# Britain’s quirkiest pub names on the rise as traditional favourites hold strong



Britain's love affair with pubs is deeply woven into the cultural fabric of the nation, with over 45,800 establishments scattered across the UK. While traditional names like the Red Lion, Crown, and Royal Oak dominate the landscape, it is the more whimsical and unique names that often capture the imagination of patrons.

According to a recent survey conducted by Simply Business, one of the UK's major business insurance providers, ‘The Drunken Duck’ emerged as the most popular pub name, with 13% of respondents voting for it as their favourite. This playful moniker reflects the broader trend in pub naming that is shifting towards more imaginative and humorous themes. Other animal-themed names such as ‘The Moody Cow’ and ‘The Itchy Pig’ also found their way into the top ten, showcasing a 6.5% rise in animal-inspired names overall.

In a parallel analysis by ukphonebook.com, which examined pub names over the past three years, a different side of this narrative emerged. The study reaffirmed that ‘The Red Lion’ remains the most common name, with 517 pubs bearing this title. Following closely were ‘The Royal Oak’ and ‘The Crown’. The research also highlighted a 7.7% increase in royalty-themed names alongside a notable decline in the use of ‘Inn’, with only 16% of new pubs adopting this traditional designation since 2020. Such shifts indicate the evolving landscape of pub naming and its reflection of contemporary societal trends.

Interestingly, the rise in animal-themed and quirky pub names suggests that modern consumers are drawn to establishments that offer a sense of personality and charm. This is echoed in responses from pub-goers who cited meaningful atmospheres and the uniqueness of names as key factors influencing their choices. Some delightfully cheeky names, such as ‘The Up in Arms’ and ‘The Nobody Inn’, exhibit Britain’s characteristic penchant for wordplay and wit.

Beyond the realm of names alone, the publish industry continues to celebrate its diversity and excellence. The Great British Pub Awards recently highlighted outstanding venues across various categories, including Best City/Urban Pub and Great British Pub of the Year. Such recognitions serve not only to elevate the importance of these establishments in local communities but also to acknowledge the hard work of those who run these beloved institutions.

As the pub landscape transforms, both in terms of naming conventions and the types of establishments that thrive, it is clear that the British pub remains a vital gathering place, steeped in tradition yet open to the whims of modernity. From beloved classics to the latest inventive names, pubs continue to adapt, ensuring they remain integral to social life in the UK.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2059000/uks-favourite-pub-name), [[2]](https://www.businessmole.com/new-pub-name-trends-revealed-survey-reveals-the-most-popular-pub-names-across-the-uk/)
* Paragraph 2 – [[2]](https://www.businessmole.com/new-pub-name-trends-revealed-survey-reveals-the-most-popular-pub-names-across-the-uk/), [[3]](https://www.morningadvertiser.co.uk/Article/2023/11/29/What-are-the-10-most-popular-pub-names-in-the-UK/), [[5]](https://www.ukphonebook.com/news/most-popular-pub-name-uk)
* Paragraph 3 – [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2059000/uks-favourite-pub-name), [[4]](https://www.morningadvertiser.co.uk/Article/2023/09/19/The-best-pubs-in-the-UK-in-2023)
* Paragraph 4 – [[6]](https://metro.co.uk/2021/11/09/what-are-the-most-popular-pub-names-in-the-uk-15564241/), [[7]](https://www.leonardo-hotels.com/blog/most-popular-pub-names)

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

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2059000/uks-favourite-pub-name> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.businessmole.com/new-pub-name-trends-revealed-survey-reveals-the-most-popular-pub-names-across-the-uk/> - A study by ukphonebook.com analyzed pub names in the UK over the past three years, revealing that 'The Red Lion' is the most popular pub name, with 517 establishments bearing this name. Other top names include 'The Royal Oak' and 'The Crown (Inn)'. The study also highlights trends such as a 6.5% increase in animal-themed pub names and a 7.7% rise in royalty-inspired names. Additionally, the inclusion of 'Inn' in pub names has decreased, with only 16% of new establishments since 2020 adopting it. The study emphasizes the historical significance and evolving trends in pub naming across the UK.
3. <https://www.morningadvertiser.co.uk/Article/2023/11/29/What-are-the-10-most-popular-pub-names-in-the-UK/> - Research from ukphonebook.com has identified 'The Red Lion' as the most popular pub name in the UK, followed by 'The Royal Oak' and 'The Crown (Inn)'. The study also notes a 6.5% increase in animal-themed pub names and a 7.7% rise in royalty-inspired names over the past three years. Additionally, the inclusion of 'Inn' in pub names has decreased, with only 16% of new establishments since 2020 adopting it. The findings reflect the evolving landscape of pub naming trends across the UK.
4. <https://www.morningadvertiser.co.uk/Article/2023/09/19/The-best-pubs-in-the-UK-in-2023> - The Morning Advertiser has announced the winners of the 2023 Great British Pub Awards, highlighting exceptional establishments across the UK. Categories include Great British Pub of the Year, Best City/Urban Pub, Best Country/Rural Pub, and Best Pub for Food, among others. Notable winners include The Cholmondeley Arms in Cheshire for Great British Pub of the Year and The Turks Head in Twickenham for Best City/Urban Pub. The awards celebrate the diversity and quality of pubs nationwide, recognizing their contributions to the hospitality industry and local communities.
5. <https://www.ukphonebook.com/news/most-popular-pub-name-uk> - An analysis by ukphonebook.com has revealed that 'The Red Lion' is the most popular pub name in the UK, with 517 establishments bearing this name. Other top names include 'The Royal Oak' and 'The Crown (Inn)'. The study also highlights trends such as a 6.5% increase in animal-themed pub names and a 7.7% rise in royalty-inspired names over the past three years. Additionally, the inclusion of 'Inn' in pub names has decreased, with only 16% of new establishments since 2020 adopting it. The findings provide insight into the evolving landscape of pub naming across the UK.
6. <https://metro.co.uk/2021/11/09/what-are-the-most-popular-pub-names-in-the-uk-15564241/> - A study by Pubs Galore has identified 'The Red Lion' as the most common pub name in the UK, with 537 establishments bearing this name. Other popular names include 'The Crown' and 'The Royal Oak'. The study also highlights the prevalence of royal-inspired names, such as 'The George', 'The King’s Head', and 'The Prince of Wales'. The findings reflect the enduring popularity of traditional pub names and their cultural significance in the UK.
7. <https://www.leonardo-hotels.com/blog/most-popular-pub-names> - An analysis of over 58,000 pubs across the UK and Ireland has revealed that 'The Red Lion' is the most popular pub name, with 517 establishments bearing this name. Other top names include 'The Royal Oak' and 'The Crown'. The study also highlights regional variations, with 'The Prince of Wales' being the most popular pub name in Greater London, with 29 establishments bearing this name. The findings provide insight into the cultural significance and regional preferences in pub naming across the UK and Ireland.