

Independent Cardiff pub North Star to close on New Year's Eve

Friday 26 December, 2025

North Star, the independent community pub located at **131 North Road, Cardiff, CF14 3AE**, has today announced that it will close its doors permanently on **New Year's Eve, 31 December 2025**.

The closure brings to an end more than five years of trading under the North Star name, following its opening in **August 2020**, and marks the end of a pub site that has served Cardiff for **well over a century**.

Despite extensive efforts to continue trading, **rising costs and cost-of-living pressures have forced the closure of a much-loved independent Cardiff pub**. The owners describe the decision as unavoidable in the current economic climate.

Owner Tom Edwards said:

"This is without question the hardest decision we've ever had to make, and it's not what we wanted. We've explored every possible option to keep North Star going, but in the current climate we feel this is the only responsible choice left to us."

North Star has been one of the few **truly independent pubs in the area**, not owned or leased by a brewery. Since opening, it has built a reputation as a **strong community pub and a safe, welcoming space for all**, particularly for students, local residents, creatives and musicians.

"North Star has never just been a pub — it's been a community," Tom Edwards added.

The venue became best known for its **Sunday roasts and food offering, quiz nights, karaoke**, and for supporting **local independent music**, while also providing a consistent, inclusive space for people to gather.

Manager David Rowlands said:

"We're immensely proud of what this pub has stood for. This place meant something to people — and that's what hurts the most."

A historic pub site on North Road

The building at **131 North Road** has a long and continuous history as a public house. Originally established as the **Maindy Hotel**, the site received its first provisional licence in **October 1888**, meaning it has operated as a pub for more than **135 years**.

Over the decades, the venue has been known by several names, including the **Maindy Hotel** and later **The College Tavern**, before becoming **North Star** in 2020.

"From the Maindy Hotel to the College Tavern to North Star, this building has always been a place for people."

The site's longstanding role as a community gathering place — **spanning generations of locals, students and visitors** — underscores why its closure is more than the loss of a single business; it **marks the end of a century-plus chapter in Cardiff's social history**.

"This isn't just the loss of a business — it's the end of a pub site that's served Cardiff for more than a century."

Recognition and local profile

North Star has consistently been recognised for its role within Cardiff's social and hospitality scene:

? **WalesOnline** has previously described North Star as a *"Cardiff institution adored by students and locals alike."*

Media:

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? **The Cardiff Tab** has reported on North Star's financial pressures, highlighting the venue's importance to the student and local community.

? The pub holds a **4.9/5 rating on Tripadvisor** from over one hundred reviews, with consistent praise for its food, atmosphere and Sunday roasts.

? North Star has been **name-checked in wider Cardiff food commentary** connected to coverage by respected food critic **Jay Rayner**, placing it among the city's notable independent venues.

? **The venue was also highlighted in national press such as the Mirror**, in coverage of broader hospitality challenges, demonstrating its relevance and resonance **beyond Cardiff**.

The pub will continue trading through the festive period, with **New Year's Eve** marking its final night of service. Customers are invited to join the team for a final send-off.



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