

# WETHERSPOON NEWS

## IRELAND

### Visit Wetherspoon's pubs in Ireland

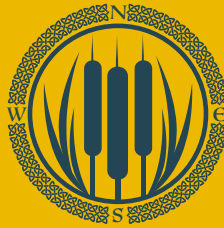
**HOTEL KEAVAN'S PORT**

1 Camden Street Upper  
Dublin, D02 TC61



**THE SOUTH STRAND**

1 Hanover Quay  
Dublin, D02 E295



**THE SILVER PENNY**

12A/12C Abbey Street Lower  
Dublin, D01 X593



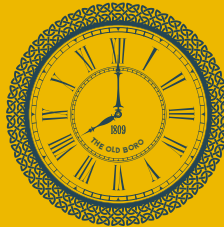
**THE FORTY FOOT**

The Pavilion Centre, Marine Road  
Dún Laoghaire, A96 P862



**HOTEL THE OLD BOROUGH**

72 Main Street  
Swords, K67 E6W7



**AN GEATA ARUNDEL**

9 Arundel Square  
Waterford, X91 RD35



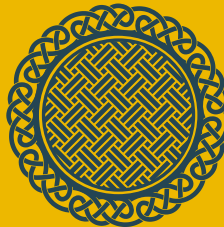
**THE TULLOW GATE**

7 Tullow Street  
Carlow, R93 YC66



**THE LINEN WEAVER**

6/7 Paul Street  
Cork, T12 EV72



**THE GREAT WOOD**

Westend Commercial Village  
Blanchardstown, Dublin, D15 ED86



### WHICH? PRAISES HOTELS

In its annual survey

### NEW 'WINGS, BITES AND STRIPS'

Mix-and-match offer is perfect for snacking or sharing

# FOOD MILES FEEL PINCH AS LOCAL HEROES WIN OUT

**As Wetherspoon continues to increase its range of local-provenance items across the menu, the company is committed to supporting local food and drinks producers.**

Currently working directly or indirectly with more than 40 food and drinks suppliers, across the island of Ireland, Wetherspoon's pubs understand that customers want local produce, where possible, and this is an ongoing focus for the company.

Wetherspoon's purchasing manager, Caroline Jackson, said: "Wetherspoon is passionate about delivering an everything-best-in-class (we call this EBIC) experience for customers at our pubs across Ireland – and the quality of the products in the region is exceptional."

To date, more than 80 per cent of Wetherspoon's chilled food range is sourced locally.

More than 90 per cent of spirits are bought locally, many of which feature Irish brands, such as Jameson, as well as smaller regional distilleries, such as Blackwater in County Waterford.

Wetherspoon is also working with local craft beer suppliers Dunganvan Brewing Company and Brehon Brewhouse, as well as serving BRÚ Brewery products and Forged Irish Stout.

Caroline concluded: "We take great pride in working together with our local suppliers to bring quality as a first priority, yet at affordable prices."

To highlight that commitment, to both customers and local suppliers, Wetherspoon's pubs across Ireland have, once again, been hosting several supplier evenings.

The events showcased the range of locally sourced food menu items, including Irish beef steak from Foyle Food Group, as well as Dunganvan Copper Coast Irish red ale from Dunganvan Brewing Company.

The company's pubs across Ireland will be hosting more suppliers in the coming months.



**An Geata Arundel (Waterford)** Customers Jack O'Connor (left) and Aaron O'Brien (front row); kitchen manager Andrew Dengate, bar associate Didier Bolger and Foyle Food Group account manager William Wilson (back row, left to right)



**The Great Wood (Blanchardstown)** Dunganvan Brewing Company's representatives Kevin Walsh (far right) and Katrina Murphy (far left) present Dunganvan Copper Coast Irish red ale samples to customers Yvonne Martin (second left) and Donna Martin

Written and edited by Eddie Gershon, along with welcome contributions from Wetherspoon staff.

Using paper from sustainable resources, this is printed in Ireland.

Pricing, participation and opening times may vary per pub. All J D Wetherspoon food and drinks in this magazine are subject to local licensing restrictions and availability at participating free houses. Photography is for guidance only. J D Wetherspoon plc reserves the right to withdraw/change offers (without notice) at any time. See main menus and customer information screen for allergen information, symbol explanations and additional details of our terms and conditions.

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**Keavan's Port (Dublin)**  
Customers Mayali Estrada (left) and Daniela M Stephens

January sale  
**ROUND-UP**



## HAPPY SHOPPERS DISCOVER BARGAINS IN JANUARY SALE

**W**etherspoon's customers, once again, enjoyed the company's pubs' January sale across Ireland.

The drinks featured in the sale were draught beers and ciders (Doom Bar, Bud Light, Worthington's Creamflow, Stowford Press Apple Cider and Budweiser, spirits (Au Vodka (four flavours) and Sidemen XIX Vodka (mixed berry)), classic cocktails (Espresso Martini, Strawberry Daiquiri and Tommy's Margarita), Corona seltzers (raspberry & lemon and guava & lime), a range of soft drinks (Diet Pepsi, Pepsi Max, R White's lemonade, Pepsi Max cherry) and Lavazza coffee (with free refills, as well as tea and hot chocolate).

Low-alcohol and alcohol-free drinks were also included in the sale. They were Erdinger, BrewDog Punk AF, Heineken 0.0, Beck's Blue, Stella Artois, Adnams Ghost Ship and Koppaberg Strawberry & Lime. Customers were also able to enjoy savings on food, with offers on a small breakfast (fried egg, bacon, sausage, baked beans and toast), a range of small plates, including halloumi-style fries, chicken wings

and nachos, and a choice of burgers: American burger, classic beef burger and crunchy chicken strip burger (all served with chips) and skinny beef burger (served with a side salad).

Wetherspoon's founder and chairman, Tim Martin, said: "Department stores and shops hold their sales in January, so it is the perfect time to have a sale in the pubs too."

"The range of food and drinks on sale was aimed at suiting a wide variety of tastes – and, this year, we included our biggest selection of low-alcohol and alcohol-free drinks."

"The January sale always proves popular with customers – and, as always, staff at the pubs served customers responsibly."



**The Linen Weaver (Cork)** Customers Oliver Morey and Bridget O'Shaughnessy



**The Old Borough (Swords)** Customers Bernie O'Donnell (left) and Francie O'Donnell



**The Tullow Gate (Carlow)** Shift leader Jake Snoddy with customers Antaine O'Caollaidhe (left) and Dan Hudson





# SILVER PENNY ALE TEAM PROVES TO BE REAL DEAL

**Glass brimmeth over at Dublin hostelry which sold more pints than any other Wetherspoon pub during beer festival - despite real ale's underdog status in Ireland**

**W**etherspoon is proud of the quality of the real ales served in its pubs.

Its staff work hard to offer first-class beers at all times.

This is evident in the high number of Wetherspoon pubs listed, over many years, in the publication from the Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA), titled The Good Beer Guide.

Wetherspoon continues to have more pubs listed, as a proportion of its estate, than any other pub company.

Local CAMRA branch members judge and score pubs for considered inclusion in the guide. In the 2024 edition, there are 236 Wetherspoon pubs listed.

## Listed

The Silver Penny (Dublin), which opened as a Wetherspoon pub in June 2019, is not listed in the guide, as CAMRA operates in the UK and Northern Ireland only.

However, during a recent Wetherspoon real-ale festival, a quite remarkable achievement has put the Dublin city-centre pub in the company spotlight.

Pub manager Steph Gorlach and her team at The Silver Penny finished top of the Wetherspoon league for the number of pints sold during the company's real-ale festival.

Company wide, more than 1.3 million pints were sold during the 12-day real-ale event, with The Silver Penny serving 6,130 pints of the various 25 festival ales.

This remarkable achievement in itself, for Steph and the team, is made even more exceptional by the fact that, traditionally, real ale in Ireland isn't the usual drink of choice.

On the last Saturday of the festival, The Silver Penny, trailing behind reigning festival pub champion The Standing Order (Derby) by around 200 pints going into the weekend, sold the most pints of any Wetherspoon pub.

## Top

Steph and her team served 708 pints of festival ale in one day – to finish top of the league and continue to top the company's weekly charts.

Steph (pictured) said: "In the run-up to the festival, we were drawing customers' attention to the real ales on offer and encouraging people to try them.

"We noticed which ales were selling quickest and which ones the regulars preferred. These include Abbot Ale, Jaipur, Dungarvan Copper Coast and Brehon Apollo IPA, to name just a few.

"We increased the weekly orders – and, it seemed, the more we had, the more we sold.

"We are now ordering around 10–12 casks of Abbot Ale and Jaipur every week, along with 20–25 guest ale barrels."

The range on offer in Ireland isn't as extensive as the guest ale list at UK pubs, since, historically, real ale isn't Ireland's go-to drink.

However, Steph, along with deputy manager and real-ale champion Andy Hayes, order their beers from East West Ales, as well as receiving direct deliveries from Dungarvan Brewing Company and Brehon Brewhouse.

## Huge

Steph revealed: "The festival was such a huge hit because it offered so many new ales for customers to choose from.

"Last year, we also added to our stillage capacity, with eight serving solely Abbot Ale and Jaipur, leaving 16 for guest ales."

Steph continued: "Having a fully trained management team ensures that we have knowledgeable and capable staff on hand, at all times, which has been critical to our success.

"Team leaders and other staff members are required to inform us when an ale finishes, so that we can get a fresh one on tap, as soon as possible, to fulfil demand.

"Changing the ales as quickly as possible also really helps, as well as having the ales listed and regularly updated on the customer ordering app.

"We have two bars, but only four ale hand-pumps in the upstairs bar (12 downstairs).

"The app ensures that customers seated upstairs don't have to go to the downstairs bar for their favourite ale – we bring it to them."

Steph concluded: "We don't have a CAMRA branch here, or anything similar, although we do have Cask Marque, which we have passed on every visit."

## AUTUMN BEER FESTIVAL

WED 9 – SUN 20 OCT





# St Patrick's Day ROUND-UP



**Keavan's Port (Dublin)** Sandra Newman (left) and Linda Newman

## SAINTLY CUSTOMERS TOAST ST PATRICK

**C**ustomers at Wetherspoon's pubs across Ireland enjoyed St Patrick's Day, with a host of value-for-money drinks being served.

The annual St Patrick's celebration for 2024 was marked at the pubs, with customers getting into the spirit of the event.

Drinks including Beamish Irish stout, Forged Irish Stout and Jameson Irish whiskey were being served to celebrate the feast day of St Patrick.

Other tipples available included Baby Beamish, a double shot (50ml), made with Kahlúa coffee liqueur and topped with Baileys.



**An Geata Arundel (Waterford)** Nathalia and Bruna Colonna



**The Great Wood (Blanchardstown)** Bobby, Priscilla and Philip Flynn (left to right)



**The Linen Weaver (Cork)** Dhara Vipul Davey, Shunji Takano, Rin Terada, Udong Hoon and Tsering Dolma (left to right)



**The Silver Penny (Dublin)** Adam Everard (left) and Rowan Cahill





**The Great Wood (Blanchardstown)** Youngsters Elianna Santoro, Khiara Santoro and Freya Khan (left to right) watch balloon-modeller Hector Lopez



**The South Strand (Dublin)** Diana Santiago Ortega (left) and Dorotez Fucak



**An Geata Arundel (Waterford)** Anthony Power, Leo Power and Bernie Byrne (left to right)



**Keavan's Port (Dublin)** Roberta Amerne, Cheilon Maczewski and Bruna Rippozzatti (left to right)



**The Silver Penny (Dublin)** Onthatile Gopolang (left) and Tshegafatso Keitsiwe



**The Linen Weaver (Cork)** Charlotte Lawlor and Zachary Dann



# ROOM AT THE TOP AS WHICH? PRAISES HOTELS

Wetherspoon has been praised for the quality of its hotels in the annual survey of hotels by consumer champion Which?.

More than 5,000 people took part in the survey to rate their experiences at hotel chains across the UK.

The hotels were scored (out of five stars) across 10 categories.

These included customer service, value-for-money, cleanliness, bed comfort and how well the description matched reality.

The overall customer experience was calculated combining overall satisfaction and likelihood to recommend.

Wetherspoon operates 55 hotels at its pubs in Ireland, England, Scotland and Wales.

The company had a customer score of 73 per cent.

Rory Boland, editor of Which? Travel, said: "With prices at many hotels rising further this year, finding good-value, budget accommodation is increasingly difficult.

"For those looking for a reasonably priced stay, there are big differences between the best and worst chains, with the likes

of Premier Inn and Wetherspoon distinguishing themselves from the pack."

Wetherspoon's chief executive, John Hutson, added:

"We are proud of the fact that the company's hotels were rated so highly in the Which? survey.

"We believe that our hotels offer excellent value-for-money accommodation, with the added bonus of having the pub on your doorstep."

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Keavan's Port Hotel (Dublin)



Keavan's Port Hotel (Dublin)





**The Old Borough (Swords)**



**The Old Borough (Swords)**

**Keavan's Port Hotel (Dublin)**

*1 Camden Street Upper, Dublin, D02 TC61*

This is Wetherspoon's largest hotel, with 89 en suite rooms, including accessible rooms complete with full DDA-compliant bathroom facilities.

Set in Dublin's 'village quarter', the hotel is located on the regenerated Camden Street Upper, with its own Wetherspoon pub. It is just 1km from the city centre, Grafton Street and within a short distance of many of Dublin's attractions.

Wetherspoon developed a series of eight Georgian townhouses (seven of which are protected) and a chapel, to build this pub and hotel, which opened in 2021.

The preserved chapel was once home to the convent of the Little Sisters of the Assumption, established in the 1890s, and later Beau Jacks Boxing Gym.

Several historical aspects of the old buildings, originally built in c1815 as private residences, have been retained and restored, including a circular stained-glass window.

A substantial modern extension features a 12-metre-high glazed atrium. There are also two enclosed courtyard gardens.

The 89 bedrooms all feature an en suite bathroom.

There are accessible bedrooms designed for guests with disabilities, including wet-room facilities.

**The Old Borough (Swords)**

*72 Main Street, Swords, County Dublin, K67 E6W7*

Opened in August 2018 in the County of Fingal, The Old Borough 14-bedroom hotel was Wetherspoon's first in Ireland.

It is located just eight miles north of Dublin city centre and just 10 minutes' drive from Dublin Airport.

On the first floor, above the Wetherspoon pub, this boutique hotel comprises five double rooms, seven double/twins, one family room and one accessible room, complete with full DDA-compliant bathroom facilities.

The accessible room, suitable for guests with disabilities, is close to the passenger lift, giving access from the ground floor, at the rear of the premises.

Each of the bedrooms features an en suite bathroom, tea- and coffee-making facilities, hair dryer, flat-screen television with Saorview Freesat TV and unlimited free Wi-Fi, as well as digital air-conditioning and temperature control.

Originally opened as a Wetherspoon pub in July 2015, the building, designed by noted Irish architect Francis Johnston, is one of Sword's best known. A school opened on the site in 1809 and continued to run for 191 years, until its closure in 2000.

The hotel's interior design scheme is sympathetic to the age and style of the building, using vintage-inspired choices and heritage tones, as well as current trends, to complement the traditional design and to suit the building's historical period.



**The Silver Penny (Dublin)** Customers Maria Luz Marinas (left) and Eumic Canu Salazar



**The Forty Foot (Dún Laoghaire)** Shift manager Ciara Keenan serves a festival pint to customer Paddy Devereaux

## ALE FANS KEPT ON THE HOPS WITH 30-BREW LINE-UP

**R**eal-ale fans were able to enjoy a range of up to 30 real ales, including five from overseas brewers, at Wetherspoon's pubs across Ireland, during a 12-day beer festival.

The overseas brewers were from Belgium, Germany, Italy, Taiwan and the USA.

The pubs served several beers brewed specially for the festival. Among the festival collection were vegan (also suitable for vegetarians) beers.

As well as featuring a range of malt and hop varieties from around the world, there were also beers which included chocolate and vanilla in their ingredients.

The festival line-up included Spring Frenzy (Daleside Brewery), Grizzly Bear IPA (Shepherd Neame), Disco Macaw (Redpoint Brewing, Taiwan), Crafty Fox (Hook Norton Brewery), Bite the Bullet! (Oakham Ales), Bingo Lady (The Lost Abbey Brewing

Company, USA), Chocolate Ale (Leikeim Brewery, Germany), Parts and Labour (Rooster's Brewery), Germain (Brouwerij De Bock, Belgium), Roasted Nuts (Rebellion Brewery) and Falstaff (Birrificio Gregorio, Italy).

An Geata Arundel's pub manager, Kieren Hodgson-Peck, said: "The festival was a great celebration of real ale.

"It allowed us to showcase a selection of beers, including those from overseas, over a 12-day period, at great prices.

"It also gave our customers the opportunity to enjoy several beers which had not previously been available in the pub, as well as those brewed especially for the festival."

Three third-of-a-pint tasters were also available for the price of a pint, with tasting notes on all of the beers available in the pubs as part of the festival magazine (including a digital version on the Wetherspoon app and website).



**The Tullow Gate (Carlow)** Shift manager Morgan Russell (right) serves a pint to locals John Mullins (left) and Ciaran Fitzgerald



**Keavan's Port (Dublin)** Customers Claudia Alvarado (left) and Macarena Rodriguez toast the festival



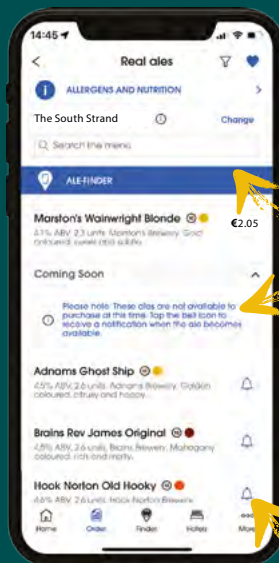
# Making the most of craft ale on the app



## Ales to the table?

As well as ordering ales to your table, you can use the Wetherspoon app to search for a pub, book a hotel and save your favourites.

Download the Wetherspoon app or scan the QR code on your menu.



## Ale-finder



Use the app's ale-finder function to check ales' availability across all Wetherspoon pubs. Ale-finder can be accessed through the home page and the real-ale menu.

## Coming soon



Using the app, see which ales are due on next and set an alert to notify you when they are ready.

# REDUCING CANS AND PLASTIC – RADICAL MOVE IS FANTASTIC

**W**etherspoon is set to reduce its annual use of plastic bottles and cans by more than 110,000 units in its pubs across Ireland, in support of the new Deposit Return Scheme (DRS), introduced on 1 February 2024.

Wetherspoon's purchasing manager, Caroline Jackson, said: "The company aims to achieve this target through a combination of changing pack formats, such as switching to products supplied in glass bottles and Tetra packs, and, in some cases, delisting lines.

"The only responsible way to ensure that we fully comply with this national initiative is by ensuring that our suppliers support the government-backed Deposit Return Scheme."

It is estimated that around 1.9 billion drinks bottles and cans are used each year in Ireland, both 'in house' and 'on the go'.

DRS aims to boost the recycling rate for these drinks containers by charging a small, refundable deposit for each plastic bottle or can.

The scheme will include PET plastic bottles and aluminium and steel cans between 150ml and three litres.

While a deposit of just 15c will apply to containers of 500ml or under, a deposit of 25c will apply for each container above 500ml.

All producers and retailers, including hospitality venues, hotels, restaurants, pubs, bars and cafés, are legally obliged to register with Re-turn ([www.re-turn.ie](http://www.re-turn.ie)).

DRS is operated by Deposit Return Scheme Ireland CLG, trading as Re-turn.

The Minister of State at the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications, with responsibility for communications and circular economy, said: "The Deposit Return Scheme is an exciting, new, circular initiative which will transform the way we think about empty drinks bottles and cans.

"The refundable deposit will incentivise us to return these containers, so that producers can make new bottles from old and new cans from old, saving materials, energy and reducing litter.

"The scheme is a massive undertaking for producers and retailers."



Youngsters Khiara Santoro, Elianna Santoro and Freya Khan (left to right)

# A GREAT ST PATRICK'S DAY AT THE GREAT WOOD

Staff and customers at The Great Wood (Blanchardstown) joined in St Patrick's Day fun.

Kids of all ages enjoyed activities and entertainment, organised by Westend Shopping Centre, where the Wetherspoon pub is located.

There was balloon-modelling and face-painting for the whole family to enjoy, in this collaborative event, in the pub's garden.

Pub manager Helen Malcoln said: "It was a fantastic St Patrick's Day celebration and a busy day at the pub, which was brilliant for us and the shopping centre.

"It was a delight to see all of the families and youngsters, with everyone having a lot of fun."



Youngster Nadina Mac An Bhaird watches balloon-modeller Hector Lopez



Face-painter Erinna Behal and youngster Diodor Gotca



Customers Danuta, Magda, Leo and Ryszard Sambor (left to right)



# THE CHICKEN HAS LANDED

**WINGS**  
**BITES**  
**AND**  
**STRIPS**  
— mix and match —

**New 'wings, bites and strips' mix-and-match offer, with Quorn option too, is perfect for snacking or sharing**

**W**etherspoon's pubs are offering a **NEW mix-and-match deal, perfect for sharing or as a light bite or snack.**

The 'wings, bites and strips' mix-and-match offer features four choices.

#### **Fried**

They are Wetherspoon's chicken wings, southern-fried chicken strips, chicken breast bites and Quorn™ nuggets, with each of the dishes being under 500 kcal.

The smaller portions can be ordered separately or together for a discounted price.

#### **Spicy**

For an additional €1.50, customers can add chips, side salad or spicy rice to any of the mix-and-match combinations.

Garlic mayo is also available as an add-on for 85c.

The chicken meat in the southern-fried strips and chicken breast bites is 100 per cent chicken breast.

#### **Combination**

Enjoy a mix-and-match combination of five spicy chicken wings, three southern-fried chicken breast strips, five battered chicken breast bite pieces or five coated Quorn™ nugget pieces.

Whether you're socialising with friends and family or just grabbing a convenient snack on your own, give the NEW 'wings, bites and strips' mix-and-match offer a try at your local Wetherspoon.





**The Silver Penny (Dublin)** Customers Casandra Ahumada (left) and Javiera Munoz



**The South Strand (Dublin)** Bar associate Burak Gurel serves customer Semi Anil Keser

# VEGANUARY DELIVERS A NEW MEAT-FREE MARVEL

**T**he Wetherspoon menu offers a selection of meals, including a range of vegan options, for everyone.

To celebrate Veganuary, the pubs also served a new burger, for a limited period.

Customers could order the Beyond BBQ stack meal, featuring a Beyond Meat® plant-based patty, BBQ sauce, onion rings, iceberg lettuce, tomato and red onion, served in a lightly toasted vegan brioche bun, with chips.

Veganuary (running annually, throughout the month of January) encourages people to try vegan food throughout the month.

Wetherspoon's marketing executive, James Vaughan, said: "The limited-edition Beyond BBQ stack burger proved popular with vegans and those trying a vegan burger for the first time."

Wetherspoon's pubs serve a range of vegan and vegetarian dishes at all times.



**The Great Wood (Blanchardstown)** Customers Mirela Vncu (left) and Andrea Macari



**The Forty Foot (Dún Laoghaire)** Customers Gullin Tevltm (left) and Radu Florin Sebastian





The South Strand, Dublin

# CUSTOMERS SITTING PRETTY – THANKS TO CHAIR BUSINESS

**Dublin furniture company, providing seats and more at several of the Irish pubs, joins list of Wetherspoon's local suppliers**

**W**etherspoon is always keen to support local businesses and suppliers across Ireland, whether they be breweries and distilleries, food companies and farmers or general supply businesses.

Dublin-based furniture supplier Chair Business is one of the latest Irish companies to be added to the list of Wetherspoon's local suppliers.

A near neighbour to Wetherspoon's pub and hotel Keavan's Port (Dublin), located in Camden St Lower, Chair Business has been supplying furniture to Wetherspoon's pubs since January 2024. Many chairs, tables and bar stools are already in the company's pubs at The Silver Penny and The South Strand (both Dublin), The Forty Foot (Dún Laoghaire), The Great Wood (Blanchardstown) and The Old Borough (Swords).

## Experience

Chair Business was founded 12 years ago by Joe Delaney and Caroline McDonagh, with their combined experience of over 40 years in the commercial furniture business.

The company specialises in the supply of commercial furniture and reupholstery.

The Delaney family has a long-standing history in the production of contract furniture, dating from the 1960s, with its expertise rooted in reupholstery.

## Furnish

Director Caroline McDonagh stated: "We are delighted to collaborate with a prominent company such as Wetherspoon – to furnish its hotels and pubs in Ireland.

"Our partnership with Wetherspoon has just commenced, and we are already engaged in providing a consistent supply of new furniture.

"We look forward very much to the opportunity to develop this partnership well into the future."

# TREADING THE TREADMILL AND TREADING THE BOARDS

**LauraLynn's supporters aim to complete 24-hour treadmill challenge, a fantastic foot-powered feat, in wake of wonderful Abbey Theatre performance**

**W**e have launched our very first flagship event, which will take place during Children's Hospice Week 2024.

The 24Hours Treadmill Challenge will see a marquee on the grounds of LauraLynn Children's Hospice, filled with incredible supporters keeping treadmills in motion for 24 hours.



The event, which will take place during Thursday and Friday (23/24 May), will highlight the 24-hour care which parents and carers of children living with palliative care needs provide.

The treadmills cannot stop because, for these parents and carers, their care never stops.

To make this event possible, we will rely on our incredible community of supporters to register for a 30-minute (or longer) slot on a treadmill.

Our fundraising target means that every moment on the treadmill will pay for a moment of care in LauraLynn – we would love you to join us.

For more information, check the LauraLynn website or visit: [www.treadmillchallenge.ie](http://www.treadmillchallenge.ie)

### LauraLynn at the Abbey

We recently celebrated the success of our third Abbey Theatre performance, which saw six of LauraLynn's little stars take to the prestigious stage.

The cast included the wonderful Aine, Amelia, Cillian, Darragh, Eoghan and Heidi.

The original script written by Paul Timoney, titled *The Invitation*, follows the adventures of six children from LauraLynn through a magical story filled with bravery, action, excitement and thrills.



A show-stopping performance by each actor wowed the crowds, while the tale of cranky grannies, Mr Tumble and a special invitation ensured that this performance was anything but ordinary.

For the third time in its history, the curtains in the Abbey Theatre raised to a fully accessible production, with original soundtrack, set design and costumes.

This unique performance was held in conjunction with the Abbey Theatre and the National Gallery of Ireland. All of the stars of the performance had a costume designed specifically for their wheelchair by the National Gallery of Ireland.

Parents, siblings, family and friends attended (pictured), all of whom joined in the celebrations of this magnificent performance. Each child was given the full celebrity treatment, with hair, makeup and costumes provided to jazz up the day.

Michelle Hartnett, senior play therapist at LauraLynn and the Abbey Theatre event co-ordinator, said: "This collaboration is a testament to the resilience and spirit of these remarkable children.

"Our aim is to foster an environment where creativity knows no bounds and each child's character is celebrated.

"Through the magic of theatre, we aim to create memories and moments of pure joy for these children and their families."

### Thank you!

To date, Wetherspoon's staff and customers have raised more than €165,000 for LauraLynn, Ireland's Children's Hospice.

What an incredible milestone. Your support means so much.

Thank you for every donation, every fundraising event and all of your time. It means so much to the children and families in our care.

● For more information, visit: [www.lauralynn.ie](http://www.lauralynn.ie)

Wetherspoon is committed to supporting good causes and local community projects.

Fundraising at our pubs in Ireland supports LauraLynn – Ireland's Children's Hospice.

LauraLynn has supported many courageous children and their families, who have inspired so many, despite the challenges and heartache encountered along their journey. Since 2016, Wetherspoon's pubs in Ireland have raised more than €165,000 for LauraLynn.





## SHARP OPERATORS TRIUMPH AT ALL-IRELAND DARTS CONTEST

Keavan's Port (Dublin) was the venue for the 2024 regional all-Ireland darts competition.

Ten pub teams from Ireland and Northern Ireland came together to take part in the annual popular staff event.

The all-Ireland tournament winner was the home team Keavan's Port, with team members pictured (left to right) being bar associates John Boyle and Josh O'Reilly, team leader Cillian McDonald-Daly, receptionist Warren Hande and cleaner John Kane.

The event also raised funds for Ireland's Children's Hospice – LauraLynn.

Keavan's Port was joined by nine other competing teams (all pictured, top) from The Linen Weaver (Cork), The Silver Penny (Dublin), The Forty Foot (Dún Laoghaire), The South Strand (Dublin), An Geata Arundel (Waterford), The Old Borough (Swords), The Bridge House (Belfast), The Spirit Merchant (Newtownards) and The Central Bar (Carrickfergus).

The pubs from Northern Ireland were raising funds for Young Lives vs Cancer.

Wetherspoon's general manager and one of the event's organisers, Richard Marriner, said: "We have been holding this annual tournament for several years and it continues to be very popular with the teams.

"Darts is becoming more popular, with the standard again as high this year as ever.

"A big thankyou to all of the host pubs and the teams who took part – and also for raising an incredible amount for our brilliant charities."



## COMPANY JUDGED TO BE TOP EMPLOYER FOR THE 19TH TIME

Wetherspoon has been recognised by the Top Employers Institute as a Top Employer United Kingdom 2024.

It is the 19th time that Wetherspoon has been certified by the Top Employers Institute – the independent organisation behind the Top Employers accreditation.

To achieve Top Employer certification, participating organisations are assessed by the Top Employers Institute via a rigorous analysis of their people practices.

The HR Best Practices survey covers six HR domains, comprising 20 topics across the business and employee life cycle, including people strategy, work environment, talent acquisition, learning, well-being and diversity & inclusion.

The information is then validated and audited independently by the Top Employers Institute to ensure the integrity of the processes and data.

Wetherspoon's people director, Tom Ball, said: "We are extremely proud to be considered among the best employers in the United Kingdom, particularly as the recognition comes from an independent organisation which researches numerous companies.

"The company employs 42,000 staff across its pubs in the UK and Ireland, as well as at its head office.

"Wetherspoon is committed to offering employees the best opportunities to succeed and grow within the company, including studying for qualifications and apprenticeships.

"This is evident in the number of employees progressing to more senior positions at Wetherspoon."

# REVEALED: THE THREE GROUPS BEING HELPED BY WORTHINGTON'S FUND

**W**etherspoon and Worthington's have teamed up to help to support local community charities.

During 2023, local groups and charities were able to apply for a share of a charity fund which Molson Coors (Worthington's) was offering, with €3,000 being distributed among the three most popular groups.

Customers at all Wetherspoon pubs in Ireland were invited to vote for their favourite charity or group, to find those community projects most close to their heart.

The six shortlisted groups and charities were printed on voting cards, available in the pubs during October and November, with customers asked simply to tick that project for which they wanted to vote, then to place the card in the voting boxes provided.

Mitchell Ayling, customer activation executive at Molson Coors, responsible for the campaign, said: "This is the first year we have run the Worthington's supporting the community campaign, called 'A helping hand from Worthington's'.

"Together with Wetherspoon's pubs in Ireland, along with ActionFunder, as part of our commitment to local communities, it has proven a great success.

"Thank you to all Wetherspoon customers who took the time to vote – and congratulations to the top three most popular community projects on their success."

Hundreds of customers voted (thank you) and the results are now in.

Voted for by Wetherspoon's customers in Ireland, the top three organisations each receiving a share of €3,000 are:

## The Alzheimer Society of Ireland (ASI)

[www.alzheimer.ie](http://www.alzheimer.ie)



Based in Dublin, The ASI is the leading dementia-specific service provider in Ireland.

The ASI works across the country, in local communities, providing dementia-specific services and supporting those living with dementia and their carers.

The ASI advocates, empowers and champions the rights of people living with dementia and their communities to quality support and services.

The donation will be invested in one of The ASI social clubs for those with dementia, their families/carers.

The €1,500 received will cover a year's utilities costs.

The ASI social clubs take place once a week, providing people with a place to drop in to chat, access information and support, meet others and exchange experiences.

The social clubs also plan activities and provide an opportunity for people with dementia and their families/carers to meet up in a supported environment.

Members of The ASI's staff support each club.

## Cork Cancer Care Centre

[www.corkcancercarecentre.ie](http://www.corkcancercarecentre.ie)

Based in Cork, the charity supports people through and beyond the trauma of cancer. This includes those newly diagnosed, undergoing cancer treatment, post cancer treatment and/or living with cancer – and their families.

The centre provides counselling sessions, peer support groups, weekly yoga classes, wig-fittings,

nutrition, well-being advice and holistic treatments – all free of charge.

It also runs the only free wig bank in Ireland, accepting donations of wigs and providing wigs and fittings to those who need them.

The €1,000 received is being used to update the eight-year-old second-hand seating in the communal area for clients, so that they are more comfortable.



## Age Action Ireland

[www.ageaction.ie](http://www.ageaction.ie)

Age Action is Ireland's leading advocacy organisation dedicated to improving the life of older people and promoting ageing as a positive and enriching experience.

The organisation works tirelessly to inform and influence policy, ensuring that the rights and needs of older individuals are recognised and respected.

The organisation operates across Ireland, with projects located in Cork, Dublin and Galway.

The €500 received will go towards the organisation's programmes and services, specifically care and repair, which performs small DIY tasks, free of charge, to help older people to remain in their own homes for longer.

**€17** – enables the charity to do one DIY job in an older person's house.

**€26** – pays for one week's fuel in a care and repair van.

**€43** – enables the charity to recruit and train a new volunteer.

**€86** – enables the charity to purchase new tools/equipment for care and repair vans.

**€430** – allows the charity to launch a new care and repair programme in a city, town or rural area not currently covered by the service.

● The three other shortlisted charities were Cork Nature Network, Friends of the Elderly and Sister Sheds.



**NOT HERE TO TAKE PART.  
HERE TO TAKE OVER!**



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