

## Hygiene Bank

We're appealing for your help again Tappers. We have become a donation station for the the Hygiene Bank Tamworth. They desperately need items to be able to keep up the great work they do supporting the community. If you can, please pop an item in the container. If everybody just dropped one item in, imagine the people we'd help and the difference we'd make. We've started it off with men's shaving foam and women's deodorant, two of the most recently requested items.

Thank you Tappers... we know we can rely on you.



## You Made A Difference ...



We were delighted to hand over one of the many hampers that you helped to create to St Editha's just before Christmas, after they contacted us requesting a donation for one of their parishioners.

We heard the stories of who/where the hampers that we made were delivered to as well and we were completely humbled. We can't deny that the tears flowed. Well done and thank you to every single one of you for making a difference to somebody's life. Somebody who perhaps

wouldn't have had a gift or even any human contact if it hadn't been for the hampers.

Again, a huge thank you to Diane, Steve and their team for making this possible and for touching the lives of so many again at Christmas.

## Wassail Wassail!

On Saturday 7th February (time to be confirmed) we will be holding our annual Wassail. The event celebrates our four Tamworth ciders - Squealer (sweet), Sandyback (medium), Hog Sty (dry) and Mistletoe & Swine (mulled).

Wassail, meaning 'good health', comes from the Old English Wæs Hæl. The wassailing of orchards and fruit trees dates from a time out of mind and is a folk tradition intended to promote a healthy fruit crop and provide a blessing on the community that depend on them.

The Tamworth Tap Wassail will follow the time-honoured tradition of annual wassailing. The procession, through the ancient Hop Yard in the shadow of the Castle, will make noise to awaken the spirits of the trees from their winter sleep on whatever 'instruments' come to hand, before gathering by the ceremonial tree where hot mulled cider will be passed around. Toast will be placed on the tree branches representing a gift to the spirit of the tree itself and a libation poured on its roots. A traditional song will be sung - one of our amazing Tappers has written one especially for us! - followed by a blessing and a short recital calling for a bountiful harvest in the coming year.

Grab something to bang - pots and pans are perfect - and join us in the Hop Yard for some fun, some noise and a complimentary mulled cider.

# Tap Times

January 2026



## Save The Date ...

As you are aware, back in October we found out that we'd reached the final four stage of the CAMRA National Pub of the Year 2025 competition. Since then, we have been visited by national judges, who have been arriving without warning or introduction, with strict and detailed judging criteria.

The wait is nearly over and the winner will be announced on Friday 23rd January.

We have decided that whatever the outcome, we are going to mark the occasion. So please join us from 12pm on 23rd for drinks and nibbles and then later on the evening, live music from the wonderful Davy Thom and Phil Brittle.

Keep everything crossed for us!



## WHAT'S ON Our January line-up ...

- Tamworth Folk Group ~ **Friday 2nd, 7:30pm**, Top Tap
- Sunday Session with Kerry Smyth ~ **Sunday 4th, 4pm**
- LST CAMRA Meeting ~ **Monday 5th, 7:30pm**, Old Bank House, Tamworth
- CRAFTy Tappers Club ~ **Tuesday 6th, 6:30pm**, Green Room
- Faith on Tap ~ **Tuesday 6th, 7pm**, Top Tap
- Paint & Sip ~ **Wednesday 7th, 7pm**, Top Tap
- Sunday Session with Abi Phillips ~ **Sunday 11th, 4pm**
- Barrel of Laughs ~ **Tuesday 13th, 7:30pm**, Top Tap (SOLD OUT)
- Creative Writing Group ~ **Wednesday 14th, 7pm**, Top Tap
- Tamworth Folk Group ~ **Friday 16th, 7:30pm**, Top Tap
- Sunday Session with Jonny Allen ~ **Sunday 18th, 4pm**
- Faith on Tap ~ **Tuesday 20th, 7pm**, Top Tap
- Paint & Sip ~ **Wednesday 21st, 7pm**, Top Tap
- Cider Tasting ~ **Thursday 22nd, 7:30pm**, Top Tap (Pre-booking essential)
- Pub of the Year 2025 Announcement ~ **Friday 23rd, 2pm**
- Friday Night Live with Davy Thom & Phil Brittle, **Friday 23rd, 7:30pm**
- Burns Night ~ **Sunday 25th**, Themed food, music and ales
- Sunday Session with Sheena Vultaggio ~ **Sunday 25th, 4pm**
- Whisky Tasting ~ **Tuesday 27th, 7:30pm**, Top Tap (Pre-booking essential)

## Tasting at the Tap

As the year drew to an end (and everything was fully booked!), we were busy behind the scenes planning events for 2026. So let's talk tasting - one of your favourite things!

You'll be pleased to know that our ever-popular monthly wine tasting events will be continuing. We'll drink to that! And we also have some extra special tasting nights planned for you too...

On 22nd January, due to popular demand, the one and only Laura Hadland is back at the Tap. Laura is a beer journalist, author of '50 Years of CAMRA' (winner of 'Best Beer Book in the World') and recently acquired Gold, Silver and Highly Commended at the British Guild of Beer Writers Awards. She will be hosting our TRYanuary event, which will focus on ciders and perries this year. You'll gain lots of knowledge and have an orchard full of fun on this unique night.

Then on 27th January we have the tasting treat you've all been asking for - whisky! We will have our experts in the building guiding you through a taste tour of Scotland. This will be the perfect winter warmer and will form part of our Burns Night celebrations.

For 7th February we have our annual Wassail in the Hop Yard, which celebrates our own Tamworth Ciders. (See separate article.)

And on 24th February we've also got another Belgian beer tasting on the horizon. You ask, we deliver! This time St Bernardus will be doing the honours. They will be imparting their expertise and of course, keeping your glasses full!

More information and details of how to book are on our Facebook page.



## Ta-Ta Tam

A few weeks ago we bade a fond farewell to top Tapper 'Ten Pint Tam'. Tam has been a staunch supporter of the Tap since his first visit in the early days, back in 2018. He could be found in the same spot at the same time on the same days every day of the week whenever he was in Tamworth. Enjoy your new chapter Tam, we will all miss your banter and your words of wisdom!

Many thanks to you from all of us for your custom, your company and your loyalty.



## Faith On Tap

After the success of the first few, Father Michael and Co. have decided that this is going to become a regular thing. The next two dates are 6th and 20th January at 7pm in the 'Upper Room' (Top Tap). From the group...

*We've started up a group for men interested in talking about faith over a beer. It's open to anyone looking to explore faith in a relaxed setting. What we do and how depends on the people who turn up; they will shape it.*

*If you're interested email [michael@tamworthrc.church](mailto:michael@tamworthrc.church) or just turn up.*



## Hoodles

We've got more merch for you Tappers and just in time for the cold spell! Brand new in, we have Tamworth Tap hoodies. They are excellent quality, super soft, zip up and available in sizes S to XXXL. They make the perfect present or just treat yourself! Just what you need to warm you up this winter.

## Generous Gift From The Girls

It was a privilege to present the Royal British Legion Tamworth Branch with a donation on behalf of ourselves and the Tammy Land Girls recently. We book the girls every year to perform on Remembrance Day and each year they donate their fee from us to the RBL. Chairperson Tina Clements is pictured here with George and the Tammy Land Girls just before their Christmas Carols and Classics Concert, which was another sold out success! Thanks ladies - you're the best!



## Thank You!

We hope you had a very Hoppy Christmas Tappers, whatever that meant to you. Whether it was a day full of fun and excitement, family and friends or rest and relaxation, we hope you got your Christmas wish. We absolutely loved serving you and sharing in your festive celebrations and we are delighted you chose to spend your time with us.

We thought we were being ambitious with our Christmas Ale Fest this year, but you certainly got into the spirit and drank us dry. Tappers, you got through an incredible 38 Christmas beers in less than two weeks on top of your usual favourites and regulars. Wow!

Thank you so much for all of your gifts, cards and messages. You've truly spoilt us and we are extremely grateful for your thoughtfulness, kindness and generosity. Lots of love from both of us and all in Team Tap.



## Tap On Tour

One of the things we take great pride in at the Tap is training and nurturing the younger members of the team and helping to give them the skills they need to survive in the big wide world. Lots of them are saving and preparing to go travelling when they join us and this time it's Charlie and Ross's turn.

They've both fitted in incredibly well at the Tap and have become very valued members of the team. But, we encourage them to go and live that life, so off they must trot. Charlie's last day will be 9th January for those who'd like to wish her well and Ross is heading off at the end of the month.

Enjoy kids... we look forward to hearing about your adventures!