

CAMRA

Interested in joining CAMRA, to get more involved in local events or simply to enjoy the social side? Talk to staff or pick up a leaflet from CAMRA corner ...

Read all about It!

We were delighted to see we made the front cover of the town's own newspaper, the Tamworth Herald.

We've been popping up all over the place in the press since our award, but it's lovely to be recognised by your own town.



... or join online at camra.org.uk/join



Please sir!

It was great to play a part in the photoshoot for Tamworth Musical Theatre Company's upcoming production of Lionel Bart's *Oliver*, by special arrangement with Cameron Mackintosh. The cast used the Top Tap for a promotional photoshoot. The show runs from 27th - 30th March at Tamworth Assembly Rooms. Tickets are on sale now.



Wassail Wassail!

On Saturday 3rd February at 4pm 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. Then for those musically minded of you, join those heading to the Top Tap for a sharing of your talents.



Tap Times

February 2024



Headline News

Oops, we did it again! Well, we made it to the Final Four Tappers. And we were delighted with that. But we are even more delighted, in fact, ECSTATIC, to inform you that ...

The Tamworth Tap has been judged Overall Winner in the CAMRA National Pub of the Year Competition 2023!!! We are winners two years running. We can't quite catch our breath! Words really can't express how we feel right now. It took a while for the magnitude of the occasion to sink in when we won the title last year; to have retained it this year is beyond incredible! That accolade spurred us on and we vowed to continue to evolve, with the aim of providing the ultimate drinking experience to everyone who walks through our door. We aren't just a pub, we are a hub of the community and we bring people together. That and the perfect pint is what it's all about. Thank you to all at CAMRA, from branch to national level, for recognising what the Tap stands for. A huge thank you also to Team Tap for delivering our vision with such passion, commitment and enthusiasm - we share this recognition with you. And, to our beloved Tappers, the Tap is such a special place because of you. Thank you for supporting us in all we do.

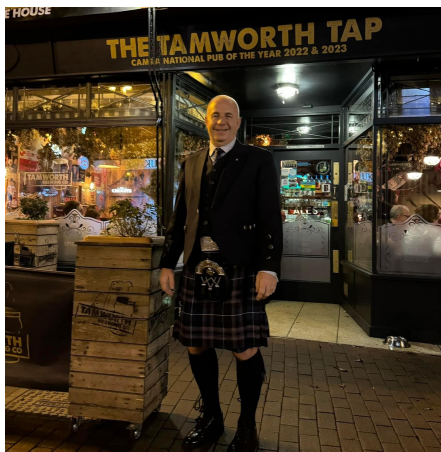


WHAT'S ON *Our February line-up ...*

-  Tamworth Folk Group ~ [Friday 2nd, 7:30pm](#), Top Tap
-  Tamworth Brewing 5th Annual Wassail ~ [Saturday 3rd, 4pm](#), Hop Yard
-  Sunday Session with Ali Gilbert ~ [Sunday 4th, 4pm](#)
-  LST CAMRA Branch Meeting ~ [Monday 5th, 7:30pm](#), Whippet Inn, Lichfield
-  Paint & Sip ~ [Wednesday 7th, 7pm](#)
-  Wine Tasting ~ [Thursday 8th, 7:30pm](#), Top Tap (SOLD OUT)
-  Songwriters in the Round ~ [Friday 9th, 8:30pm](#)
-  Sunday Session with Roz Labone ~ [Sunday 11th, 4pm](#)
-  Dark Fest ~ Beginning Valentine's Day - [Wednesday 14th February](#)
-  Creative Writing Group ~ [Wednesday 14th, 7pm](#)
-  Sunday Session with Bill Black ~ [Sunday 18th, 4pm](#)
-  Sunday Session with Ricky Booth ~ [Sunday 25th, 4pm](#)

Burns Night

Thank you to everyone who joined us for Burns Night. We were PACKED. The food flew out and the ales and whisky went down a storm too. And so many people got into the spirit with their outfits - we loved them! Huge credit to Top Tapper Tony for making the effort. Wow! You drank ten Scottish ales in all and the food was so popular that we extended the menu over the next few days. We will definitely be doing it again next year!



Who you gonna call ...

One of our good friends and beloved Tappers has made Hollywood ladies and gents! Those of you who know local lad Adam Speers Cukrowski may already know that he is a man of many talents and if you're in on a Tuesday night, you may just hear his band practising in the Top Tap. Acting is his passion though and he's appeared in many roles, including everyone's favourite Peaky Blinders. But his latest part will see his face on the big screen. He is appearing in the brand new Ghostbusters film, Ghostbusters: Frozen Empire. He's even featured in the international trailer. Well done Adam - we are so proud of you! Can't wait to go and watch it!



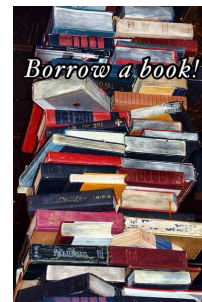
Spotlight on original music

Our popular Songwriters in the Round event is back this February to bring you more original music in our historic, cosy setting of the Top Tap. Join us for a showcase of local and visiting singer/songwriters 'in the round'. Hear the stories and inspiration behind the songs and discover some new music. The evening will, as always, be hosted by Tom McLoughlin and Sheena Vultaggio.

February's lineup is as follows:

Dave Tighe
Angelo Cardone
Amber Liadan
Tom McLoughlin

The music will start at 8.30pm and entry is FREE! Please come along and support your local musicians. If you would like to get involved with a future event, please get in touch with Sheena or Tom.



A book and a beer

We've noticed lots of you like to seek out a secluded corner and settle down to sup your pint with a good read. So coming soon to the Tap is our new Borrow a Book lending library. We have started a collection of books which you are welcome to read while you're in the pub or borrow and bring back. We would love this collection to grow, so please donate too if you can or swap as you go. You'll find our Books to Borrow on the first landing at the top of the stairs. It's a novel way to enjoy your stay!

Feeling blue? Not us!

Just wanted to give a huge shout-out to Tamworth Castle for lighting up the castle blue to celebrate the Tamworth Tap being crowned CAMRA National Pub of the Year 2023. A massive thank to you for recognising our achievement, for bringing it to the attention of the town and for making us feel so special!

Like!

It only seems like yesterday that we were astonished to see that we'd reached 8,000 likes, and then recently, we reached the 9,000 mark. Wow! We love that you like us! Thanks for liking us, following us and for spreading the word.

Dark Fest

This month's FestivALE is perfectly timed to coincide with the Great British Winter Beer Festival and Valentine's Day. As you know, we love a dark beer at the Tap and have two dedicated lines for the darks, getting through up to five firkins a week - pretty unusual in the pub world! But we are stepping it up this February. Dark Fest will feature a super selection of indulgent dark beers. Look out for lots of stouts, porters and milds, and fabulous flavours such as chocolate, salted caramel, and Biscoff. The famous Sarah Hughes Dark Ruby will be making an appearance too!

