# Historical Tales & Traditional Ales

## The Chesterfield Beer & Heritage Trail




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# Chesterfield Great Historic Pub Tour

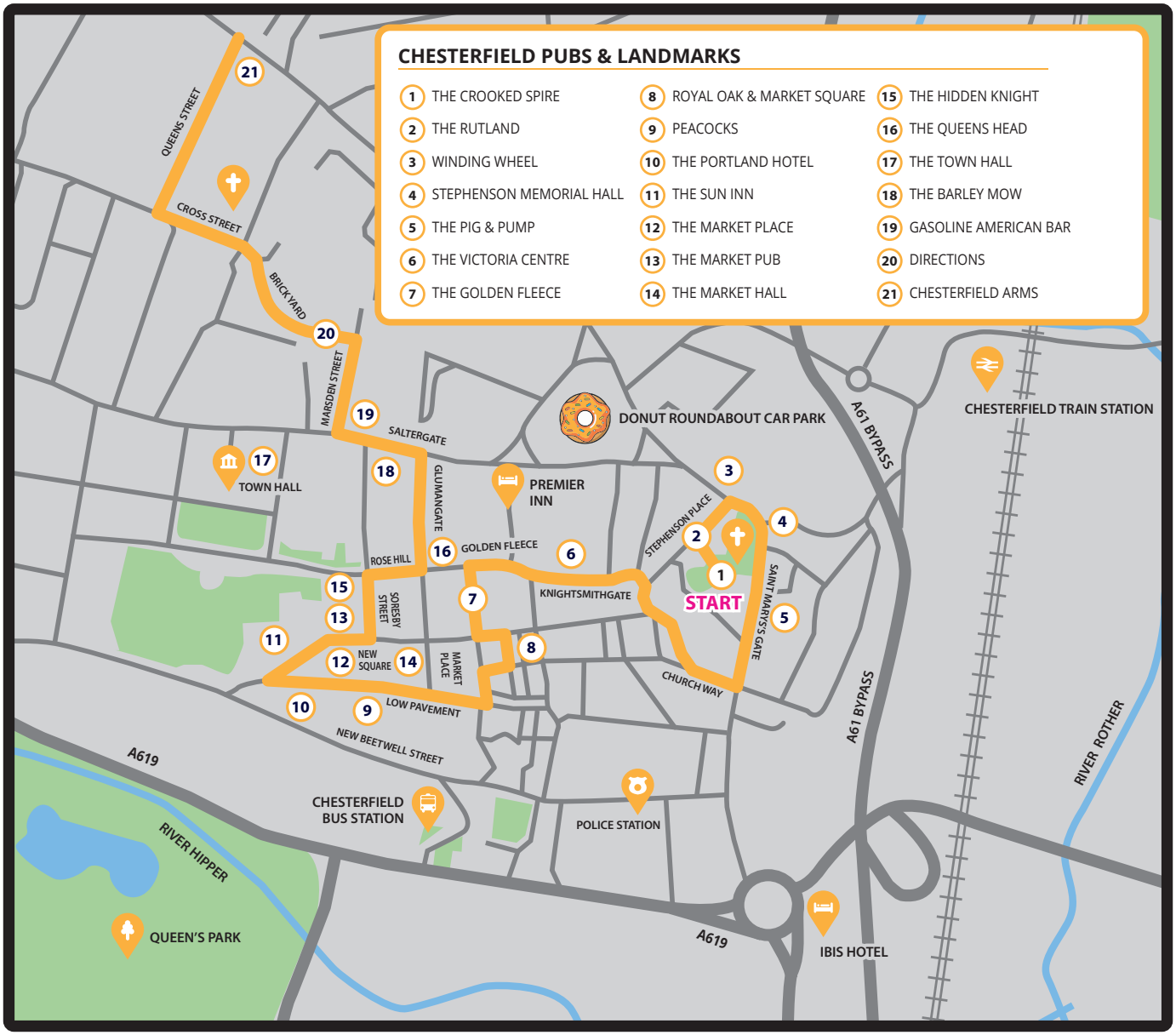
PRODUCED IN ASSOCIATION WITH

Chesterfield CAMRA

CAMRA Campaign for Real Ale

# Historical Tales & Traditional Ales

Follow the route marked by the **orange line** below, starting at the **Crooked Spire**. Please be aware of your surroundings at all times, especially if you need to cross any roads. This map is a walking route. Not all roads are suitable for cars and maybe part of pedestrian zones or one-way systems.



# AN INTRODUCTION (OF SORTS)




Pubs are important. A simple statement but one worth remembering in these uncertain times. Our public houses have served our communities for decades and even centuries. Witness to life and death. War and peace. Love and loss. There through the best and worst of times. Standing proud, with open doors and a warm welcome, against the relentless march of time. Sadly, not all pubs have survived. Lost to progress (not always good), hardship (of which they are often the first to feel the pitch) and the changes in our society (though they have also endured and evolved). This however is not a call for last orders but rather a celebration of everything great about our pubs and this wonderful Town Centre, they call home. The booklet is a time machine, that will take you back to a world, that whilst different, is strangely familiar too. Packed full of strange tales, devilish folklore, murderous scandals and most of all hope. The knowledge that the pubs are still here. Still open and still as good, if not better than all those years ago. The completely but not always 100% true history of our ale houses and the long list of quirky characters that have propped up their bars. For a relatively small district, there have been many dark deeds and unusual happenings in Chesterfield. A long list of weird and spooky stories that would definitely be a job for Mulder and Scully. Fitting for a town that lies in the twisted shadow of the Crooked Spire. Pubs are one of the greatest sources of the tall tales we tell. These ancient buildings have many secrets. Whispers flow through their wooden beams and impish critters roam in their cellars mostly unseen. Phantoms and Spirits get up to all manner of mischievous deeds. You might just catch a glance of one of them out of the corner of your eye if you're unlucky. Or maybe, you've just had too many gin and tonics. The historical content and stories for this booklet have been curated by Shaun Stevenson from the Chesterfield Great Historic Pub Tour and it's been a joy to work with him on this exciting project. For more details check out the bios on the inside back cover.

It must be said too that pubs are not just buildings. They are so much more than bricks and mortar. Even in these increasingly digital times, pubs still bring people together. There's nothing more social than your local. This booklet unites 10 great Chesterfield Pubs and tells the story of their lives. Let us take you on a journey through Chesterfield's Historical Tales & Traditional Ales. It's watering holes and grand hotels. Each of the pubs has a long and fascinating history. And, while the legitimacy of Templar Knights, secret tunnels and Old Nick up the Spire can be debated, the legacy of the pubs cannot. We should be proud of our pubs and town. Feel a kinship with the hundreds of people who have stood on each side of their bars. With your support and ongoing custom, our pubs will no doubt have a long and glorious future. We hope you enjoy this booklet. Maybe you will find a new favourite pub or rediscover one of the old classics. No doubt you will pick up a few chilling tales and fun facts, which you can use later to impress your friends and family too. CHRIS FOX

## PLEASE TAKE CARE, BE SAFE AND BE AWARE OF YOUR SURROUNDINGS AT ALL TIMES WHEN USING THIS BOOKLET

- Take care crossing any roads and use pedestrian crossings where available.
- Respect the needs of local people and businesses.

## TERMS & CONDITIONS

- By using this booklet you accept full liability for any loss, damage, injuries, claim, costs or expenses, demands, proceedings or damages of any nature whatsoever, including but not limited to direct, indirect or consequential losses, which may arise in consequence of using this booklet.
- All the information featured is reported correctly to the best of knowledge. We the creators of this booklet will be not liable for any historic or modern inaccuracies.
- All adverts are subject to change. Please check social media and Google for opening times of the businesses featured.
- Please drink responsibly. For guidance and advice about your relationship with alcohol please visit www.drinkaware.co.uk

## What is CAMRA?

CAMRA is considered one of the most successful consumer organisations across Europe. Founded by four real ale enthusiasts back in 1971, today they represent beer drinkers and pub-goers across the UK. Their vision is to have quality real ale, cider and perry and thriving pubs in every community. CAMRA champions pubs, pints and people – their three key ingredients are:

- **Pubs because the great British pub is a part of our life and culture, and we campaign to ensure their survival as well as highlight their importance in our society.**
- **Pints because we have a passion for real ale and work to ensure you can access a broad selection of beer and ciders across the UK.**
- **People because we're a volunteer-led organisation, with our members at our heart.**





## Tell me more about Chesterfield & District CAMRA...

Chesterfield & District CAMRA is an active branch of pub, real ale and cider lovers who live in the districts of Bolsover, Chesterfield, North East Derbyshire and some of the parishes in the Derbyshire Dales. A friendly and passionate group, where everyone is guaranteed a warm welcome. Please visit our website **www.chesterfield.camra.org.uk** (Link via the QR below) for our latest news, articles, meeting dates, festivals, social events, branch diary and back issues of InnSpire magazine.

CHESTERFIELD CAMRA

**Visit our website for the latest news, festivals, branch meetings, articles and lots more...**

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# *Join* the CAMRA *story*

**Real ale *is just the start...***

Campaign for Real Ale

Join the CAMRA story
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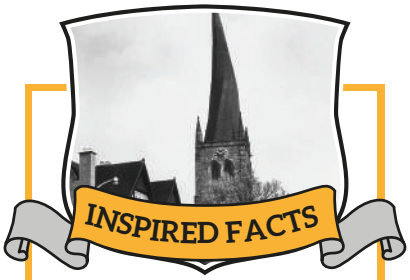


## 1 ST MARY AND ALL SAINTS

The spire of St Mary's and All Saints Church is famously known as the Crooked Spire. It reaches 228 ft (70m) and leans by 9 feet 6 inches, and is certainly a prominent landmark when approaching the town from almost any direction. In 1093, William II confirmed the granting of a Chesterfield Church to the Dean of Lincoln, although the charter mentions a church in Chesterfield during the time of Edward the Confessor. These churches were probably built of wood. The church now stands in the north east corner of what would have been the Roman fort. Work began on the present building in 1234 when it was dedicated to All Saints. This dedication may have been changed to St Mary and All Saints after the Reformation of 1547 which led to the suppression of Chesterfield's medieval Guilds, of which the Guild of the Blessed Virgin Mary was the oldest.

This is the largest parish church in the county and the only Anglican parish church in the country with two Lady chapels; only the cathedrals of Canterbury and Bristol also have two. The church was refurbished in 1843 under the direction of Sir George Gilbert Scott. The box pews were removed and the galleries reduced, with only the west gallery remaining, making the interior much lighter. In December 1961, a fire started in the organ. Fortunately, the thick oak trap door of the organ loft was closed which held back the fire from the tower. As a fireman with a hose reached the ringing chamber, just below the spire, the trap door in the floor succumbed to the flames, fell into the transept and the chamber was engulfed by the fire below. Seconds later and nothing could have been done to save the spire and the bells from the inferno.

Of particular interest inside the church is the saxon font from around 700 AD, the Foljambe monuments, and the window, celebrating the 750th anniversary of the church, which depicts the development of the town. It is possible to ascend the tower to the base of the spire to admire the view on certain days during the year. Most fascinating of all, is that the spire is not actually fixed to the top of the tower and instead relies only on its own weight to keep it in place.




### FACT CHECKING

St Mary and All Saints Church is so big that it's often mistaken for a Cathedral. It's in fact the largest church in Derbyshire. To be technically correct, the Spire is not crooked but rather it is twisted. The Twisted Spire doesn't quite have the same ring to it does it?

**So, why is the crooked spire crooked?** The original design was a straight spiral, much like a unicorn's horn. But, as the wooden spire was being built at the time of the Black Death in 1349, a theory has been put forward that the original craftsmen may have died. As a result, less experienced men completed the job and they made the mistake of using green timber. However, seasoned oak is too hard for the chisels and cutting tools at that era.

The spire only became crooked when 32 tonnes of lead was added to the wooden structure in the 1600s. The daily expansion and contraction of the lead by the warmth of the sun causes it to lean 9 feet 6 inches to the north east.

Of course, more colourful explanations are common, including the tall tale about the devil himself. He supposedly landed upon the spire and wrapped his tail around it in order to leer at a beautiful virgin getting married in the church. This folklore also asserts that the spire will straighten up again, the next time a virgin bride walks down the aisle.

In 1898, Charles Markham, famous local industrialist and mayor, suggested that the lead could be replaced by copper, with the whole project being funded by the scrap value of the lead. As the copper would be one fifth of the weight, this would probably prevent the spire from leaning any further, but his suggestion was declined and the spire continues to become more crooked each year.

In 1923, an expert from London called Forsyth claimed that the spire had broken its back and insisted that the bells remain silent as the next windy day could bring the whole tower down. Well Mr Forsythe, it's still here over 100 years later! It has proved to be a masterstroke in increasing Chesterfield's name awareness and marketing potential in the tourism industry.

### DIRECTIONS

**The first pub on this tour, the Rutland is just behind the Crooked Spire and to the left as you look at the front entrance.**







2 **THE RUTLAND** was originally the home of Samuel Dutton, who was Mayor of Chesterfield eight times, between 1818 and 1845. After his death in 1848, it was purchased by John Fidler and following enlargement and improvement it opened as the Rutland Arms. From 1870, it became the Rutland Hotel.

Perhaps due to its proximity to the Crooked Spire graveyard, the pub is reportedly haunted. The most compelling story is the tale of Hannah Owens, who was a servant girl at the hotel in 1875. After a night out drinking with a friend, and clearly in an emotional state, she hung herself in the water closet. Her ghost has appeared many times, most commonly as the White Lady who glides down the stairs and across to the bar.

Rutland Hotel originally stood on Knifesmithgate, but in 1906, its width was reduced by half to allow the road, which was renamed Stephenson Place, to be widened. Once the work had been completed, the pub became a rather unusual triangular shape, the trolley bus stop at the north end of the plot was a later addition, around 1928, that remains to this day.

Bought at auction in 1921 by Tennants Brewery of Sheffield for £5350.

In 1960, Whitbread purchased Tennants Brewery and also shortly after, the Vergers House for the Crooked Spire next door. This was incorporated into the Rutland soon after and is why the pub is on two very different levels. In 1994, the Rutland became a Hogshead Alehouse, under the management of Jane and Ken Randall. Do look out for the large step behind the door under the canopy for Chesterfield's smallest beer garden.

In more recent times, the pub was owned by Stonegate and following a series of unsuccessful tennants, the lease was taken up by Spire Inns. They invited Martin and Dawn Alvey to run the pub from May 2023. Shortly after their successful reopening, the Pub People purchased the building, retained the management and intend to continue renovating this thoroughly traditional pub. **SHAUN STEVENSON**



## FIRESTARTER

### HORRID HISTORY

The Rutland twice had a narrow escape from being destroyed by fire when the three story building across the alleyway at the rear of the inn was destroyed by spectacular fires in 1900 and 1916.



## GOOD INNINGS

### HISTORIC FIGURE

In 1923, the landlord was Joe Humphries, wicketkeeper for Derbyshire County Cricket Club, member of Chesterfield Cricket Club and first class cricket umpire. He died in Chesterfield, just a few days before his 70th birthday.





TheRutlandPub

therutland

THE RUTLAND

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## QUICK DIRECTIONS

**LEAVE BY THE FRONT DOOR OF THE RUTLAND AND TURN RIGHT. DOWN THE ROAD YOU WILL SEE THE WINDING WHEEL.**




## BLUE PLAQUE GUIDE

**WINDING WHEEL THEATRE**

In March 2023 Chesterfield Civic Society installed a Blue Plaque on this Grade II listed building to mark its historical importance in the town.

3 **WINDING WHEEL THEATRE** The Picture House opened on 10th September 1923 with Frank Keenan in "Hearts Affair" and Buster Keaton in "The Playhouse", by the Chesterfield Picture House Co. Ltd. It was built in the mock Tudor style, popular in the 1920s. Inside the auditorium there was a Neo-Classical style of decoration, with seating for 1,328 in stalls and circle, which still retains its original folding seats. The cinema was equipped with a Jardine 3Manual/23 stop Concert organ which was opened by Edwin Booth. It was on this instrument that Reginald Dixon had his first organ instructions, he later became one of the UK's most famous organists. Located to the left of the cinema, there was a large café/restaurant which still has the CPH logo, and a ballroom with a stained glass central dome in the ceiling. The Picture House was closed for a period in 1930, when the auditorium was extended to the designs of Sheffield architect Harold Sheppherd, who had originally designed the cinema. It re-opened on 7th July 1930, with an increased seating capacity of 1,559, screening the talking picture "Paris", starring Jack Buchanan. From 9th November 1936, the Picture House was taken over by Oscar Deutsch and became part of his Odeon Theatres Ltd chain. It was re-named Odeon in 1937.

The restaurant was closed in 1969 and the ballroom was converted into the 'Fusion Disco', later Jingles, the stained glass dome was rashly painted black in the process. In 1975, this had closed and had been converted into a bar and exhibition space. The Odeon closed as a cinema on 19th June 1981 with Kurt Russell in "Escape From New York" and "12th Squadron Buccaneers". The building lay unused until 1987 when it was purchased by Chesterfield Borough Council and refurbished as a concert, conference and exhibition hall and banquet facility named The Winding Wheel. From October 2000, the Winding Wheel was designated a Grade II Listed building by English Heritage. SHAUN STEVENSON



## DIRECTIONS

**From Stephenson Place turn right and use the crossing to cross the road. In front of you will be Stephenson Memorial Hall, which is home to Chesterfield Museum (Closed as this book went to print, it is set to reopen in 2025).**

4 **THE CHESTERFIELD MUSEUM** is part of the George Stephenson Memorial Hall. Built in 1879, to commemorate the life of the railway engineer, creator of the Rocket Steam Engine and adopted son of Chesterfield, George Stephenson. He spent his final years at Tapton House, overlooking the railways he had helped to create. The building was commissioned by engineers who designed it as an educational facility, the section that now contains the museum became the first public library in Chesterfield in 1880.

A museum for Chesterfield was first looked at seriously in the 1920s. The Borough Records and Museum Committee, formed in 1921, had the responsibility of looking after the town's historic documents and objects with a view to creating a museum and in 1925, when Tapton House was given to the town, it looked like becoming a reality. Tapton House, however, was to become a school in 1930 and it was decided that 'the establishment of a museum be postponed until a more opportune time. By the late 1980s, plans for a museum in Chesterfield were finally underway and in May 1994, after many years of planning and anticipation, Chesterfield finally opened its town museum. Chesterfield Museum is temporarily closed with ambitious plans to refurbish and reimagine the Grade 2 listed Stephenson Memorial Hall, which is home to both the Museum and Pomegranate Theatre.

## EAT YOUR VEGGIES

Civil engineer George Stephenson (1781–1848), was known as the "Father of the Railway". A life-sized bronze statue of his likeness stands outside of Chesterfield railway station. He also was the invertor of the cucumber straightener. An elongated glass funnel which was placed over cucumbers at an early stage to encourage the fruit to grow straight and true.




## BLUE PLAQUE GUIDE

**HEATHCOTE FAMILY HOUSE**
Displayed on the former S41 Bar, now closed. A stone-built house of c.1620. The site history can be dated to 1496. It was acquired in 1614 by Gilbert Heathcote, who likely erected the present structure before his death in 1634. The Heathcotes were a very prominent Chesterfield family. The buidling is Grade II* listed.









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## DIRECTIONS

**With the George Stephenson Memorial Hall on your left and Crooked Spire on your right continue down the main road, St Mary's Gate. Pause to view the blue plaque on the former S41 Bar and the Pig and Pump is straight ahead.**








5 **THE PIG & PUMP** was originally called The Swan Inn, and later the White Swan, and known locally as the Mucky Duck. The beautiful stained glass windows at the front of the pub remain to this day decorated with swan illustrations.

In the 12th century, an early version of the neighbouring St Mary's and All Saints Church and the land it stands upon was part of the gift of the Dean of Lincoln, Saint Hugh. His emblem was a White Swan, although it may just be a coincidence that the inn was given that name. The White Swan (or Swan) was offered for sale in 1839 having six cottages, its own brewhouse and stabling for 12 horses. When the railway station opened in1840, the stabling came in useful for travellers wishing to leave their horses.

In 1860, the landlord was a man called Brailsford, who had a problem. Mrs Garrett, wife of the Reverend Garrett complained to the authorities that women of ill repute were soliciting for clients at the Swan and his license was revoked for a full 12 months. Brailsford died in 1883 and the pub was sold for £1,130 to a Mr Sipson, who also owned the Bulls Head in The Shambles. Just 4 years later, Mrs Sipson discovered a fire in one of the bedrooms. A garment hung on a wardrobe had caught the open flame of a candle but fortunately the fire brigade turned up in good time and the total damage amounted to just 15 pounds.

In 1902, partly to enable St Mary's Gate to be widened, the building was demolished and rebuilt by John Smith's Tadcaster Brewery, complete with the swan emblem on the front of the building, which remains today. Out buildings at the rear were used as a boxing club in 1911, an education in pugilism was offered by one professor Jack Dixon, a man with some obvious flair. In 1936, Mrs Poppleton advertised her dance studio which was in the function room on the first floor.

During the 60s, 70s, 80s and even into the 90s, the pub was known as a live music venue. Most notably, the Sheffield band Pulp rehearsed and played here, reportedly writing and first performing their hit Common People, in the pub. During this golden period for the pub, archaeologists working underneath the car park adjacent discovered a 14th century malting oven. It was apparently an excellent example but not important enough to be fully excavated, so it is still there, covered over by the tarmac.

In 1998, the pub underwent major refurbishment when it became open plan and changed its name to the Avenue. Six years later, it was sold and opened as a Chinese restaurant in 2004. The restaurant traded for eight years before it closed, allowing another major refurbishment in March 2012, when it was renamed the White Swan again. In 2018, it became the Pig & Pump, a name chosen to attract attention to the real ale and sausage and mash specialities.

Today it is the location for the Tuesday, Piggy Pump Quiz, one of the most popular pub quizzes in Chesterfield.
SHAUN STEVENSON

**DIRECTIONS** **Continue down the main road, St Mary's Gate, until you come to a set of lights and a crossing. Cross over onto Church Way and past the hexagonal building (Visitor Information Centre) with the Crooked Spire to your right. Continue up and do not use the first left, rather go past the Greggs and then go left onto Knifesmithgate. Follow this road and pause to look at the Black and White buildings to the right.**

6 **THE VICTORIA CENTRE** was built by the town council on the former site of a forging works and the cemetery of the Elder Yard Chapel in the 1920s. Some human remains were moved to a communal grave at the back of the Chapel. It was built in the mock Tudor style that had been adopted by John Smiths Brewery and others who had renovated their public houses in the handsome black and white style. Originally, the building had shops on the ground floor, under the colonnade, designed to keep shoppers dry.

Upstairs, there was a cinema and a billiard hall, which was the domain of Joe Davies. Joe was world snooker champion from 1929 to 1946 and the first player to register a break of over 100 in a competitive match. The billiard room was later fitted with a sprungdance floor and was a popular dance hall and nightclub.

Many of the black and white buildings in Chesterfield were originally pubs. This was due to licensing laws being strengthened in the 1920s. Public houses could be closed down if they were not 'fit for purpose'. The result of this was a number of brewery companies rebuilt several of the town centre pubs around the same time.



**DIRECTIONS** **Continue down Knifesmithgate to the Golden Fleece.**








THE
**GOLDEN FLEECE**
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## FACT CHECKING

Like many pubs in Chesterfield, there are rumours of tunnels leading to the Crooked Spire from the Golden Fleece. Whilst there is some brickwork in the cellar that suggests this might be possible, an attempt to unblock the potential passages has not been made (Pictured: A Mole - Not secret tunnels).









7 **THE GOLDEN FLEECE** was originally opened in 1762 on Knifesmithgate. A pub sign bearing this date was salvaged and is on display in the top room, near the pool table (Photo above). The pub was consumed by J B White and Son, a wine merchant on the High Street, in 1764, becoming High Street Vaults. At this time, the alleyway leading from the High Street went right through to Knifesmithgate and was a popular cut through that avoided the busy Packers Row. A 1939 expose in the Derbyshire Times detailed the extensive renovation and reopening of the Golden Fleece. The building was split into three premises, Golden Fleece on Knifesmithgate, the Tudor Bar, halfway down the alley and J B Whites, wine merchant, who retained the property on High Street.

A mock Tudor facade and colonnade were added to the top end to match the Victoria Centre across the street. During this process, it was discovered that some of the timbers used in the original building had been salvaged from disused parts of Bolsover Castle. The inside of the Golden Fleece was opulent, with oak panelling, crimson soft furnishings and bespoke handmade light fittings. There was a military memorabilia theme with a pair of crossed swords on display, one of which was supposedly owned by Lord Byron and the other, had been unearthed in Ashover, some 350 years previous, making it pre-civil war. There was also a fully functional flintlock musket, along with many other ancient war relics. The Tudor Bar was a very narrow bar and many customers chose to sit outside on a bench that ran along the alleyway. Inside there was a full suit of armour, standing approximately two feet tall. It was thought to be a scale model which had been used to demonstrate the style of armour and the expert workmanship, effectively a small prop for inspection by Lords and Knights of the Realm, the only potential buyers.

In the 1970s, J B Whites became Whites Bar, an early type of wine lounge. The Tudor Bar was renamed The Sportsman and all three were managed by a couple approaching retirement age. In an attempt to help with the workload, the brewery employed a young assistant manager, who proved to be quite the character. One day, possibly for a bet, he emerged from the Whites Bar onto the High Street completely naked. He turned left up the alleyway, ran to the top and back in via the front door of the Golden Fleece. It must have been a busy day as the brewery received over 200 letters of complaint about the incident and unsurprisingly the assistant manager was fired. Being a very old pub, it has its share of ghosts. The scariest encounter happened to a barmaid in the 1990s. She was alone in the cellar when the door was bolted behind her. She was there for sometime and very relieved at being released.

Around the millennium, the Golden Fleece was extensively remodelled. The top section of the alleyway was incorporated into the pub (the lower seating area and the gents toilets), the Sportsman Bar was demolished to make way for the rear entrance and stairs and the High Street building became a card shop. The top entrance to the alleyway is still visible to the left of the Knifesmithgate entrance. The pub was closed in 2019 and reopened in 2023 by the Jarvis family. They have a holding company which leases the building from its current owner Heineken.

## DIRECTIONS

**Walk all the way through the Golden Fleece onto the High Street. In front of you, slightly to the right is a small side street, Irongate. Follow this street down into the Shambles. The Royal Oak is half way down the street on your left.**







8 **THE ROYAL OAK** is a Grade II listed building, the oldest inn in Chesterfield and one of the oldest in Derbyshire. The brick part of the building dates back to 1684 when it is recorded that a piece of land was sold in order to 'build an extension to the Royal Oak'. There was a reference to the building being used as an inn in a conveyance report of 1772. At that time it was attached to a butchers shop which is now the top bar, though a previous incarnation of the structure existed as part of a cattle market in the 12th century. There is reference to the pub being used as a resting place for the Knights Templar, although this is unlikely as this was probably a different building long since demolished.

The timber-framed part of the present inn was originally two butchers' shops, which were owned by the Duke of Devonshire, until they were purchased by the Batteson family, owners of the Royal Oak, in 1844. The shop on the east side was let to Joseph Redfern, landlord of the inn at the time, and the other remained a butcher's shop. In 1845, the tenant, George Collis, was brutally murdered by his business partner, Jack Platts. His body was chopped up and dragged in a sack and dumped in a cesspit at the rear of the nearby Falcon Inn, on Low Pavements.

It was renovated into its current form after being purchased from the Batteson family by Stones' Brewery in 1897, where the top bar including the windows are largely untouched since then. The restoration was carried out under the direction of Alderman T.P. Wood, wine and spirit merchant, who was a director of William Stones Ltd at the time. The Tudor look was adopted by William Stones and many of their local pubs were given a black and white facade.




In 1904, when the landlord was wanting to renew the licence, the court was told of an objection. The Royal Oak was situated in the middle of the Shambles. Within a radius of 25 yards, there were three other fully licensed houses. Within a radius of 100 yards, there were no fewer than 23 pubs and within 150 yards' radius there were 31 licensed premises. There are many "shambles" across the country. The word comes from the Anglo Saxon "shammels ", specifically meaning shelf but used for slaughterhouses and butcher shops, particularly in cramped conditions.

Fortunately plans to demolish the building in 1929 and in the 1970s did not happen and the Royal Oak survived. There is still an extensive cellar below the bar floor, complete with the butcher's slab and a trapdoor down to what is allegedly one of Chesterfield's many underground passages. It is also considered one of the most haunted buildings in the area. The ghost of George Collis and a murdered coachman occasionally make their presence known by hurling objects at people.

## DIRECTIONS

**To your right you should be able to see a metal arch decorated with the words The Shambles and see the market stalls.**

# THE MISSING PUBS OF THE MARKET SQUARE

**PAUSE TO READ ABOUT THE MARKET SQUARE OR RETURN TO THIS SECTION LATER** Chesterfield once had an extraordinary plethora of public houses for the townsfolk to enjoy. Prior to 1908, when tap water was first chlorinated, everyone would drink beer as the water could contain diseases. Even the children drank beer, although it was a special low alcohol brew, known as kinder beer. The vast majority of ordinary working folk had little more than a place to sleep, so spending the evening in the local pub was far more enjoyable than the cramped conditions at home. Also, as the town centre was densely populated and the public houses were many, you could almost stumble out of one pub and fall straight into another. **For example, the market square used to have as many as eight pubs, only one of which remains today.**

**McDonald's -** This was the location of the **Three Tuns Inn**. A tun is a very large cask for holding beer, 252 gallons, and an easily recognised item to paint on the sign board that an Act of Parliament required to be displayed outside every public house. The site had been given to the town corporation by Thomas Large who had a dye-works here. In 1664, the corporation pulled it down and built a malt and brew house, cooper house and stables, as well as the first of a number of inns to occupy the plot. The last, built in 1794 was demolished in 1913 to make way for a wider Tontine Road. The licence was transferred to the newly built Queen's Park Hotel. The Market Square end of the road was pedestrianized in 1980. **Low Pavement Colonnade Entrance - The Castle Inn** had a similar colonnade to prevent visitors arriving by stagecoach from getting wet when it was raining. The Castle Inn was built around 1636, and replaced a house that had been owned by Chesterfield's first mayor, Ralph Clarke (1598). A man called Thomas Secker grew up next door in humble surroundings. He went on to become Archbishop of Canterbury in 1758. The Castle Inn was actually known as The Royal Oak prior to 1797, was leased to the Chesterfield Brewery, and later bought by Truswells of Sheffield. It was closed on 7th April 1910 under the compensation scheme of the early 1900s.

**Crown and Cushion -** The only pub in the Market Square that is still serving today. It used to stand at the top of Wheeldon Lane, the main access to the market from Boythorpe. At the River Hipper end of this thoroughfare was the disparagingly named 'Dog Kennels' area of Chesterfield. This was a slum district that was eventually eradicated by the 1920s. The pub was closed for the building of the Low Pavements Shopping Centre which was opened in 1981 by Prince Charles and Diana, Princess of Wales. The pub was renamed **Joplins** (The Royal couple did not have a drink inside during their visit). It was recently refurbished and the name reverted back to the Crown and Cushion. **The South East Corner of the Market Hall -** This was where a pub called the **Cross Daggers** stood. It was demolished to make way for the Market Hall in 1854. The landlord, Robert Fletcher took the market company to Court as he felt he had been forced out. The court agreed and instructed the market company to pay him damages of £254, 11 shillings and 4 pence. He then moved to the Star and Garter in New Square. There were two other pubs in Chesterfield called the Cross Daggers, one on Glumangate and the other on Beetwell Street opposite the Police Station, both were demolished many years ago.

**North East Corner of Market Hall - The Market Hall Vaults** occupied the NE corner unit of the Market Hall, which was built in 1857. The influential temperance movement was successful in closing many of the pubs in Chesterfield and this one was closed for compensation on 2nd April 1906. The monetary value paid was £1020. **Nat West Bank - The Star Hotel** (not to be confused with the Star and Garter in New Square) was primarily a hotel. The final proprietor was Samuel Hadfield, a former butcher from Winster. The hotel was purchased in 1892 for the building of a bank, and many useful items were auctioned by Botham & Sons. It was demolished in 1894, the bank that replaced it was rebuilt in the late 1960s and had one of Chesterfield's first escalators. **Primark (left hand side) -** This was the **Wheatsheaf Hotel**, it is not remembered by many, although it was a fixture of the marketplace for over 150 years. In 1828, the landlady was Elizabeth Naylor demonstrating that the pub trade was open to management by women, long before equal rights legislation. It was closed on 27th September 1965 and demolished to make way for the Littlewoods store development. **Primark (right hand side) -** This was the location of **T P Woods Vaults**, which was a Wine and Spirit Merchants shop with adjoining vaults. T P Wood himself would become an alderman of the town, famous for his almanacks and the driving force behind the creation of the Queen's Park. The building had a colonnade similar to the Castle and Cathedral Vaults. It was also demolished to make way for the new Littlewoods store in 1967.




**Peak Pharmacy** - Originally called **Cathedral Vaults** (see photo right), it was a Hollis of Pilsley Brewery pub. By 1869, it was owned by J B Fox and called Foxes Vaults, selling Butlers Ales. In 1938, it belonged to Hay and Sons of Sheffield and later by the Hope and Anchor Brewery. For many years, it was known locally as 'Pretty Windows'. This was due to the stained glass casements on the front and also because painted ladies were known to flaunt themselves to passers-by. Due to structural issues, the building was rebuilt in 1976 by the Britannia Building Society, but has now been a pharmacy for many years.

## DIRECTIONS

**Follow Market Place down turn right at the McDonalds. Follow Low Pavement with the Market Hall to your right. Pause at the Peacocks, before continuing straight ahead to the Portland Hotel.**




## PEACOCKS

9 There are only three true timber framed buildings left in Chesterfield. The oldest is the former Peacock Inn, built around 1500. The second is the Royal Oak pub in the Shambles we highlighted earlier. The third is a former coaching inn, the Falcon, on the corner of South Street. For many years the timber frame of the Peacock Inn was hidden behind a plaster façade. After heavy restoration in 1978 the timber construction was revealed.









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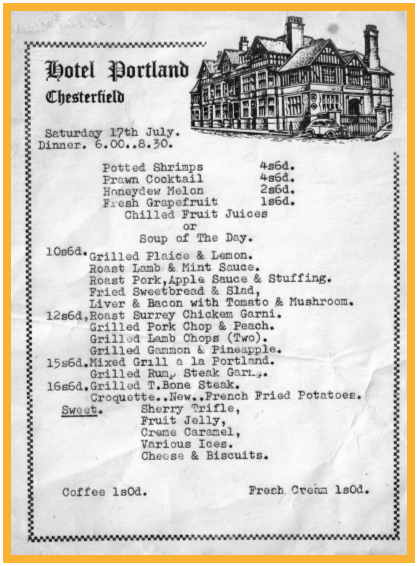


10 **THE PORTLAND HOTEL** was created to cater to travellers using the Lancashire, Derbyshire and East Coast Railway, who opened the Market Place Station in 1897. Much of the land used to create the line was the property of the Duke of Portland, after whom the hotel is named.

A convoluted origin story begins with two different pubs, the White Horse and the Bird in Hand. The latter was sold in February 1887 to Mr Chater of Brampton Brewery for £3350, with 15 stables for 85 horses. In March 1898, it was demolished, building materials being sold by auction. Its licence was transferred to the Refreshment Rooms in the new Market Place Station.

The first half of the Portland Hotel was then built on the site of the Bird in Hand by Wm Stones Brewery. The licence from the White Horse was transferred across to the Portland Hotel. The White Horse was then demolished and the second half of the Portland was completed, externally similar to how it looks today. It was finally opened Christmas 1899 by former Prime Minister, Lord Rosebery (1894/95).

The hotel was sold to Brampton Brewery in April 1925 for £16750.



Hotel Portland
Chesterfield

Saturday 17th July.
Dinner. 6.00..8.30.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | Potted Shrimps | 4s6d. |
| | Prawn Cocktail | 4s6d. |
| | Honeydew Melon | 2s6d. |
| | Fresh Grapefruit | 1s6d. |
| | Chilled Fruit Juices | |
| | or | |
| | Soup of The Day. | |
| 10s6d. | Grilled Plaice & Lemon. | |
| | Roast Lamb & Mint Sauce. | |
| | Roast Pork, Apple Sauce & Stuffing. | |
| | Fried Sweetbread & Slad, | |
| | Liver & Bacon with Tomato & Mushroom. | |
| 12s6d. | Roast Surrey Chicken Garni. | |
| | Grilled Pork Chop & Peach. | |
| | Grilled Lamb Chops (Two). | |
| | Grilled Gammon & Pineapple. | |
| 15s6d. | Mixed Grill a la Portland. | |
| | Grilled Rump Steak Garn.. | |
| 16s6d. | Grilled T.Bone Steak. | |
| | Croquettes..New..French Fried Potatoes. | |
| Sweet. | Sherry Trifle, | |
| | Fruit Jelly, | |
| | Creme Caramel, | |
| | Various Ices. | |
| | Cheese & Biscuits. | |

Coffee 1s0d. Fresh Cream 1s0d.



## THE PORTLAND HOTEL PART 2

The Market Place station was part of the unfinished Lancashire, Derbyshire and East Coast Railway, which should have run from Warrington to Sutton on Sea. The line only ever went as far east as Lincoln and terminated in Chesterfield. Despite its shortcomings, it was a popular rail route for holidaymakers travelling to the East Coast and many older Chesterfield residents recall exciting childhood journeys being pulled by steam engines. The line became unprofitable due to constant flooding and subsidence in the Bolsover tunnel, where pumps extracted 200,000 gallons of water every day. The station ceased regular passenger services in 1951 and was eventually demolished in 1973. The station stood on land now occupied by New Beetwell Street and the beer garden to the right of the pub (See photo right)

The hotel was fully refurbished by J D Wetherspoon in 2001 and has 22 en-suite bedrooms. Hotel staff report that there is a ghostly gentleman on the top floor. On the few occasions he has been seen, he appears shirtless in an otherwise unoccupied room but more often than not, the faint smell of his cigar smoke and a cold sensation are the only clues to his presence. Much to the annoyance of the cleaners, he tends to leave a distinct impression of his backside where he sits on a freshly made bed.

A lady in white has been seen in rooms 101 and 102, she's also been seen ascending the stairs to reception. In terms of physical danger, the angry spirit in the bar seems capable of it. A female member of the team and her male manager were chatting about the ghostly activity in the pub. The manager, taunting the spirits to “do something” and at that moment a glass flew from a high shelf and smashed on the wall next to him. Glasses often fall from shelves in pubs but on another occasion, a member of the night duty staff was walking through the bar area when a glass flew from a shelf on the back wall, cleared the bar by some margin and landed at the feet of the startled woman. Finally and most disturbingly, the turret room above the attractive corner entrance. There is a small room with windows on either side that you've probably never noticed before. The rumour is that before the redevelopment, a soldier hung himself in this small room. So, if you see somebody in either of those windows, it’s possibly the soldier. **SHAUN STEVENSON**



## CHRIS FOX REPORTS ON WETHERSPOON'S CARPETS...

There are over 850 Wetherspoon's in the UK and one fun fact is each and every ‘spoons has an individually designed carpet. Yes, really. There’s a blog, website and even a book dedicated to these colourful masterpieces (Hopefully available from your friendly local bookstore - *Spoon's Carpets: An Appreciation Hardcover by the author Kit Caless.* That’s your next birthday present sorted. You can thank us later).

The Sun, The Guardian, The Telegraph, Buzzfeed and The Metro newspapers have all written articles about the wonderful world of Wetherspoon carpets, describing them as a “cultural sensation”. In many ways they are a part of the very fabric of our lives. Woven deep into our souls *(See what we did there. And yes, we know we’re not half as clever as we think we are).*

The carpets are made to compliment the building, area or the person the pub was named after. Each is unique, hand-made from scratch on a traditional loom and worth up to £30,000.

## DIRECTIONS

**Leave the Portland Hotel through the front door and across the road, slightly to your left is the Sun Inn.**






**11** **THE SUN INN** was originally a coaching inn, dating from the 1700s, on West Bars. The name West Bars refers to a barrier used to collect a toll from traders entering the market from the west side of Chesterfield. It was built on top of a well and a spring, probably the reason for building at this location in the first place. The spring is still active today and requires pumping out 24 hours a day.

The pub itself is at the entrance to a large yard that was used for the sale of horses and sheep. What remains today, a barn and some of the walls with original ironworks, is now Grade II listed, despite being used as a car park.

A gruesome story dates back to the early days of the pub when a stagecoach full of hungry passengers arrived at the Sun. Travellers and their baggage were unloaded at the front door and the coachman took his horses into the yard to ensure they were well fed and watered, the coach being stored in the barn. At some point, the coachman was robbed at knifepoint, he may have been carrying a sizeable amount of coinage to pay for services. He may have put up a struggle as he was stabbed and died without raising the alarm. His body was thrown down a well in the yard. The next morning, passengers gathered to continue their journey only to discover that the coachman was nowhere to be seen. A search party discovered his body down the well and fished him out with a hook. No one was ever convicted of the murder.

Brampton Brewery acquired the pub in 1896 and had a maintenance shop in the yard until the Brewery closed in 1955.

In 1913, the front section of the pub was rebuilt on top of the existing cellar, the rear section is also from the original pub. Frontage was decorated with ceramic tiles and acid-etched windows which needed to be kept clean. The window cleaners, however, had a difficult time of it, as the ceramic tiles offered little purchase to the ladder.

John Smiths sold the pub to Mansfield Brewery in the 1980s.

An internet search for the pub will usually reveal reports of ghostly activity. Many stories of landlords being drawn to the cellar by the sound of revellers having a party, but when the door to the beer room is opened, all falls silent. However, bottles and barrels are found strewn about the floor as if the guests have only just left. Many of the landlords affix the blame for these parties upon the murdered coachman.



The current landlord, Daniel, has also experienced many strange goings on, not the least of which happened during the pandemic of 2020. The day after the closure of all pubs in the country during the lockdown, the fire alarm went off in the middle of the night. There was no evidence of any smoke or flames, so the alarm was cancelled manually. This happened again, two hours later, then every hour, every half hour and finally, every fifteen minutes, until the engineers arrived to fix the problem. They determined that the sensor in the beer room was faulty, they unplugged it and promised to return the following day with a replacement. The fire alarm went off again, fifteen minutes after the engineers had left. Daniel, the landlord, decided to consult a medium who convinced him that the ghost was unhappy that the pub was closed and that he should trick the ghost into believing the pub was open again. He put the music back on in the bar and walked around on top of the beer room for a while, which stopped the fire alarm from going off. The music was left on throughout that and/or subsequent closures, just to keep the ghost happy. In addition, the top floor was used as a kindergarten in the past and sometimes the sound of children's footsteps can be heard running around, despite the door being locked. It appears that a landlady in the 1990s had a young child who often sat on the stairs to the top floor conversing with the invisible children. The pub is a very lively venue with colourful characters, not the sort of place you'd imagine to find ghosts.







# THE SUN INN

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SUNNY SIDE UP

## SIGN OF THE TIMES

The south facing frontage and large windows of the Sun Inn, is probably the reason for its celestial name but as there has been a public house on this site since the 1800s, it's impossible to be sure.


## DIRECTIONS

**Head a little way back across the Market Square in the direction of the Town Centre. The Market Pub is on the left.**

## 12 THE MARKET PLACE

In 1204 a charter was granted by King John allowing the burgesses of the town to hold markets on Tuesday and Saturday and an eight-day fair on the feast of the Holy Rood on 14th September.

The original market lay between the parish church and Holywell Street. There was no room for development there so a larger Saturday market was opened on the western edge of the town. The principal trade was in wool. Additional days for fairs were granted for horses and cattle.

When Celia Fiennes, an early travel writer, visited the town in 1697 she found a thriving market selling corn, provisions and all sorts of wares. She was particularly impressed by the quality of Chesterfield beer, describing it as the best in the country. In 1828 the range of buildings between the Market Place and New Square was demolished. Until the borough was extended in 1892 market tolls provided the biggest share of the council's income. Cattle continued to be offered for sale in the Market Place until a new cattle market opened in 1900. Additional markets were introduced in 1926 (Monday), 1965 (Friday) and the Flea Market (1980s). Photo right: New Square.






## TICKET TO RIDE

Pictured is a tram heading to New Whittington. The date would have been around 1904. You can see the tram shelters in front of the Market Hall and to the left is Sorbo Lounge, which for many years was Chesterfield Post Office.







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13 **THE MARKET PUB** stands on the northern side of New Square, which was originally called Swine Green and as the name suggests, it was the local pig market. Raising a pig used to be far more common, it was an excellent way to turn household waste into a profit. In 1864, Thomas Evinson moved into a grocer's in the prominent row of terraced shops and established himself as a Wholesale and Retail Dealer in Ales and Porters for Samuel Allsopp and Sons (who eventually merged with Ind Coope).

In 1869, Thomas expanded into the shop next door and created a pub called Post Office Vaults (1869-1872)

The flamboyantly named Frederick Farnsworth took the pub on after Evinson's death in 1874. In 1881, he appears to have changed the name to the New Square Inn, the Market Inn, then the Market Tavern, possibly in an attempt to stave off his eventual bankruptcy.

In 1892, Alfred Redfern became the landlord and gave the pub a new name, the Market Hotel. He hosted an exhibition of cage and wild birds in the Market Hotel Music Hall. This was a large wooden room at the rear of the building, used for music recitals. Unfortunately it later caught fire destroying a valuable piano. It has to be said that fires often consumed expensive items that were entirely fictitious and solely employed to inflate the insurance payout.

In the early 1900s, the Market Hotel was an important meeting place for many local industrialists who would exchange new ideas and innovations, as well as planning the redevelopment of Chesterfield's slum areas, known as the 'dog kennels' just across the square, behind Low Pavement. In 1933, Wilfred Barker was the landlord, he had the tenancy through the Second World War. The pub was partially commendered by His Majesty's Inspectorate of Munitions and a large Anderson-style Air Raid Shelter was built at the rear in Schofield Yard, which is still there today.

A full licence was granted in February 1949, when the Market was owned by Tetleys. Ena and Douglas Moseley took on the pub in 1954. They removed the wall dividing the lounge and tap room in 1970. They were very popular and long serving tenants that older residents still remember.

The division between the two original shop units can still be seen inside the pub where one half has a stone-flag floor and the other has wooden floorboards.

Today, it's owned by Greene King and leased by another man called Douglas and is well known for its remarkable food produced in a kitchen only ten feet by four feet wide. The seating in front of the pub is very popular but many people do not know that there is a covered beer garden at the rear which is perfect when the weather is uncooperative.

## DIRECTIONS

**From The Market Pub turn left onto Soresby Street.**

**14 MARKET HALL** Chesterfield Market Company was formed in 1853 with the intention of building a market hall. The building was opened in May 1857, with a covered area for the corn and butter markets. There were 24 shops around the outside with cellars underneath the shops and market. On the first floor was a large room used both as a magistrates' court and as an assembly room used for meetings and public entertainments. On the second floor there was a newsroom for the Mechanics Institute, and eight rooms for offices and a boardroom. The Clerk of the Market lived in the building. The Post Office was here from 1870 until 1886 and the Duke of Devonshire presented the clock in 1867.

The ground floor was extensively reconstructed in 1904. The building survived plans to demolish it in 1939 and 1978. Instead the building was cleaned and an extension built on the western side. This was rebuilt in 2013 when the building was refurbished.

As well as markets, the square has been the venue for mass meetings, parades, events, proclamations and also a visit from Prince Charles and Diana, Princess of Wales in 1981.Today, some market stalls are open six days a week, with a full market on Mondays, Fridays and Saturdays and an Antiques Market every Thursday, even through the winter. Monthly farmers and artisan markets are very popular, as are the themed events, such as the annual medieval and 1940s market.





## UNDER THE DOME

In the mid-1960s the clock tower dome on the Market Hall became unsafe and was removed. The building itself, like many in Chesterfield, was blackened by years of exposure to smoke from domestic and industrial chimneys. The building was cleaned and the top was replaced with a new fibreglass dome as part of a restoration in the 1980's.


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15 **THE HIDDEN KNIGHT** was originally built as a beer and wine merchants vaults. Indeed, the cellar covers an area approximately four times larger than the building above. It has a tall, vaulted ceiling which would have provided a cool space in which to store the alcoholic beverages before the advent of refrigeration. It is so large that part of it was dedicated to the rearing of pigs, pigstys are still in place today. You will be pleased to know that they haven't been used for this purpose for many years.

The pub itself has had a variety of names - Soresby Vaults, Dyson Vaults and Woods Vaults, the latter being named after Alderman T P Wood. He was the driving force behind the creation of the Queen's Park, which opened in 1893. His father was Captain Wood, who owned two brass cannons that were put on display in the cellar.

In 1905, it became the Welbeck Inn, named after a large estate in Sherwood Forest. It became a Kimberley Ales pub for many years, which ceased brewing in 2006.

The previous landlord was Ken Dolan and his wife, Dawn. They ran the pub with Ken's brother, Trevor. In 2021, Ken, Dawn and Trevor, who had decided to retire, celebrated their last evening in the pub with a few drinks. Trevor fell asleep in the bar and tragically died during the night. A bench dedicated to his memory stands in the street outside the pub.

The new name, The Hidden Knight, is in reference to Lord Soresby of Soresby Hall, which stood at the bottom of Soresby Street during the 1600s, before the street was actually built. During the reformation, Lord Soresby was secretly helping to keep catholic priests and knights hidden from persecution. Today, it's actually a Greene King pub that is leased by the landlord Paul, who is rightly proud of his excellent food.

## HISTORIC FINDS

The premises have a distinctly quirky arrangement, being on two levels, with the larger room being at the back.
On display are several pieces of old inn-keeping equipment, including a Victorian citrus fruit press. Additional cellar finds include bottles of Guinness from 1898 and many other vessels that are genuine museum pieces.

On the first floor, there is a function room, with a steep narrow staircase leading up to it, that was used for funeral wakes, which lays untouched since the 1980s. Cans of pop with old style ring-pulls and long forgotten branding were recently discovered covered in dust.

## MORE SECRET TUNNELS

There is also strong evidence of a tunnel leading eastwards towards the Crooked Spire but this appears to have caved in or been filled in, after a short distance.

## DIRECTIONS

**Turn right onto Rose Hill and then pause at Odyssey Greek Restaurant where you will turn left onto Glumangate.**

**16 THE QUEENS HEAD** The stone property on the corner of Glumangate and Knifesmithgate which is currently operating as the Odyssey Greek Restaurant was probably built in the mid 1700s and for many years, was known as the Queens Head. From the 60s to the 80s, it became a Berni Inn and had a restaurant on the ground and first floor. On Boxing Day of 1966, it was the last place that Mavis Hudson was seen alive. She was discovered strangled at the back of the abandoned Scarsdale Brewery on St Mary's Gate. The killer was never brought to justice and the case remains Derbyshire Constabulary's oldest unsolved murder.



**DIRECTIONS Follow Glumangate to the top and then turn left onto Saltergate. The Town Hall is to the front left. The Barley Mow is on the left side of Saltergate too.**

**17 THE TOWN HALL** is situated on Rose Hill, overlooking Shentall Gardens and the War Memorial. Construction of the building commenced in 1935 and was completed in 1938. The building was designed by Mr Hope of Messrs, Bradshaw, Gass and Hope. The tender for the build was granted to Robert Carlyle Co. Ltd. of Manchester in June 1935. The building cost £142,500 and was opened by the Duchess of Devonshire on 6 April 1938. It is built from orange brick and Portland Stone in the classical style, commanding an excellent view across the valley. The interior has beautifully crafted walnut panelling and furniture that was specifically designed for the building even down to desks, chairs and cupboards. An Egyptian theme runs through the decoration and there are lotus flower motifs in the ceilings.



## TOWN HALL CONT.

An extensive refurbishment, at a cost of £2.7 million, was completed in autumn 2018. Through the removal of interior walls, the works created extra space which enabled the Derbyshire Register Office and other public sector organisations to be accommodated in the building. Works of art in the town hall include a portrait by Henry William Pickersgill of Richard Arkwright.










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18 **THE BARLEY MOW** stands on Saltergate at the top of Angel Yard, which used to run all the way down to the Market Square. A large hotel called The Angel was situated at the bottom of this yard, approximately where Sorbo Lounge is today. It was an impressive property that was rumoured to have hosted Mary, Queen of Scots for a single night circa 1569. She would have been under the watchful eye of Bess of Hardwick, effectively the Queen's jailer for her cousin Mary.

The pub was built by George Green in 1802, an inscription in the stone lintel above the windows on the Saltergate side reads: "GG 1802". It was a Bradley Brewery pub and acquired a full liquor licence in 1857. Bradley's were purchased by Wards in 1876. Angel Yard was struck by tragedy in 1912, when nearby resident Mary Churchill killed three of her own children. It seems likely that Mary was suffering from postnatal depression, combined with crippling poverty. She was consigned to Broadmoor Psychiatric Hospital, where she seems to have made a substantial recovery, later reclaiming three of her children and leading an unremarkable life in Tupton.

In contrast, the pub seems to be a happy place as only four landlords have occupied it in the last 100 years. Lawrence Taylor, Tommy Andrews, Don Grace and finally today, Ady and Sarah Matthews. Don Grace was quite the character, he had the pub in the 1970s and 80s. He was asked by the brewery to redecorate and make the place 'a bit more fun'. He decided to hang Tom and Jerry wallpaper, much to the amusement of his regulars. They also often saw more of Don than they needed to as he would sometimes appear behind the bar dressed only in cowboy boots and a towel or an apron, and sometimes, nothing at all. He is remembered warmly as they were different times. In 1993, Ady arrived as a 24 year old temporary manager, with one customer remarking "you won't last two minutes, mate!". Over thirty years later, he is still running the pub with the help of his wife Sarah.




## WHAT'S IN NAME

### MOUSE HUNT

Many people don't know that a 'barley mow' is the name for a pile of harvested barley, in the same way that hay is gathered into a stack. With this in mind, the front windows are etched with the Wards Brewery name and a sheaf of barley.

In each individual sheaf you may be able to find a mouse hiding in plain sight, it's a great way to keep the kids quiet.



### A BUSINESS LUNCH

The pub's location near Solicitors and Accountants offices necessitates a high quality product and service. Ady is well known for his excellent menu and the staff for their warm welcome.

## DIRECTIONS

**Use the crossing to go over the road to the right and find Gasoline American Bar.**







19 **GASOLINE AMERICAN BAR** was formerly known as The County, 83 Saltergate. The name Saltergate derives from the horse drawn traders bringing salt, cheese and fabrics from Cheshire into the town down this thoroughfare. The pub was built in 1864 by Charles North at considerable expense. It's first landlord was Thomas Chester, who began operating in April but didn't acquire a licence until September.

A chapter of the Ancient Imperial Order of Oddfellows was established at the pub in 1864. This was a charitable organisation that suffered a number of factional splits since it's inception in Manchester in 1810. Members were known for their generosity as well as their hearty consumption of food, drink and fine cigars. George IV, Queen Victoria's father, happened upon a meeting of the order in London and insisted on becoming a member. The Oddfellows still exist today and are based in their city of origin in Manchester.

In 1866, he advertised the opening of a fine billiards room with two tables and all necessary equipment, manufactured to the highest standards.

In 1867, members of the Chesterfield Cricket Club met in the County to formally discuss the creation of a football club, something to keep the members of the Cricket Club active during the winter. It seems that a team called Chesterfield may have been playing matches as early as 1863 and the football club today assert an 1866 foundation date.

At first, the cricket and football club shared the Recreation Ground which later became the home of Chesterfield FC and known as Saltergate. Until the appropriate buildings were established, the County was their headquarters and changing rooms, the players taking a bath after the game, possibly in the yard at the back. William Stones became the owner and as with many of their pubs they refreshed the facade with a mock Tudor frontage around 1920.




## A NEW LOOK

### THE MODERN DAY

By 2016, the interior was in need of refreshment and the new landlord, Phillip Deacon, had a grand idea to reform the venue as The County Music Bar, installing a stage and state of the art PA system. Many local bands played their first gig at The County.

In 2022, Phillip rebranded to Gasoline American Bar, which concentrates on sports but still hosts live music.



### ROCK 'N 'ROLL

Famous bands that have played in Chesterfield includes the Rolling Stones, Kinks, Roy Orbison, Gene Vincent and the Yardbirds, The Walker Brothers, Cat Stevens, Jimi Hendrix. Pink Floyd, Bob Geldof and Engelbert Humperdinck, to name but a few.






# GASOLINE

AMERICAN BAR






A fun and modern venue for everyone to enjoy social eating, drinking and watching live music or live sports. The venue boasts multi screen sports a great beer selection and American Street food style menu including the "best wings in Chesterfield".
With a large beer garden as well as plenty of indoor seating it's the perfect venue to meet and hangout with friends or family.

"Great Style & Great Atmosphere"

BIG SCREEN SPORTS
Football • F1 Racing • Horse Racing
Boxing • WWE • American Football • Rugby

Fantastic food including our famous Chicken wings
Arcade and Games Machines
LIVE MUSIC & DJ NIGHTS

@Gasoline-Chesterfield
83 SALTERGATE, CHESTERFIELD S40 1JS




## RECORD BREAKER

As this booklet went to print, English punk and folk singer-songwriter Frank Turner announced plans to attempt to break the world record for the most shows played in 24 hours in honour of the Music Venue Trust. Turner's most recent studio album reached number 1 in the UK albums chart. One of the shows on the evening of the 4th May was at **Gasoline.** The tickets sold out on the day of release and you'll have to Google it, to see if Frank broke the record. Fingers crossed.

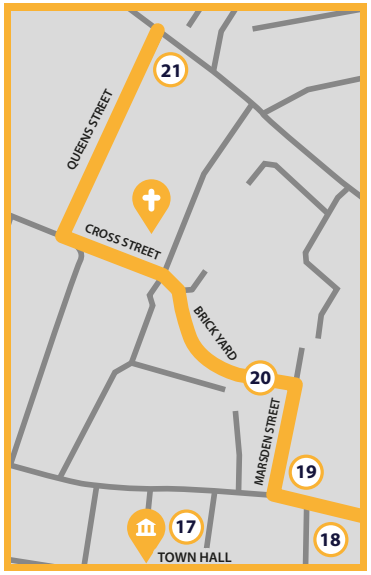


## ROCK 'N 'ROLL

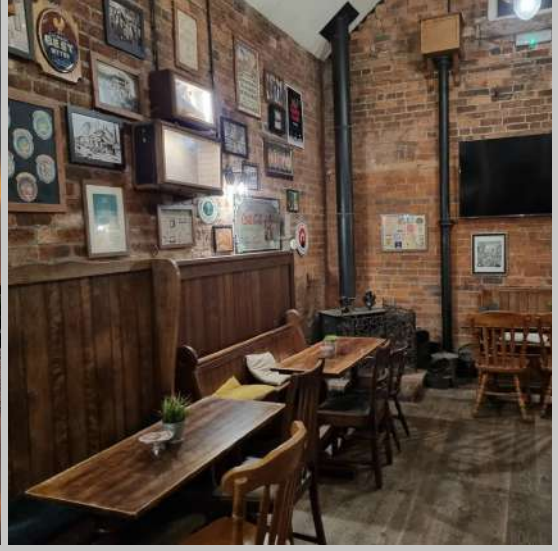
Rock legend, Phil 'Philthy Animal' Taylor was born in Hasland, Chesterfield. He achieved fame as the drummer in heavy metal band Motorhead. Their iconic hit song the Ace of Spades is an ode to gambling and risking everything for the thrill of the game. Taylor died on the 12th November 2015.

## 20 TO CHESTERFIELD ARMS

From the Gasoline American Bar leave via the front door and go right (away from the Town Centre). Take the next right onto Marsden Street. On one side of the road is Real Time Music, a popular live music venue. On the other side is the Cavendish Lodge 3055, meeting place for the Chesterfield Freemasons. The next few pathways are a mini maze, designed to test how much you've had to drink. Turn left onto Brick Yard and then continue across onto another footpath, Cross Street. To the side you will see the Annunciation R C Church, a lovely Grade II listed Catholic Church. Finally turn right onto Queens Street. Follow the road down to find the final pub the Chesterfield Arms. Our journey will then come to an end. Stay safe and be excellent to each other.







**21 THE CHESTERFIELD ARMS** stands on the corner of Queen Street and Newbold Road, which was developed much later than the town centre. The creation of the new Poor Laws enabled the construction of a workhouse opposite the Trinity Church in 1837, the site later becoming Scarsdale Hospital.

The pub itself was built in 1857 and called the Chesterfield Arms Hotel. A succession of private landlords came and went, the Derbyshire Times recording the sale of some curious items during the departure of William Goodwin in 1869. This included: a two horse omnibus to carry 12 passengers, a splendid double-seated phaeton carriage, a joiners bench, cucumber frame, nine tonnes of hay, two heaps of manure, a noted greyhound "Smoker", a greyhound puppy, "Minnie", by "Smoker" and out of Mr Charlton's bitch "Fly", likely to turn out to be a first class dog and a handsome liver and white Spaniel, a rosewood cottage pianoforte by Hopkinson, a stag's head, a ram's head and a fox's head - all excellent condition, a single barrelled gun, chimney glass and a Lloyd's map of the British Isles.

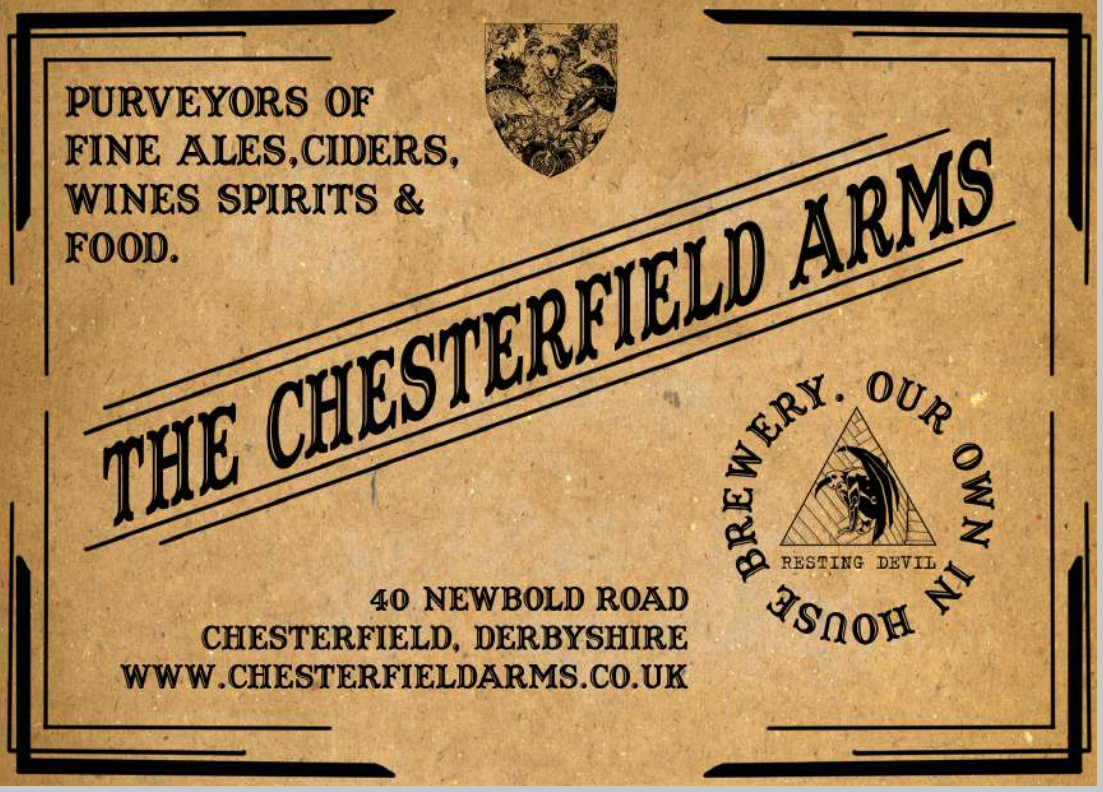
The pub was acquired by the Chesterfield Brewery Company in 1872, this was logistically convenient as the Brewery was at the top of Brimington Road near the train station, less than half a mile away. The Brewery later became the Trebor Sweet Factory. Originally, the pub had two entrances on the Newbold Road side, photographs of the old layout can be found on the walls, along with the original stained glass "Off Sales" windows above the side door.

For many years, the pub was an obvious choice for a pre-match drink for Chesterfield Football Club supporters as the Saltergate Ground was at the top of Queen Street and therefore, this was one of the closest pubs. In 1967, all football league clubs were asked to segregate stands into home and away fans, due to fighting between rival supporters becoming prevalent. A logistical problem for the Chesterfield Constabulary was apparent when large groups of away fans needed to be escorted from the train station to the football ground, right past the Chesterfield Arms. The Industry public house next door was allowed to cater to the thirst of these away fans resulting in tense situations and minor skirmishes. This situation was resolved when the football club moved to Sheffield Road in 2010, however, Chesterfield fans still find time to call in for a pint before the match.




## DANCING WITH THE DEVIL

Chesterfield Arm owners Emma and Josh Clarke initiated their own small scale brewery called "Resting Devil" in 2022, in the back room of the pub, formerly known as The Barn. The name "Resting Devil" is in reference to the many folklore tales concerning the Crooked Spire being twisted by the devil in various ways. All the beer they make are named after different folklore stories from around the world. Said Josh:
*"So far, we've given our beers the following names: Twisted Pale (another nod to the folklore of Chesterfield and the Devil). Our West Coast IPA is called Banshee after the Irish legend. We did a stout called Dagda and again that's from Irish folklore. We have a Bitter – Extra Special / Strong (ESB) which is called Crooker. This myth is a little bit more local as it's a story from Darley Dale in the Peak District about a tree that used to like to drown people in a river there. I wanted all of our beers to have some sort of narrative and to be able to tell a tale".*




Campaign for Real Ale

## CHESTERFIELD CAMRA

The Chesterfield Arms won Chesterfield CAMRA pub of the year for two years running in 2022 and 2023. All the pubs in this booklet supply a high standard of beer. The majority of the pubs sell either real ale cask beer or craft keg beer. For more details about CAMRA check out their advert earlier in this booklet.

# THE 'GREAT MINDS' BEHIND THIS PROJECT



**SHAUN STEVENSON** Much of the history content for this booklet was curated by Chesterfield born, Shaun Stevenson. He has a degenerative eye condition which lead to him being almost completely blind by the time he was 40 years old. He opted for early retirement and developed an interest in the local history of Chesterfield's pubs, when it was suggested to him that he create a historic pub tour. The Chesterfield Great Historic Pub Tour has been running since 2019, but was forced to suspend during the Covid pandemic in 2020. Since then, his hobby of hosting pub tours has taken off with the introduction of a Brampton Mile Pub Crawl in 2023 and a Bakewell Pub Tour in 2024. Shaun also co-hosts, alongside Martin Alvey, popular Ghost Hunts at Halloween and Christmas, as well as an annual Murder Trail in March. Shaun has an incredible ability to regale his tour goers with both the history in this booklet and other anecdotes on his tours.



**CHRIS FOX** This booklet has been designed by Chris Fox. A graphic designer from Chesterfield, Chris is a rock music lover (Ghost are a current obsession), biscuit connoisseur (Granola bars are a favourite) and all round geek (The only good war is Star Wars). Passionate about supporting pubs, their history and futures, Chris is proud to team up with Shaun on this booklet. Said Chris: "It's been a joy to work in this project and share the stories of the pubs history. Shaun really is a superb storyteller and we hope you enjoy finding more about them. Plus, why not treat yourself to a couple of shandies as you visit the pubs featured too".

# EVEN BIGGER AND BETTER

The same high quality historical information and humorous delivery from our guides but now there are 3 tours for you to enjoy. We give you around 30 minutes at each venue, an oral history of the pub and the option to purchase a drink of your choice.

GREAT VALUE: USE THE QR CODE FOR THE LATEST PRICES



## CHESTERFIELD GREAT HISTORIC PUB TOUR

A new route for 2024 and this year, we include details about the pubs that vanished from the town, sometimes without a trace. This tour starts at the Pig & Pump at 12pm and visits eight of the best pubs in town, all dog friendly. Taking bookings for the dates

## BRAMPTON MILE GREAT HISTORIC PUB CRAWL




This monumental challenge returns for only its second year. Tremendously popular with groups and parties. Up to 14 pubs, three bars/restaurants, a micro-brewery and a micro pub to have a drink at, with the history of each one plus more than a dozen other pubs that have disappeared over the years. We start the crawl at The Star at 12:30pm. Taking booking for the dates



## BAKEWELL GREAT HISTORIC PUB TOUR

Brand new for 2024 this walking tour illuminates the history of Bakewell through its public houses. With eight dog friendly pubs to tell you about, it's probably the prettiest pub tour for many miles. Public transport links from Chesterfield are available, just ask. We start the tour at The Red Lion at 12pm.

All our tours are cash on the day, but booking is required.

www.facebook.com/CGHPT

Call us on 07908 183160




## GREAT HISTORIC PUB TOUR

This booklet is very much an extension of the Chesterfield Great Historic Pub Tour. Created by Shaun Stevenson, the current tour covers three areas: Chesterfield Town Centre, the Brampton Mile and Bakewell. If you enjoyed reading this booklet and the stories featured, then the tour goes into even more detail. The tour is constantly updated with new historic facts and tales. Book by texting 07908 183160 or visit the Facebook page: www.facebook.com/CGHPT It's a wonderful afternoon, great fun and you won't regret it!

SCAN ME