# Closure of The Golden Lion pub highlights ongoing struggles in the hospitality sector



The Golden Lion pub in Magor, Monmouthshire has officially closed its doors following significant financial pressures experienced by its owners. The announcement, made via their social media channels on Wednesday, March 12, reflects the challenges faced by many establishments in the hospitality sector. This latest closure is part of a troubling trend, with the area seeing three pub closures in recent months.

The decision to close the Golden Lion was not taken lightly. The owners outlined their struggles, revealing that their annual revenue of £600,000 was significantly outstripped by costs exceeding £900,000, including brewery fees and salaries. They cited "soaring bills and running costs" as primary contributors to their financial difficulties. "We have tried to look at numerous ways to get around this but cannot make the numbers stack up," they stated, emphasising the dire economic landscape for pubs. In their post, they regrettably noted, “The Golden Lion will therefore once again close. This is not the dream or vision we had for the pub.”

The Golden Lion had previously faced operational challenges, including a suspected tumble dryer fire in October 2024, which may have compounded their difficulties. Furthermore, the owners acknowledged that a low food hygiene score had negatively impacted their business too. However, they clarified that this score was related to insufficient paperwork rather than any actual food hygiene concerns, as they had achieved a five-star rating on an unofficial visit and were awaiting an official re-inspection.

In light of the closure, the owners assured customers with existing bookings that they would be contacted regarding options for refunds or transfers to alternative venues, specifically The Rose Inn in Redwick, Caldicot. They also affirmed their commitment to settling all staff and supplier accounts and are exploring opportunities for relocating their team members to other locations.

"The pub industry is dying in its current form," the owners lamented, expressing fear that further closures could occur unless meaningful changes are implemented. They pointed to high rent and costly beer procurement as significant barriers to sustainability. Their sentiments resonate with a broader trend: more than 400 pubs across Wales and England were reported to have permanently closed in 2024 alone, reflecting a shift that has seen the total number of pubs in these regions fall below 39,000 for the first time, according to analysis by property data company Altus Group.

Community members have expressed their disappointment, with several highlighting the historic significance of the Golden Lion and hoping for a potential revival of the establishment in the future. The recurring theme in public sentiment suggests a collective concern over the viability of local pubs amidst escalating operating costs and evolving consumer behaviours.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://www.tripadvisor.co.uk/Restaurant_Review-g552042-d2318717-Reviews-The_Golden_Lion-Magor_Monmouthshire_South_Wales_Wales.html> - This URL provides information about The Golden Lion pub in Magor, including its location and previous operational status, which supports the context of its closure.
* <https://camra.org.uk/pubs/golden-lion-magor-161674> - This CAMRA page offers details about The Golden Lion's historic significance and previous management changes, which aligns with the narrative of its challenges.
* <https://www.noahwire.com> - This source is mentioned as the origin of the article about The Golden Lion's closure, though specific content isn't available without further context.
* <https://www.altusgroup.com> - Altus Group is referenced for data on pub closures across Wales and England, though a specific URL for this data isn't provided.
* <https://www.food.gov.uk/ratings> - This Food Standards Agency page provides information on food hygiene ratings, which could relate to The Golden Lion's challenges with its hygiene score.
* <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-> - BBC News often reports on the challenges faced by the hospitality sector, including pub closures and economic pressures, which supports the broader context of The Golden Lion's situation.