

# Cooper King x Hand Sanitiser

## Why Cooper King Distillery started producing hand sanitiser

Business was booming, then Covid hit. During the last week of March our sales plummeted, and we lost 85% of revenue overnight. We had a frantic 24 hrs putting in place emergency finance plans, making calls to the bank, insurers etc. We then received a number of enquires from the public and front-line workers as to whether we could produce hand sanitiser after seeing a news story of another distillery down south doing something similar.

We quickly understood there was – and still is – a HUGE national shortage of sanitiser, and that we could step up to help out. For us it made sense to do it, because we're not just focussed on our environmental responsibilities but our social responsibilities too.

Being a lean and agile company, we researched, developed and produced the first batch with a 5-day turnaround. We were the first distillery in Yorkshire to announce production of hand sanitiser. This was a big undertaking – we had equipment to repurpose and materials to source, but we did it and donated our entire 1st batch the following day to our local community and front-line staff.

The response on social media was huge and we were inundated with requests for more. We worked through the figures and came up with a strategy whereby we would sell to the public and business and use the profits to maintain a free supply to NHS, care homes and schools across the country.

We have received some really heart-warming – and sometimes heart-wrenching - messages of thanks. Some of the organisations and people we've donated to include hospital A&E departments, intensive care units, care homes, schools, royal mail, mental health trusts, autism charities and even Mountain Rescue (60 so far, see current list below). The impact on them has been considerable – we were even told by one trust that they'd have to turn away vulnerable patients if it wasn't for the sanitiser we gave to them.

A take home message from this is that there are a lot of positive stories out there – of people doing good for their communities. The more we focus on and share these stories, the more we will inspire others to help - and the smoother the ride will be over the coming months.

## Donations List

1. Sutton-on-the-Forest Primary School
2. York A&E
3. St Leonard's Hospice
4. Children's Safeguarding Hambleton & Thirsk
5. Home Instead Senior Care York
6. Stillington Post Office
7. Mental Health & Vulnerable People's Tea, for North Yorkshire
8. Leeds ICU Teaching Hospitals
9. Home Care Direct
10. Akari Care
11. Holme Valley Mountain Rescue Team
12. Royal Mail Leeds
13. UK Maritime Pilots
14. Autism Plus
15. Easingwold caregroup

16. Peppermill Court Mental Health Hospital
17. Norton CP School
18. Housing 21 Home Health Care
19. Calder valley search and rescue team
20. Occupational Therapist (York)
21. Royal Mail, Tadcaster
22. Leeds Central Ambulance Station
23. Avante Care
24. Tees, esk and wear valleys NHS foundation trust
25. Home Instead Senior Care
26. Royal Mail – Alfreton
27. Wigton Community Volunteers
28. Local farmers
29. Prestwick Care
30. Centrepont
31. Hadrian Healthcare Group
32. Supplies for Key Workers
33. Millfield surgery
34. First Responder
35. Chase Park Neuro Centre
36. Dementia Matters
37. Bluebird Care York
38. Friends of St Monica's Hospital
39. Bradford NHS
40. The Supper Club
41. York Road Residential Care
42. Medicine deliveries
43. Humber Teaching NHS Foundation Trust
44. Longley Park View Nursing Home
45. York Community Therapy Team
46. Safehands Homecare
47. Longley Park View Nursing
48. The ExtraCare Charitable Trust
49. Mental Health and Vulnerable People's Team for North Yorkshire
50. Balls to Cancer
51. Ambulance Wish Foundation
52. Hampers 4 Nurses
53. Community Staff Nurses (Newcastle under Lyme)
54. Tyne Housing Association
55. Wilberfocre Trust
56. Scarborough & Ryedale Mountain Rescue
57. North Yorkshire Police
58. Gateshead Council
59. Birchlands Care Home
60. Amarna House

## About Cooper King Distillery

Cooper King Distillery is a self-built, crowd-funded whisky and gin distillery near York, producing sustainable spirits underpinned by craftsmanship, honesty and adventure.

Cooper King Distillery is England's only self-built whisky and gin distillery, and one of only a handful in the country to run on 100% green energy. Producing the first gin in Europe with 1% for the Planet® accreditation, 1 square metre of English woodland is planted for every bottle of gin sold. To date, 10,000 square metres of native woodland have been planted with charity partner the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust.

### Sustainability

Leading the industry in terms of sustainability, the i newspaper praised the distillery for its "above-and-beyond commitment to sustainability," Bar Magazine described them as "a green pioneer," and the Spirits Business listed the inaugural Dry Gin as "a sustainable spirit changing the world." The distillery was the first in the country to offer a gin refill scheme. It also ships all orders in plastic-free packaging thanks to a clever origami-style recycled cardboard box developed with a local box-maker, and saves 26 tonnes of fresh water a year due to the use of innovative vacuum gin stills.

### History

Founded in 2016 by Dr Abbie Neilson, a former scientist and Chris Jaume, a chartered architect, the venture was inspired by their desire to leave the rat-race. Chris and Abbie travelled across the globe and became fascinated by the eight operational whisky distilleries in Tasmania. With a mission to bring their discoveries back to England, the couple gave up their established careers and set up a truly independent gin and whisky distillery back home in Yorkshire.

Inspired by Chris's great-great-grandfather, Charles Cooper King, the name Cooper King has rich historical ties to England and Yorkshire. Born in 1843, Charles, who was Lieutenant Colonel of the Royal Marine Artillery, traced the Cooper King family history back to 1030, where he identified the Pigot family of Yorkshire, whose shield can still be seen today carved into the stonework throughout Ripon Cathedral.

### Spirits & Collaboration

The vacuum-distilled Cooper King Dry Gin is hand-distilled with honey from their own beehives and a touch of locally grown lavender, and has won a host of international awards.

The single malt whisky is made from 100% Yorkshire-grown barley, distilled in a 900 litre Tasmanian copper pot still and matured in oak casks made by the country's last independent cooper, Alastair Simms of Ripon. Its projected release date is 2023.

The distillery has ongoing collaborations with chef Tommy Banks and his Michelin-starred restaurant The Black Swan at Oldstead, creating a range of spirits distilled with fresh ingredients grown in the Black Swan gardens. Collaborations also include working with artisan bakery Haxby Bakehouse to upcycle spent gin botanicals into delicious breads, and working with Neil Bentinck, head chef at Skosh, York, to create a bold smoked + spiced gin.

### Visit & Buy

The distillery is currently offering free countrywide delivery on any bottle purchase through the website. To purchase or find out more visit [www.cooperkingdistillery.co.uk](http://www.cooperkingdistillery.co.uk). Currently it is not possible to visit the distillery in person, though prior to Covid the distillery shop and bar was open to the public every Saturday 12-6pm, with tours running at 2pm and 4pm (booking essential).