

From The Desk of Sloane Duffy – Pausing The Presses

The Duffy & Ward Social House™ — Hearthcombe

BY SLOANE DUFFY.

If there is one thing I cannot abide, it is pretense. And if there are two things, the second is letting messy ledgers slide by uncorrected.

Lately, if you've taken a glance at our regional printings—or heard the inflated chatter echoing across the taproom—you've likely noticed a few stray threads. A mismatched date on a masthead here, an incomplete issue of Alfie Potts's sensational rag there, and enough speculative nonsense floating through the valley to make a saint reach for a double.

Burton will tell you that order is maintained through discipline and quiet authority. That's a fine naval sentiment, but on the operational floor, order is maintained by rolling up your sleeves, taking inventory, and fixing the damn mistakes before they compromise the whole enterprise.

So, here is where we stand, straightforward and without flourish:

- **Clearing the Books:** We are pausing the press runs to do the detail work. The early broadsheets—particularly a couple of early June issues from *The Thornwick Badger*—are being brought into proper alignment with the reality of our valley.
- **Separating the Craft from the Lore:** The history of Hearthcombe, our people, and our recovery after the turmoil belong to the valley. The ales, the taps, and the commercial business belong on the ledgers of Duffy & Ward. Keeping the story of our home clean and free from cheap commercial noise isn't just good business—it's how we protect what we've built.
- **Building a Permanent Record:** Every article, every piece of press, and every chronicle is being systematically bound into a Master Bible and dedicated appendices. When the digital world stumbles—and it always stumbles—our records, our heritage, and our continuity will remain entirely intact.



Alfie Potts is currently fuming in his cramped office over the delay, no doubt looking for two extra adjectives to describe his outrage. Owerton Crosby is busy polishing his quill at *The Stag & Standard*, preparing a four-paragraph lecture on parliamentary patience. Let them fuss.

We are getting the foundation right. Once the ink is dry and the ledgers are balanced, the next chapter of Hearthcombe will speak for itself.

Until then, grab a seat by the hearth, order a quiet pint, and let us handle the detail work.

Sloane Duffy is a fictional character and co-founder of the Duffy & Ward brand universe, created by Sloane Duffy Media LLC. She rides every morning, manages the books every afternoon, and has never once missed a brew day. © 2026 Sloane Duffy Media LLC.

www.duffyandward.com

www.hearthcombe.com