

PATRICK'S PUB TRAWLS

In his regular series of columns for Devon Life, **Patrick McCaig** of The Otter Brewery takes us on a trawl of some of his favourite pubs



Life in Devon is full of surprises, real characters with real stories to tell. Publicans, drinks producers, chefs, farmers, artisans...the list goes on. We're definitely a county of innovators. This month, on the banks of the River Exe, we find another dynamic pair who fit the mould.

The brains behind Topsham-based charcuterie company Good Game and The Pig and Pallet barbecue smokehouse have now taken another brave step and expanded their 'empire' into the world of pubs. Pete Woodham-Kay and Steve Williams (should that be Pepperoni Pete and Salami Steve?!) are now the proud landlords of The Globe Inn, a community watering hole set in the estuary village of Lymptstone.

'This is a great pub for watching the sport or huddling around the fire playing cards'

This mischievous double act are actually a trio. Big Jim, their "spiritual guru" and owner of Topsham Wines, quietly completes the picture. Pete was previously a commercial yacht skipper and Steve a recruitment consultant based partly for five years in the Middle East. It was during that time, sat out in the desert and inspired by Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall's River Cottage TV series, that this self-taught butcher started to dream of life in Devon and a radical career change.

Not long after being back, he and Pete were soon making old-fashioned, air dried salami in the comfort of a Topsham garage. As is so often the case, the hobby quickly got out of control and soon came the need to upscale to help production grow. After a spot of crowdfunding, the original business now occupies a new unit in the shadow of another Topsham success story, Darts Farm.

The three friends can fondly remember drinking in The Globe 16 years ago as they watched England's delicious



The Globe Inn, Lymptstone, the latest venture for a well-known foodie team

Game on!

The Globe Inn, Lymptstone

win over Australia in the Rugby World Cup Final. The dream had always been to run a place they themselves would like to go and you can definitely feel their personalities at work here for this is a very much a Good Game pub. Listening to them talk it's clear that they have a non-negotiable set of beliefs and values that underpin each business.

Their assembled team, clearly enjoying The Globe's new lease of life, all seem to buy into this philosophy and are passionate about offering warm hospitality and service. Steve and Pete have clearly taken confidence from The Pig and Pallet's success and perfected a formula that works. With its broad drinks offering, this is a great pub for watching the sport or huddling around the fire playing cards. You'll love the intimacy here.

The menu champions the River Exe but it's their piggy

delights that really take centre stage. Lunch chose itself – a shared Devon charcuterie board with a cheeky venison Scotch egg on the side. As each element was explained (cured chorizo, a French rilette made from cured roast pork, air dried pancetta) our love for this place only deepened - there's some serious skill at work here.

The bar snacks too are homemade; pork scratchings, mini salamis, Scotch eggs, pickled eggs, slices of game pie and so on. I left The Globe thinking what a world of fun pubs there are out there. Often the best ones are built on hard work and a little bit of luck - places where the owners have trusted their instincts and let their personalities shine through. Be warned though, pop in here for a pint and you'll probably end up staying a while! ♦ info@otterbrewery.com

DETAILS PANEL

Real Ale:

Otter Bright, Otter Brewery Legend, Dartmoor Brewery Trelawny, St Austell Brewery Doom Bar, Sharps Brewery

Local Lager:

Tarka Four, Otter Brewery Korev, St Austell Brewery

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