



Norwich & District Campaign For Real Ale

For Immediate Release

CAMRA Crowns the Top Norwich & District Pubs in the 2026 Pub of the Year Awards

The Norwich & District branch of CAMRA (Campaign for Real Ale) has now announced the winners of its annual awards, recognising exceptional establishments across **five categories**: Branch Pub of the Year, Norwich City Pub of the Year, District Pub of the Year and Cider Pub of the Year.

City Pub of the Year - and Overall Branch Winner

The **Leopard** in Norwich has been named the 2026 Norwich City Pub of the Year, as well as the overall Branch Pub of the Year!

The Leopard boasts a 'Beer oasis in a proper pub with a love for beer, good food and snacks!'.

This popular pub offers 9 Watneys red barrel fonts pouring Independent, craft beers, lagers and ciders, proving (to anyone who remembers!) that you can get a good beer from a Watneys Red Barrel! They have a minimum of five real ales on at any time, supporting the best of local and national. Their fridges are also packed with a great selection of craft cans and bottle beers, alongside five traditional box ciders too.

Visitors to The Leopard can enjoy a warm welcome, get cozy by the fire or tucked away in their outdoor 'tropical-feel' courtyard. Dogs on a lead are welcome. Families with children are invited before 8pm.

Justin and Emma McKee, Landlords of the Leopard, replied on hearing the good news, 'We are absolutely thrilled to have been named Norwich & District City and overall Branch Pub of the Year. It has taken a lot of hard work to get us to where we are today, and to have that recognized is amazing. Also, a massive thank you to our amazing team and lovely customers, we wouldn't be where we are without you!'

City Pub of the Year – and overall Branch Winner



The Leopard in Norwich has been voted the
2026 Norwich City Pub and overall Branch Pub of the Year.

The Leopard will now represent the Norwich & District branch in the Norfolk Pub of the Year competition to be announced in May 2026.

District Pub of the Year

The Peasant's Tavern in North Walsham has once again earned the title of 2026 District Pub of the Year, having been crowned in its first year of opening in 2025.

Known for its welcoming atmosphere and 'stand out' reviews, the Peasants' Tavern is a firm favourite for locals and visitors, offering a selection of ever-changing fine ales; a strong reputation in acoustic music sessions; a relaxed atmosphere for a takeaway or to take-in a stylish award-winning setting, or for enjoying one of their regular curry nights.

Charlie Holden, Pub Manager and Director of the Peasants' Tavern, commented, 'The friends, staff and Directors of the Peasants' Tavern are blown away that we have received this award for two years on the trot. We have only been open for two years in April and are both astounded and delighted to receive this recognition.'

We continue to build on our foundations and we owe our ever growing family of fantastic customers our wholehearted thanks and appreciation.

Our team here remain determined and committed to keep working hard in offering excellent service, fantastic ales and a welcoming environment for all.'

District Pub of the Year



The Peasant's Tavern in North Walsham has been voted 2025 and 2026 District Pub of the Year.

Cider Pub of the Year

As a previous consecutive winner, the **White Lion** in Norwich has been awarded Cider Pub of the Year. Renowned for its impressive selection of ciders and ales, the White Lion has become a staple in the local cider scene. After a brief hiatus from winning the award, the pub was thrilled to have it back in their hands in 2025 and now, once again, in 2026. It's a must-visit for any cider enthusiasts and those wishing to explore new ciders and ales.

Oscar Gerdes of the White Lion said, 'We're incredibly grateful to win this award once again. We take pride in offering our customers a diverse range of ciders and ales, always kept to the highest standards. Thank you to everyone who supports us, regardless of what's in your glass.'

The White Lion will compete in the Norfolk Cider Pub of the Year contest, with winners to be announced in April-May 2026.

Cider Pub of the Year



The White Lion Norwich has won Cider Pub of the Year

Chair's Remarks

Ian Stamp, Chair of the Norwich and District branch of CAMRA, commented, 'The award for overall Pub of the Year was, as ever, fiercely contested, with the top two separated by the slimmest of margins.'

Overall Pub of the Year - Average Scores for 2026:

Leopard 32.9
The Brewery Tap 32.8
White Lion 32.7
Peasants' Tavern 32.3
Fat Cat 32.2
Beehive 31.8
Shoulder of Mutton 31.4
Rose Inn 31.3
Kings Head 31.2
Hop Rocket 30.8

Ian Stamp adds, 'Given the tight margins between the scores, we encourage all CAMRA members to make use of their ability to score their favourite pub in the 2027 round of awards - details of how to score will be sent to members by email in January 2027.'

Ian concludes, 'A big congratulations to the Leopard in Norwich on their double win and also to the White Lion for continuing their impressive run as Cider Pub of the Year and to the Peasants' Tavern in North Walsham for their consecutive win as District Pub of the Year. Norwich and Norfolk boast some of the finest pubs around and we encourage everyone to show their support. Be sure to visit these deserving winners, it's our local venues that give the county's social scene its unique character.'

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Please note that 'Campaign for Real Ale' should be referred to as CAMRA, in capitals.