

Cirencester CAMRA news

Pub news

On Sunday 2nd November I went on a historic tour of the pubs of Cirencester organised by the Civic Society which gave a wonderful tour of the town and its once 73 pubs. How things have changed and the town now has 12 pubs, 3 of which are modern bars rather than traditional pubs.

Part of the tour included a stop at The 12 Bells which they described as another lost pub, I did politely point out that it is in fact a pub that we need to put up a fight to retain as it is still a pub but the owners have chosen not to open its doors to the public.

So the saga of The 12 Bells continues and Cirencester CAMRA have written to the local planners, Councillor and MP to draw attention to its unlawful occupation. A Planning application for change of use has been submitted at the end of November and we are in the process of getting as many objections as possible and are already over 70 objections with commitment for more to follow, closing date just before Christmas, so please try and encourage as many objections as possible from your local groups.

The Twelve Bells at its peak was one of the best pubs in Gloucestershire and cannot be allowed to fail in this way.

Good pub news stories for Cirencester: -

The Kings Head Hotel in Cirencester is now under the ownership of Honeycomb Houses and has had a complete restoration of the downstairs bar and restaurant areas. They have done an impressive job and now sell two real ales, Corinium Gold from the local Corinium Ales Brewery and Brakspear Gravity from Henly on Thames both of which were in excellent condition on my last visit. This is a welcome addition to Cirencester town centre.

Work on The Wild Duck in Ewen, near Kemble appears to be progressing well and we hope to see this once great country pub open for business in the first half of 2026. It is now owned by Country Creatures Ltd who

run The Masons Arms and Double Red Duke in Clanfield Oxfordshire. It will be great to see this open for business again and is part of a trio of good pub news for us.

Also we have the fabulous news that The Tunnel House in Coates is being taken on by the people that run The Bell at Sapperton and plans are to open in the first half of 2026. If they manage to equal the quality of The Bell then we have the prospect of another great pub on our patch after more than 5 years of closure. I very much look forward to getting on my bike and cycling down the once infamous long and potholed track which is now newly tarmacked.

Brewery News

Corinium Ales from their recent newsletter: -

BEER

1AD (4.4%) our dark and delicious winter porter is now available to join you by the fireside.

Saturnalia (4.6%) our annual festive ale with orange zest, a sprinkling of spice and good cheer, is fermenting in the brewery and will be available by mid November.

Imperial Porter (8.4%) our popular Imperial Porter is bottle conditioning and will be ready to release this winter time. It is also on cask at the brewery tap and is a fabulous tipple.

Red House Ale (4%) a classic English amber ale brewed with [Painswick Rococo Garden](#) grown hops (fuggles and magnum) is available on draught from our brewery bar. For every pint purchased 20p is donated to **Rococo Garden** from where it can also be purchased in bottle.

WHAT's ON

HAPPY HOUR

Saturday 22nd November we'll celebrating our **XIII Anniversary** with a **Happy Hour** between **5pm to 6pm**, offering 10% off all drinks and snacks! They'll be some some bubbly, cake and a box of wigs and hats to have fun with too! We're gonna be teenagers!!

FESTIVE SUP & SING ALONG

Saturday 13th December we'll be hosting a festive sup & sing along at the brewery with your favourite festive songs and some gorgeous winter harmonies with the fabulous **Counter Measures**. Always a popular and magical event!

Socials

We have had some great socials this year.

June was a visit to Alkington Cidery in Damery where we were treated to a great selection of Tim and his friends ales and ciders and an amazing paella courtesy of Tim, not sure how you can be so good at so many things! We look forward to start of production in the new cider house.

July was our annual London pub crawl which is always a success and one of our most popular events, this year was south of the river and was again a great day out.

October saw a visit to Inferno Brewery in Tewkesbury and was a great success and we were very well looked after by the brewery with some fabulous beers and a bit of pork pie and cheese, what's not to like and one to be repeated soon. A group of 10 of us also made the trip to Swindon beer festival which was again a great day out.

The second Tuesday of December we will have our annual Ciren' stagger which will start at The Drillmans Arms in Stratton around 7pm and head into town from there.

If anyone would like to join our socials please contact cirencester@gloucestershire.camra.org.uk