

## Using this guide - The Rankings

All entries stand out as being of particular national heritage interest but there are inevitably notable variations in terms of intactness and quality, hence the ranking system we have adopted.

★★★ Three Star pubs have stayed wholly or largely intact for the last fifty years, or retain particular rooms or features that are truly rare or exceptional, or display a combination of the two.

★★ Two Star pubs have interiors where the intactness and quality levels will be somewhat lower than for Three Star

★ The interiors of One Star pubs will have either readily identifiable historic layouts or retain rooms or features of special interest but more significant changes are allowable.

These online guides provide you with up-to-date descriptions, on a region by region basis, of pubs listed on our National Inventory of Historic Pub Interiors. Please note that the content will differ from that in the hard-copy guides where the pub information dates to when that guide was published. The hard-copy guides also contain more editorial material.

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## Pubs to Cherish

*Real Heritage Pubs of the South West* celebrates 104 pub interiors in South West England which CAMRA has identified as having special historic interest. They represent an important aspect of the area's cultural and built heritage, with quite a number being true national treasures.

That said, they account for only 2% or so of the pubs in the area – why is this so? A major reason, of course, is that pub interiors have always been subject to change. The only pubs that are exactly the same as the day they opened are ones which came into being in the last few years. The pace of change, though, accelerated dramatically from the 1960s. At that time, a mania began for opening out, faddish theming, image change and general trashing. Consequently, many pubs suffered makeovers during which most, if not all, vestiges of original or early features were lost.

The irony is that interest in historic buildings has never been greater. Lots of us are fascinated by our built heritage and spend time visiting historic buildings of many kinds. It is, though, only in recent years and largely as a result of CAMRA's efforts – that pub interiors have come to be valued by mainstream

conservationists. CAMRA picked up the baton on behalf of our pub heritage, filling the gaps in knowledge of what is out there and actively seeking to protect what is left. It has worked closely with Historic England (formerly known as English Heritage) to gain statutory protection through the listing process for the most important examples we have identified. Nonetheless, losses still happen either through closure or changes by insensitive owners eager to tear them apart.

This is the ninth and penultimate in a series of regional guides to our best heritage pubs and draws on many years of work by CAMRA members to track down and record those that have escaped the attention of the modernisers and ‘improvers’. We hope it will help increase awareness of their importance. Enjoy your visits.

## What Shaped Pubs in the South West?

Is there such a thing as a ‘typical’ South West pub? Given the large and varied nature of the region and the fact that its pubs have taken shape over many years, the answer, essentially, is ‘no’. By and large, pubs developed in much the same ways as in the rest of the country, though with only one large city (Bristol), the South West is short on the grand late-Victorian edifices which adorn the likes of London, Birmingham, Liverpool and Manchester. On the other hand, the area is especially rich in fine rural and small town pubs, some of which are quite remarkable survivors. But first, a bit of history.

### In the beginning

Most early public houses were literally just that – ordinary houses whose owners opened up a room or two to sell drink to neighbours. All you needed was somewhere to store the merchandise, somewhere to serve it and somewhere for customers to drink it. Pub keeping was a family business and, especially in the countryside, usually part-time and combined with, say, farming, carting, blacksmithing or some other trade. Nearly all these very homely pubs have gone now because such small businesses just aren’t any longer an economic proposition but the South West has some of the best remaining examples.

Top of this list has to be the Luppitt Inn, Luppitt, Devon (p.xx), the epitome of the simple, unspoilt farmhouse pub, owned by the same family for more than a century and still with a few acres attached (and also with very restricted opening hours which makes visiting a challenge.) The Berkeley Arms, Purton, Gloucestershire too has both a smallholding as part of the business and limited hours, including being closed altogether between October and Easter). Also with land attached (28 acres) is the Hunters Lodge, Priddy, Somerset. Until it was sold off in 1980, the Seymour Arms, Witham Friary, Somerset had a whole farm attached. Visit any of these pubs and you can get a strong flavour of the rustic simplicity of rural pubs of yesteryear.

Only six open pubs in the whole country now have no bar counter – once a common arrangement. Two of them feature in the guide – the Rose & Crown, Huish Episcopi and Tuckers Grave, Faulkland, both in Somerset. See page xx for more information.

Something which would have been done in hundreds of pubs in the past – the brewing of beer on the premises – had dwindled by the early 1970s (when CAMRA was formed) to just four examples, one being the Blue Anchor, Helston, Cornwall. As the other three later stopped brewing, before starting again, the Blue Anchor is unique in being the only one to brew continuously. The Bruce Arms, Easton Royal, Wiltshire did once brew its own ale and on a mantle-piece is a piece of wood from a cask impressed with the words ‘Bruce Arms’.

## Inns and taverns

The other types of establishment up until the early 19th century were the tavern and the inn. The former existed only in larger towns, catering for the more prosperous customer by serving wine and food. They were never common and no former taverns appear to survive in the South West although the Haunch of Venison, Salisbury perhaps enjoys something of the atmosphere of such places (and wording on the frontage proclaims 'Old English Chop House'). In any event, it's a rare example of an urban pub that has stayed virtually unchanged for over 100 years.

Inns provided meals and accommodation for better-off travellers along with stabling for their horses. Inevitably they have been greatly modified; places which go back centuries but now retain few 'pubby' features include the George, Norton St Philip, Somerset, the New Inn, Gloucester and the George & Angel, Glastonbury, Somerset. The Luttrell Arms Hotel, Dunster, Somerset has the most intact historic inn interior but lacks the iconic courtyard associated with such establishments.

## The golden age

The pub as we know it today is mostly a Victorian creation. The first part of the 19th century saw the widespread adoption of counter service and the hand-pumped beer engine, heralding the change from an essentially domestic environment into a form of shop which could handle a greater volume of trade. Just as most rural pubs once catered primarily for the agricultural labourer, vast numbers of urban pubs were fairly basic establishments for the working man. In industrial area especially, pubs afforded welcome refreshment after a shift down the pit, in the steelworks or a day of hard labour. However, such industrialisation largely passed the South West by so pubs of this kind always were few and far between. The Lamb & Fountain, Frome, Somerset is a 'back street boozier' like those still relatively common in other parts of the country.

Later in the century, under the influence of social reformers and the powerful Temperance lobby, a drive to improve public houses took hold. This enhanced the multi-room principle with its ability to offer a choice of 'better' rooms and thus attract a respectable clientele. Nearly all these many-roomed interiors have since been opened out but you can see a surviving partition at the Nova Scotia, Bristol. The years around 1900 proved to be the high point of pub-building and design, with grand, ornate 'palace' pubs arriving in bigger towns and cities, but also with lesser variants being built elsewhere. Sadly, the South West mostly missed this aspect of the 'golden age'. The Palace Hotel, Bristol (p.xx) is the nearest to what are often (and inaccurately) termed 'gin palaces' with its impressive arcading, but even this has been much altered.

Glazed screens made their first appearance at this time but were largely a northern phenomenon. The Seymour Arms, Witham Friary, Somerset has fine horizontally sliding windows while the Globe, Appley, Somerset has a simpler version.

The best survivor from this era is the Kings Head, also in Bristol with many features dating back to the middle of the 19th century, including one of the oldest bar-back fittings we know about. The late-Victorian public bar of the White Hart, Midsomer Norton, Somerset contains much to admire. Other notable pubs from this era are the Cricketers, Bournemouth, built with a separate billiards room, and the Victoria, Oldfield Park, Bath, of 1897.

## Between the wars

The Great War brought pub-building to a full stop but it resumed quite soon afterwards. Pubs at first continued to be built on traditional lines, but before long we saw arrival of the ‘improved’ pub, often built for growing suburbs and busy highways. Reducing the number of pubs but improving standards in what remained had been the mission of magistrates for some years and there was now a concerted drive to broaden the appeal of pubs and reduce their dependence on alcohol sales alone. The idea was for pubs to offer a ‘respectable’ environment with a range of rooms and facilities that encouraged civilised behaviour and patronage by the middle classes. Having said that, although these ‘improved’ pubs proliferated in the rest of the country, relatively few were built in the South West and none survive with any degree of intactness.

Nonetheless, brewers responded to these developments with a fresh surge of pub-building from the mid-1920s. Art Deco was the emblematic architectural style in this period but was adopted only rarely for pubs. An excellent example is the Corner House, Barnstaple, Devon with its typical Deco frontage and little-altered, mostly panelled interior – the curved bar counter is especially redolent of the period. Many older pubs were given makeovers in styles of the period such as two pubs in Bath, the Old Green Tree and the Star, both refurbished by the same architect in the 1920s with plentiful panelling and a variety of small rooms. Other notable inter-war decorative schemes can be found at the Ship, Shaftesbury (p.xx), and the Journey’s End, Ringmore, Devon.

## Post-war decline

Britain was bankrupt after the Second World War and hardly any pubs were built for a decade. When building restrictions were relaxed in 1954, new pubs began emerging again and were typified, unsurprisingly for these straightened times, by utilitarian design and low-quality materials. Layouts, though, still provided a choice of rooms and such customary features as off-sales and concert rooms. Inevitably, once the economy picked up, these cut-price reminders of post-war austerity became highly unfashionable and few intact interiors from the period remain. However, difficult to love as they may be, they are important as reminders of how and where folk drank in those increasingly distant times. Bristol has two good examples, the Hartcliffe Inn of 1958 and the Giant Goram of a year later. Both have two rooms and skittle alleys, the one at the Hartcliffe remarkably being open to the public bar (though a screen has been removed). The Falstaff, Plymouth, is a little later and even has a few architectural flourishes, notably the bar counter.

From the mid-1960s, pub architects started to become more adventurous and some decidedly quirky buildings, mostly now lost, took shape. Best of those remaining is the (recently statutorily listed) Centurion, Twerton, Bath, of 1965 whose striking design owes much to its hillside position. The interior takes you straight back to an era where innovation and imagination were the order of the day.

Sadly, this increased prosperity heralded a time of rapid and mostly regrettable change. The social divisions mirrored by the multi-roomed pub were vanishing while magistrates and police favoured direct supervision of all parts of a pub from the serving area – hence the widespread removal of internal walls to the great detriment of the atmosphere and attractiveness of most traditional pubs. Many pubs throughout the South West were heavily influenced by their pub owning brewery in the 1960s and 1970s, some being allowed to do their own thing, whilst others had to follow the company policy (if, indeed, they had one!) on how the pub interior was presented. In later years the corporate image became all important and is discernable today, even if done in a subtle way. Some refits, such as those at the Cock & Bottle, East Morden, Dorset, and the Hunters Lodge, Priddy, Devon (p.xx), displayed real care and attention but serious trashing tended to be the rule.

At the same time, a series of brewery mergers brought the majority of pubs into the ownership of one or other of the ‘Big Six’ national brewing conglomerates.



All of these, in thrall to their corporate accountants and marketing men, inflicted huge damage on the pub heritage they inherited. Smaller brewers and many private owners shared this obsession to modernise.

There was no respite. The rise of off-licences, shops and supermarkets made pub off-sales redundant (see p.xx). Environmental health officers demanded changes to accommodate inside toilets and better food preparation facilities. Old bar-back fittings were hacked about to make space for more varied products like wine, spirits and refrigerated drinks. Fire officers insisted on adaptations to provide safer escape routes. Such relentless pressures resulted in a much-depleted pub heritage.

## The aftermath

Recent years have seen a sad decline in the overall numbers of traditional pubs in this country – down from around 70000 in 1980 to 48500 today. To some extent, this has been offset by an increase in bars, nearly all in town and city centres, but, with a few honourable exceptions, few have much merit in design terms. Some new pubs continue to be built, mostly ‘family’ pubs on the edges of towns, but conversions from other uses like banks and shops are much more common. The fact that, in most years, no winner can be found for the New Build category in CAMRA’s annual Pub Design Awards speaks for itself.

Mentioned earlier were the particular pressures on small, rural pubs which struggle to be viable. Happily, some have successfully met this challenge by extending their building in ways which don’t impact adversely on their historic core. An excellent example is the Drewe Arms, Drewsteignton, Devon, which originally comprised just the simply-appointed public bar left of the entrance. On its own, this couldn’t pay its way, so further rooms, mostly for dining, have been developed elsewhere in the property – but discreetly separate. The Half Moon, Cheriton Fitzpaine, Devon (p.xx) sensitively added a lounge and the George, Portland, Dorset, added a new bar in a former kitchen. The expansion of the Glasshouse Inn, May Hill, Gloucestershire (p.xx) has been particularly well handled.

Public interest in our built heritage has never been higher and the existence of this very book and the popularity of others like it published by CAMRA shows that this interest extends to our pubs as well. The article on p.xx examines the threats our historic pubs face and what we can do about them.

## CAMRA and Pub Heritage

Although CAMRA was initially founded (in 1971) to save Britain’s traditional beer, it quickly became clear to campaigners that the best places to drink that beer, our pubs, were also under threat. In due course, CAMRA assigned equal importance to campaigning for real ale and for pubs.

The late 1970s saw a huge increase in the opening out of pubs and removals of fine fittings so preservation of historic pub interiors emerged as a key campaigning issue for CAMRA. After pioneering work in York, a specialist Pub Preservation Group was set up, which evolved into today’s Pub Heritage Group. The first step was to identify the most intact interiors surviving across the country’s (then) 65,000 pubs. This massive task involved following up thousands of leads, developing criteria for inclusion, recording what was found (both in words and photos) and creating a list – the National Inventory of Historic Pub Interiors (NI). This focuses firstly on interiors which remain largely unaltered since before the second world war, though intact early post-war pubs are also included (but are extremely rare – the Punch Bowl, Worcester is the only Midlands example). Secondly, the NI covers pubs with specific features or

rooms of national significance (e.g. an intact snug in an otherwise altered pub or examples of especially superb tiling or flamboyant bar backs.)

The first National Inventory of Historic Pub Interiors appeared in 1997 and totalled 179 entries. Since then it has been continually refined and updated as new candidates were discovered and, sadly, existing entries lost. The present total stands at 270 and full descriptions can be found in our publication, Britain's Best Real Heritage Pubs. 51 Midlands pubs are on the NI.

Regional Inventories were the next logical step. As would be expected, the bar for inclusion is set lower than for the NI though the same principles apply, with the emphasis on the internal fabric of the pub and what is authentically old within it.

Inventory pubs throughout the country can be found on our website [www.heritagepubs.org.uk](http://www.heritagepubs.org.uk) where clicking on the Search Here facility in the top left-hand corner will take you to easy-to-use drop down menus. CAMRA is now working on a third tier of Local Inventories. These will describe interiors which have suffered significant damage or change but where vestiges of former glories are still ascertainable.

## Pubs in Peril

The current plight of the British pub is only too well-known. At the time of going to press, figures showed around fourteen closing each week and, in the decade ending 2018, pub numbers fell by some 11000, representing 23% of the nation's pub stock. Many reasons can be identified for this gloomy state of affairs, including changing social habits, the effect of recent recessions, the widening differential between the prices of drinks bought at a pub and in a supermarket, the rapacious behaviour of many pub-owning companies and the smoking ban. A particular threat is the attractiveness of many pub buildings to developers. Conversion of rural pubs to houses has been all too common for many years but it's now our urban pubs which are really suffering. Many suburban pubs, for instance, occupy large plots of land, ideal for small supermarkets or similar developments, and in recent years hundreds have been lost in that way.

Such losses had been exacerbated by feeble planning laws which allowed the demolition of pubs and many changes of use without the need for planning permission. Strong campaigning by CAMRA and others led to these 'permitted development' rights being withdrawn in England in 2017 and the closure rate has slowed down since. We are now campaigning for similar provisions in the rest of the UK.

This combination of negative factors has posed major problems for heritage pubs, especially urban ones. Many of the latter are to be found in unfashionable, off-centre locations where they have ticked along for many years, serving the local community. As a result, their owners saw little point investing in the kinds of major change inflicted, in the pursuit of fashion, on many town or city centre pubs, so heritage was preserved, more or less by accident. Sadly, though, when the recent recessions began to bite, these pubs tended to drop the wrong side of the profit line.

Several pubs which meet the criteria for inclusion in this guide are currently closed and facing an uncertain future. They include the National Inventory-listed Red Lion at Ampney St Peter, Gloucestershire, a beautifully unspoilt one room, no-bar alehouse. After fervent campaigning from CAMRA and others, planning permission for change of use to residential was refused; the property has now been sold and we wait to learn the intentions of the new owners. The Kings Arms, Stockland, Devon and Three Crowns, Bristol have also been shut for some time while the Palace, Bristol and the Victoria, Oldfield Park, Bath were closed, temporarily we hope, at the time of going to press. See the feature on Closed Pubs (p.xx) for more information.

Three pubs once being considered for the National Inventory have been wrecked or lost in recent times. The Wheatsheaf, Cheltenham was a 1933 build, originally with three rooms; although two were combined in the 1970s, it remained largely intact until 2007 when it was fully opened out and old fittings were removed. It was a similar story at the Richmond Springs (now White Rabbit), Clifton, Bristol where a series of alterations has ruined the panelled inter-war interior. The Waverley Arms, Weymouth was yet another multi-roomed Thirties pub but in this case it closed altogether and is now a 'community hub'. The Long Acre Tavern, Bath was included on the National Inventory as an example of an intact 1960s interior. However, English Heritage declined to list it in 2009 and it is now a Domino's Pizza outlet.

However, historic pubs in peril can be, and have been, saved and CAMRA's Pub Heritage Group will fight for every one. One tactic is to draw a threatened pub to the attention of an enlightened small pub company and several pubs elsewhere in the country have been saved in just this way. We also get pubs statutorily listed (see below). Where we can, we use the planning system to resist unwanted changes to heritage pubs and encourage local folk to do likewise. Most of all, we aim to generate interest in these precious survivors. Pubs are businesses and the more that people use them, the less likely are they to wither and die. You can do your bit by putting this guide to active use.

## Statutory Listing

All parts of the United Kingdom have systems for protecting buildings of special architectural or historic interest. 68 of the 100 pubs in this guide are statutorily listed. The process is devised not to prevent change but to manage it effectively, working with the grain of the building, not against it.

In England, listings are made by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, on the advice of English Heritage.

Grade I. This highest of gradings covers just 2.5% of all listed buildings: these are those that have 'exceptional', even international interest.

Grade II\* (spoken of as 'Two Star'). Covers a further 5.5% of listed buildings. They have 'outstanding' interest.

Grade II. 92% of all English listed buildings are at this grade. They have what is described as 'special' architectural or historic interest. Most listed pubs are designated at Grade II.

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# Channel Islands - Jersey

## St Helier

8 Hilgrove Street, St Helier, JE2 4SL

Tel: (01534) 737378

Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale and Real Cider

Listed Status: Not listed

## Prince of Wales Tavern ★

Still retains a good number of Victorian fittings and the layout of two bars just about remains. The original bar backs have rows of drawers and narrow pillars with 4 mirrored panels; the front part also has cupboards in the lower section. The original counter protrudes in the middle upon which is a feature of two stained and leaded inset windows. The fixed seating looks 30+ years old. The passage down the left side of the pub has dado panelled walls of some age. The front door arrangement could indicate the loss of an off-sales.



*Bar*

# Cornwall

## Boscastle

High Street, Boscastle, PL35 0BD  
Directions: at top of village, off B3266  
Tel: (01840) 250204  
Email: [enquiries@napoleoninn.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@napoleoninn.co.uk)  
Website: <http://www.napoleoninn.co.uk>  
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale  
Public Transport: Near Bus Stop  
Listed Status: II

## Falmouth

1 The Moor, Falmouth, TR11 3QA  
Tel: (01326) 312111  
Email: [amysevenstars@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:amysevenstars@hotmail.co.uk)  
Website: <https://www.thesevenstarsfalmouth.com>  
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale and Real Cider  
Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Falmouth Town) and Bus Stop  
Listed Status: II

## Napoleon Inn ★

SRI. Multi-roomed, early 17th-century pub with fittings from the 1950s and not greatly changed since. The small public bar has a Delabole slate floor, slatted wooden counter, fitted seating and a stone fireplace. Similar floors and fittings are found in the other rooms – a lounge, a small room up two steps, the ‘Fun Bar’ in a (now old) extension and a dining room in what was a separate cottage.



*Main Bar*

## Seven Stars ★★★

**This classic Cornish pub is all about its simple bar, corridor and rear room, which retain features dating back to Victorian times.**

A small town centre pub, the Seven Stars has been in the hands of the same family for seven generations since 1868. For 50 of these years, until his death in 2012, the licensee was Barrington Bennetts who was also an ordained Anglican clergyman. At the front, the public bar has various late Victorian fittings, plus metal stillages introduced in the late 1940s. There was formerly a partitioned-off oyster bar here and its rare, white marble counter-top is still in place. The walls and ceiling are covered with matchboard panelling. The gas lights at either end of the bar are still in working order (though not now used). A passage, with an off-sales hatch, leads to the rear smoke room which has a hatch/doorway to the back of the bar. In the ceiling is a ‘coffin hatch’ for raising and lowering bulky items to the upper floor. The Victorian building was extended to the right in 1912 with an off-sales shop (now defunct).



*Public Bar*

## Helston

50 Coinagehall Street, Helston, TR13 8EL  
Tel: (01326) 562821  
Email: [enquiries@spingoales.com](mailto:enquiries@spingoales.com)  
Website: <http://www.spingoales.com>  
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale and Real Cider  
Public Transport: Near Bus Stop  
Listed Status: II

## Padstow

6-8 Lanadwell Street, Padstow, PL28 8AN  
Tel: (01841) 531129  
Website: <http://www.londoninnpadstow.co.uk>  
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale  
Public Transport: Near Bus Stop  
Listed Status: Not listed

## Blue Anchor ★★

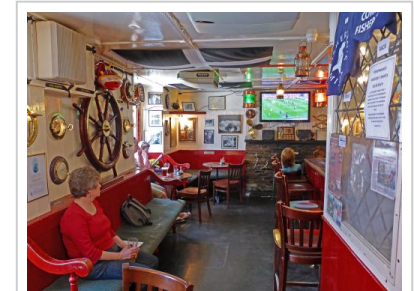
Thatched 18th-century pub, renowned as the only one in the UK to have continuously brewed its own beers since before CAMRA formed in 1971 (the other three then still in existence have since had non-brewing spells). From the front door, an uneven flagged passage runs through to the tiny 19th-century brew-house at the rear, with rooms off on each side. The main bar is at the front right and was once two small rooms; the counter is at least fifty years old though the top is more recent and the bar-back shelves are newer still. The small bare wall benches and the half-panelling are, however, genuinely old. In the rear snug, with its ancient stone fireplace, the counter is a 1980s replacement. Left of the passage are three small rooms but the only old fitting is the inglenook fireplace in the first one. The brew-house is viewable on request



*Room in Passage*

## London Inn ★

Although the small front bar was once divided into two small rooms (hence 'Bar' and 'Private Bar' on the windows), it retains its Victorian counter, painted a deep red colour, and old bar-back shelves - a real rarity in Cornwall. Tongue-and-grooved wall-panelling, old wall-bench seating, a stone fireplace and a square panelled ceiling complete the picture. Beyond the partitioning with lattice leaded windows is the bar counter of the private bar and at the rear is a hatch/doorway which could once have been an off-sales. Through a wide doorway to the right is another small room with half-height panelling, a stone/slate fireplace and more aged wall benches. The small restaurant to the rear right occupies a room brought into use not long ago.



*Public Bar*

## Penzance

46 Chapel Street, Penzance, TR18 4AF

Tel: (01736) 363448

Website: <http://thebenbow.com/>

Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale

Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Penzance) and Bus Stop

Listed Status: II

## Admiral Benbow ★★

18th-century pub with an extraordinary interior, the creation of which was begun in the late 1950s by former owner and diver Roland Morris. The Great Cabin is a spectacular themed room utilising fittings from wrecked ships to re-create the aft cabin of a privateer, though it now contains some later 'standard' items like bench tables and seating. Please note, though, that this room is laid out as a restaurant and used as such in the summer season; in winter it is only open for occasional functions, but the staff will generally be happy to let you view. Upstairs is the Wreck Room, again only used in the summer, and otherwise acting as a store room. Artefacts and trinkets are not set out in any order or theme. The public bar, front right, has a sloping bar counter and a copper top; the bar-back is a mix of old and new shelves. Also in this room are small seating bays on stone bases, round tables with copper tops and a panelled ceiling. To the left are more seating areas, a brick fireplace with carved mantelpiece (another shipwreck item) and nautical artefacts in abundance.



*Great Cabin*

## Philleigh

, Philleigh, TR2 5NB  
Directions: on King Harry Ferry road  
Tel: (01872) 713141  
Email: philleighpub@gmail.com  
Website: <http://www.roselandinn.co.uk/>  
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale  
Listed Status: Not listed

## Port Isaac

13 Fore Street, Port Isaac, PL29 3RB  
Tel: (01208) 880336  
Email: [info@thegoldenlionportisaac.co.uk](mailto:info@thegoldenlionportisaac.co.uk)  
Website: <http://www.thegoldenlionportisaac.co.uk>  
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale  
Public Transport: Near Bus Stop  
Listed Status: II

## Roseland Inn ★

Dating back to the 16th century with low ceilings throughout, this food oriented pub retains three small rooms. Flagstone passage from front door to rear. The main bar on the left has a counter that looks inter-war but likely to be just post-war (Publicans Rustic), old brick fireplace, old fixed benches but the partitions and panelling a mixture of old and new. The room on the right opens up onto the flagstone passage and has a Delabole slate floor, a small old stone fireplace and old wall benches. At the rear is a tiny locals bar dedicated to the Roseland Rugby Football Club. It has a counter being an extension to the bar back fitting, which has a modern wooden fitting in the top half but the lower half could well be over 50 years old.



*Middle Bar*

## Golden Lion ★

Early 18th-century pub near the harbour end of the steep narrow main street. A sizeable entrance hall with half-height panelling has a former off-sales hatch and a corner seat for drinkers. The small bare-boarded bar on the left has an old counter, Victorian tiled, cast-iron and wood surround fireplace, old dado panelling and wall-bench seating, but the bar-back is recent. In the bar on the right, also bare-boarded, are a post-war counter, modern bar-back, old fireplace, window bench and corner settle. The patio doors are a later insertion. A wide opening gives into a third room, formerly in domestic use, with an old range fireplace. Upstairs, two rooms have been merged to form the dining room.



*Front Bar*



## Portscatho

The Square, Portscatho, TR2 5HW

Tel: (01872) 580321

Email: [contact@plumeoffeathers-roseland.com](mailto:contact@plumeoffeathers-roseland.com)

Website: <http://www.plumeoffeathers-roseland.com>

Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale

Public Transport: Near Bus Stop

Listed Status: Not listed

## St Agnes

10 Vicarage Road, St Agnes, TR5 0TJ

Tel: (01872) 857955

Email: [info@railwaystagnes.co.uk](mailto:info@railwaystagnes.co.uk)

Website: <http://railwaystagnes.co.uk>

Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale

Public Transport: Near Bus Stop

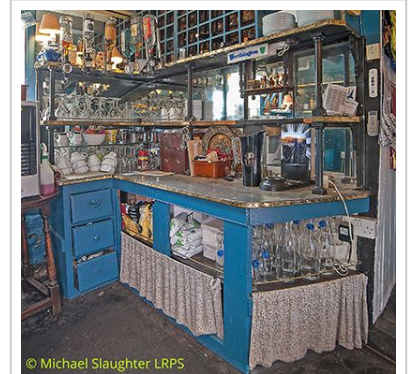
Listed Status: II

## Plume of Feathers ★

Included here for the Old Bar at the rear, from where you can view both the old servery and the split door of the Cellar Bar with its painted glass windows above and naive painting below. The servery itself has a flagstone floor; in the right corner is an old bar-back with a pewter top to the middle part, old mirrors and brass-edged shelves held up by plain columns. Also in this area are a beam and plank ceiling, three small cupboards and a window seat – note the old Worthington illuminated sign on the bar-back. The Cellar Bar is to the left of the main room (which has modern fittings).

## Railway Inn ★

Although refitted in the late 1940s, the original plan of four small rooms plus off-sales remains discernible at this 19th-century stone-built pub. A panelled passage leads from the front door to the former off-sales hatch, to the left of which is a small old counter. Front left, the small ‘Commercial Room’ has an inter-war fireplace and old wall cupboards; the original door is the now half-height one in the passage, the currently used opening coming later. Another small room, front right, was once a ladies’ parlour and has old panelling and another wall cupboard. A wide gap leads into the main bar with a counter that is older than it looks (in features in a photo taken in the late 1940s), plus panelled walls and a brick fireplace. A cottage on the left was incorporated into the pub, adding two more rooms. No food Monday or Tuesday.



*Servery in Cellar Bar*



*Main Bar*

## St Just

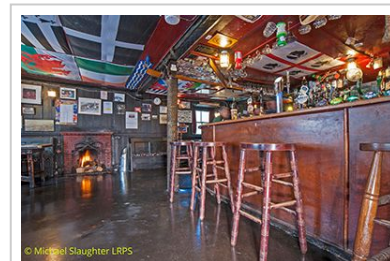
1 Fore Street, St Just, TR19 7LL  
Tel: (01736) 788767  
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale  
Public Transport: Near Bus Stop  
Listed Status: II

## St Teath

The Square, St Teath, PL30 3JX  
Tel: (01208) 850281  
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale and Real Cider  
Public Transport: Near Bus Stop  
Listed Status: Not listed

## Star Inn ★★

From the front door of this 18th-century granite building, a passage runs to the back via an inner door with Victorian glasswork (note the rare bitumen floor here and in the main bar). The public bar on the left was extended in the late 1950s to incorporate the former snug; the counter is from the same period but the mirrored bar-back long pre-dates it. There is old panelling in the main bar but the rustic brick fireplace is new; a candle is always lit during opening hours in remembrance of the Penlee lifeboat disaster of 1981 in which sixteen people died, including eight volunteer lifeboatmen. Right of the passage, through a door with a number 2 plus the barest outline of the designation 'Commercial Room', two rooms were amalgamated in recent times – the rear part has a superb granite fireplace with integral bread oven.



*Bar, Left Hand Side*

## White Hart Inn ★

SRI. Multi-roomed pub largely rebuilt in 1844 and with an especially good public bar – Delabole slate floor, rare Art Deco fireplace, very old high-backed settle and chunky inter-war bar counter (with no bar-back fitting). Several of the other rooms were brought into use or altered quite recently. The small room at the front right has fixed seating and half-timbering from the 1960s while the tiny Cellar Bar behind the servery was created in the 1950s and is served by a hatch.



*Front Bar*

## Stratton

Fore Street, Stratton, EX23 9DA  
Tel: (01288) 352038  
Email: [contact@treeinn.co.uk](mailto:contact@treeinn.co.uk)  
Website: <http://www.treeinn.co.uk>  
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale and Real Cider  
Public Transport: Near Bus Stop  
Listed Status: II

## Tregadillett

, Tregadillett, PL15 7EU  
Directions: just off A30 W of Launceston  
Tel: (01566) 772051  
Website: <https://www.theeliotarms.co.uk>  
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale  
Public Transport: Near Bus Stop  
Listed Status: Not listed

## Tree Inn ★

16th-century coaching inn, where two rooms retain fittings from the 1950s. The Beville Bar, rear right, has an old slate floor and a draft screen/high-backed settle with glazed panels above. The lapped-wood counter was created in the 1950s from coffin sides from a local undertaker! Photos taken around 1960 show the old dresser which forms the bar-back fitting and which sits in an old fireplace. To the left of the coaching arch, the heavily-beamed dining room also has a (copper-topped) counter from the 1950s. The public bar, once probably two rooms, has seen several recent changes though the beams and some of the panelling are old. The Cornish giant, Anthony Payne, is said to have been born here around 1612; he grew to 7ft 4ins tall and weighed 32 stones.



Rear Bar

## Eliot Arms ★

Attractive country hotel with five separate rooms. The original pub consisted of the small bars front and rear with extra rooms being added over the years. Notable features include the old curved bar counter at the rear right, the Delabole slate floors from the nearby quarry (reputedly the largest man-made hole in Britain) and antique high-backed settles.



Left Bar

## Tywardreath

Fore Street, Tywardreath, PL24 2QP

Tel: (01726) 813073

Website: <http://thenewinncornwall.co.uk>

Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale

Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Par) and Bus Stop

Listed Status: II

## New Inn ★

Although the pub claims a build date of 1752, the listing description puts this as '19th-century'. The portico on the front was supposedly moved from the 'town hall' next door in 1932. Inside, the public bar on the left is little changed. The panelled counter has, on top, a slotted brass plate for tokens issued by the local copper mine owner. Draught Bass is sold from casks stillaged behind the bar – apparently a covenant requirement from the sale to St Austell in 1932. The bar-back shelves and mirrors are recent but the panelling on both the walls and above the servery is old as are the benches. A side door, first right, leads to the small smoking room, then a door sporting the number 4 takes you to a bare-boarded passageway at the end of which are the remains of the former off-sales. Rear right is the music room, with the figure 2 on the door, and rear left a bistro brought into use quite recently.



Servery

# Devon

## Barnstaple

108 Boutport Street, Barnstaple, Devon, Barnstaple, EX31 1SY

Tel: (01271) 343528

Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale

Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Barnstaple) and Bus Stop

Listed Status: Not listed

## Chagford

9 High Street, Chagford, TQ13 8AJ

Tel: (01647) 433485

Email: [graham@theglobeinnchagford.co.uk](mailto:graham@theglobeinnchagford.co.uk)

Website: <http://www.theglobeinnchagford.co.uk>

Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale and Real Cider

Public Transport: Near Bus Stop

Listed Status: II

## Corner House ★★★

**Clean simple lines with a nod towards Art Deco, this pub was re-built in 1935 with a curved frontage and is little altered since - a remarkable survivor, particularly given its town-centre location.**

The main bar was originally two small rooms which accounts for its current L-shape. The walls sport fielded panelling to three-quarter height plus a curved bar counter with black Formica top, a two-sided bar-back fitting and a 1930s inglenook-style fireplace. The original off-sales is now used for storage. On the right, the snug (now called 'Garlands') has more fielded panelling - the bar counter appears to be a replacement from around 1960. The gents are unaltered. A skittle alley occupies a single-storey extension; it has the original ball-run topped by benching on the right side with further seating on the left.



*Public Bar*

## Globe Inn ★

SRI. The public bar at this mid-19th-century inn retains its Victorian counter, a bar-back with mirrors and slender pillars thought to date from the 1930s, old panelling around the walls with benches attached and a large stone fireplace with wood surround. The lounge on the right was two rooms until the 1970s whilst a lovely off-sales was removed in 2004.



*Main Bar*



## Cheriton Fitzpaine

, Cheriton Fitzpaine, EX17 4JW

Tel: (01363) 866219

Email: halfmooninn\_cheriton@outlook.com

Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale

Listed Status: II

## Half Moon Inn ★★★

Built as a house in 1630, this rendered pub was much altered in the 19th and 20th centuries. Front left, two rooms have been combined into one; the bar counter is Victorian but the bar-back shelves are from the 1960s. The hatch to the left of the counter may have been the off-sales. Elsewhere are a 1950s brick fireplace, old settle, old dado wall panelling and a fine set of barrels hanging from a beam. A rare and splendid part-glazed partition separates this room from the lounge, service to which is from a hatch with a still-intact window in the screen. This small room has old dado panelling, a 1960s stone fireplace and an alcove converted from a cupboard. The ladies' toilets were once a snug hence the dado panelling. 1986 saw the addition of a big extension containing a bar and a skittle alley. The pub has been in the same family since 1945 who, until around 2000, also ran a service garage from the back of the building.



*Lounge and Screen*

## Drewsteignton

The Square, Drewsteignton, EX6 6QN

Tel: (01647) 281377

Email: [pub-team@drewearms.org](mailto:pub-team@drewearms.org)

Website: <https://www.drewearms.org/>

Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale and Real Cider

Public Transport: Near Bus Stop

Listed Status: II\*

## Drewe Arms ★★★

**Saved from closure following a great campaign by its regulars this is pub is special due to its layout of rustic rooms and service through a hatch.**

Idyllically situated on the village's picture-postcard square, the Drewe has evolved within a row of cottages. The foremost space is the simply-appointed public bar on the left with the ground-floor 'cellar' behind. The former has plain seating round the walls and service through a hatch to the cellar where the casks are stillaged. The right-hand room has long been a dining area. Further right is another room in restaurant use; the Rayburn stove shows this was once a kitchen area. The Drewe Arms is a legend in the annals of historic rural pubs. For 75 years, it was kept by Mabel Mudge who, when she retired aged 99 in 1994, was thought to have been England's oldest licensee. Until her retirement, the pub was part of a working farm. Originally the Druid Arms, the pub name changed in the 1920s at the instigation of Julius Drewe, tea merchant and founder of the Home & Colonial grocery stores, who built the amazing Edwin Lutyens-designed Castle Drogo nearby. In the public bar note the delightful framed poetic homage to those who fought in the Great War and the pleasure afforded to the survivors by the pub you are enjoying more than 100 years on.



*Public Bar*

## Horsebridge

Horsebridge, Horsebridge, PL19 8PJ

Directions: off the A384 Tavistock - Launceston rd

Tel: (01822) 870214

Website: <http://www.royalinn.co.uk>

Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale and Real Cider

Public Transport: Near Bus Stop

Listed Status: II

## Royal Inn ★

An early 19th-century building with pointed Gothic windows characteristic of the time. The nearby bridge, built in 1437, was the lowest on the Tamar until the one at Gunnislake was constructed. A seal leaded into the granite step as you enter the porch was reputedly given by Charles 1 for "services rendered". The public bar is the original part of the pub and has slate-flagged floors and painted rubblestone walls. The bar counter used to face you as you entered but a major remodelling in the 1950s saw it shifted to the side to create an island arrangement serving both bars - it's an excellent example of so-called "publican's rustic". The fireplace is basically original but had a lintel added during the changes. The lounge was created in the refit from former living quarters. The bar counter on this side is a rather ugly slatted and grooved affair and the fireplace, stonework and benching are all typical of the period. A restaurant beyond occupies a later extension but doesn't impinge.



*Main Bar*

## Iddesleigh

, Iddesleigh, EX19 8BG

Directions: (off B3217 next to church)

Tel: (01837) 810253

Email: [Ben@dukeofyorkdevon.co.uk](mailto:Ben@dukeofyorkdevon.co.uk)

Website: <http://www.dukeofyorkdevon.co.uk>

Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale and Real Cider

Public Transport: Near Bus Stop

Listed Status: II

## Duke of York ★

Thatched mid-17th-century inn, constructed as a row of four cottages into which the pub has expanded over the years. The oldest part is what is now the dining room. The public bar is especially characterful – it has a stone fireplace with bread oven, half-height panelling, bench seating, simple bar-back shelves and, thanks to intentional non-decoration for 60 years, a wonderful nicotine colour scheme on the ceiling and some walls. A later expansion to an area on the right does not detract. Other rooms also sport superb large fireplaces.



*Public Bar Servery*

## Ilfracombe

Hillsborough Road,, Ilfracombe, EX34 9PG

Directions: Situated just outside the main shopping area on the Combe Martin road.

Tel: (01271) 864450

Website: <http://www.thethatchedinn.pub/>

Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale

Public Transport: Near Bus Stop

Listed Status: II

## Thatched Inn ★

Despite appearances, a pub has only occupied the premises since 1964. On the ground floor, the Manor Bar was once two rooms and is now divided by a back-to-back fireplace. The very old panelling pre-dates the pub use but the copper-topped counter and shelves are typical 1960s work, as is the copper hood on the fireplace. Classic 1960s signage leads you upstairs to the Tower Bar which has old loose furniture but the small bar counter was removed in 2008. A separate thatched building to the right houses the gents', kitchen and cellar. It's claimed that the stone tower building in front, which incorporates a wishing well, dates from 1271, although this seems rather unlikely.



*Manor Bar*

## Luppitt

, Luppitt, EX14 4RT

Directions: 4.8 miles north of Honiton

Tel: None

Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale

Listed Status: Not listed

## Luppitt Inn ★★★

UPDATE MARCH 2025: After closing in 2021, seemingly for good, the pub has rather unexpectedly just reopened. We haven't yet had chance to survey the new incarnation though it would be surprising if the previous simplicity has been fully retained.

A rare example of a simple, unspoilt farmhouse pub of the type that would have been common a couple of generations ago, but is now virtually extinct. It has been in the same family ownership for over a century and still has a few acres attached for rearing sheep. The building itself is a modest, two-storey Victorian affair, built of local stone. The entrance is in the yard and the pub part occupies two rooms with a red quarry-tiled hallway between them. The room in regular use, on the right, is tiny and has nothing at all sophisticated about it – a simple servery with a few shelves and beer drawn direct from a polypin behind the counter. The left-hand room was used for meetings and overspill from the main bar but is now largely disused. Outside gents' and ladies' loos. At the time of writing, only open Thursday from 7.30pm to 9.30pm and Saturday from 7.30pm to 10.30pm, but this is subject to change so best to ring to check before travelling.



*Interior with Landlady Vera Mary Wright*



## Lydford

School Road, Lydford, EX20 4BH  
Tel: (01822) 820242  
Email: [hello@castleinnlydford.co.uk](mailto:hello@castleinnlydford.co.uk)  
Website: <https://castleinnlydford.co.uk/>  
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale  
Public Transport: Near Bus Stop  
Listed Status: Not listed

## Newton Abbot

99 East Street, Newton Abbot, TQ12 2LD  
Tel: (01626) 354221  
Email: [hello@yocb.co.uk](mailto:hello@yocb.co.uk)  
Real Ale & Cider: Real Cider  
Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Newton Abbot) and Bus Stop  
Listed Status: II

## Castle Inn ★

Multi-roomed pub with one of the largest collections of high-backed settles in the country. The main door leads into a lobby with what looks like an off-sales hatch with colourful stained-glass window. Doors to the left and right also sport stained-glass panels. On the left, the Tinnars Bar retains an old bar counter, wall seating and stone fireplace but the bar-backfitting is modern and this clearly comprised two small rooms at one time. The right-hand bar has a difficult-to-date counter and bar-back and is opened-up to a room to the right with an old stone fireplace. Beyond this is the 'lounge area' - a separate room brought into use quite recently. Finally, a tiny snug at the rear has old wall seating and two more high-backed settles which may have come from elsewhere. On the wall of the right-hand bar are examples of Lydford pennies - silver pennies of AD 1000 from the Lydford Mint



*Public Bar*

## Olde Cider Bar ★

SRI. One of only four cider houses left in the UK. Cider was once stillaged in the heart of the pub in giant hogsheads and customers wanting off-sales would use the little hatch now concealed behind doors right of the entrance. A counter was first installed in 1962 and the current layout dates from 1984 when the counter, with its curious bulging barrel-shaped slats, was moved to the present position.



*Servery*

## Paignton

42 Elmbank Road, Paignton, TQ4 5NG

Tel: (01803) 558322

Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale

Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Paignton) and Bus Stop

Listed Status: Not listed

## Plymouth

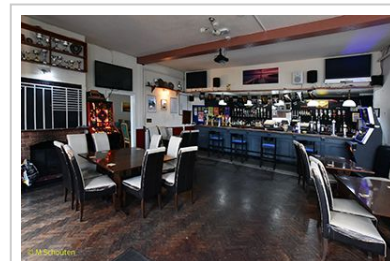
75 Clifton Road, Plymouth, PL6 6DT

Tel: (01752) 610763

Listed Status: Not listed

## Devonport Arms ★

The front section here retains a number of attractive fittings from a refit in the 1930s, notably plentiful fielded panelling, a sloping panelled counter, the bar-back and fireplace. Two doors indicate this was once two rooms. Up steps, the lounge area has seen significant alterations since the war, including loss of a snug; the fittings are also generally quite recent. Behind the rear servery is a cabinet with three large doors, indicating this was used to store casks of beer until quite recently.



*Main Bar*

## Falstaff Inn ★

1960s-built estate pub which, unlike most interiors from that era, has suffered little change. It's not conventionally attractive, at least to some eyes, but is a rare reminder of a once-common decorative style. In the cavernous public bar, the counter is a real period piece – stone panels with copper strips on the front below a chunky wooden top. The bar-back is simple but intact and elsewhere are a raised balustraded section with bench seating on two sides, a darts area with pillared partitions (one of which has been reduced to half height) and a lino-tiled pool area at the far end. The L-shaped lounge also has a counter redolent of its period with the panels also appearing above the bar and carried on around the corner plus another simple bar-back (some shelves removed) and more balustrades. A hatch for food service is currently out of use.



*Public Bar*

## Ringmore

Ringmore, Ringmore, TQ7 4HL

Tel: (01548) 810205

Email: [thejourneysend@btinternet.com](mailto:thejourneysend@btinternet.com)

Website: <https://www.thejourneysendinn.co.uk/>

Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale and Real Cider

Public Transport: Near Bus Stop

Listed Status: II

## South Zeal

, South Zeal, EX20 2JT

Directions: On main road through the village at the lower end.

Tel: (01837) 840244

Website: <http://www.theoxenhamarms.com>

Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale and Real Cider

Public Transport: Near Bus Stop

Listed Status: II\*

## Journey's End Inn ★

A fascinating pub, though by no means as old as the 'A.D.1300' painted outside would have us believe; Historic England date it as 18th and 19th century. It was created out of four cottages with extensions between the wars and again in the 1980s. The entrance corridor (modern panelling) leads to the dining room on the right and on the left an intimate small snug with '2' over the doorway; this has stable-door service, part stone-flagged flooring and a little old panelling. Beyond, the main bar is an inter-war creation with panelling and a fireplace typical of the time plus a wide hatch to the servery where casks are stillaged.



*Main Bar*

## Oxenham Arms ★★

Delightful two-storey 16th or early 17th-century granite inn with a grand stone porch. A stone passageway runs to the reception at the rear with, halfway along, a hatch in an old door. The beamed bar on the left was last altered in the 1960s when the area left of the granite fireplace was opened out. The solid wood counter and wall seating date from the inter-war period and casks are stillaged behind the bar. In the small lounge behind the servery a large monolith/megalith set into the wall is believed to be 5,000 years old. The mantel-piece in the dining room at the rear is supported on a huge upright splinter of granite. Another impressive stone fireplace, with a massive stone lintel, resides in the dining room front right (originally the residents' lounge).



*Public Bar*

## Teignmouth

Teign Street, Teignmouth, TQ14 8EG

Tel: (01626) 772684

Email: [theteignbrewery@gmail.com](mailto:theteignbrewery@gmail.com)

Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Teignmouth) and Bus Stop

Listed Status: II

## Teign Brewery Inn ★

Thousands of small, back-street boozers must have looked just like this stuccoed, two-storey Victorian town pub. The architecture is simple as are the fittings and layout but these are still surprisingly complete. The plan involves a central entrance which leads to an off-sales compartment, on either side of which is a separate bar with a further one at the rear right. The counters have plain vertical boarding and the back fittings seem mostly modern. There is plain dado panelling and a variety of old and modern seating.



*Left Hand Lounge Bar*

## Topsham

Bridge Hill, Topsham, EX3 0QQ

Tel: (01392) 873862

Website: <https://www.thebridgeinntopsham.co.uk>

Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale and Real Cider

Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Topsham) and Bus Stop

Listed Status: II

## Bridge Inn ★★★

**A hostelry with legendary status thanks to its unchanged collection of rooms and unusual features. Do not miss it!**

Run by the same family since 1897, this glorious pub is one of the most unspoilt in the country and, in 1998, was even accorded the only official visit to a pub by H.M. The Queen. The entrance, on the side, leads to a panelled corridor, on the left of which is the tap room, quite plainly appointed and with some fixed seating. A little further on, you will see a bulge to the right. This is the back of an old settle, glazed at the top, in what is called the snug (by customers) or the lounge (by the owners). It features a large stone fireplace, some fixed bench seating and a grandfather clock dating from 1726. On the right is a hatch to a parlour through which drinks are fetched from the ground-floor cellar. Known as the 'Inner Sanctum', this parlour area is a private space in which customers may be invited to sit – only two other pubs in the country have similar rooms where customers can sit in a space behind what is a working serving area (the Arden Arms, Stockport and the currently-closed Star, Netherton, Northumberland. At the rear, the malt-house room is only used for functions or as an overflow when the pub is busy. The bar counter here was installed in the mid-1960s but the brick fireplace is inter-war and one of the old hop shoots survives. Between the cellar and the malt-house is a brick-built furnace that provided hot air for hop-drying and malting operations. At quiet times, the bar staff will happily open it up for you to take a peek.



*Snug*



## Widcombe-in-the-Moor

, Widcombe-in-the-Moor, TQ13 7TF

Directions: 1/4 mile from the centre of the village

Tel: (01364) 621327

Email: [vanessamasonhill@gmail.com](mailto:vanessamasonhill@gmail.com)

Website: <http://www.rugglestoneinn.co.uk>

Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale and Real Cider

Public Transport: Near Bus Stop

Listed Status: II

## Rugglestone Inn ★★

A pub since 1832, and named after a local logan stone (a rocking stone), the Rugglestone remained unspoilt until 1992 but retains much of interest. The original layout comprised a passageway from the front door to a hatch from where you ordered your drink (and where you can still stand to get served) plus the small tap room on the front right; the present public bar, front left, was a meeting room and not in regular use. A counter was installed there in 1993 by knocking a hole in the wall to the side of the cellar. Beer is still served from casks on an old stillage. The tap room has a concrete-screeded floor, old window shutters and a 1930s fireplace. Note the illustrations of Widcombe Fair on the wall. The small rear-right room, formerly the landlady's parlour, came into pub use in the late 1990s.



*Passageway*

# Dorset

## Bournemouth

41 Windham Road, Bournemouth, BH1 4RN

Tel: (01202) 985056

Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale and Real Cider

Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Bournemouth) and Bus Stop

Listed Status: Not listed

## Cricketers ★★

The etching on the windows reveals the layout when this fine pub was rebuilt in Edwardian times. The smoking room, public bar and bottle and jug have since been combined but the private bar at the back remains. The smoking room area, now used for pool, has a decorative door panel, excellent tiling and a striking fireplace. A vestibule with deep-cut 'public bar' panels leads into that former room; notable features include two cast-iron columns with spiral decorations, the old curved bar counter and mirrored bar-backs and benches which came from a local church. The former private bar also has a splendid curved counter and bar-back plus some decorative partitioning. A wide doorway takes you to a baronial-style lounge, originally the billiard room, with an ornamental fireplace and a high mantel shelf. The gents' are well worth a visit for their massive urinals, mosaic tiling and colourful windows.



Main Bar

## Bridport

4 South Street, Bridport, DT6 3NQ

Tel: (01308) 423187

Email: [info@thegeorgebridport.co.uk](mailto:info@thegeorgebridport.co.uk)

Website: <https://thegeorgebridport.co.uk/>

Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale

Public Transport: Near Bus Stop

Listed Status: II

## George Hotel ★

In the centre of town, this 18th-century three-storey former hotel retains a number of Victorian and early-20th -century fittings. The entrance corridor has a colourful tiled floor and a serving hatch (unused) with glazed doors. In the public bar (once two rooms and now extended as well) are an old panelled counter and mostly original bar-back plus an old, tiled, cast-iron fireplace; there is another one in the 'snug', front left.



Servery

## Langton Matravers

27 High Street, Langton Matravers, BH19 3HA

Tel: (01929) 422979

Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale and Real Cider

Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Herston Halt) and Bus Stop

Listed Status: II

## King's Arms ★

**Update October 2021 - recent changes have seen the old bar fittings in the left hand bar replaced; fittings in the right hand bar painted over; also the front left room is now a shop so it has lost its old fittings.**

The pub rooms here were originally the public bar, rear right, and the smoke room/lounge front left. Around 1960, the present main bar was created in what was the courtyard and a further extension in the 1980s added the small area rear left. The original public bar has an old flagstone floor, dado panelling with wall benches attached and a small counter with old front and modern top. The main bar has changed little in its sixty years – the bar counter and bar-back may be older, having been moved from the public bar. The former smoke room has fitted benches attached to a panelled dado and these and the fireplace could be from the 1950s. The front-right room was the village mortuary until 1943, later becoming the licensee's sitting room until it came into pub use in the mid-1970s.



*Public Bar*

## Pamphill

Vine Hill, Pamphill, BH21 4EE

Directions: off B3082

Tel: (01202) 882259

Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale and Real Cider

Listed Status: Not listed

## Vine Inn ★★

**This feels like the perfect country pub in a bucolic setting!  
There is a lounge on an upper level but the true delights  
here are two small rooms either side of a servery.**

This delightful little country hostelry became a pub about 1900 when the present landlady's grandfather fitted it out as such. Until the 1950s it sold only beer and cider under a six-day (Mon-Sat) licence. The falling site means it is on two levels. On the lower is the little-altered public bar which, at eight feet square in front of the counter, is one of the country's smallest. Nine steps lead up to the rather larger tap room, lined with full-height panelling. On the other side of the public bar, a separate entrance leads into the lounge, once the grandfather's sitting room and probably brought into pub use in the 1950s or 1960s. The gents' is outside at the front of the building; the ladies' is also outside but seems to be a relatively late addition. The front garden, overlooked by a prolific vine, is a great place to relax on a warm, sunny day. Food confined to snacks.



*Public Bar*

## Portland

133 Reforne, Portland, DT5 2AP

Tel: (01305) 820011

Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale and Real Cider

Public Transport: Near Bus Stop

Listed Status: II

## George Inn ★

Dated 1765, the George was formerly three houses and later hosted meetings of the Court Leet (a manorial court), becoming a pub around 1840. The original pub, consisting of three small rooms off an L-shaped passageway, is little altered since the 1930s. On the right of the passageway is a small dining room with a 1930s fireplace. The King's Shilling Bar on the left, separated from the passageway by a timber partition with benches attached, has a parquet floor and three fine old tables (one some 8 feet long) but has lost its fireplace. Service was originally via a hatch which was replaced by the present bar counter in the 1970s. At the rear, and slightly opened up from the passageway, is the Reeve Lounge where, hanging on the wall above the fireplace, is the long Portland Reeve Staff which recorded the payment of 'Quit Rent' as a substitute for military service. This small room has a fine 1930s brick fireplace, a parquet floor and dado panelling and is served via a hatch/doorway with a flap across it. In 1995, the Quarr Bar was formed on the left side of the building from a former kitchen and part of the cellar.



*Tap Room*



## Shaftesbury

24 Bleke Street, Shaftesbury, SP7 8JZ

Tel: (01747) 853219

Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale and Real Cider

Public Transport: Near Bus Stop

Listed Status: II

## Ship Inn ★★

17th-century building converted to a pub in 1937 when the original Ship Hotel was demolished. In the main bar, the counter has a panelled front and shutters which are believed to work – but nobody dares lower them in case they get stuck! There is a mirrored bar-back and, alongside to the right, another bar-back fitting which may have come from the old Ship – as, almost certainly, did the bell-box on the wall. Opposite the counter is a small area formed by a ceiling-height panelled partition with fixed seating attached. Left of the entrance is the snug with high-backed fitted seating on one side and an old bench on the other. Front left, a latch door leads to the bare-boarded 'Whine Bar', served from a hatch and with dado panelling, some fixed seating and a good carved fireplace. A passage to the right accesses a small bar with a panelled counter and fixed seating. The lower-level area is in an extension into former cottages.



*Lobby Bar*

## Sherborne

Cooks Lane, Sherborne, DT9 3NS

Tel: (01935) 813148

Email: [info@digbytap.co.uk](mailto:info@digbytap.co.uk)

Website: <https://www.digbytap.co.uk/>

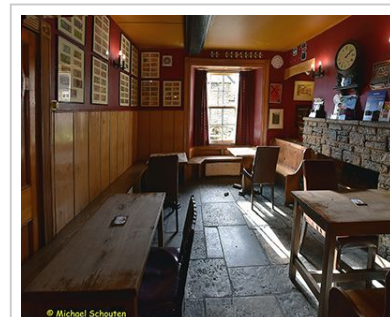
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale

Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Sherborne) and Bus Stop

Listed Status: II

## Digby Tap ★

A 16th/17th-century building, formerly a workhouse, this tucked-away pub has the atmosphere of a genuinely old and little-changed ale house. The front door leads into a part-panelled lobby with a flagstone floor that continues into the passage. At the end of this is a split door that suggests a former off-sales and acts as a serving hatch for the room on the right; the top part of this door is a rare multi-glazed section that can still be closed. As the passage continues to the right, it opens up to a flagstone-floored room with an old stone fireplace but which is likely to have come into pub use in later years. Left of the split door is the main bar, which was once two rooms. The front left area has a flagstone floor, old dado panelling with bare benches attached and a stone fireplace. The area in front of the servery was originally accessed from a door near the exterior door. On the counter is a set of 1959 Gaskell & Chambers Dalex hand pumps so the counter is at least that old. A doorway at the rear of the main bar leads to another small bar, converted from a cellar in 2014.



*Front Left Hand Room*

## Wareham

41 North Street, Wareham, BH20 4AD

Tel: (01929) 552503

Email: [kingsarmswarehamnorthstreet@gmail.com](mailto:kingsarmswarehamnorthstreet@gmail.com)

Listed Status: II

## King's Arms ★

An 18th--century brick-built thatched pub that retains two of its original three rooms and its passageway layout. Some of the fixtures, like the slatted-wood bar counters, date from changes in the early 1960s. On the left, the characterful public bar has a flagstone floor, inglenook fireplace, an impressive two-sided high back settle and a couple of old benches. On the right-hand side of the passage is the former private bar and a small servery is at the end. The room at the rear right dates from the 1990s.



*Main Bar*

## Weymouth

High West Street, Weymouth, DT4 8JH

Tel: (01305) 774851

Email: [Bootinn.weymouth@phoenixpub.co.uk](mailto:Bootinn.weymouth@phoenixpub.co.uk)

Website: <https://www.bootinnweymouth.co.uk/>

Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale and Real Cider

Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Weymouth) and Bus Stop

Listed Status: II

## Boot Inn ★

Although the building itself dates to the early-17th century, the room layout and many of the fittings are from a 1930s refit.

The small bare-boarded corner 'Saloon Bar' has a counter that pre-dates the refit (note the now-defunct Victorian water tap), dado panelling with benches but a modern stone surround fireplace. Up two steps at the back is a tiny snug with one panelled wall and service from a hatch/doorway. On the left, the bare-boarded public bar was once two rooms and has an inter-war counter and dado panelling but a more recent bar-back. This room has been extended into former living quarters fairly recently.



*Snug*

## Worth Matravers

, Worth Matravers, BH19 3LF

Directions: off B3069

Tel: (01929) 439229

Email: [kevin@squareandcompasspub.co.uk](mailto:kevin@squareandcompasspub.co.uk)

Website: <https://www.squareandcompasspub.co.uk/>

Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale and Real Cider

Listed Status: II

## Square & Compass ★★★

**A jurassic pub for the jurassic coast! Everything here screams ancient in this not to be missed national institution.**

The pub was established in the late eighteenth century, and run by the Newman family since 1907. Picturesquely situated on the world-famous Jurassic Coast, it has stunning views out to sea and is also one of only five pubs to have appeared in every edition of the Good Beer Guide since it was first published in 1974. A flagstone passage leads to a servery/cellar at the back where service is via a hatch/doorway (this is a rare example of a no-counter pub.) To the left is a further hatch then wooden partition walls mark out the venerable tap room, entered by a (once) sliding door. This too has a flagstone floor plus solid benches and a large fireplace (opened up in 1990 and a wood-burning stove installed.) To the right is the 'Big Room' which was a small parlour before 1935 when it was extended into the stable block, hence the different ceiling heights. It is fitted with a continuous wood-block floor, fielded panelling and, on the left, a hatch for service (the big opening behind the curtains is from 1978). The pub still has outside toilets and sells as much real cider as beer. A museum of local fossils is housed in a room to the left. Food confined to pies and pasties



*Tap Room*

# Gloucestershire & Bristol

## Amberley, Stroud

Culver Hill, Amberley, Stroud, GL5 5AF

Directions: Leave Stroud towards Nailsworth on the A46 and take the left turn up Culver Hill just after Denis Brown timber merchants. The Amberley Inn is on your left after 3/4 mile.

Tel: (01453) 872565

Email: [enquiries@theamberleyinn.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@theamberleyinn.co.uk)

Website: <http://www.theamberleyinn.co.uk/>

Listed Status: Not listed

## Amberley Inn ★

Built of Cotswold Stone in 1865, it was partly re-built 1898-9 by Stroud Brewery, and considerably enlarged and refurbished in 1926. Much of the 1926 refitting survives in three rooms

From the front hotel entrance there is a hall / reception with a parquet floor and 1926 stone fireplace. At the end is a hatch with pair of leaded windows to the lounge bar servery. There is a restaurant room on the front left, and another room beyond. A separate entrance on the right-hand side of the building leads to the bars – lobby with door to the left to the lounge bar and a door to the right to the public bar.

On the front right is the lounge bar with a parquet floor, interwar fielded panelling to three-quarters height all around the room. It has a fielded panelled bar counter with a 50s -style shelf just under the top which is full of books. There is an interwar Tudor-style stone fireplace; fixed seating in the bay window; fielded panelled door with some glazing at the top and above is a 'Gentlemen' sign. Bell pushes in the panelling.

Public bar has a bar counter which looks like the 1926 one as does some fixed bench seating. Bar back lower shelving could be 1926 work but the upper section is painted grey and looks modern.



*Lounge Bar*



## Ampney St. Peter

, Ampney St. Peter, GL7 5SL

Directions: On A417

Tel: (01285) 851596

Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale

Public Transport: Near Bus Stop

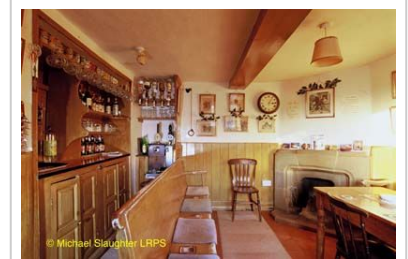
Listed Status: II

## Red Lion ★★★

UPDATE 2024 After being closed since 2014, the pub reopened in May 2023, albeit with limited opening hours (currently 5.30pm-10.30pm, Thu, Fri & Sat). Fortunately, there have been no changes to the pub's historic core.

**One of the great unspoilt rural classics and one of only eight traditional pubs with no bar counter. Happily reopened in 2023 after ten years closure, this remains a must-visit despite its limited opening hours.**

The pub occupies two rooms in a 300-year-old stone-built cottage with service in the small public bar to the right but arrangements are not what you would normally expect as there is no bar counter, drinks being served from a small area behind a long bench. The quarry-tiled room has dado panelling, wall bench seating, a window seat - and that's about it. Another room across the corridor is used if the bar is busy - there's a hatch for ordering beer. The little changed interior is due to the remarkable fact that the previous licensee, John Barnard, was only the fourth since 1851.



*Public Bar*

## Bristol

185-187 Coronation Road, Bristol, BS3 1RF

Tel: (0117) 987 2431

Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale and Real Cider

Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Bedminster)

Listed Status: Not listed

## Avon Packet ★

Built in 1843, with a tiled frontage added around 1900, this delightfully eccentric pub retains three of its original fiverooms and many old fittings. From the entrance, you are standing in a passage which led to the back of the pub with the bar area on your left and the former parlour on the right, both with fixed seating. - the separating walls were removed in the 1970s. The panelled bar counter, with consoles along the front, seems to have been shortened and possibly moved as well. Behind the servery, the barman's exit also acts as a serving hatch. The former parlour has a decorated cast-iron fireplace with tiles in front. This side of the public bar once housed a bottle and jug. Before you reach the rooms at the back, passageways go both left and right – the former, called 'Bull Shit Corner' has a portable seat facing the serving hatch. Continuing to the rear, you come to what were the smoke room (left) and tap room (right) – again the separating walls have gone. The latter has fixed seating round the walls and a grand cast-iron fireplace. A pit in the garden is said to have been used for bear-baiting – somewhat unlikely given that bear-baiting was prohibited in 1835.



*Servery*

## Bristol

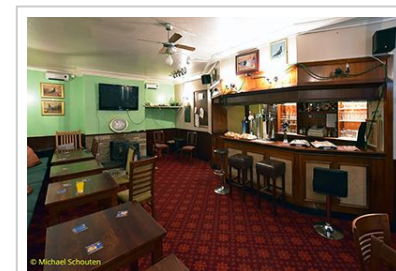
Brocks Rd.,, Bristol, BS13 0HQ  
Tel: (0117) 941 0251  
Listed Status: Not listed

## Bristol

164 St Michael's Hill, Bristol, BS2 8DE  
Tel: (0117) 973 3203  
Email: [highburyvaults@youngs.co.uk](mailto:highburyvaults@youngs.co.uk)  
Website: <http://www.highburyvaults.co.uk>  
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale  
Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Clifton Down) and Bus Stop  
Listed Status: Not listed

## Hartcliffe Inn ★

A mostly untampered-with 1958 estate pub; although the utilitarian design won't be to everyone's taste, few interiors of this vintage have escaped later 'improvement'. The long, narrow public bar has lost a partition half way down so opens directly on to the remarkable in-pub skittle alley. The counters and bar-backs are original – the second one was initially used for food service. The fireplace is a recent insertion. The smaller lounge is completely intact with padded panelled counter, classic period bar-back, bench seating on two sides, plywood dado, coloured stone fireplace and even the original carpet! Upstairs is the assembly room, not presently in use.



*Lounge Bar*

## Highbury Vaults ★★

A mid-19th-century pub with a narrow frontage. At the front is a lovely, tiny snug with a Victorian counter and mirrored bar-back plus dado panelling and bench seating painted dark green and a fine set of 1936 handpumps. Inner doors lead into a passage with a split door (which perhaps served as an off-sales), panelled dado and wall benches. The rear bar has an inter-war counter, old bar-back fitting and panelled dado. In the early 1980s, a sympathetic extension added another two rooms. Rumour has it that prisoners would have their last meal here before meeting their maker on the gallows at the top of St Michael's Hill.



*Rear Bar*

## Bristol

60 Victoria Street, Bristol, BS1 6DE

Tel: None

Website: <https://goodchemistrybrewing.co.uk/pages/kings-head>

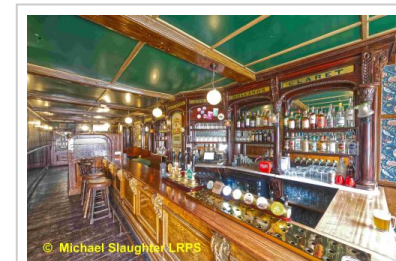
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale

Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Bristol Temple Meads) and Bus Stop

Listed Status: II

## Kings Head ★★★

The long, narrow building plot no doubt reflects a medieval site but the present building dates back to the mid 17th-century. Inside is a bar stretching right back to another entrance which faces the late-medieval Temple Church bombed out in the Second World War. Along the right hand wall is a magnificent mid-Victorian bar-back with a series of arches and high-level lettering advertising various drinks. It has a marble shelf. The panelled counter no doubt dates from the same scheme (although the top is from 1998). Most of the rear part of the pub contains the delightful ‘Tramcar Bar’ – a snug supposedly shaped like an old tramcar! Its insertion, presumably in the late 19th or early 20th century, led to the cutting back of the counter, hence the ‘stranded’ bar-back in this area. Prior to this, apart from the small seated area at the front, this was presumably a largely stand-up drinking establishment. Don’t miss the glazed panel advertising ‘Burton Ales and Dublin Stout’ and, beside this, an old pressure gauge from the days of gas lighting. Two gas fittings survive in the Tramcar Bar and four (converted to electricity) in the servery. There are two tiny WCs formed by part-glazed partitions adjacent to the rear wall: note the ‘Ladies Only’ on the glass door panel.



*Interior*

## Bristol

1 Nova Scotia Place, Bristol, BS1 6XJ

Tel: (0117) 363 4397

Email: [landlord@novascotiabristol.com](mailto:landlord@novascotiabristol.com)

Website: <https://novascotiabristol.com/>

Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale and Real Cider

Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Parson Street)

Listed Status: II

## Ford

, Ford, GL54 5RU

Directions: On B4077 - 5 miles West of Stow-on-the-Wold

Tel: (01386) 584215

Email: [info@theploughinnford.co.uk](mailto:info@theploughinnford.co.uk)

Website: <https://www.theploughinnford.co.uk/>

Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale and Real Cider

Listed Status: II

## Nova Scotia ★★

A late-19th-century pub converted from a row of three terraced houses. It retains its mahogany bar-back fitting with a door to an office in the middle – imaginative legend says it was made for a ship but didn't fit so was installed here instead. However, the remarkable survivor here is the Victorian low screen, attached to the ceiling with an iron stay, situated to the right of the public bar. This creates the small snug known as the Captain's Cabin with etched glass stating that in previous times it was a 'Private Bar'. Old bench seating is attached to panelled walls throughout the pub. The area on the left was once a separate room.



*Main Bar*

## Plough Inn ★

Stone-built Cotswold inn constructed in the late 17th or early 18th century with an extension dated 1905 on the front gable. The front door leads into a small stone-flagged corridor; behind the door is an old 'bars up', a piece of wood which pulls from the wall to secure the door. Straight ahead is the main bar with a small drinking area in front; the counter and tiling are post-war but the bar-back shelving is older. To the right, a superb stone-walled, flagstoned room has a beamed ceiling and an old fireplace with modern log burner. The bar counter is a later insertion but doesn't intrude too badly. Old window bench seating is painted cream and the windows have old wooden shutters. The areas to the left of the entrance corridor have suffered much opening out and there are extensions into rooms not formerly in pub use.



*Serving*



## May Hill

Glasshouse Hill, May Hill, GL17 0NN

Directions: Off A40, West of Huntley

Tel: (01452) 830529

Website: <https://www.quality-inns.co.uk/pubs/the-glasshouse-inn/>

Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale

Listed Status: Not listed

## Glasshouse Inn ★

Originally, the pub consisted of the two front rooms with a passageway running down the middle with wooden partition walls. The front left 'Smoke Room' with a red quarry-tiled floor has lost its partition wall but an antique settle and some timbers now make it look like a separate room. The 'Public Bar', front right, retains most of its partition wall though markings on the quarry-tiled floor show it to be some two feet shorter. This small room has a tongue-and-groove ceiling, old dado panelling, an old settle and a basic bench. The next room, on the right of the original passage, was the living room and has lost its partition wall as indicated by the markings in the quarry-tiled floor. This room was possibly brought into use in the 1950s when the cellar on the left was converted into a servery (there had previously been no counters). On the right is a range fireplace and a tongue-and-groove dado with wall benches plus scrubbed tables and low basic benches. Beyond the servery, an extension was added in 1988 but looks much older.



*"Smoke Room" Servery*

## Prestbury

Mill Street, Prestbury, GL52 3BG

Directions: Opp the church, can be accessed by walking through the churchyard from the High Street

Tel: (01242) 361506

Website: <http://www.theploughprestbury.co.uk/>

Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale and Real Cider

Listed Status: II

## Plough ★★★

This 17th/early-18th-century thatched pub comprises two little changed rooms and an L-shaped passage. To the left is a splendid room with uneven pale-coloured flagstone floor, large stone fireplace with log fire, and tongue and groove panelling around the walls – full-height on the rear and half-height on the front – with fixed seating attached to it. A full-height partition with a door in the middle formerly divided the room but only the left-hand part remains. The quoits and an old scorer on the wall, two scrubbed tables and a grandfather clock add to the atmosphere. Service comes from the hatch at the end of the rear right-hand passage. The lounge to the right of the entrance door was last altered around 1960 when the small hatch/counter was added by creating a hole in the wall. The bar-back cabinet network in three sections also dates from this time but the brick fireplace is a little earlier and the fixed seating is from 2003.



Service

## Tewkesbury

8 Church Street, Tewkesbury, GL20 5PA

Directions: between Tewkesbury Cross & Abbey on old A38

Tel: (01684) 290555

Email: [theberkeleyarms1@hotmail.com](mailto:theberkeleyarms1@hotmail.com)

Website: <https://theberkeleyarms.pub/>

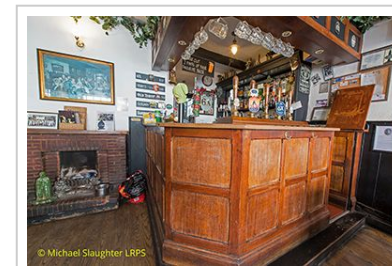
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale and Real Cider

Public Transport: Near Bus Stop

Listed Status: II\*

## Berkeley Arms ★

An early-16th-century timber-framed three-storey twin-gabled building. Both front and rear bars contain several 1930s features – panelled counters, bar-backs with mirrors and ribbed glass and brick fireplaces. A blue-brick passage runs down the right-hand side with entrances off it to the rear bar and outside gents'. Behind is a former warehouse (c.1600) which has been converted into a dining/meeting room with open rafters.



## Tewkesbury

68 High Street Tewkesbury, Tewkesbury, GL20 5BJ

Directions: A38 - Top of High St. near river bridge

Tel: (01684) 292202

Email: [Info@freehouse.co.uk](mailto:Info@freehouse.co.uk)

Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale

Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Ashchurch for Tewkesbury) and Bus Stop

Listed Status: II\*

## Winterbourne

41 North Road, Winterbourne, BS36 1PT

Tel: (01454) 850378

Email: [mail@themasonspub.co.uk](mailto:mail@themasonspub.co.uk)

Website: <http://www.themasonspub.co.uk/>

Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale

Listed Status: Not listed

## Olde Black Bear ★

Re-opened in 2024 after a refurbishment. A mostly 16th-century timber-framed building. Up to the early 1980s the far left-hand small room was the public bar and contained a small counter. This room is significant for its magnificent early C17 plastered (leather?) ceiling with three rosettes, a dolphin, and a rosette in geometrical surround, plus a plastered dragon-beam with a soffit of leaf and rosette. The other old fitting in this fairly plain room is the small Tudor arch stone fireplace. Note the good etched top panels in the windows here and elsewhere featuring a bear and also on the two panels in the door to this room. The present bar assumed its position in the mid-1980s and you can see that the counter front utilised old panelling from elsewhere in the pub. Until the 1980s there was a second bar in the room on the far right.



*Exterior*

## Masons Arms ★

A two-storey 1880s-built community pub with single-storey extensions to left and right. Originally there was just one bar in the middle but, in the late 1950s, George's Bristol Brewery carried out a refurbishment – little has changed since. The lounge on the left is the original pub room extended to the left by incorporating a store room. It has a counter with a classic 1950s front, mirrored bar-back and dado panelling on the walls painted bright red. The only changes are the blocking-up of a fireplace left of the counter and the metal pot-shelf. Note the original front door in the bay. The public bar on the right was a private living room until the revamp and has a plainer counter front, period bar-back fitting, more bright red dado panelling and a tiled and minimal wood surround fireplace - even the original display case remains.



*Right Hand Bar*

# Somerset

## Appley

Ham Hill, Appley, TA21 0HJ

Tel: (01823) 673147

Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale

Listed Status: II

## Globe Inn ★

17th-century pub, formerly cottages, that has retained its three room plan and some of its 19th-century fittings. From the front porch, which has fixed bench seating, a long, narrow, brick-floored corridor runs through the pub. The original public room is the brick-floored 'Men's Kitchen' (cf Rose & Crown, Huish Episcopi) on the left with matchboard dado panelling, fixed bench seating and a 1930s brick fireplace; the settle is a modern replacement for a much older one. An opening has been cut through to another old room to the rear, again with matchboard dado panelling though this has recently been reduced in height. The right-hand room has largely modern fittings. Across the corridor is a small Victorian bar counter with glazed top section but this is no longer in use.



*Former Mens Kitchen (Left Hand Room)*

## Bath

1 York Street, Bath, BA1 1NG

Tel: (01225) 571070

Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale

Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Bath Spa) and Bus Stop

Listed Status: II

## Ale House ★

Built around 1816, the pub once consisted of the small public bar, an off-sales in the passage behind and a lounge at the rear which is now the beer cellar. The public bar retains its splendid decoratively carved and mirrored bar-back with a small return in the corner; it has been painted mauve. The upper shelves are held up by slender columns with decorative capitals, below which about two-thirds of the old bar shelves survive (the remainder removed for a fridge). The bar counter (painted bright purple) is from late Victorian times and has decorative brackets. All round the walls is old dado panelling with benches round the windows. In the passage behind the serving you can still see the former off-sales hatch with two small leaded windows. There is also a cellar bar with several vaulted rooms, but no old fittings. Upstairs, a small pool room has been brought into use and another room converted into a kitchen.



*Serving*

## Bath

Poolemead Road, Bath, BA2 1QR

Tel: (01225) 332160

Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale

Public Transport: Near Bus Stop

Listed Status: II

## Centurion Inn ★★

Built in 1965 and remarkably little-altered since, the striking design of this pub owes much to its hillside position. The exposed site is also the reason why an unusual system of pressurisation, linked to the central heating and ventilation system, was installed – note the distinctive doors. From the car park, you enter a lobby with a terrazzo floor and a store room on the right. The skittle alley was converted from a garage, store and part of the cellar in the late 1970s/early 1980s. A terrazzo staircase leads to the entrance hall with numerous doors, including those to the main bars. The lounge is on the left and has a balustraded higher level for darts. The original counter is in a distinct period style with a Formica front and top and the mirrored bar-back is also intact. Up a step is the former Buttery area, once separated with a partition, and with a suspended ceiling of hollow steel laths. Again, the counter is original, part panelled and part Formica-fronted plus a black Formica top. Down the left hand side is a mirrored display case – this was originally a food-serving area and has lost its counter. The walls are lined with timber panelling and the large windows give great views over Bath. The same applies in the public bar on the right. This also has a raised, balustraded darts area and similar counters and bar-backs. A door leads to a paved patio which wraps round the building. Note the Roman figurines inside and out and the fragment of mosaic displayed in the entrance hall.



*Former Dining Room*



## Bath

St Saviour's Road, Bath, BA1 6SD

Tel: (01225) 425710

Website: <https://larkhall-inn.business.site/>

Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale

Listed Status: II

## Bath

12 Green Street, Bath, BA1 2JZ

Tel: (01225) 448259

Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale and Real Cider

Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Bath Spa) and Bus Stop

Listed Status: II

## Larkhall Inn ★★

The Larkhall Inn occupies a handsome mid-18th-century building and contains several late-Victorian features. You enter by a small intact vestibule into the public bar which, though large, always seems to have been one space. Sitting on the Victorian bar counter are three non-operational handpumps dated 1887. The bar-back fittings are later but still mostly of some age. Elsewhere in this room are a parquet floor, old dado panelling, fine lengths of bench seating and an impressive stone fireplace. To the left of the entrance, opening out into a lower level has taken place, with more tampering further back to create an open staircase. Note the old partition/draught screen by the door to the private quarters. A small pool room at the front has a parquet floor and hatch for service.



*Rear of Public Bar*

## Old Green Tree ★★★

The building here is 18th-century but was extended backwards in 1926 and refurbished in a pleasingly restrained fashion by local architect, W.A. Williams, who also designed the shop-like frontage. The plan is one regularly found in the north of the country but rare in the south. Rooms are each side of the servery which has, in front of it, a drinking lobby acting as the public bar. All these spaces are panelled and have herringbone wood-block floors (carpeted at the front). The small lounge left of the entrance has service via a doorway to the servery - there is a similar arrangement in the smoke room at the back. All doors still bear the numbers used to identify the rooms for licensing purposes ('1' on the lounge door, '2' on the front bar, '3' on the smoke room and '4' on the cellar door). The gents', down eleven steps, retains its 1926 urinals.



*Lobby Bar*

## Bath

23 Vineyards, Bath, BA1 5NA

Tel: (01225) 425072

Website: <https://www.abbeyinnsbath.co.uk/#the-star-inn-bath>

Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale and Real Cider

Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Bath Spa) and Bus Stop

Listed Status: II

## Clapton-In-Gordano

Clevedon Lane, Clapton-In-Gordano, BS20 7RH

Directions: 2 miles from M5 jct 19.

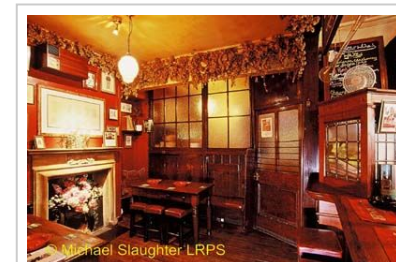
Tel: (01275) 842105

Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale and Real Cider

Listed Status: II

## Star Inn ★★★

The Star occupies a Georgian terrace and was first licensed in the 1760s. What we see today is a wonderful survival from a refitting in 1928, when the pub was extended into half of no.22 next door by architect W.A.Williams (cf the Old Green Tree). It has scarcely altered since and consists of four rooms and an entrance lobby. On the left is an attractive panelled lounge, still with bell-pushes. To the right is a small snug with a long bench whose popularity with elderly customers has earned it the soubriquet 'Death Row'. Note the vintage telephone positioned so that it could be used by both customers and staff. A timber screen separates the snug from the 'Glass Room', which has a fold-up slate shove ha'penny board. Finally comes the screened-off public bar in front of the servery where two casks of Bellringer are stillaged. This is the only pub in the South West using a very traditional way to serve beer – from the cask into a jug and then from the jug to your glass. Note the annunciator box at the back of the servery. The Star serves as the brewery tap for Abbey Ales of Bath.



*Public Bar*

## Black Horse ★

The main bar here was originally subdivided - markings on the red tiled floor indicate the loss of partition walls in the mid-1980s which previously formed a tiny snug in front of the large stone fireplace and also a separate darts area. Down the side of the bar is a separate narrow room with a lino-tiled floor which at one time was the village lock-up - note the iron bars in the rear window. This has a small counter which sometime in the past 30 years replaced an earlier simple affair, as the old photo on the wall shows. The dado panelling on the walls is old and there are some carved wooden settles (and a collection of china pots hanging from the ceiling). A room across the corridor was brought into use in recent times.



*Narrow Room*

## Crowcombe

, Crowcombe, TA4 4AD

Directions: village signed off A358

Tel: (01984) 618631

Email: [contact@thecarewarms.co.uk](mailto:contact@thecarewarms.co.uk)

Website: <http://thecarewarms.co.uk>

Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale and Real Cider

Public Transport: Near Bus Stop

Listed Status: II

## Dunster

36 High Street, Dunster, TA24 6SG

Tel: (01643) 821555

Email: [enquiry@luttrellarms.co.uk](mailto:enquiry@luttrellarms.co.uk)

Website: <http://www.luttrellarms.co.uk>

Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale and Real Cider

Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Dunster) and Bus Stop

Listed Status: II\*

## Carew Arms ★★

Mid-18th-century inn which was enlarged in the early and mid-19th-century. The uneven flagstoned entrance passage has, on one side, a door with a shelf which may have been associated with an off-sales. Front left is the unchanged public bar with old flagstone floor, some tongue-and-groove panelling, a high-backed settle, a long basic bench down one side and two scrubbed tables. The huge stone fireplace was revealed in 1999 when a small one in front was removed. Beyond a wooden partition is the servery with basic, simple shelving and a hatch which was enlarged in 1999. Across the passage, a small room converted from private accommodation is now in occasional use as an overflow dining room. The lounge at the rear has a small post-war counter and in 1999 was doubled in size. The former skittle alley was converted into a dining room with a new bar counter and bar-back fitting added. A new alley has been created from former stables.



*Public Bar*

## Luttrell Arms Hotel ★★

An imposing late medieval building. From the hotel entrance, a very old partition wall is on the left, behind which is the lounge with a 17th-century plaster ceiling. The small public bar appears to have fittings from the 1950s – bar counter, bar-back and settle seating down the left hand side. The main bar, at the back, has heavy oak ceiling beams, a big old stone fireplace and a small high-backed settle. The counter, with fielded-panelling, may date from 1929 but the copper top is later; the bar-back is mostly modern. A couple of other rooms have come into pub use only recently.



*Main Bar*

## Emborough

Emborough, Emborough, BA3 4SA  
Directions: Close to A37 - B3139 crossroads  
Tel: (01761) 232398  
Website: <http://www.theolddowninn.co.uk>  
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale and Real Cider  
Public Transport: Near Bus Stop  
Listed Status: II

## Faulkland

, Faulkland, BA3 5XF  
Tel: (01373) 834230  
Email: [info@tuckersgraveinn.co.uk](mailto:info@tuckersgraveinn.co.uk)  
Website: <https://www.tuckersgraveinn.co.uk/>  
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale and Real Cider  
Listed Status: II

## Old Down Inn ★

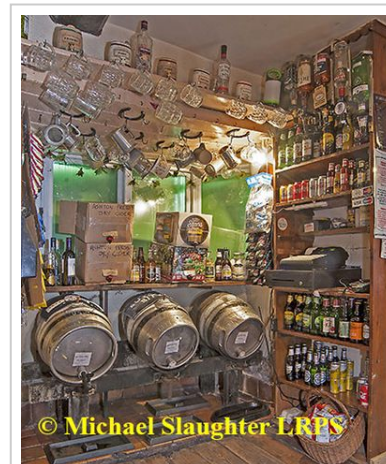
The star attraction at this large roadside hotel is the delightful small bar at the back. It appears to have been fitted out between the wars and has a small servery with an L-shaped counter and ornamented copper top. The walls are lined with imitation wood panelling (a common embellishment in inter-war pubs giving an antique effect at low cost). Note the sliding hatch to the cross-wise corridor. The numerous other public rooms are all either very plain or modernised. The main bar, rear left, has casks stillaged at the back of the servery.



*Bar*

## Tucker's Grave ★★★

This remarkable three-roomed pub lies on the main road a mile east of Faulkland village. It occupies part of an 18th-century cottage which has housed a pub for over 200 years. The strange name comes from Edwin Tucker, who killed himself in 1747 and was buried nearby (suicides were commonly buried in unconsecrated ground, often near a crossroads). There is no bar here, the casks of beer and cider being stacked in the bay window of the public bar. To the right is the splendidly unspoilt tap room: the Georgian-style lettering on the door has a claim to be the earliest pub lettering in the country. A third room, far left, formerly a living room, was brought into use in 1985. At the end of the passage, a door leads to the outside toilets at the rear right of the building. A skittle alley is in a separate stone building at the back. A function room is being added on the site (as at May 2019).



*No Bar*



## Frome

57 Castle Street, Frome, BA11 3BW

Tel: (01373) 463414

Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale and Real Cider

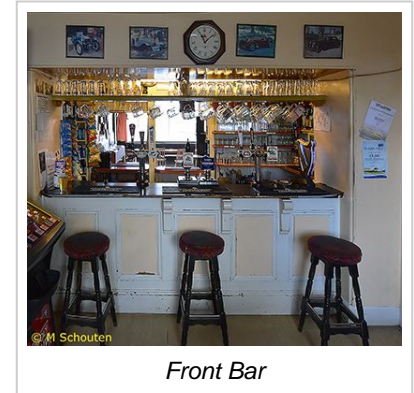
Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Frome) and Bus Stop

Listed Status: II

## Lamb & Fountain ★★

Late-17th or early-18th-century pub, retaining three small rooms. From the front door a passage runs to the rear and halfway down on the left is the off-sales hatch with a sliding glazed window with display case above. The door at the front left leads to a very small public bar with a Victorian counter with a later Formica top; the bar-back shelves are mostly old, and the tiled and wood surround fireplace is inter-war. The door on the rear left leads to another bar with a couple of hatch-like counters in a part glazed partition wall to the rear of the servery. The room was extended back many years ago and the rear section has old dado panelling, tongue-and-groove ceiling, table skittles and fine views over the town and Cley Hill.

Around 1960 a new lounge bar was created out of former outbuildings; it has ply-panelled walls and a counter front of a style seen widely in that era. Under the pub are remains of a 19th-century brewery and maltings and older vaults further below.



*Front Bar*

## Huish Episcopi

, Huish Episcopi, TA10 9QT

Directions: on A372 in village.

Tel: (01458) 250494

Email: [info@elisroseandcrown.co.uk](mailto:info@elisroseandcrown.co.uk)

Website: <http://www.elisroseandcrown.co.uk>

Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale and Real Cider

Public Transport: Near Bus Stop

Listed Status: II

## Rose & Crown ★★★

The Rose & Crown was known by this name by 1835 and is also affectionately called 'Eli's' after Eli Scott, great-grandfather of the present family members who run the pub. The simple Gothic windows suggest a rebuilding in the late-18th or early-19th centuries. Inside, its special feature is the sunken cellar area, a unique layout where customers freely wander in to order drinks or cross the pub. It has a stone-flagged floor and shelving with rare 'signal-lever' hand-pumps attached (see p.xx). A series of small rooms surrounds it. One of these, the 'Men's Kitchen' (cf Globe, Appley) front right, was once a male preserve and has an old cast-iron range – such sex discrimination became illegal in 1976. Another historic room is the 'Piano Room' at the front in the middle of the building and with direct access to the serving area. To the left are two rooms brought into use; the front one was the family parlour and the rear was created in 1984 on the site of the outside gents'. A skittle alley occupies a separate building to the rear right of the pub. The Elderflowers Food Co-operative sets up in the Mens Kitchen every Friday from 5pm to 7pm, selling locally produced, mostly organic, food at keen prices.



*Cellar Servery*



## Kelston

Bath Road, Kelston, BA1 9AQ

Directions: 3 miles from Bath on A431.

Tel: (01225) 233065

Email: [hello@oldcrownkelston.com](mailto:hello@oldcrownkelston.com)

Website: <http://oldcrownkelston.com/>

Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale and Real Cider

Public Transport: Near Bus Stop

Listed Status: II

## Old Crown ★

This late-18th-century coaching inn has two small historic bars, both with flagstone floors, Victorian bar counters, stone fireplaces, dado panelling and fixed seating. The lounge bar (which was once a mortuary) has a notable bar-back fitting that moves to access the cellar. Fine heavy-carved settles can be found throughout the pub. The rarity here is the set of cash-register handpumps (in the public bar). Until recently, these were the only ones in regular use but they have now been joined by a renovated set at the Prince of Wales, Holcombe Regis, Devon and also one at a Kent micro-pub. Off the lounge, the small dining room was brought into use in recent years. Pity about the ubiquitous gastro-grey plain now liberally applied to old wooden surfaces.



*Left Hand Bar Fireplace*

## Midsomer Norton

The Island, Midsomer Norton, BA3 2HQ

Tel: (01761) 418270

Website: <https://the-white-hart-public-house.business.site/>

Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale and Real Cider

Public Transport: Near Bus Stop

Listed Status: II

## White Hart Hotel ★★

An excellent late-Victorian pub built of local stone and retaining its old layout of public bar, snug (formerly the lounge) and off-sales. The entrance lobby has an old settle and jug and bottle hatch, still used for service to customers drinking in the lobby and passageway. The passage turns at right-angles with a couple of tables under the staircase. On the left is a good vestibule entrance with full-height panelling and double doors leading to the public bar, which is hardly altered from when it was built. Its features include an original counter (the unusual curve at the far end made in 1985 when new gents' toilets were added), the original bar-back with slender columns between the shelving, Victorian tiled and cast-iron fireplace with marble surround, timber panelled dado with fixed benches attached and a partition wall on the jug and bottle side. Even the pot shelf above the counter is old! The snug on the right of the entrance retains its original panelled dado with some wall benches attached, and an old cast iron fireplace with mirrored surround above. The new lounge to the rear was created in 1985 and is a combination of a former beer store, which was roughly situated where the present servery stands, and a private lounge. A skittle alley on the right in the far end of the former beer store was probably first introduced in the 1950s or 1960s. Ask the licensee to show you the old spittoon more recently used as an ashtray.



*Lobby*

## Nailsea

West End, Nailsea, BS48 4DE  
Tel: (01275) 856910  
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale and Real Cider  
Listed Status: Not listed

## Porlock

High Street, Porlock, TA24 8QD  
Tel: (01643) 862507  
Email: [enquiries@shipinnporlock.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@shipinnporlock.co.uk)  
Website: <http://shipinnporlock.co.uk>  
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale and Real Cider  
Public Transport: Near Bus Stop  
Listed Status: II

## Blue Flame Inn ★

A basic cottage-style beerhouse still with three rooms., the front two being little-altered for fifty years . The atmospheric room at the front right is served through a wide arch opening with casks of beer and cider on a stillage beyond. Most of the fittings here are from the 1960s including lino floor, ply-panelled counter front, old shelves for a bar-back, wallcupboards, stone fireplace (with old full-height panelling eachside) and assorted benches. The front-left room has a 1950s fireplace and a couple of old benches. In 2015 the back area of the pub was opened out with a counter replacing a hatch. On the rear left, steps down lead to 'The Shed' created in 2014 which has a stone floor and table skittles ready to play.



*Front Right Bar*

## Ship Inn ★

A 16th/17th-century thatched inn enlarged in the early/mid-19th century. It is called 'Top Ship' to avoid confusion with the Ship at Porlock Wier, nearer the coast. The 'must see' here is the tiny original boarded bar left of the entrance which has a red and black quarry-tiled floor, basic bench seating attached to old panelling on the wall, an old stone fireplace in one corner with a log burner and just a couple of tables, The counter was brought from a bank some 60 years ago (hence the height); mounted on it is a rare set of four handpumps on a pewter base. The bar-back shelves are probably less old than the rest of the fittings. Two further rooms to the right have been knocked into one and have some old dado panelling and benches. A rear bar and restaurant have been added in recent years and there is also a function room and a games room.



*Snug Bar*

## Priddy

Old Bristol Road, Priddy, BA5 3AR

Directions: Isolated crossroads 1 mile from A39 close to TV mast.

Tel: (01749) 672275

Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale and Real Cider

Listed Status: Not listed

## Hunters' Lodge ★★★

A farmhouse from around 1780, still with 26 acres of land attached, and in the same family ownership for 102 years, with licensee Roger Dors here since 1946. Situated at a crossroads east of the village, nothing has changed at the pub since 1964. Originally, a passage ran from the front door to the rear with a public bar front left, a lounge front right and, rear left, a room with a bar counter across the gap between the two rooms. A hatch for off-sales was then added, quarter-circle counters were introduced and the rear-right room, formerly private quarters, was brought into use. The front-left public bar has a flagstone floor, a classic 1950s tiled fireplace, a quarter circle bar counter and dado panelling with bare bench seating attached. At the back, across the gap where the original counter was situated, is another small room with a flagstone floor, another 1964 counter, and a settle under an old inglenook. The lounge on the right has a quarter-circle panelled counter, a small stove and a wood surround fireplace from the 1960s. The bare seating and bar-back shelving situated either side of the off-sales hatch were added in 1964. Rear right is another bar with a terrazzo tiled floor, a 1960s curved counter, and dado panelling with bare bench seating attached.



*Main Bar*

## Witham Friary

, Witham Friary, BA11 5HF

Tel: (01749) 684280

Website: <https://pubheritage.camra.org.uk/pubs/142>

Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale and Real Cider

Listed Status: II

## Seymour Arms ★★★

Owned by the Douel family since 1943, this pub is a wonderful survival. It was purpose-built, along with farm buildings around 1866 for the Duke of Somerset's estate, and thus shows how rural pubs were often combined with farming and other functions (see Hunter's Lodge above). The farm was sold in 1980. The pub has a plain but dignified exterior with a splendid wrought-iron inn sign on one corner and a surprisingly spacious interior of two rooms astride a large flagstoned corridor. The latter leads up to a glazed servery with horizontally sliding windows, within which is a bank of four (unused) brass taps and a number of built-in drawers, all no doubt dating from the building of the pub. The ground floor cellar is off to the left. The main public bar is front left and has simple bench seating and service by a hatch from the 'cellar'. To the right is the 'Commercial Room'. The only major change has been the addition of inside toilets in 1981. The adjective 'timeless' was invented for places like this. As much cider as beer is sold – something which would have been true in most rural Somerset pubs until quite recently. (A very similar pub, the Somerset Arms at Maiden Bradley, over the Wiltshire border, complete with farm buildings, was also built for the Seymour estate, but is now completely modernised.)



*Passage*

# Wiltshire

## Bradford-on-Avon

33 Ashley Road, Bradford-on-Avon, BA15 1RT  
Tel: (01225) 862137  
Email: [booking@dogandfoxinn.com](mailto:booking@dogandfoxinn.com)  
Website: <http://dogandfoxinn.com/>  
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale and Real Cider  
Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Bradford-on-Avon)  
Listed Status: Not listed

## Dog & Fox ★

Stone-built, edge-of-town pub with an unspoilt public bar and extended lounge. The lobby has bare seating and beyond the front door is a tiny area with a blue brick floor in front of a hatch-split door for staff, formerly accessing the off-sales with a new bar top, and old painted dado panelling. A door on the left leads to a splendid small public bar with a bare wood floor, very old dado panelling painted blue with bare benches attached, a baffle/draught screen by the door and window seating. The central servery has a counter front with a ribbed hardboard frontage which may have replaced a hatch in the 1950s; the bar-back shelving was added in the late 1990s to replace shelves on a mirrored backing. Note the old meat store on the rear wall. On the right, through a part glazed door, is the two-part lounge with old dado panelling painted deep red. Service is via a hatch with two open small windows and Formica top. The old stone fireplace has signs of a bread oven. Curtains divide the lounge from the dining room, occupying a modern extension.



Public Bar

## Broughton Gifford

The Common, Broughton Gifford, SN12 8LX  
Directions: All roads to Broughton G. leads you to the common  
Tel: (01225) 782309  
Email: [Bellonthecommon@hotmail.com](mailto:Bellonthecommon@hotmail.com)  
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale and Real Cider  
Public Transport: Near Bus Stop  
Listed Status: Not listed

## Bell on the Common ★

Of most interest here is the Copper Lounge Bar, accessed from the left-hand entrance and named for the curved copper-topped counter, with front covered in copper panels, a copper hood above the fireplace and copper-topped tables, all from around 1959. Behind is a modern restaurant. The public bar to the right also dates mostly from 1959, having been two rooms before that; another copper hood adorns the old fireplace. A separate pool room has full-height wall panelling and bare wall benches. The bowling green at the back is owned by Wadworths brewery and leased to the bowling club.



Copper Lounge Bar



## Devizes

20 St John's Street, Devizes, SN10 1BT

Tel: (01380) 725426

Website: <https://www.wadworth.co.uk/find-a-pub/lamb-inn-devizes/>

Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale

Public Transport: Near Bus Stop

Listed Status: II

## Lamb ★

Brick and timber-framed pub dating from 1630 which is remarkably unspoilt considering its town centre location. A flagstoned entrance passage leads to the courtyard. On the left, the bare-boarded public bar is now one U-shaped room around an old servery; the panelling on the counter front was transferred to the ceiling (!) in 1996 and replaced by part of a 17th-century French church door. The full-height wood panelling with bench seating is of some age. At least one other partition wall formerly separated the rear section; the existence of two pre-war medieval-style stone fireplaces confirms this. The stained glass panels by the entrance are a 1996 addition. The rear area has old dado panelling with an old bench attached plus church pews. Up one step at the back of the bar, a plain room is used for pool. To the right of the passage is the Shoot Room – the blocked-up door was once the main pub entrance. Of special interest here is the circular opening in the south wall with a metal tube extending 43 feet downwards with a target at the end. It is said to have been installed in 1903 to train locals with guns as Germany re-armed and is still used by the pub's team in the local small-bore rifles league.



*Servery*

## Easton Royal

Easton Road, Easton Royal, SN9 5LR

Tel: (01672) 810216

Email: [brucesarms@gmail.com](mailto:brucesarms@gmail.com)

Website: <https://brucearms.co.uk>

Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale

Public Transport: Near Bus Stop

Listed Status: Not listed

## Bruce Arms ★★★

This splendidly traditional roadside pub lies nearly a mile west of the village. It was built about 1850 and was in the same family hands from 1918 to 1993. Rose Raisey, whose picture can be found in the public bar, kept the pub until her death in 1993 at the age of 87. At the entrance is a small snug with a counter and a red and black quarry-tiled floor. To its right is a simply appointed public bar with a red-brick floor and scrubbed Victorian tables and benches. The counter is thought to be from a refit in the 1930s, a date which would accord well with the brick fireplace. The basic shelving in the servery is believed to be later. Beyond and further to the right, Rose's kitchen has been brought into public use and further on still is an extension of 1996, which serves as a games room. Left of the entrance is the lounge with a small hatch to the servery: it is furnished with domestic sofas and chairs and also a piano bought for Rose when she was 13. The inside toilets (left) were added in 1952. The nickname of the pub is said to come from one that stood opposite but which burned down about 1830.



*Public Bar*

## Ebbesbourne Wake

The Cross, Ebbesbourne Wake, SP5 5JF

Tel: (01722) 780474

Website: <http://www.thehorseshoe-inn.co.uk/>

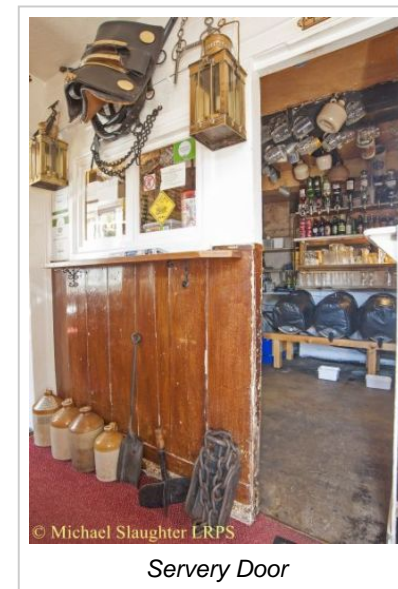
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale and Real Cider

Public Transport: Near Bus Stop

Listed Status: Not listed

## Horseshoe ★★

Brick-built 18th-century village pub with three small rooms. The front door takes you into a small cross-passageway with a screened servery beyond. A door in the servery for staff would have doubled up as an off-sales and there are (formerly sliding) windows displaying sweets for sale. Within the servery is an old stillage with a row of beer casks; above are old shelves, with another over the front partition wall of the servery. A small room on the left has some dado panelling with bench seating attached and a hatch with rising panels in the open position (on the servery side it looks like a display case). Right of the passage through an old door is the main room with a lapped- wood 1950s counter, a large brick 1950s fireplace, dado panelling and farm tools and implements on the walls and fireplace. A further small room on the far right, formerly a private sitting room, was brought into use in the 1980s, but note the outline of the former bread oven in the brickwork passageway, dating from when the premises was a bakery many years ago. Further right still is a small conservatory extension. The pub retains its outside gents' (modernised) on the far right side of the pub.



## Salisbury

1 Minster Street, Salisbury, SP1 1TB

Tel: (01722) 411313

Email: [hello@haunchpub.co.uk](mailto:hello@haunchpub.co.uk)

Website: <http://haunchpub.co.uk/>

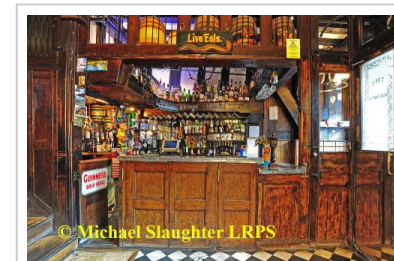
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale

Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Salisbury)

Listed Status: II\*

## Haunch of Venison ★★★

A pub of great antiquity and character. Although mainly 15th-century (whence the mighty timbers inside), it was altered in the 18th and then had a still-surviving refit in 1909. Right of the lobby, a tiny room (sometimes referred to as the 'Ladies' Snug') has a black and white stone floor, panelled walls with benches attached and a rare pewter counter top. Mounted on this is a wooden arch with beautiful inlaid brasswork and plates naming the maker as 'H. Neale, Plumber, Salisbury'. It is adorned with ten taps to dispense spirits and fortified wines. Another bank of eight taps sits against the right-hand wall. Surviving sets of spirit cocks can be found in only four other UK pubs. Through a pair of narrow double doors, the public bar (or 'House of Commons') has more black and white flooring, panelled walls, benches (with cupboards below) and another pewter counter-top. Beer is dispensed from hand-pumps which, unusually, are situated on the bar-back. Up some steps, the 'House of Lords' has a low, beamed ceiling, panelled walls and an inglenook fireplace, besides which is a former bread oven containing a grisly, mummified hand (supposedly of a cheating card-player). Up more stairs, the restaurant is two rooms, the right-hand one extending into a 16th-century merchant's house.



Servery

## Salisbury

69 Brown Street, Salisbury, SP1 2AS

Tel: (01722) 327137

Website: <https://www.raidor.co.uk>

Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale and Real Cider

Public Transport: Near Bus Stop

Listed Status: II

## Rai d'Or ★

According to Historic England, the building dates from the mid-16th century, though it has been much altered. The interior has been opened out into a single L-shaped room with bare floorboards and a large open fireplace; modern wooden screens break up the space into three areas. The Brown Street door leads, via a small vestibule, to the bar area where the counter has old wooden panels but the bar-back is modern. Along the back of the room is fixed bench seating and this, rather oddly, extends along the wall past the edge of the fireplace into a very small alcove. The other entrance, from Trinity Street, brings you to an area with an inter-war fireplace and some more bench seating. The establishment operates more as a Thai restaurant these days.



*Main Bar*

# Closed Pubs

The following pubs would have been main entries in this guide had they currently been open

## Devon

### Berrynarbor

, , Berrynarbor, EX34 9SG  
Tel: (01271) 882465  
Email: yeoldeglobe@aol.com  
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale  
Listed Status: Not listed

### Olde Globe Inn ★

An excellent example of how to expand a village pub and retain its character. Originally three cottages, it now consists of six rooms. The Kitchen bar, front right, is one of the two original public rooms and is unchanged in years. It has fixed settle-like seating around the fireplace - one acting as a draught protector by the front door - an ancient screed floor, old seating attached to the dado and an old bench. The exterior-style windows indicate this was the original extent of the building. Through a doorway is the Village Bar, added around 1960, hence the 'half-timbering' on the walls redolent of the period. The pool room beyond is in a yet later extension as is the function room. Front centre is the original second public room with another screed floor, settles, barrel tables and stools. It was extended back around 1960 when the bar counter was added (it has a modern top). Behind the bar are shelving and furniture/fittings from the same period. Note the old glass display case containing chocolates etc. On the front left, a former domestic area is now a dining room.



*Far Right Room*



## Stoke Gabriel

Church Walk, , Stoke Gabriel, TQ9 6SD

Tel: (01803) 782384

Email: churchhousetokegabriel@gmail.com

Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale and Real Cider

Public Transport: Near Bus Stop

Listed Status: II

## Church House Inn ★

The least-altered example of the many church house inns in Devon. The last major change was in the 1960s when a large hole was cut in the public bar panelling to remove a hatch and create a bar counter. The lounge has an oak partition wall, typical of these pubs.



*Lounge Bar*

# Gloucestershire & Bristol

## Bristol

1-2 West Street, St Philips, Bristol, BS2 0DF

Tel: (0117) 955 2316

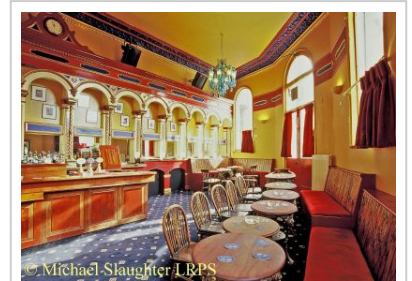
Website: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Palace\\_Hotel,\\_Bristol](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Palace_Hotel,_Bristol)

Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Bristol Temple Meads)  
and Bus Stop

Listed Status: II

## Palace ★

Three-storey hotel built 1869. It is included here for the impressive arcading with round arched, twisted, hollow brass columns. In the spandrels glass roundels with an eagle surrounded by a belt bearing the emblem 'Strength' (of what is this the emblem?). Spectacular cornice below the ceiling (the ceiling rose was added in 2008). The arcading originally ran all along the side wall i.e. presumably behind a long bar counter? In the sometime last century the room was sub-divided by the creation of a second small lounge bar to the left by the insertion of a partition wall and a mezzanine floor added for inside toilets. Whilst the lower section of the arcading still runs all along the wall into the second room, the top sections and twisted brass columns were moved at right angles and now are situated on the rear room of the main bar. Both the main room, which has a notable slope, and the smaller room have modern furnishings.



*Main Bar Left Hand Side*

## Purton

, , Purton, GL13 9HU

Directions: Cross the lift bridge over the Gloucester & Sharpness canal and continue

Tel: None

Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale

Listed Status: Not listed

## Berkeley Arms ★

### UPDATE 2021

**It is reported that during the current period of closure, the bar counter and bar-back have been removed. The interior will be re-assessed as and when the pub re-opens.**

### The description prior to closure is below

About 200 yards from the lift bridge over the Gloucester & Sharpness Canal and with great views out to the River Severn, here we have a no frills, unspoilt rural pub still with a smallholding. Historically, pubs were often combined with other businesses but nowadays this is a real rarity. The central section was extended in the mid-19th century. You enter to a tiny drinking area with a quarry-tiled floor and a bench beneath the window. The servery has an old counter and shelves. Beyond on the left, a separate room has a flagstone floor, large curved high-backed settle, large stone fireplace and a hatch to the side of the servery. The only recent change was the building of indoor toilets in the 1960s. Closed October to Easter. Opens 7pm, also noon to 2pm, Sat. & Sun.



*Servery*

## Staunton

Prince Crescent, , Staunton, GL19 3RF

Directions: On junction with A417

Tel: (01452) 840265

Real Ale & Cider: Real Cider

Listed Status: Not listed

## Prince of Wales ★

The Public Bar to the left is quite large with lino floor, the 1953 bar back including glass block wall behind and the original counter with a heating pipe around it, but there is new panelling attached to the counter front and it has a new top. The fixed seating is from 1953 with baffles at both ends and the stone fireplace could well be from 1953. To the right of the off sales is a small Lounge with classic 1950s tiled fireplace, 1953 bar back, 1953 bar counter with Formica top and small red Formica top tables. To the far right is a rather untidy largeish function room which is only used for meetings but Mr Newman is happy to open it for anyone to have a look. It also has a 1953 bar back including glass blocks, 1953 counter, 1953 bench seating and has a vestibule entrance (disused?) to the side of the building.



*Snug*

# Somerset

## Keynsham

Temple Street, , Keynsham, BS31 1ER

Tel: (0117) 907 7456

Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale and Real Cider

Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Keynsham)

Listed Status: II

## Ship Inn ★

Late-17th-century pub with unusual stone mullioned windows at the front. The entrance passage, with old panelling and colourful tiled floor, was reduced to its present size in 1996 and the doors with 'Jug & Bottle' on the glass moved to enable staff to serve the left-hand room. To the right is the public bar, a long room with some of the finest bar fittings in North Somerset - an impressive long carved bar-back with barley-twist columns, mirrored sections and a significant part of surviving lower shelving; also a fine early-20th-century counter and dado panelling with old narrow benches attached along the outer wall. The right-hand part saw alterations in the 1950s, including the small brick fireplace, but these detract little from a very fine room. Left of the lobby is a small lounge, which changed in 1996 when a new bar counter and the big stone fireplace were added, but the dado panelling is old. A short passage leads to a further room with a gallery which was created in 1996 from a former stable.



*Pub Bar Servery*



## Church House Inns

Although they can be found elsewhere in the region (and the country), Devon is especially rich in the type of pub known as Church House Inns.

The history of these pubs begins in the 15th century when many churches were used not just for worship but for retail and social activities as well. The church authorities decided that the latter must move elsewhere and, usually, houses adjacent to the church were bought or, if already church-owned, reclassified and used for non-ecclesiastical purposes. Originally, most would have been multi-functional, serving as parish hall and general meeting place as well as a church-controlled ale house but, over time, some were turned into poor houses and others settled down as public houses. They usually had a large fireplace for warming and cooking and a brewhouse with a well. In many cases, the buildings began life as cottages for the masons engaged in building the church and this is certainly the case with the Church House Inn, Rattery and the Duke of York, Iddesleigh.

Sadly, most of these pubs, whilst occupying very old buildings, have been much changed internally and sport modern bar fittings. Exceptions, listed and described in this book, are the aforementioned Duke of York, the Church House Inn, Stoke Gabriel and the Royal Oak, Meavy.(p.xx) However, many of the others retain features of considerable historic interest.

The Church House Inn, Harberton has a particularly impressive oak partition to the right of the bar counter. The Grade II\* listing description refers to it as a 'plank and muntin screen' - 'muntin' is a vertical member in timber panelling separating two panels so what you have here are large oak beams as a frame with oak panelling in between. There was once another screen on the left, beyond which were private quarters. The fittings here are all recent, the bar counter and bar-back apparently imported from a bank in 1985.

Another ancient partition can be found at the Church House Inn, Rattery, also Grade II\* listed, but is now largely a number of standing timbers with a wide but old arch to a small area with Formica panels on the dado. Most of the fixtures and fittings date from the 1930s or 1970s.

At Torbryan, the original public rooms in the Old Church House Inn are the present public bar, the small room in the middle and the lounge – but there were significant alterations 30 years ago. A very old and impressive stud and panel screen, incorporating a bench and stone fireplace, does though survive. The inglenook fireplace in the lounge is also rather splendid and this building, too, is listed Grade II\*.

The much opened-out Church House Inn, Churchstow features a heavily-beamed main bar, an old, long, bar counter and three attractive stone fireplaces. In Holne, the Church House Inn has a medieval dark oak screen separating the middle bar from the Kingsley Room. (Charles Kingsley was born in the nearby vicarage.) The Church House Inn, Stokinteignhead and Bishop Lacy, Chudleigh complete the list of those we know about in Devon. The Haunch of Venison, Salisbury, Wiltshire is believed to have originated as the church house for St Thomas's, situated just behind the pub.

## Cider and Perry

“Everybody thinks I drink beer but I actually like cider!” Prince William

The South West is well known for cider production and there is evidence of cider being produced from the fermented juice of crab apples as far back as Roman

times. The common varieties used in the area today are bitter sweets and bitter sharps such as Kingston Black, Collogett Pippin, Dabinett and Somerset Redstreak.

Until the middle of the last century, cider represented more than mere refreshment in the region. It was a vital part of the rural economy and it was accepted that casual farm labourers would be partly paid in drink. It was used as local barter, with almost every farm operating a press and farmers would place flagons at either end of the field during harvest, in the hope that it would spur work with labourers rationed up to eight pints per day during harvest time. Imagine consuming a gallon of cider and trying to do a desk job! Truly a testament to the sobering nature of hard manual labour and sweat.

Nowadays, the majority of the cider available in pubs is artificially carbonated and comes from larger producers. The good news is that there are increasing numbers of smaller producers around the country, including many in the South West. Their production methods are less industrial and many use local produce, resulting in a still product where the taste of the apples used comes bursting through.

This guide includes one of the few cider houses left in the country, Ye Olde Cider Bar in Newton Abbot, which was CAMRA's National Cider Pub of the Year in 2011. Cider houses were in essence pubs that only sold cider (no beer) and, until recent times, were common in English counties in the West and South West, but now only a handful are left in the whole country.

Other pubs in this guide renowned for their dedication to a range of \*real ciders and perries are another winner of the National Cider Pub of the Year title, The Square and Compass in Worth Matravers, Dorset, which won this accolade in 2008, Tucker's Grave in Faulkland,, and the Seymour Arms, Witham Friary, both Somerset.

It's great to see the increasing number of cider producers and more real cider and perry being available in our pubs but they need our support, so if you see a "cider for sale" sign pointing down an old farm track, turn off. If you see real cider available in a pub, give it a try

More information on Real Cider and Perry is available on CAMRA's website (<https://www.camra.org.uk/cider/>)

\*'Real cider' is a term used to describe traditional cider made from freshly pressed apples. Served still rather than force carbonated, real cider is unpasteurised during production and not micro-filtered to produce a truly natural and delicious alcoholic drink. Perry is produced in the same way but is made from pears.

## Dispensing Differently

In most pubs, the journey of your pint of real ale from cellar to glass is straightforward. You go to the bar counter and place your order then a handpump is pulled to fill your glass. The South West, though, is rich in pubs where things are done a bit differently.

For a start, here we find one third of the nation's pubs which have never had a bar counter. In times gone by, this was the arrangement in all alehouses, reflecting the domestic origins of our pubs. Counters only began to arrive in the early 19th century, bringing an element of professionalism to the sales process. Our two survivors are the Rose & Crown, Huish Episcopi and Tucker's Grave Inn, Faulkland, both in Somerset. Both are great pubs in their own right but the

experience of buying a drink without anything passing over a counter or hatch is not to be missed. Until it closed a few years ago, the single-roomed Red Lion, Ampney St Peter, Gloucestershire was another ‘no counter’ pub; there is a fair chance it may reopen and even if this is in expanded form, the original room is likely to be preserved given that the building is statutorily listed.

Other pubs have service methods not greatly different. At the Square & Compass, Worth Matravers, Dorset, and Drewe Arms, Drewsteignton, Devon, beer is stored in the cellar, served straight from the cask and passed to the customer through a hatch. Although the Bridge, Topsham, Devon, has a counter, they prefer to fetch beer from the cellar and place it on a tray or ledge for service (fetching from the cellar also happens at the Royal Inn, Horsebridge, Devon). The Rugglestone Inn, Widecombe-in-the-Moor, Devon, had no bar until 1993 and still sells beer from the cask.

Indeed, dispensing ale straight from the cask is a happily common sight in the region. The New Inn, Tynwardreath, Cornwall, has sold Draught Bass in this way for donkey’s years while the same beer is served from a rare 1970s electric pump dispenser at the Avon Packet, Bristol. At least seventeen other pubs in this guide continue to use the gravity method of dispense – a row of casks stillaged behind the bar is always a welcome sight and, fortunately, today’s in-cask coolers largely guarantee a quality pint.

A very old, but now rare, way to serve real ale is to draw a quantity into a big jug then pour from that into your glass – the Star, Bath serves an Abbey beer in this manner.

Handpumps are the customary dispense method nowadays but not all are of the standard Angram variety. Only three examples are known of ‘signal lever’ pumps and two are in the South West. The Rose & Crown, Huish Episcopi, still uses theirs but the one at the Griffin’s Head, Nether Compton, Dorset, is out of commission. Cash register handpumps are also a rarity and, until recently, only one set was known to be in use – at the Old Crown, Kelston, Somerset. There are now two other examples – a set brought back into use at the Prince of Wales, Holcombe Rogus, Devon, (not in this guide) and in a Kent micropub.

Pumps invariably live on the counter but at the Haunch of Venison, Salisbury, Wiltshire, they are attached to the bar-back (the pub also has a rare set of gravity-fed spirit cocks – there are only four examples in the country). The oldest pumps we’ve found are at the Larkhall Inn, Bath, dated 1887, though they aren’t in use. Also worthy of note is the fine pewter base on which sit the set of handpulls at the Ship, Porlock, Somerset.

## Games at the Pub

People go to pubs for pleasure and relaxation so it’s not surprising that they have always been venues for playing a multitude of games. Some, like cards, dominoes or that more recent invention, the pub quiz, require no special provision. At the other end of the scale, the likes of long-alley skittles and outdoor bowling demand substantial investment.

The game most associated with pubs is, indubitably, darts. Although not as popular as it was 30 or 40 years ago, it’s thought to be played regularly by some two million people, with pubs as the prime location for their exertions. A 2006 survey found dartboards in 53% of pubs.

Billiards and snooker have a long association with the pub and many Victorian and Edwardian ones were provided with a purpose-built billiard room. The

baronial-style lounge in the Cricketers, Bournemouth was originally such a facility (and there was also one in an upstairs room at the Star, Bath). In the 1930s, bar billiards was introduced into this country and there's a table at the Seymour Arms, Witham Friary, Somerset. Nowadays, the pool table, which arrived from America in the 1960s, greatly outnumbers its larger billiards cousin in our pubs.

Euchre is a four-player, whist-like card game hugely popular in Devon and Cornwall. Its origins are obscure – some say it came from America with migrant miners, others that it was introduced by French prisoners incarcerated at Dartmoor jail during the Napoleonic wars. One games historian believes it was first played in Alsace and another has found no reference to it being in England before the 1860s. The rules are too complex to rehearse in any detail here but it's played in competitive pairs with just five cards being dealt to each player, the object being to win at least three of the five tricks. It was the first game in the world to use the joker as a gaming card – it's the highest trump in the Cornish version and known as the 'benny'. In some pubs, euchre can get as noisy as a game of West Indian dominoes and even if you have no clue what's going on, it can make for great entertainment.

Sadly, many outdoor bowling greens have been lost and the only pub featured in this guide that still has one is the Bell on the Common, Broughton Gifford, Wiltshire. A fair number continue to function in other parts of the country, especially in the North and Midlands.

Some games are local to the South West or small areas of it – like Purbeck board. This form of shove ha'penny is played on long boards (around 4' 6") and marked not with beds but a target area. The game is played with vintage and now precious wafer-thin coins and, in the 1970s, some fifteen Dorset pubs played the game. Only a handful now do so but the Square & Compass, Worth Matravers has a board. Thursday nights between October and March used to be when the boards came out – the rest of the time they were stashed away to protect their lovingly-polished surfaces.

The more usual version of shove ha'penny can be played on a slate board at the Star, Bath where it is always ready for use.

The Devizes area of Wiltshire has a Miniature Rifles League in which local pubs and clubs compete. The Lamb, Devizes has a rifle range and shoot room connected with this league. Participants shoot down a specially-made tube which was installed in 1939; it is accessed from a hole in the wall and runs 37 feet down the length of the building.

More details of these and other pub games can be found in a superb book, 'Played at the Pub: the Pub Games of Britain' (2009) by Arthur Taylor which is available for just £10 (post free in the UK) from <http://www.playedinbritain.co.uk>

## **The Old and the Odd**

### **Some oldies**

The UK is stuffed with pubs claiming to be its oldest and the South West's main culprit is the former Royalist Hotel, now Porch House, in Stow-on-the-Wold, Gloucestershire. The pub's website claims it was founded in 949AD as a hospice to shelter lepers. Historic England say the building is possibly 16th century, remodelled in the 17th century (it has a 1615 date-stone) but a pub is not recorded here until the 18th century. The myths around the building seem to originate from a lecture of 1861 by a local vicar based on some very dodgy speculations.

The oldest item in a South West pub must be the 5000 year old monolith in the Oxenham Arms, South Zeal, Devon, while the bar-back at the Kings Head, Bristol, dated 1865, is the second-oldest we are aware of, narrowly younger than that at the Victoria, Bayswater W2 (1864).

At the time of writing, the oldest licensee was Mary Wright at the Luppitt Inn, Luppitt, Devon (98) with Freda 'Mother' Searle of the Lamb & Fountain, Frome, Somerset, not far behind at 96. Historically, the region's longest-serving landlady was Mabel Mudge of the Drewe Arms, Drewsteignton, Devon, who retired in 1994, aged 99, having been in charge since 1919.

Finally, we must mention the amazing Valiant Soldier in Buckfastleigh, Devon. Having been in the same family for 30 years, it closed in 1968 – but the landlady lived there for a further 30 years, leaving the bar area untouched. When she moved to a nursing home, the Council bought the building and reopened it as a museum in 2000. Everything is as it was when time was last called, with artefacts and living accommodation dating back to the 1940s and 1950s. As a time capsule it is, therefore, unique. It is open from Easter to the end of October, Monday to Saturday (and Bank Holiday Sundays) from 12.30pm to 4.30pm. Entrance price covers both the Valiant Soldier and Buckfastleigh Museum – more at <http://www.valiantsoldier.org.uk> (no drinks on sale!)

## Some oddities

In any survey of pubs, you'll come across some which just don't 'fit' as part of a historical narrative because they are essentially quirky one-offs.

The Admiral Benbow, Penzance, meets the criteria for this guide and this fascinating pub-cum-maritime museum is a must see when in the area and a jolly nice place for a pint to boot.

Not featured here but well worth a visit is the totally bonkers Highwayman Inn at Sourton, Devon. From 1959 onwards, the owner set about 'improving' the pub in a highly eccentric manner, starting by positioning the old Launceston to Taunton mail-coach as the entrance porch. The dimly-lit interior is home to all manner of weirdness – a make-believe sailing galleon, a 'pixies' haunt', a grotto of stuffed animals (mostly local roadkill) and so on. The mix of the gory and the twee isn't for everyone but you can't say it isn't different.

An early example (also not in the book) is the Pack of Cards, Combe Martin, Devon, reputedly built as a private house in 1690 after a spectacular gambling win. The number of windows, doors, chimneys etc. reflected the component features of a pack of cards e.g. four storeys, 13 rooms, 52 windows. The shape was that of a house built of cards.

## Table Service

In some old pubs, you will find bell-pushes dotted round a room. Hardly any of these still work but they are a reminder of a largely forgotten practice – table



service. The bells connected to a box in, or visible from, the servery where a bell would ring and an indicator wobble to show where a customer was in need of a drink. A member of the servery staff or a dedicated waiter would go and take the order, then deliver it. Needless to say, prices in these rooms were a touch higher than in the public bar and a copper or two by way of a tip to the server was customary. The system worked very efficiently in busy pubs as the waiting staff usually went to a dedicated area of the counter from which other customers were excluded so that they didn't have to fight their way through a crowd of stand-up drinkers.

Good examples of (now-defunct) bell-pushes can be seen in the delightful Tramcar Bar at the Kings Head, Bristol and in the tap room at Tucker's Grave, Faulkland, Somerset. As for bell-boxes, examples exist behind the serveries at both the Star, Bath and the Ship, Shaftesbury.

In olden days, when pubs were beer-houses, your drinks would be brought to you from the cellar by the licensee (and sometimes on a tray). Amazingly, this still happens at the very traditionally-run Bridge Inn, Topsham, Devon.

Elsewhere in the country, the traditional form of table service survives in a handful of pubs. However, as with the off-licence, the practice is making a come-back and, as with off-sales, the J.D.Wetherspoon chain is responsible. You can now order drinks and food from the comfort of your seat, albeit using an app on your phone rather than pushing a bell – and it won't cost you a penny more.

## Taking it Home

Where did you last buy a drink to take home? Chances are it was a supermarket, perhaps a convenience store or maybe a high street drinks shop. It's hardly likely to have been down at your local pub. Up until around 50 years ago, though, it would have been a different story. Many pubs sold drinks of all kinds for customers to enjoy at home and very often there was special provision in the building's layout to cater for this. Legislation changed in the 1960s to enable supermarkets to sell alcohol freely and the rest is history. The 'offie' at the pub is now largely a thing of the past.

The off-sales at pubs went under a bewildering variety of names: off-sales (of course), jug and bottle (and vice versa), outdoor department, order department, jug department and so on. You can sometimes still see the old names fossilised in etched glass or doorplates.

Sometimes a bench was provided in the space in question, typically to cater for the person waiting to be served. At the Bridge, Shortwood, Bristol, some customers liked to drink in the former 'outdoor department' which was also used by children buying sweets. Sadly, it has recently become a storage area but you can still see the part-glazed screens separating it from the bar.

Where there was no special enclosed small space for off-sales, there might be a hatch facing the front door or in a corridor. The South West has some good surviving examples though only one is now used (occasionally) for its original purpose. At the White Hart, Midsomer Norton, Somerset, you can still order through the old hatch if drinking in the lobby. The Lamb & Fountain, Frome, Somerset also has a corridor hatch, retaining a sliding glazed window with display case above.

Frome also has the best-surviving off-sales – at the Crown. This occupies a tiny space between rooms either side of the central servery. Beyond twin doors are a

Victorian counter and walls panelled to full height. It still sees a little use, though the biggest selling item is cigarette papers.

The old offices at the Corner House, Barnstaple and Teign Brewery Inn, Teignmouth are now storage areas while that at the Devonport Arms, Paignton has been converted to a small family room (presumably for small families). Off-sales hatches can be seen at the Hunters Lodge, Priddy, Somerset (p.xx) and a late example from 1964) and the Queens Head, Albaston, Cornwall.

However, is the off-licence (or at least ‘off-sales’) making a comeback? Several recently opened micropubs also sell bottles and cans to take away while some small breweries have tap rooms where you can sample the beer on site and/or purchase for home consumption. Most Wetherspoons outlets and some other pubs now have a ‘bottle shop’ (albeit this is more of a service than a physically separate area) encouraging you to buy bottles or cans. What goes round ...

## **West Country or “Western” Skittles**

In many areas, a particular pub game is both popular and rarely found elsewhere – for instance Bagatelle (Chester), Corks (South Wales valleys) and Toad in the Hole (East Sussex). In the South West, the equivalent game is West Country Skittles.

The game usually involves nine pins and three balls but beyond that there are many variations in rules, technique, scoring systems and the number of players in a team. No two alleys are the same and even the size and weights of the balls and pins can vary. Balls can be made from rubber or resin, which tend to be near perfect spheres or rough hewn from wood when any sense of uniformity is abandoned. Players deliver three balls and try to knock over as many skittles as possible. The technique usually involves an underarm bowl although a tournament was once witnessed in Dorset where players hurled the balls double-handed whilst diving forward from a squatting position!

Most alleys are at least 24 feet long (but can exceed 30 feet in some pubs) and around 6 feet wide. The skittles tend to be cigar shaped and around 4.5 inches at their widest. In some variations there is a larger kingpin and the player’s score is not counted unless this skittle is knocked over. The nine skittles are arranged in a square at the end of an alley so that the sides of the square are diagonal to the edges of the alley. Unlike in ten-pin bowling, the spacing of the skittles is wider than the ball diameter which somewhat frustratingly will allow what looks like a well-delivered ball to pass through the pins without contacting any of them.

Each skittle knocked down scores one point and if all nine are toppled (a sticker), and the player still has some of their three throws left, they are reset. This means the maximum score in a player’s turn would be 27. Normally the match will be played over a series of “legs” (where each player has a turn delivering 3 balls) and the team with the most points at the end are the winners.

Sadly, just like traditional pubs, this integral part of the region’s cultural heritage is under threat. An alley takes up a lot of space that can be used for a more lucrative restaurant in the popular tourist areas and changes of use are happening. If you want to try or witness West Country Skittles the pubs featured in this book with alleys are:

Blue Anchor, Helston, Cornwall  
Corner House, Barnstaple, Devon

Ye Olde Globe Inn, Berrynarbour, Devon  
Half Moon, Cheriton Fitzpaine, Devon  
Bottle Inn, Marshwood, Dorset  
Chapelhay Tavern, Weymouth, Dorset  
Hartcliffe Inn, Hartcliffe, Bristol  
Victoria Hotel, Oldfield Park, Bath  
Carew Arms, Crowcombe, Somerset  
Tuckers Grave, Faulkland, Somerset  
Lamb & Fountain, Frome, Somerset  
Rose & Crown 'Eli's', Huish Episcopo, Somerset  
White Hart, Midsomer Norton, Somerset  
Dog & Fox, Bradford-on-Avon, Wiltshire

On an interesting note, the Kings Arms, Stockland (currently closed) has a rare 10-skittle version.

### **What's in a Room Name (or Number)?**

Not that long ago, all but the smallest pubs had two or more rooms. These were differentiated in terms of their ambience, clientele and, as a consequence, prices. The way a Victorian or Edwardian pub was laid out can be easily understood, despite the opening-up which has taken place, with a visit to the Cricketers, Bournemouth, Dorset. Here, the surviving window glass with room names includes 'smoking room', 'public bar', 'bottle & jug', 'private bar' and 'office'. What is now the lounge was originally the billiard room.

The most straight-forward pub room was the public bar where the beer was a little cheaper but the fixtures and fittings fairly basic. Better-appointed rooms went by a bewildering variety of names. Private bars did not require membership but were smaller than the public and the name suggests occupancy by regulars who knew one another. Rooms still bearing this title can be found at the London Inn, Padstow, Cornwall, the Cricketers, Bournemouth, (p.xx), and the Nova Scotia, Bristol. Where such rooms were particularly small, they were known as snugs. Also on the small side are parlours, which also, generally, have a particular air of privacy about them; the Bridge Inn, Topsham, Devon has an especially choice example.

The lounge or saloon/saloon bar tended to be larger and you could expect carpets, panelling and even waiter service.

The smoking room/smoke room is an odd one, suggesting it was where people could smoke. However, since smoking was allowed throughout the pub (until the recent smoking ban), a literal meaning makes no sense. These rooms were normally smaller than the public bar or lounge and the idea may have evolved to identify a haven where a chap (and it would have been a chap) could take his ease in the way he would have done in a gentleman's smoking room. The Cricketers, Bournemouth retains evidence of having had such a room.

Another paradoxical name is the tap room. You might assume this was where drinks were dispensed but old plans of pubs, and the layouts of those with surviving tap rooms, indicate otherwise. It may be that the name did once describe what took place in this room but, as with many aspects of pub lore, the title

has become subverted. The suggestion we've heard that regulars would tap a coin to summon service seems fanciful given the (sometimes considerable) distance between tap rooms and serveries. Anyway, the South West's most renowned tap room is that at Tucker's Grave, Faulkland, Somerset where the lettering on the door is reckoned to be at least 200 years old, making it the oldest in the country. It was preserved by being covered over for many years by a screwed-on plate.

Pubs often had a club room or assembly room used for meetings or other private gatherings, generally on an upper floor. The suitably-inscribed doors which led to one such can be seen at the Victoria Hotel, Bath (p.xx, though the pub was closed at the time of writing.)

The rooms above are the most common for traditional pub rooms, but many others exist. Commercial rooms are regularly found in the north but the Railway Inn, St Agnes, Cornwall has one; the name suggests a location for business dealings and the village was a centre for the quarry industry. Alternatively, they may have been intended as areas for commercial travellers and their ilk to hang out. The right-hand room at the Seymour Arms, Witham Friary, Somerset, also has this appellation. Men's kitchen is a real rarity but Somerset has two – at the Rose & Crown, Huish Episcopi, and the Globe, Appley. They were presumably male preserves but how much cooking went on is unknown – though the one in the Rose & Crown does have an old cast-iron range. Both the Larkhall and the Star in Bath have a glass room but the origin of the name is obscure. Finally, you might, as at (again) the Cricketers, Bournemouth, see 'office' on a pub door (another pub with an office is the Nova Scotia, Bristol, accessed through the bar-back.) As the name implies, this would lead to a publican's admin area rather than a public space. In London especially, offices were often glazed-in areas behind the bar but down in the South West, more discrete arrangements applied.

You will sometimes find numbers on or above a door within a pub. There used to be (probably until the 1960s) a legal requirement on licensees to 'make entry' of their premises with HM Customs and Excise so they could check that the premises complied with the law. The process included listing all the rooms used both for the storage and the consumption of alcohol. At the Old Green Tree, Bath, the lounge has a figure '1', the public bar has a '2', the smoke room a '3' and there is a '4' on the cellar door. Although rooms might be identified by their names, they were more often denoted by numbers – a few of which can still be seen. The ancient 'Tap Room' lettering at Tuckers Grave, Faulkland, Somerset, no doubt predates the numbering requirement.