

Some Definitions

Mucky Duck Pub. In England, pubs are often named after animals, for example The Red Lion or The White Horse or the White Swan. The latter is a fairly common pub name. A little less common would be The Black Swan. A black swan in nature is very rare, more likely you would see a dirty (or mucky) duck. So, mucky duck is a colloquialism for black swan and so Mucky Duck becomes a nickname for the pub name Black Swan. We chose this name for our pub because it is fun. The Mucky Duck in Ames is not related to any of the half-dozen or so other Mucky Ducks in the US. As far as we are aware, these other pubs are all independently owned and operated and exist in harmony with each other as do like-named pubs in the UK. Just for fun, here are the top ten English pub names – the numbers represent the number of pubs having that name.

The Crown (704)
The Red Lion (668)
The Royal Oak (541)
The Swan (451)
The White Hart (431)
The Railway (420)
The Plough (413)
The White Horse (379)
The Bell (378)
The New Inn (372)



The Foresters Arms, Graffham, West Sussex – Marcus' old local!

Banger. *A sausage, usually pork, with a tendency to split open with a "bang" during frying.*

Pasty. *A baked pastry, a traditional variety of which is particularly associated with Cornwall, England, United Kingdom. It is made by placing an uncooked filling, typically meat and vegetables, on one half of a flat shortcrust pastry circle, folding the pastry in half to wrap the filling in a semicircle and crimping the curved edge to form a seal before baking.*

Scotch Egg. *The London department store Fortnum & Mason claims to have invented Scotch eggs in 1738, but they may have been inspired by the Mughlai dish nargisi kofta ("Narcissus meatballs"). The earliest printed recipe appears in the 1809 edition of Mrs. Rundell's A New System of Domestic Cookery. Mrs. Rundell—and later 19th-century authors—served them hot, with gravy. Scotch eggs are a common picnic food. In the United Kingdom packaged Scotch eggs are available in supermarkets, corner shops and motorway service stations. Miniature versions are also widely available, sold as "savory eggs", "picnic eggs", "party eggs", "snack eggs", "egg bites" or similar. These contain chopped egg or a quail's egg, rather than a whole chicken egg, and sometimes contain mayonnaise or chopped bacon. In the United States, many "British-style" pubs and eateries serve Scotch eggs, usually served hot with dipping sauces such as ranch dressing, hot sauce, or hot mustard sauce. At the Minnesota State Fair Scotch eggs are served on a stick. Scotch eggs are available at most Renaissance Festivals from Maryland to Texas.*

Pub (abbreviation for Public House). *A pub, or public house, is an establishment licensed to sell alcoholic drinks, which traditionally include beer, ale and cider. It is a relaxed, social drinking establishment and a prominent part of British and Irish cultures. In many places, especially in villages, a pub is the focal point of the community. In his 17th century diary Samuel Pepys described the pub as "the heart of England".*