

The Recent and Decent Pubs List 2018

These are the pubs throughout the UK (and the Isle of Man) that I've visited and enjoyed since 2013. I've also visited some very ordinary pubs and a few terrible ones, and they are most definitely not included. Some of the pubs listed I have visited only once, though I enjoyed them and will go back if I'm in the area again. Others I have visited often and seek them out whenever I am in the vicinity. The focus is on the beer and the atmosphere rather than food. Every pub on this list I have enjoyed. It can be sometimes be difficult to tell at very quiet times of day, what a pub will be like on a busy evening, but many years of practice can help to spot a good pub.

A few caveats:

* Full details of my favourite pubs in the parts of the country I visit most regularly are in the separate guides for Northumbria, Central London and Edinburgh and Glasgow.

* There are many places where I used to have favourite pubs, but they miss out on this list. I've excluded pubs and places that I haven't visited since 2012 (for example Birmingham, Nottingham, Derby, Northern Ireland, South Wales, Devon and Cornwall) or my visit has been so brief that I haven't had time to check out what used to be my favourite pubs (for example Manchester, Liverpool and Oxford). This has also led to deletions from the 1917 list including pubs in Shrewsbury and Coventry in England and the entries for Moray and the Old Forge at Inverie in Scotland.

* There is only so much time for travelling (and for drinking – I still have a liver to protect), so there are many places I have never visited. There are others where I have been unlucky in my choice of pubs.

Despite these caveats here's my list of recommendations. The majority of the are in the CAMRA Good Beer Guide and all should be listed on CAMRA's www.whatpub.com, both of which cover the places I haven't visited. Enjoy.

Pubs in the Good Beer Guide 2018 are marked GBG. New additions since the 2017 list are marked NEW.

Steve Gillon *January 2018*

A note about Wetherspoon's.

There are Wetherspoon's pubs virtually everywhere - they share the same plusses (good choice of beer, cheap beer) and minuses (slow service, the atmosphere of a canteen rather than a pub) so, unless they are exceptional, I haven't mentioned them in this list, or in the other guides. The quality of the beer can vary tremendously, depending on the skill and enthusiasm of the staff, and how much real ale they sell. A couple have made it into the guides, usually because they are architecturally magnificent and well-restored old buildings. Do not assume that Wetherspoon's pubs are not worth a visit – there are plenty of small towns where they have the best selection of beer in town and are forcing the other pubs to up their game or close. In the past couple of years I can think of examples in Ayr, Crook, Grimsby, Kirkcaldy, Llandudno, Sheerness and Spennymoor.

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ENGLAND

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

Buckingham: Woolpack
Chesham: Queens Head

CAMBRIDGESHIRE

Peterborough: Brewery Tap
Wisbech: Red Lion, GBG

CUMBRIA

Broughton in Furness: Manor Arms, GBG
Cockermouth: Swan, GBG
Foxfield: Prince of Wales, GBG
Kendal: Castle Inn
Kirkby Lonsdale: Orange Tree, GBG
Penrith: Agricultural Hotel, GBG
St Bees: Manor, GBG
Staveley: Eagle and Child, GBG
Wetheral: Wheatsheaf, GBG

DORSET

Cerne Abbas: Royal Oak, GBG
Lyme Regis: Volunteer Inn
Sherborne: Digby Tap, GBG
Weymouth: Globe Inn, GBG

Co. DURHAM

[See the separate Northumbria Pub Guide for details.](#)

HERTFORDSHIRE

Hatfield: Eight Bells
Hatfield: Horse and Groom, GBG

KENT

Birchington on Sea: Wheel Ale House
Canterbury: Dolphin, GBG
Canterbury: Foundry, GBG
Canterbury: Unicorn, GBG
Dover: Mash Tun, GBG
Dungeness: Pilot Inn
Maidstone: Flower Pot, GBG
Maidstone: Swan

LANCASHIRE

Lancaster: Sun, GBG
Lancaster: Three Mariners, GBG

LEICESTERSHIRE

Leicester: Ale Wagon, GBG, NEW
Leicester: Blue Boar, GBG, NEW
Leicester: Kings Head, GBG, NEW

LONDON (CENTRAL)

[See the central London best pubs guide for details.](#)

LONDON (OUTER)

LB Croydon, Croydon, Dog and Bull, GBG
LB Croydon, Croydon, Half and Half
LB Croydon, Croydon, Royal Standard
LB Islington, Dalston, Railway Tavern, GBG
LB Richmond, Twickenham: Fox
LB Tower Hamlets: Albion in Goldsmiths Row

Greater MANCHESTER

BURY
Bury: Trackside, GBG
OLDHAM
Greenfield: Railway Inn
TAMESIDE
Stalybridge: Station Buffet Bar, GBG

NORFOLK:

Cromer: Red Lion
Wells next the Sea: Edinburgh Bar

NORTHUMBERLAND

[See the separate Northumbria Pub Guide for details.](#)

OXFORDSHIRE

Hook Norton: Pear Tree Inn, GBG

SOMERSET

Bath: Bell, GBG
Bath: Couer de Lion
Bath: Old Green Tree, GBG
Bath: Raven, GBG
Bath: Star Inn, GBG
Weston Super Mare: Criterion

ENGLAND Continued

STAFFORDSHIRE

Newcastle under Lyme: Museum
Stoke on Trent, Etruria: Holy Inadequate, GBG
Stoke on Trent, Hanley: Coachmakers, GBG
Stoke on Trent, Hartshill: Greyhound, GBG
Stoke on Trent, Stoke: Glebe, GBG
Stoke on Trent, Stoke: White Star

SUFFOLK

Aldeburgh: White Hart, GBG
Southwold: Harbour Inn
Southwold: Lord Nelson, GBG
Sudbury: Brewery Tap, GBG

SUSSEX (EAST)

Rye: Ypres Castle, GBG
Uckfield: Alma, GBG

TEESSIDE

HARTLEPOOL

[See the separate Northumbria
Pub Guide for details.](#)

MIDDLESBROUGH

Middlesbrough: Sherlocks
Middlesbrough: Twisted Lip
REDCAR and CLEVELAND

Guisborough: Anchor

STOCKTON

[See the separate Northumbria
Pub Guide for details.](#)

TYNE and WEAR

[See the separate Northumbria
Pub Guide for details.](#)

WILTSHIRE

Avebury: Red Lion
Swindon: Glue Pot, GBG

YORKSHIRE (EAST RIDING)

Beverley: Chequers, GBG
Beverley: Tiger Inn
Beverley: White Horse (Nellies)
Bridlington: Station Buffet, NEW
Flamborough: Dog & Duck, NEW

YORKSHIRE (NORTH)

Beck Hole: Birch Hall Inn, GBG
Egton Bridge: Horseshoe Hotel, GBG
Harrogate: Hales Bar
Harrogate: Harrogate Tap, GBG
Hinderwell: Brown Cow
Lealholm: Board Inn, GBG
Ribblehead: Station Inn
Robin Hoods Bay: Dolphin
Ruswarp: Bridge Inn
Scarborough: Stumble Inn, GBG, NEW
Skipton: Boat House, GBG, NEW
Skipton: Woolly Sheep, GBG, NEW
Staithes: Royal George
Whitby: Jolly Sailor
Whitby: Station Inn, GBG
York, City Centre, Ackhorne, NEW
York, City Centre: Blue Bell, GBG
York, City Centre: Maltings
York, City Centre: Snickleway Inn
York, City Centre: Swan, GBG
York, City Centre: York Arms
York, City Centre: York Brewery Tap, NEW
York, City Centre: Yorkshire Terrier
York, Peasholme Green: Black Swan
York, York Station: York Tap, GBG

YORKSHIRE (SOUTH)

DONCASTER

Doncaster: Corner Pin, GBG
Doncaster: Plough, GBG
Doncaster: White Swan, GBG

SHEFFIELD

Sheffield Station: Sheffield Tap, GBG

YORKSHIRE (WEST)

BRADFORD

Bradford: Jacob's Beer House, GBG, NEW

Bradford: Record Café, GBG, NEW

Keighley: Boltmakers Arms

Shipley: Fox, GBG, NEW

KIRKLEES

Holmfirth, Nook, GBG, NEW

Huddersfield: Grove, GBG

Huddersfield: Sportsman, GBG

Marsden: Riverhead Brewery Tap, GBG

LEEDS

City Centre: Adelphi,

City Centre, Angel Inn, NEW

City Centre, Duck and Drake, , GBG, NEW

City Centre, Whitelocks, GBG, NEW

Otley: Junction Inn, GBG

Otley: Old Cock, GBG

SEE THE NEXT PAGE FOR SCOTLAND

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SCOTLAND

ABERDEEN CITY

City Centre: Aitchies Ale House, GBG

City Centre: Grill, GBG

City Centre: Prince of Wales, GBG

ABERDEENSHIRE

Aboyne: Boat Inn, GBG

Ballater: Glenaden Hotel, GBG

ANGUS

Montrose: Market Arms

ARGYLL and BUTE

Campbeltown: Black Sheep Bar, Royal Hotel, NEW

Iona: Martyrs Bay Bar

Kilcreggan, Lighthouse

Lochgilthead, The Comm NEW

Mull, Craignure: Craignure Inn

Oban: Lorne Bar

DUMFRIES and GALLOWAY

Dumfries: Cavens Arms, GBG

Dumfries: New Bazaar, GBG

Dumfries: Tam O'Shanter, GBG

Isle of Whithorn: Steam Packet Inn, GBG

Kippford: Anchor Hotel

Kirkcolm: Blue Peter Hotel

Moffat: Star Bar, Star Hotel

Newton Stewart: Black Horse

Stranraer: Grapes, GBG

DUNDEE

Broughty Ferry: Fishermans Tavern, GBG

Perth Road, Phoenix, GBG

Perth Road, Speedwell (Mennie's), GBG

EAST RENFREWSHIRE

Eaglesham, Swan Inn NEW

Na h-EILEANAN SAR

Barra, Castlebay: Castlebay Hotel Bar

Lewis, Ness: Old Barn Bar, Cross Inn

Lewis, Stornoway: Criterion Bar

Lewis, Stornoway, Edge O' the World, NEW

Lewis, Stornoway, McNeills

EDINBURGH

[See the Edinburgh and Glasgow](#)

[Favourite Pubs Guide](#)

FALKIRK

Wheatsheaf Inn, GBG

FIFE

Anstruther: Ship Inn, GBG

Dunfermline: Commercial Inn, GBG

St Andrews: Central, GBG

St Andrews: Criterion, GBG

St Andrews: Whey Pat Tavern

GLASGOW

[See the Edinburgh and Glasgow](#)

[Favourite Pubs Guide](#)

HIGHLAND

Aviemore: Old Bridge Inn, GBG

Grantown on Spey: High St Merchants, NEW

Inverness, Castle Tavern, GBG

Inverness, Gellions, NEW

Inverness, Phoenix Bar, GBG

Mallaig, Steam Inn, NEW

PERTH and KINROSS

Blair Atholl: Bothy Bar, Atholl Arms Hotel

Perth: Greyfriars, GBG

Perth: Old Ship Inn

Pitlochry: Moulin Inn, GBG

Pitlochry: Old Mill Inn, GBG

SCOTTISH BORDERS

Melrose: Kings Arms, GBG

WEST LoTHIAN

Linlithgow, Platform 3, GBG, NEW

WALES

CONWY

Conwy: Y Bont/Bridge Inn, GBG

Conwy: Albion, GBG

Llandudno: Kings Head, GBG

Llandudno: Snowdon, GBG

DENBIGHSHIRE

Llangollen: Corn Mill

Llangollen: Wynnstay Arms

GWYNEDD

Barmouth: Royal Hotel, GBG

Dolgellau: Cross Keys

Dolgellau: Torrent Walk, GBG

Porthdinllaen: Ty Coch, GBG

Porthmadog: Australia

Porthmadog: Ship Inn

Porthmadog: Station Inn, GBG

Tremadog: Union Inn, GBG

Ynys Môn

Beaumaris: Bull, GBG, NEW

Beaumaris: Castle Court, GBG

Beaumaris: George and Dragon

Beaumaris: Liverpool Arms

Beaumaris: Midland Tapas Bar, NEW

Cemaes: Stag, NEW

Menai Bridge: Liverpool Arms, GBG

Menai Bridge: Tafarn Y Bont/Bridge Inn,
NEW

Moelfre: Kinmel Arms

POWYS

Machynlleth: Red Lion

Machynlleth: Dyfi Forester, GBG

ISLE OF MAN

Castletown: Castle Arms, GBG

Castletown: Sidings, GBG

Douglas: Old Market Inn, GBG

Douglas: Prospect Hotel, GBG

Douglas: Rovers Return, GBG

Laxey: Mines Tavern, GBG

Old Laxey: Shore Hotel, GBG

Peel: Creek Inn, GBG

Port Erin: Bay Hotel

Port St Mary: Albert Hotel, GBG