

BREWER'S CORNER

Beery news from around the world.

HOP OF THE WEEK

We take an in-depth look at the Chinook hop.

TAPROOM REVIEW

Rob visits Platform 2 Craft Ale Bar in Tynemouth.



ISSUE TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY TWO APRIL 28th 2025



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Not So Intelligent?

All the talk these days seems to be about the advent of Artificial Intelligence, and whether or not it offers great advantages, or is something we should be concerned about. One of these concerns is the ability of Al to clone things, including people's identities. In the wrong hands this could obviously be a danger, but I would imagine appropriate safeguards would be in place.

I do, however, have a concern over more mundane areas of intelligence. Before penning this intro I asked Google if there was anything memorable about today's date (there was nothing of note other than it is 'Save the Frogs Day' and historically it was the day in 357 that Constantius II visited Rome for his first and only visit. You might not have known that!)

There was another response from Google - attributed to AI - which started by telling me that the 28th April 2025 was a Tuesday!

So despite its lauded super intelligence, AI doesn't even seem to know what day it is!



Cheers.

The latest news and views articles collated from the world of beer.



Modest Rise of Pub Numbers

Let's start this week with a glimmer of good news regarding pub numbers, which shows that there has been a modest rise in the numbers of community pubs, food pubs and high street pubs in the year to March 2025, according to the Hospitality Market Monitor.

READ THE ARTICLE

London's Roughest Pub Crawl!

This one is a bit random! We couldn't resist linking to an article in the Daily Star, which saw them send two journalists out on London's roughest pub crawl!

READ THE ARTICLE





How Much!?

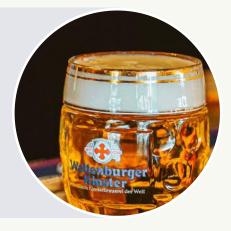
Now this is a really good read! It is easy to underestimate the Pub Curmudgeon, but he is actually a really perceptive observer and commentator on the UK pub scene. This week he takes a close look at pub pricing, in a market where apparently the average Brit now drinks only about I.25 pints per week in a pub. (Ahem..!!)

READ THE ARTICLE

German Beer Consumption on the Wane

Finally, here is some good news! It turns out that general reverence for German beer has significantly declined in the past decade. Consumption of German beer is down 6% Worldwide in the decade to 2024, with consumption in Germany itself down I5%. Look, German beers are fine, but please don't tell us that a Pilsner or a Helles can be compared to a wellbrewed NEIPA or a BA Imperial Stout!

READ THE ARTICLE



Beer of the Week Buy You Flowers

5.5% DDH Pale

by Rivington Brewing Co.



A DDH Pale Ale brewed in collaboration with Drop Project Brew Co. Hopped with Nectaron, Galaxy & Nectaron Cryo.

Available in keg and can.

Craft Bar Review



ROB C TWICB CO FOUNDER



Tynemouth, North Shields NE30 4RE

Nestled within the charming Tynemouth Metro Station in North Shields, just a short ride from Newcastle, Platform 2 is a taproom that effortlessly blends heritage with modern hospitality. Once a humble station waiting room and later a coffee house, this bar has been tastefully reimagined into a buzzing craft beer haven – and it's no surprise it's a local favourite.



The vibe here is warm and welcoming, thanks to its clever mix of old and new. Think exposed red brick walls, rustic wooden floors, towering ceilings with industrial-style pendant lamps, and big windows that flood the space with natural light. It's one rectangular room with a great flow – perimeter seating hugs the edges while a good number of wooden tables fill the centre. It's stylish but unpretentious, the kind of place where you can just as easily enjoy a quiet pint or a lively catch-up with friend

Craft Bar Review

Platform 2 boasts an impressive selection behind the bar: four cask ales, nine keg taps, a still cider, and a wide variety of wines, spirits, and canned craft beers (available to drink in or take away). During our visit, we sampled standouts like Cloudwater's Fifty Summers Pale Ale, Polly's Brew Co's Gruxle Pale Ale, and Vault City's Screwball Sour. Every pour was fresh and full of flavour – the lineup clearly curated with care.



Adding to the appeal are some lovely extras: a free vintage-style jukebox playing eclectic tunes, a stack of board games for relaxed afternoons, and a spacious outdoor drinking area right on the station concourse. Live music nights and big-screen sport screenings keep the calendar busy, and there's always a buzz about the place — it can get noisy, but in that infectious, community-pub kind of way.

The staff are a real asset too – friendly, knowledgeable, and always happy to chat through what's on tap. And being directly on the Metro line means you're never far from home, making it an ideal pre- or post-journey pit stop.

Craft Bar Review

Open seven days a week from 3pm (noon on weekends), Platform 2 is everything you could want in a modern taproom with a historic twist. Great beer, great atmosphere, and a truly unique location. Highly recommended.







Chinook Hops: The Piney Powerhouse of American Craft Beer

When it comes to bold, aromatic, and character-rich hops, Chinook stands tall as one of the key players in American craft brewing. Developed in the I980s as part of a USDA breeding program, **Chinook** has grown from a utility bittering hop into a darling of the craft beer world, celebrated for its unique flavour profile and versatility.

Origins and Background

Chinook was released in 1985, bred from a cross between Petham Golding and a USDA male plant. Originally intended for high alpha acid bittering in American-style ales, it quickly caught the attention of craft brewers looking to add complexity to their hop-forward creations.

Named after the Chinook people of the Pacific Northwest and the powerful winds that sweep through the Columbia River Gorge, this hop is deeply rooted in the identity of American brewing.

Aroma and Flavour Profile

Chinook is known for its **spicy, piney, and resinous characteristics**, often accompanied by notes of **grapefruit, earthy herbs, and smoky wood**. In higher concentrations or when used late in the boil or for dry hopping, it can take on a bold citrus edge with hints of dank, almost catty pungency – a flavour profile some love for its punchy presence. notes or showcase a drier, wine-like character.

Aroma: Pine, grapefruit, spice, earth **Flavour**: Resinous bitterness, citrus zest, subtle floral notes **Alpha Acid Range**: Typically 12%–14% – ideal for bittering

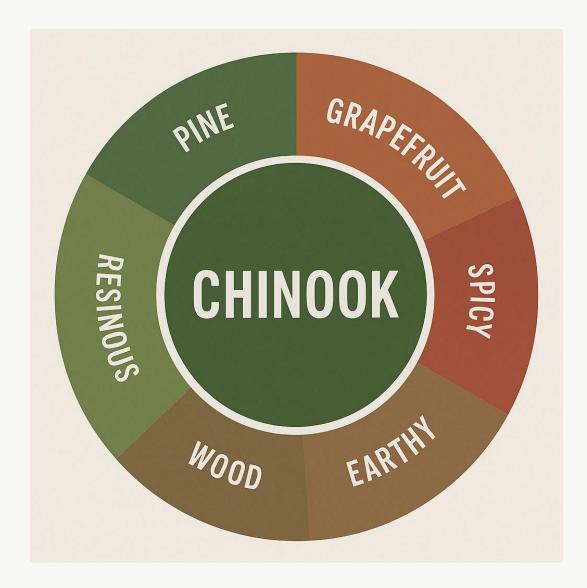
Brewing Applications

Chinook is a true dual-purpose hop. While it began as a bittering hop thanks to its high alpha acid content, its aromatic punch has made it a star in late additions and dry hopping.

Popular uses:

IPAs and Double IPAs – Brings sharp bitterness and complex pine-citrus aromas.
 American Pale Ales – Adds depth and crisp edge.
 Stouts and Porters – The pine and spice can complement roasted malts beautifully.
 Winter ales and Barleywines – Holds its own against richer malt backbones.

Because of its bold flavour, Chinook is often used in combination with other hops like Cascade, Centennial, Simcoe, and Citra to balance its intensity and bring out complementary citrus or tropical fruit notes.



Growing and Availability

Chinook hops thrive in the Pacific Northwest, particularly in Washington and Oregon, but have also found homes in other hop-growing regions globally. They are relatively easy to grow for homebrewers, known for their high yield and disease resistance.

As craft brewing has surged, so has demand for Chinook, both in the U.S. and internationally. It's available as whole leaf, pellet, and even in cryo hop format for brewers seeking a more concentrated form.



Conclusion

Chinook is not for the faint of palate. It's bold, brash, and undeniably charismatic — a hop that brings a forest full of flavour to every glass. Whether you're crafting a piney IPA, a smoky stout, or experimenting with a new hop-forward style, Chinook delivers a memorable punch that defines many modern American beers.

So next time you crack open a West Coast IPA and get a whiff of pine forests and grapefruit rinds, raise a toast to Chinook – the hop that brings the wilderness to your pint.

Beer Name of the Week

Brewers are always coming up with great names for their latest brews, so we thought it's about time we noticed some of them.

Pier Pressure

5.5% New England IPA

By Docks Beers

Brewed in the neighbourhood of Cleethorpes Pier, this New England IPA is all about a luxuriously soft, pillowy body bursting with flavour. Think juicy waves of ripe passion fruit, melon, and citrus zest, with a subtle swirl of herbal notes and a touch of apricot and peach for extra depth.



UK Craft Beer Festivals

2-3 MAY 2025

AWAKENING '25 St Johns Church, Forton Rd, Gosport POI2 4TQ https://shorturl.at/XfV8e

3-4 MAY 2025 MAIDENHEAD CRAFT BEER FESTIVAL

Maidenhead United Football Club, York Road, Maidenhead
<u>https://shorturl.at/ImzBt</u>

3-4 MAY 2025

FROM THE LAND BEER FESTIVAL

Acklington Park Farm, Northumberland NE65 9AA https://shorturl.at/A3sda

3-4 MAY 2025

NORWICH CRAFT BEER FESTIVAL

The Waterfront, Norwich https://shorturl.at/jXo7v





15-17 MAY 2025

BEHIND BARS - CRAFT BEER FEST

A Wing, Lancaster Castle,, Castle Hill, Lancaster LAI IYN
https://shorturl.at/NWb24

16-17 MAY 2025

MANCHESTER CRAFT BEER FESTIVAL

Depot Mayfield, Manchester https://linktr.ee/manchestercraftbeerfestival

16-17 MAY 2025

HOP CITY 2025

The Old Flax Store, Marshall St, Leeds LSII 9YJ https://www.universe.com/events/hop-city-2025-tickets-6FNG7B

23-24 MAY 2025

BEACH STREET BEER FESTIVAL

Beach Street, Felixstowe, Suffolk https://myhopsters.com/beach-street-beer-fest

29-31 MAY 2025

CRAFT BEER EXPO 2025

Black Lodge Brewery, 3 Kings Dock Street, Liverpool LI 8JU https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/craft-beer-expo-Itd-3248880072

30-31 MAY 2025

FYNEFEST 2025

Fyne Ales, Achadunan, Cairndow, Argyll, PA26 8BJ https://fynefest.com/tickets/

6-7 JUNE 2025

MANCHESTER CRAFT BREW FESTIVAL

Victoria Warehouse, Trafford Wharf Road, Manchester MI7 IAB https://craftbrewfestival.co.uk/manchester

13-14 JUNE 2025

BRISTOL CRAFT BEER FESTIVAL

Lloyds Amphitheatre, Harbourside Bristol
<u>https://linktr.ee/bcbf</u>





20-2I JUNE 2025

PENNINE CRAFT BEER FEST

Marsden Mechanics, Marsden, HD7 6BW

https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/marsden-mechanics/e-vxpgoj

20-21 JUNE 2025

NOTTINGHAM CRAFT BEER FESTIVAL

Sneinton Market, Nottingham NGI https://shorturl.at/bOKxQ

26-29 JUNE 2025

NEXT GEN BEER FESTIVAL

St Mary's Works, St Marys Plain, Norwich NR3 3AF

Cancelled

3-6 JULY 2025

RETFORD ALE TRAIL

Retford Craft House, IO Beardsalls Row, Retford, DN22 6JX https://northnotts.camra.org.uk/diary

4-5 JULY 2025

LITTLE EARTH FEST 2025

Little Earth Project Mill Green, Edwardstone, Sudbury COIO 5PX https://littleearthproject.com/littleearthfest/

5 JULY 2025

DUMMER DOWN BREWERY BEER FESTIVAL

Dummer Down Farm, Dummer Hampshire RG25 2AR <u>https://</u> shorturl.at/UphkV

II-I2 JULY 2025

SALISBURY CRAFT BEER FESTIVAL

The Arts Centre, Salisbury https://shorturl.at/FaJUs

18-19 JULY 2025

LONDON CRAFT BEER FESTIVAL

Magazine London, II Ordnance Cres, London SEIO OJH <u>https://</u> londoncraftbeerfestival.co.uk/





26 JULY 2025

LITTLE SUMMER BEER BASH

Verdant, Unit 30 Parkengue, Kernick Industrial Estate, Penryn TRIO 9EP https://tinyurl.com/3p3tv7kb

9-10 AUGUST 2025

THESE HILLS 2025 Glynde Place, Lewes, East Sussex, BN8 6SX https://tinyurl.com/28msnc5p

15-16 AUGUST 2025

NORTHALLERTON CRAFT BEER FESTIVAL

The Golden Lion Hotel, Northallerton DL7 8PP www.buytickets.at/ncbf

22-24 AUGUST 2025

SUNDERLAND CRAFT BEER FESTIVAL

The Fire Station, Sunderland SRI 3HA https://www.sunderlandcraftbeer.co.uk/

28-30 AUGUST 2025

FARM TRIP 2025

Home Farm, Horrobin Lane Rivington, PR6 9HE https://www.rivingtonbrewing.co.uk/farmtrip2025

24-25 OCTOBER 2025

RISING TIDE CRAFT BEER FESTIVAL

Canterbury Cathedral Lodge, Canterbury, Kent https://www.timeandtidebrewing.co.uk/events

25 OCTOBER 2025

THE BIG SWALLY

O2 Academy, Edinburgh

https://www.ticketebo.co.uk/the-ccbm/the-big-swally-edinburgh





Craft beer direct to your fridge



DURATION

Full Circle Brew Co.

Craft Brewery & Taproom
<u>https://www.fullcirclebrew.co.uk/collections/all-beer</u>
Free national delivery over £50

Duration Brewing Beer Shop

Beers That Belong - Brewed From Nature With Purpose https://shop.durationbeer.com/

🖶 Free delivery over £50

Villages Brewery

VILLAGES Bringing People Together https://villagesbrewery.com/collections/buy-beer

Standard shipping £6.99



Little Earth Project

Fresh & Funky From the Suffolk Countryside https://littleearthproject.myshopify.com/

Free shipping for orders over £80



Holy Goat Brewing

Specialising in the Production of Mixed Fermentation & Wood Aged Beers https://holygoat.beer/shop/

Free shipping for orders over £39



Vault City Brewing

Modern Sour Beer With a Focus on Fruit Forward Flavours
https://vaultcity.co.uk/collections/all-beers
Free shipping for orders over £50



UnBarred Brewery

Made of Brighton
<u>https://www.unbarredbrewery.com/collections/unbarred-shop</u>
Free delivery for orders over £50



52 Degrees Brewing (IO% discount code: IOforTWICB)

Grasshopper & Warwickshire Beers – All flowing together https://52degreesbrewing.com/pages/purchase-beer

Standard shipping £5.99

Pomona Island Brew Co.



Award Winning Brewery Based In Salford https://www.pomonaislandbrew.co.uk/shop

Standard shipping £6.00

ATTICBREW

Attic Brew Co.

Forward Thinking Beers
https://atticbrewco.com/collections/beer



Polly's Brew Co.

Ultra Fresh, Hop-Forward, Modern Beers https://pollysbrew.co/shop/ Free shipping for orders over £60



Amity Brew Co.

Community, Friendship and Good beer! https://www.amitybrew.co/shop Free shipping on orders over £45



Wilderness Brewery

Wild Little Beers From Mid Wales
https://www.wildernessbrew.co.uk/shop



Moot Brew Co.

Brewing Hop Forward Beers in the Heart of Kent <u>https://mootbrew.co.uk/collections/all</u>

Free shipping on orders over £60



Exale Brewery

We're Exale. Home of the Wild, Weird and Wonderful https://shop.exalebrew.co.uk/ Free shipping for orders over £30



Crossover Blendery

Modern, Flavour-Forward Beers Rooted In Tradition https://crossoverblendery.co.uk/collections/beers

🖶 Standard shipping £8.99



Mondo Brewing Co.

All Things Point South West https://shop.mondobeer.com/

Free shipping for orders over £75

Anspach & Hobday



A London Brewery Making Traditional Beers in a Modern Way <u>https://www.anspachandhobday.com/shop</u> Free shipping for orders over £60

Bullhouse Brew Co.



Independent Craft Brewery Based in Belfast https://bullhousebrewco.com/collections/beer Free shipping for orders over £50



Neon Raptor Brewing Co.

Midlands Based Microbrewery Producing Top Quality Beers https://neonraptorbrewingco.com/collections/beer Free shipping on orders of I2 cans or more



Track Brewing Co.

Beers Born From Adventure https://www.trackbrewing.co/collections/buybeer

Free shipping for orders over £60



7l Brewing Co.

Engineers of Beers, Brewed in Scotland https://7lbrewing.com/collections/all Standard shipping £5.99



Hammerton Brewery

Proudly Brewing Great Beer in London N7 https://hammertonbrewery.shop/

Free shipping for orders over £48

Vibrant Forest Brewery



Our Passion is to Brew Modern Beers Packed With Flavour https://www.vibrantforest.co.uk/

Free shipping for orders over £60



Sureshot Brewing

High Quality, Small Batch - From the Beating Belly of Manchester <u>https://sureshotbrew.com/shop/</u>

Free shipping for orders over £60



Carnival Brewing Co.

Celebrating Modern Beer
https://carnivalbrewing.me/collections/cans-bottles
Free shipping for orders over £50



Electric Bear Brewing Co.

Craft Beer That Delivers on that 'glad-to-be-alive' Vibe https://electricbearbrewing.com/collections/beer Free shipping for orders over £50



Round Corner Brewing

Uncommonly Good Beer https://roundcornerbrewing.com/pages/ranges

Free shipping for orders over £50



Tartarus Beers

Brewing Small Batch Craft Beer, With a Mythical Edge https://www.tartarusbeers.co.uk/collections/beer





Beak Brewery

Life-affirming Ales

https://beakbrewery.com/

Free shipping for orders over £50



Only With Love - 10% Discount code: TWICB-OWLove

Togetherness on Tap

https://www.onlywithlove.co/

🖶 Free shipping for orders over £55



Lost Pier Brewing

Independent Nomadic Brewer Based in Sussex https://www.lostpier.com/online-store

Free shipping for orders over £50



Independent Craft Brewery in Sunderland <u>https://www.vaux.beer/collections/webshop</u> Free shipping for orders over £60



Hackney Brewery

Vaux Brewery

A Small, Independent Craft Brewery in London https://www.hackneybrewery.com/shop Free shipping for orders over £50



Bayonet Brewing

Modern, Exciting and Innovative Beers https://bayonet-brewing.square.site/s/shop

🖶 Standard shipping £6.50

PADSTOW BREWING CO.

Padstow Brewing Co.

Multi Award Winning Craft Brewery https://www.padstowbrewing.co.uk/shop/

Zapato Brewery



Add any I2 Zapato beers to your cart for an automatic I0% discount https://zapatobrewing.com/

🖶 Free shipping on orders over £60



Time & Tide Brewing

Independent Brewery, Producing Hop Forward, Progressive Beers https://www.timeandtidebrewing.co.uk/shop

Free shipping on orders over £50

Stannary Brewing Co.



Producers of Flavoured, Modern Beers in the Heart of West Devon https://stannarybrewing.shop/ Free shipping for orders over £30



Wild Horse Brewing Co. Fresh, Forward Thinking, Beer https://wildhorsebrewing.co.uk/collections/beer-cans Free shipping for orders over £60



Pastore Brewing & Blending We Make Fresh Super-Fruited Sours & Barrel Aged Blended Wild Ales https://pastore-brewing.myshopify.com/collections/all

Standard shipping £5.99



Liquid Light Brewing Co. Vegan Craft Beers Inspired By a Love For Music https://liquidlightbrewco.shop/ Free shipping for orders over £50



Merakai Brewing Co. Crafted With Purpose

https://www.merakaibrewing.com/shop

Free shipping for orders over £60



Small Batch Brewing Co. Making Good Beer For Great People https://www.smallbatchbrewing.co.uk/shop/ Standard shipping £7.20



Hammerton Brewery

Proudly Brewing Great Beer in London N7 https://hammertonbrewery.shop/ Free shipping on orders over £48



Wylam Brewery

Micro Brewery - Tap Room - Events Space https://beerstore.wylambrewery.co.uk/



Runaway Brewery

Handmade, Modern British Beer https://www.therunawaybrewery.com/



Pillars Brewery

Home of Lager - Brewed in East London https://www.pillarsbrewery.com/collections/beer-boxes

Free shipping for orders over £80



Pipeline Brewing

Hazy, Hop-Forward Beers
<u>https://pipelinebrewing.co.uk/collections/all</u>
Free shipping for orders over £60



State of Kind Brew Co. Making the World Better One Beer at a Time

https://www.stateofkindbrew.co/shop

Free shipping for orders over £45



Bottle & Jug Dept.

Craft Beer, Traditional Cider, Spirits, Natural and Organic Wine https://bottleandjugdept.co.uk/

🖶 Free shipping for orders over £95



Double-Barrelled Brewery - 10% Discount code: TWICB A modern, independent brewery based in Reading, Berkshire <u>https://doublebarrelled.co.uk/</u>

Free shipping for orders over £50