Hazzard and where the 'J D' in the company name comes from, is one such new recipe which Wetherspoon's customers will have the pleasure to enjoy exclusively.

#### Thoughts from 40 years ago...

Former Wadworth sales director Fred West arrived at Wadworth's Northgate Brewery, from the Courage Brewery, in February 1979 – the same year as Tim Martin took over his first pub.

And it was through Fred that Wadworth founded a long-term working partnership to supply beer to Wetherspoon – which has lasted four decades (so far).

Fred recalls the very start of Wadworth's relationship with Wetherspoon and how the link between the two companies began.

He said: "In those early days, the beer from Wadworth was distributed to Wetherspoon pubs through Berkshire Vintners, based in Reading, which had been founded by Ian Kidd."

"This was later transferred to William Younger & Co, a subsidiary of Scottish & Newcastle."



# GOOD BUY - RUBY HUES DAY

Ross O'Hara, the world's youngest master brewer, has created Ruby Abbot - a special Greene King ale - for our ruby anniversary

**Brewery's name:** Greene King, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk



**A**t the age of 28, during the summer of 2018, Ross O'Hara became the world's youngest master brewer.

Having completed his four-year course from the Institute of Brewing and Distilling, he joined a small band of 577 fellow master brewers, across the globe, with the highly coveted qualification.

Despite his young years, and having been appointed as head brewer at Greene King only as recently as February 2018, Ross is well aware of the 220-year-old brewing business of which he is the 17th head brewer, as well as being aware of its long-standing and successful partnership with Wetherspoon, as one of our original suppliers.

#### Development

Hailing from Newcastle, Ross joined Greene King in 2016 – and his first three years were involved in new product development. He has also been responsible for another 'new product': Greene King's special celebration festival beer, Ruby Abbot (5.2% ABV), to mark our 40th anniversary.

Ross (pictured) said: "Abbot Ale is one of our three flagship beers and as much as one-third of our production is served in Wetherspoon's pubs.

#### Deeper

"I wanted to brew a new recipe, based on our popular Abbot Ale, with similar characteristics, yet different malts, to produce a deeper ruby hue and a more full-bodied beer.

"I thought a Ruby Abbot, a unique variant of a core, well-loved recipe, was a fitting celebration beer for Wetherspoon's ruby anniversary.

"It is a great honour to work on an historic brand, for such a special occasion."

#### Oldest

Ross follows in the footsteps of the brewery's founder, Benjamin Greene, at one of the oldest working breweries in the UK, dating from 1799.

He is proud of that history and is instrumental in its future.

Together with his responsibilities as head brewer, Ross is also helping to develop and oversee the brewery's apprenticeship scheme, as well as the new industry-wide Brewer Apprenticeship Standard, launched in 2018.

# 'HEAD CHEF' FERGUS COOKS UP A CORKER FOR OUR BIG YEAR

Adnams brewer has provided an ale with a touch of luxury for our 40th anniversary

**Brewery's name:** Adnams, Southwold, Suffolk



**A**dnams has been brewing beer in Southwold for just short of 150 years, after brothers George and Ernest Adnams bought the brewery in 1872.

That long and colourful history, for the past four decades, has been intertwined with our own, as Adnams was, back in 1979, one of our original beer suppliers.

#### Limerick

Fergus Fitzgerald (pictured) joined the Adnams team as assistant brewer in 2004. Originally from Limerick, he moved to the UK full time in 1997, previously working at Fuller's.

In 2008, he finished his master brewer exams and took over the following year as Adnams' head brewer.

Fergus said: "The role of head brewer has developed from that of a production manager to a role which is more akin to a head chef.

"I am able to experiment with new ingredients and recipes to create a wider range of beers.

"The development of the role is partly due to the changing attitudes of beer drinkers, who are more willing to try new flavours and styles.

"We continue to produce beers such as Southwold Bitter and Broadside. We have also developed our Jack Brad range of craft beers, as well as venturing into the low-alcohol market, with our low-alcohol version of Ghost Ship 4.5% ABV (Ghost Ship 0.5% ABV), along with enjoying beer collaborations with companies such as Wetherspoon."

#### Create

"Of course, we still have to run the core business, but I have more of a licence to create... which is important to me.

"Wetherspoon has always promoted real ale well and encouraged innovation, with not just keg beer, but cask ale as well – offering a great outlet for new cask recipes."

Fergus was instrumental in past collaborations with Ireland's Dungarvan Brewing Company to produce an exclusive red ale and stout for our St Patrick's Day celebrations.

He has also hosted numerous overseas brewers for us, as part of our international brewers' programme.

#### Cashmere

Most recently, he brewed Adnams Cashmere IPA (4.7% ABV), for our 40th anniversary festival.

He reported: "It is made with Cashmere hops – relatively new and not used very often. I thought that it would be a nice idea to have something a little unusual for the celebration.

"And it is always important for the brewer to know that our beer is looked after and served well.

"Wetherspoon spends more on staff training and cellar equipment than do most other pub companies – which makes the perfect partnership for us."

#### Thoughts from 40 years ago...

Roger Clayson, retired director of national sales at Adnams (1987–2008), now working with Cask Marque, said: "When I joined Adnams in 1987, we were already selling Adnams Bitter (now Southwold Bitter) to Tim Martin for his first pubs.

"In those days, it was originally supplied through wholesalers and then an agency, until we joined up with other regional brewers to set up our own delivery company – Brewers Dray."



1979



T-shirt worn by staff at Tim Martin's first pub in Muswell Hill, north London

1980



Fancy dress at Martin's Free House  
Can you spot Tim Martin?

1990



Back in the day, our beer festivals lasted only a few days

1992

**THE GREAT WETHERSPOON Beer Festival**  
**THE WHITE LION OF MORTIMER WEST HENDON**  
 WEDNESDAY 8TH APRIL - SUNDAY 12TH APRIL 1992  
 NORMAL LICENSING HOURS

**250**

**TRADITIONAL ALES AT £1.20 PER PINT**

NEAREST TUBE HENDON CENTRAL (NORTHERN LINE)  
 OR BRITISH RAIL HENDON

**FEATURING**  
 DEMONSTRATION OF RAISING A BARREL BY COOPER FROM THEAKSTONS WED/THURS 1.30/7.30PM  
 MORRIS DANCERS - WESTMINSTER MORRIS MEN SUNDAY 1PM  
 O'HAGENS FAMOUS SAUSAGES ON SALE EVERY DAY  
 EXHIBITS FROM - GREENE KING - MARSTON - CAMRA

The White Lion of Mortimer, in West Hendon, stages Wetherspoon's biggest beer festival

1988

**TRACK DOWN THE CHEAPEST PINT OF BITTER IN ENGLAND**

Nestled in the backwaters of Tottenham is a little known freehouse called The Narrow Boat, that proudly offers an excellent bitter for only 59 pence a pint.

Discovering this extraordinary establishment is not easy, so to help on the expedition we have included a little treasure map. Should you finally locate this drinker's paradise on a balmy spring day, search out the secret garden overlooking the River Lee (on less clerical visits most visitors appreciate the traditional atmosphere, free from music and the selection of preposterously low priced real ales).

(Search this little treasure now - it may be off the beaten track, but its prices just can't be beaten.)

**THE NARROW BOAT**  
 Reedham Close London N17  
 A J D Wetherspoon Freehouse  
 Prices correct until 30 June 1988

William Younger Bitter **59p** Pint  
 Wadworth's BK **69p** Pint  
 Marston's Pedigree **79p** Pint  
 Greene King Abbot Ale **89p** Pint

Wetherspoon highlights its great-value beer on offer at The Narrow Boat, in Tottenham, north London

1990

**SOMETHING TO CELEBRATE!**  
 9 new J.D. Wetherspoon Free houses.

*The J.D. Wetherspoon Organisation, London's largest independent group of free houses is extending its influence South and West.*

Existing Establishments	
<p><b>THE MORTIMER ARMS</b>                      201 Camden Road, N1                      020 7613 1111</p>	<p><b>THE WHITE LION OF MORTIMER</b>                      271 St. Pancras Road, N1                      020 7613 1111</p>
<p><b>OLD SUFFOLK PUNCH</b>                      29 St. Pancras Road, N1                      020 7613 1111</p>	<p><b>THE TOLLGATE</b>                      29 St. Pancras Road, N1                      020 7613 1111</p>
<p><b>THE GOAT</b>                      29 St. Pancras Road, N1                      020 7613 1111</p>	<p><b>THE BARR</b>                      29 St. Pancras Road, N1                      020 7613 1111</p>
<p><b>THE ELBOW ROOM</b>                      29 St. Pancras Road, N1                      020 7613 1111</p>	<p><b>THE NARROW BOAT</b>                      Reedham Close, N17                      020 7613 1111</p>
<p><b>THE MOON UNDER WATER</b>                      112-114 Uxbridge Road, W5                      0181 871 1111</p>	<p><b>THE MOON UNDER WATER</b>                      112-114 Uxbridge Road, W5                      0181 871 1111</p>
<p><b>THE MOON UNDER WATER</b>                      112-114 Uxbridge Road, W5                      0181 871 1111</p>	<p><b>THE MOON UNDER WATER</b>                      112-114 Uxbridge Road, W5                      0181 871 1111</p>

**THE NARROW BOAT**  
 Reedham Close London N17  
 A J D Wetherspoon Freehouse  
 Prices correct until 30 June 1988

Wetherspoon is on the expansion trail as nine new pubs open in London

1998

**NATIONAL MILD DAY**  
 Saturday 16th May  
 Available at every Freehouse

**THEAKSTON MILD**  
 A dark mild with a unique blend of 3 malts. 3.6% ABV

Plus a choice of one of the following

**CAINS DARK MILD**  
 Very dark with a rich creamy head. 3.2% ABV

**BANKS & TAYLOR SHEFFORD MILD**  
 Dark, rich and full-flavoured. 3.8% ABV

**BATEMANS DARK MILD**  
 Dark and full-bodied with a fruity palate. 3.0% ABV

◆ SOME FREEHOUSES MAY FEATURE MORE THAN 2 MILDS. ASK MANAGER FOR DETAILS.  
 ◆ GUEST AND REGIONAL ALES ALWAYS AVAILABLE

**THE FINEST FREEHOUSES THROUGHOUT LONDON**  
 ~ WHERE EVERYDAY IS A BEER FESTIVAL ~

Wetherspoon promotes National Mild Day across its pubs

2001



Tim Martin and John Hutson enjoy a cup of coffee, on sale at all Wetherspoon pubs for just 49p



1998

**GUESS WHO JUST FOUND WETHERSPOON-BY-THE-SEA?**



**VISIT AN OLD FRIEND ON YOUR HOLIDAY**

<b>Bognor Regis</b> The Hatters Inn 2-10 Queensway	<b>Dover</b> The Eight Bells 19 Cannon Street	<b>Paignton</b> The Isaac Merritt 54-58 Torquay Road	<b>Southport</b> Wetherspoons 93 - 97 Lord Street
<b>Bournemouth</b> The Moon in the Square 4 - 6 Exeter Road	<b>Exeter</b> The Imperial New North Road	<b>Scarborough</b> The Lord Rosebery 85 - 87 Westborough	<b>Torquay</b> The London Inn 15 - 16 The Strand
<b>Brixham</b> The Vigilance 4 Bolton Street	<b>Great Yarmouth</b> The Troll Cart 7 - 9 Regent Road	<b>Skegness</b> The Red Lion Lumley Road	<b>Weston-Super-Mare</b> The Dragon Inn 15 Meadow Street
<b>Clacton-on-Sea</b> The Moon & Starfish 1 Marine Parade East	<b>Hove</b> The Cliftonville Inn 98-101 George Street	<b>Southend-on-Sea</b> The Last Post Weston Road	Full details of all our freehouses can be found in our directory available at the bar.



\* GUEST BEERS & REGIONAL ALES ALWAYS AVAILABLE • WIDE SELECTION OF FINE WINES • FINE FOOD SERVED ALL DAY • MUSIC FREE ATMOSPHERE • NON SMOKING AREAS

Colin Timson, Coalville

# OUR FIRST SUPERFAN IS STILL GOING STRONG

RETIRED BUS DRIVER COLIN HAS BEEN ON THE ROAD SINCE 2001

**C**olin Timson was probably the first Wetherspoon superfan to come to our attention, with his magical 1,000 milestone clocked up at the end of 2015.

A retired bus driver, Colin began his Wetherspoon hobby in 2001 when a friend took him to The George (Staines-upon-Thames) while at a bus rally.

Colin said: "I started to visit a few pubs after The George, and then it just expanded.

"Eventually, I picked up a Wetherspoon directory and thought to myself: 'I've gone this far, so I'll see whether I can visit them all.'"

**Templars**

By March 2008, he had marked his 700th pub when he enjoyed a pint at The Six Templars, in Hertford.

Wetherspoon News then caught up with Colin's never-ending quest again in 2013 – and 200 pubs along the way.

His visit to An Ruadh-Ghleann, in Rutherglen, South Lanarkshire, was Colin's 900th individual pub visit.

In December 2015, Colin finally reached that magical 1,000 pubs, back in Hertfordshire.

**Hatfield**

His milestone pub visit was at Harpsfield Hall, in Hatfield, just days after it first opened, and he was wearing a specially embroidered polo shirt for the occasion.

Colin also brought along some of his Wetherspoon souvenirs, collected during his travels over the previous 15 years, including photographs, T-shirts and magazines, as well as receipts and tickets for travel, to authenticate his visits.

That year (2015) also included a trip to Ireland, when Colin went to our new pubs further afield, in Dublin, Dún Laoghaire, Blanchardstown and Cork.

**Total**

Those superfan collections which have reached 1,000 individual visits or more obviously outnumber the current total of Wetherspoon pubs (879), since they include those pubs which are no longer part of the estate.

Colin's Wetherspoon superfan total currently stands at 1,032.

Wetherspoon's founder and chairman, Tim Martin, said: "These are all wonderful achievements by Colin, Mags, Richard, Sheila, Keith and Christy, as well as Alan.

"They must each have travelled tens of thousands of miles, over the years, to visit so many Wetherspoon pubs.

"We thoroughly appreciate their loyalty and commitment and trust that they will continue to visit our pubs for many more years to come."



Advertisement from Wetherspoon News magazine





# NAME IT THEN FRAME IT: THE ART OF CREATING A NEW PUB

Experts Robert and Ray have been working together, for 28 years, to make our venues unique

**W**hile you sit, at your local Wetherspoon, enjoying a drink or a bite to eat – cast your eye around the pub at the framed artwork and local historical references adorning the walls.

Our experts in art and history, Robert Renak and Ray Colvin (pictured left to right), have spent thousands of hours of research, delving into the past, to produce each individual display item on show.

Wetherspoon places great emphasis on celebrating the history of our pub buildings and their surrounding area, in not only the name choice of the pub itself, but also the interior decoration theme and artwork on display.

Robert (art) and Ray (history) have been working together on Wetherspoon pub projects since 1991.

Robert recalled: "It all began, as I remember it, with The Moon on the Hill (Harrow on the Hill), when I did the first artwork, incorporating informative text pieces covering the local history, instead of just captions.

"This received very positive feedback from Tim Martin; so, from then on, we began to research and write up local history topics for every Wetherspoon pub, with the projects requiring increasingly more information."

### Décor

Ray's research is focused primarily on providing an historical background for the selection of each pub's name, while Robert focuses on producing artwork which complements and enhances the décor of the site.

Robert said: "My role is to develop the local history artwork for each site, expanding on the background research already done by Ray, as well as finding and commissioning any contemporary artwork.

"It always was, and still is, very labour intensive and has not, as far as I am aware, been replicated by any other pub company, to the same degree, anywhere.

"I suppose that it's not so easy to find a history graduate with a journalistic background (Ray) and an art student, teacher, gallery owner and contract framer (me) who happen to be available to work together on this sort of thing!"

The Wetherspoon approach to artwork makes historical research the mainstay of all of the projects.

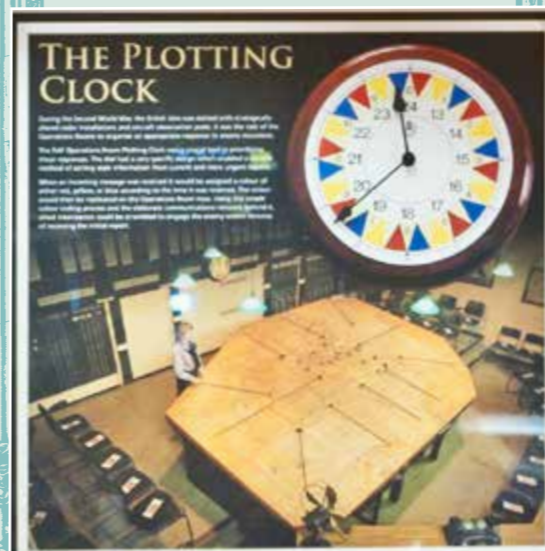
Historical items at The Tilly Shilling, Farnborough



A full-size Spitfire propeller and scans of original Spitfire blueprints hang on the wall in the pub



Door handles – formed from Spitfire controls



An RAF operations room plotting clock adorns a wall in the pub's interior

The research begins with the 'history report' produced by Ray and used during the planning and design phases; this generally provides the name chosen for the venue.

The document lists suggestions for the new pub's name, with detailed historical references for each option, as well as statistical and geographical information about each location.



Hand-painted tile map at The North Western, Lime Street Station, Liverpool



Safe room at The Counting House, Glasgow

### WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Ray Colvin said: "There's a lot more to naming a pub than people probably think.

"The search starts when I am given an address and photograph of the building which is going to become a Wetherspoon pub. It could be a former bank or an empty office block – and there may have been an earlier building on the same site.

"In Hull, the Wetherspoon pub is a former post office which had stood on the site of a medieval palace.

"The pub-to-be might be named after someone who features in the history of the area or after something which made a town famous.

"All of this means digging deep into archives to find historical maps and documents, while long-time local residents can also prove helpful. Accuracy is very important, so it all takes time.

"The Internet is a big help, but most of the historical research involves countless library visits and driving thousands of miles around the UK and Ireland – come sun, rain, storms or snow."





# The art and history men

## Character

The proposed pub names are usually linked with the local area, a historical character or event, perhaps someone who was born in the local vicinity or made his/her name there.

Local industry is also often celebrated, with each pub's design usually incorporating aspects of this.

The history of the building is frequently reflected in design elements of the pub, including materials and fabrics, themes and colour, furniture and lighting and bespoke carpet design, as well as artefacts and memorabilia.



**Bespoke carpet made for The Mechanical Elephant, Margate**

The local history artwork pieces are designed and custom made for each pub.

Robert said: "Because of the great emphasis which Wetherspoon places on local history, the background work for these pieces is exhaustive, involving local archives and museums, historical societies or groups and individual local historians.

"Wetherspoon provides much-needed support to local artists and history archives; many local history museums are run by volunteers and rely on donations, so a Wetherspoon project can become a welcome boost.

"In some cases, as with Sandford House (Huntingdon) and The Jolie Brise (Teignmouth), for example, the descendants of the families connected with the site can also be a great source of information."

Robert then begins the process of identifying the historical topics which will be illustrated in artwork and finding sources for those images required.



**Historical photographs of The Jolie Brise (pronounced Jolly Breeze) which won the first-ever 600-mile Fastnet Race, in 1925. Owned by George Martin, his great niece Clare McComb is shaking hands with pub manager Chris Martin at the opening in 2015**

## Finished

The designs go to the artwork studio, where the computer wizards work them up into the finished coloured pieces, with text. These are then printed – on paper, laminate, canvas, glass or as wallpaper (for large murals) – then framed or mounted.

The last thing is to load them for delivery, then install them on site – this can be a major undertaking in itself.

At one particular site, The Star (Hoddesdon), the artwork was already in situ, no delivery required, and was a real archaeological find: a series of Elizabethan mural panels.

But it isn't all about the past, as Robert is also responsible for commissioning new artwork pieces by artists with local connections to each site.



**Elizabethan mural panels at The Star, Hoddesdon**

The contemporary commissioned artwork for the bar and customer areas can be paintings, tapestry and textiles or some form of sculpture – which is also sometimes installed in our beer garden areas.

In the case of the Wetherspoon hotels, the artwork projects include involvement from a local school, following a specific historical or locally themed brief, to produce original artwork for the bedrooms, corridors and reception areas.

Robert is no longer solely responsible for all of the artwork projects.

There is now a small number of dedicated artwork suppliers with the expertise to carry out this work.

However, they all maintain the values and standards which have been put in place and reinforced by him, over the years.

Each project adheres to Tim Martin's insistence that each and every Wetherspoon pub should be a unique and locally themed venue.

Today's artwork and history pieces continue that tradition, as a highly regarded, much-loved aspect of our pubs and a favourite feature among our customers.

## THE STATS

- Each new pub artwork project will require a three-month lead time.
- The intensive work to complete a project will last for four weeks, in the run-up to installation.
- Each new pub will have around 30-50 pieces of work on display, all installed during a single day.
- Usually one or two local artists, depending on the pub's size, are involved in each project.



1998

**THE GREAT WETHERSPOON**

**Beer Festival**

FRIDAY 2ND JANUARY - FRIDAY 30TH JANUARY 1998

**5% MORE BEER**  
WITH OUR NEW OVERSIZED GLASSES

*Up to*  
**100**  
**GUEST ALES**  
from only  
**£1.39**  
per pint

TASTING NOTES AVAILABLE  
AT THE BAR

**GUINNESS** **£1.49** per pint

PROPERTY OF WETHERSPOON

Poster for The Great Wetherspoon Beer Festival



Wetherspoon 2019

FESTIVAL ALES AVAILABLE ON THE WETHERSPOON APP

THE WORLD'S BIGGEST

# REAL-ALE FESTIVAL

CELEBRATING  
40 YEARS



WITH  
40 BEERS

WED 9 – SUN 20 OCT

FEATURING FIVE  
INTERNATIONAL  
BREWERS



SUPPORTING  
CAMPAIGN  
FOR REAL ALE



Winner  
BEST INDEPENDENT  
CRAFT BEER PROMOTION  
— ON-TRADE



Ale festival price may vary by pub and applies to the festival ales only, the full list of which can be seen in the tasting notes.



Table service?  
Download. Order. Enjoy.



40 wetherspoon  
YEARS  
1979-2019

for the facts  
drinkaware.co.uk

jdwetherspoon.com