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Sussex Drinker

Winter 2023

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Watchmaker's Arms, Hove Surrey & Sussex Region Pub of the Year



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21ST - 24TH FEBRUARY 2024

Watchmaker's Arms, Hove, Surrey & Sussex Regional Pub of the Year



Photo: Rick (left), Ruth (right) and team at the Watchmaker's receiving their awards.

Brighton & South Downs branch is delighted that our 2023 Pub of the Year, the Watchmaker's Arms, Hove, has won the Regional Pub of the Year award for Surrey and Sussex, making it one of the top 16 pubs in the UK – a truly fantastic achievement.

The Watchmaker's Arm just can't stop winning awards, as their Pendulum Chocolate & Hazelnut Porter was voted best beer at the South Downs Beer & Cider festival.

Many CAMRA members and other pub-goers gathered on the evening of the 31st August at the presentation to mark and celebrate the Watchmaker's achievements.



SUSSEX PUB SCRATCHINGS

News of new developments and updates on the Sussex pub scene will be gratefully received by the Editor for consideration in *Scratchings*. The standard disclaimer on page 30 applies to all items.

Please use WhatPub.com for details of all Sussex pubs, and we've made every effort to ensure details on WhatPub are accurate, however we strongly advise checking ahead before visiting, by phone, website or Facebook page.

On our correspondent's visits, several licensees have said that while trade has been good, especially at weekends, they are only just breaking even on a good week because of energy costs etc. Please go to pubs & clubs often to ensure they survive.

■ BEXHILL

The **Brickmakers Alehouse** held a superb beer festival over the 15th-17th September weekend. Their Brewery trip to Lakedown was a huge success and we even chatted with Roger Daltrey!

At the **Albatross Club**, Peter Fell has taken on looking after the cellar.

The **Traffers Bar** is a LocAle pub well worth a visit when in town.

■ BOGNOR REGIS

The **Star and Garter** in the Steyne is closing and will be taken over by the Dog and Duck, a micropub currently based in Bognor High Street. Opening day is the 2nd December and the pub will then be known as the Dog and Duck, which will no longer be a micropub but remains committed to serving cask and keg ales from Sussex and beyond as well as ciders.

■ BRIGHTON

The **Brighton Beer Dispensary** remains closed, with signs of building work and renovations taking place at the premises.

The **Craft Beer Co** appears to have had its

signage removed, and at the time of writing, is on the market for sale.

■ BURGESS HILL

After months of closure, the **Potters Arms**, an establishment with a rich history in the area, is set to embark on a new journey under the stewardship of Quench's Jamie Baker. Further news over the coming weeks. The Quench Bar will continue to operate as usual.

It's full steam ahead at the **Signalbox** with work well underway, albeit at a different premises than previously reported. Due to issues with the owner, it will now take over the former Yorkshire Building Society premises on Church Walk. As a result they'll have a larger indoor capacity as well as an outdoor seating area. The opening is slightly delayed but still on track to open this side of Christmas.

■ CRAWLEY

The **Apple Tree** has re-opened after a few teething problems. At time of writing, it's open Wednesday to Sunday, 12noon to 11pm, with two cask ales available. Lakedown Kicking Donkey and Vocation Life & Death have featured in the early weeks.

■ EASTBOURNE

The **Farm** at Friday Street is delighted to be in the new *Good Beer Guide*. On a recent visit beers from Harvey's, Long Man, and Three Acres were available, and in good condition.

It is sad to note that **Bottle Grove**, Eastbourne's pioneering bottle and tap, opened before lock-down by Gregor Mitchell, has served its last craft beer. We wish Greg every success in the future.

■ EAST GRINSTEAD

The **Engine Room** lease expired at the beginning of November. Having chosen not to continue with the bar, the owner John

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has been looking for a new owner to keep it going. A consortium of existing customers has come forward to take it over and, by the time you read this, their plan for a seamless transition should be well in hand. The new owners want the Engine Room to operate in the same way as before - continuing to provide an ever-changing list of cask, keg beers, and draft ciders; as well as hosting a variety of events, including live music, quizzes and beer festivals.

■ FAIRLIGHT



Recently recommended in *The Times* list of 45 Best Summer Pubs, the **Cove** has now increased its opening days and is now open all days of the week. 'Swinging Sundays' feature bands regularly, a return to the good old days of yore when the upstairs was known as the Hayloft and music and dancing were regular events. Recently awarded LocAle status, there are two handpumps and on a recent visit Rother Valley Boadecia (4.5% abv) and Harvey's Best were on offer. The latter was sampled and was in good form.

■ FERRING

A new micropub in Ferring obtained planning permission in September to open at 9 Ocean Parade, Ferring BN12 5QG. It is expected to open before Christmas.

■ ICKLESHAM

With five handpumps dispensing real ales, during the summer months the **Robin Hood**



has been focusing on ales from national breweries, however, in the autumn and through the winter the selection will revert to local offerings from Harvey's, Long Man, Romney Marsh and so on. In addition the pub serves up to 12 ciders. CAMRA members receive a small discount on the price of a pint, on production of their membership card.

■ HASTINGS



The **Prince Albert** in Cornwallis Street has up to three cask ales on at a time, plus 10 craft keg beers. They took part in a recent Hastings Tap Takeover with beers from Newbarns. They have just had their own German Bier Festival, Oktoberfest (no cask ales for that one), but they had Kent Brewery ales on at the same time, and German style food. Both will be regular annual events there under the new licensee. Their three cask ales are regularly changing,



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Where'er his stages may have been,
May sigh to think he still has found
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William Shenstone (1714-1763)

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sometimes having their own tap takeovers with different breweries, and regular food now, but they open at 4pm during the week, noon at weekends.

In Hastings Old Town, there are a number of pubs that regularly have a great selection of cask ales, mostly from local brewers, but some cracking guest ales from further afield.

At The **Albion**, they too took part in the Tap Takeover with beers from Only With Love Brewery, and they have four ales on at a time, usually Harvey's Sussex Best as a regular, and recently Pig & Porter 'Cosmic Drive' Pale Ale. Good selection of food and specialising in pies.



The **Jolly Fisherman** also took part in the Tap Takeover with beers from Neon Raptor. They have three cask ales on usually, and plenty of crafty keg beers. They are closed on Monday and Tuesday, opening at 4pm

during the rest of the week and at 2pm at the weekend.



The **Dolphin Inn** has six ales on, and a few craft keg beers. Regular cask ales include Harvey's Sussex Best, and they have Harvey's Old Ale on for the Autumn and Winter, until they stop brewing it in the

Spring. They usually try to have three pale ales (regularly from Kent Brewery and Oakham Ales) and three traditional bitters and darker ales. Food here is decent too, with their new local mother and son chefs, with their seafood coming from the fish market over the road; they have mussels & frites on every day.



The **Crown** (photo above) also took part in the Tap Takeover with FLOC beers. Here they usually have two real ales on, regularly changing, but usually from local brewers, and not as expensive as rumours suggest (recently a 4.2% ale from Northdown Brewery cost £4.20 a pint). Again, a nice choice of food.

The **First In Last Out** (FILO) mostly sells five ales from its own brewery, some seasonal changes, and a regular guest, the ubiquitous Harvey's Sussex Best. Also, decent food.





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The **Jenny Lind** was in the Tap takeover too with Eight Arch beers. They have up to nine cask ales at a time, mostly from local breweries, Long Man Best is a regular. They are about to hold their annual Winter/Dark Beer Festival 'Stout Out' 19-22 October.

■ HAYWARDS HEATH



The **Hop Sun Tap** has regular clubs and activities continue, with the regular art class, running club, game

days, quizzes, and Pilates. Potentially most importantly now the build is done, the pub has a new roof and front door, and with it, warmth for the winter. For the preceding three weeks before Christmas, the pub be running a 12 days of Hopmas with a whole range of activities to choose from including special beers, a wreath building workshop, Santa fun run, tasting events, and much more.

■ HOVE



The **Neptune** offers five cask ales, the regulars being Harvey's Best, Greene King Abbot, and Burning Sky

Plateau. There is always a guest ale, and Harvey's Old Ale will be available this autumn and winter. The range and quality of beers at the Neptune has once more been recognised with its inclusion in the 2024 *Good Beer Guide*.

■ LEWES

The **Brewer's Arms** are holding their annual beer festival between Fri 10th - Sun 12th November. There will be a selection of cask and keg beers and ciders available.

■ NEWICK



The **Royal Oak** offers Harvey's Best and Long Man Blonde as regular real ales together with one seasonal

guest ale which at the last visit was Long Man Indian Summer. There is a separate restaurant area for lunchtime and evening diners with the menu and specials board frequently updated with their homecooked dishes.

■ PETT



The **Royal Oak** is a community focused pub which offers generous support to local charities. Recently thousands of pounds raised through pub quizzes were donated to the Pett Level Rescue Boat and RSPCA Mallydams. There are regular music events. Excellent meals and real ales are served. Amongst offerings from local breweries recently have been Pale Ales from Three Acre, Long Man and Cellar Head.

■ PETT LEVEL

The **New Beach Club** members only club now offers complimentary admission to CAMRA members on an occasional basis. An interesting and evocative mural of the Pett Level beach scene has been painted on the road side facade of the club house. This

is the work of well known artist Luke Brabants. There are five handpumps serving ales from local and regional breweries, all at attractive prices. On a recent visit there were two from Long Man and Kicking Donkey from Lakedown, which was tried and found to be in fine form. Excellent meals are provided by SteVee's Kitchen & Grill in the middle of the week and by Marc's Kitchen at the weekends.



The transformation of the **Smuggler** (photo above), which closed in 2018, into a restaurant and bar with rooms, is nearly complete. The photo shows the exterior works are finished, the interior is being refitted. It may be that reopening has taken place by the time of publication. As the plans show a small bar area hopefully the owners will provide real ale. Interestingly, Eaters at Pett which has been providing food and soft drinks in the seaside garden area now offers cider in addition.

■ PLUMPTON



The **Half Moon** is serving Harvey's Best and two local guests, from Sussex or Dorking. The pub is busy and handy for

walkers and cyclists and next to the thriving Plumpton College. Local artists' work is often on display. The kitchen produces

popular food and will be open on Christmas day. It is hoped to add a touch of festive magic to the attractive patio and paddock areas by installing tasteful lighting.

■ ROBERTSBRIDGE

The **Robertsbridge Club** held an Octoberfest over the last weekend of September. With three German Lagers available and two real ales.

The **George** is now offering up to four real ales.

The **Halt** was delighted to receive the local CAMRA Community Pub award recently.

■ RUSTINGTON

The micropub **Georgi Fin** suddenly closed on Sunday 8th October. It is understood that the current operator, a leaseholder, is unlikely to renew the lease and reopen the pub, and the pub's future is uncertain. The Georgi Fin micropub in West Worthing (run by the same operator) is still open as usual.

■ RYE



The **Waterworks** continues offering its own unique blend of originally named ales, brewed in its

own microbrewery, along with an intimate and cheerful atmosphere. Own brewed ales are currently URYEnal Best Bitter, I PeeAlot IPA and Golden Flush Pale. A Porter will probably follow for the Winter, name unknown, undoubtedly another pun on the premise's earlier function. Additionally, the pub serves another seven ales, mainly from other local breweries. On the cider front, there are 18 ciders to choose from, so not surprisingly the local CAMRA Branch awarded it the honour of Cider Pub of the Year 2023. On Sundays there is a Cheese Club, the condition of entry is "Bring cheese, eat cheese, no cheese, hard cheese,

you're not in the club".

■ ST LEONARDS

Duke - Still no work on this once excellent pub.

Welcome - Halley and staff are thrilled to be in the latest GBG. Lakedown, Long Man and Harvey's beers were available on a recent visit.

Tower - a seventh handpump is to be installed soon.

The **Prince of Wales** is still closed but is understood to be due to reopen as a pub soon.

Horse and Groom - we expect the purchase of the pub etc will soon be completed with Simon Hutchinson in charge. Up to five real ales will be available with national and local beers always on.

Marina Fountain - Burning Sky beers available during the Hastings Tap Takeover.

■ STAPLEFIELD



The sale of the **Jolly Tanners** has now taken place; Chris Brazier's last day at the helm was at the end of

September. Chris will be hugely missed, particularly by dark beer lovers, who knew they would almost always have more than one dark beer available on cask. The new owners plan to build an extension to the rear of the pub, to add more seating and an enlarged kitchen.

■ WORTHING

The building in which the **Anchored in Worthing** resides is still up for sale. Nigel, the co-lease owner of the pub, and licensee of the micropub, advises he has a 10 year lease on the bar, and hopes that he will be able to remain on site.

The large hotel opposite Worthing central railway station has undergone significant refurbishment and reopened under ownership of Portobello group in September. Renamed **Railway Hotel**, the



bar has been refurbished but kept the lovely mirror behind the main bar plus some railway memorabilia. Two cask ales

at time of opening (one Portobello plus Harvey's Sussex Best Bitter) plus food available most of the day including early opening for breakfast. Over 30 hotel rooms which have been refurbished.



A new small bar also opened in early September at the western end of Rowlands Road, in a former bookmakers, which was originally a bank. The **Signal Post** is run by same people who run the New



Amsterdam pub in Worthing. The pub has numerous keg taps (no cask beer at present) with beers from local and national brewers plus a lager and cider. It has a selection of bread, meats and cheeses plus some vegan pies on offer.

The **Parsonage** bar & restaurant in Tarring village has Harvey's Old ale on offer for the winter months, in addition to the usual ales.

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Bru News

The Sussex Breweries Pages

Information here is generally supplied by the Brewery Liaison Officers (BLOs) named at the end of each report. BruNews is compiled by Roy Bray. A complete list of the breweries operating in Sussex, and their contact details, can be found on the [breweries](https://sussex.camra.org.uk/breweries) page on the Sussex branches website <https://sussex.camra.org.uk/breweries>

1648

East Hoathly

Cult Ale **Laughing Frog**

5.2% will be back with

spicy **Winter Solstice**

4.3%, plus ever popular

Signature 4.4%, **Triple**

Champion 4.0% and **Hop**

Pocket being full bodied at 3.4% tasting above its ABV.

BLO Barry Blewitt

ABYSS

October 7th was the second anniversary of the brewery moving back to Lewes and opening the taproom. Over a million pints have been brewed since the brewery started production in 2017.

Brewery capacity is now 240hl and the number of employees has increased to 14, including three brewers. There have been



several collaborations with other breweries, and these will continue. Although the large range of Abyss beers doesn't include any cask beers, there is usually a changing cask guest beer available in the taproom, along with a draught cider, usually from Ascension. The brewery is currently looking for a second site although no details are available yet.

BLO John Quick

BATTLE

Battle

Battle Brewery has moved. After a busy few months of organizing the transporting of the brewery has finally been completed, its move to a brand-new building in a picturesque setting on the outskirts of Battle. They have big plans for this new site, and they will be very busy over winter and

spring making further changes, stay up to date on their social media outlets for the latest developments. Their High Street Tap Room is open every day, they are happy to accommodate large parties with pre booking available.

BLO Mac McCutcheon

BREWING BROTHERS

Hastings

Not too much new news this time. They have taken on a new brewer to train-up. **Bock Lager** was recently produced for the first time and has been very well received.

BLO Peter Page-Mitchell

BURNING SKY


The core cask range of **Aurora** (5.6% ABV) and **Plateau** (3.5% ABV) are widely available locally and sell extremely well. Seasonal cask ales and some specials continue to be available at times. **Dark Mild** (3.2% ABV) is one to try. Recent big bottle releases include **Project 23** (8.2% ABV), which is their latest collaboration with Westwall Wines. **Plum Provision** (6.7% ABV) is a delicious fruited mixed ferm Saison with Majorie and Victoria plums. Available in cans, **Petite Plum** (3.5% ABV) is a special edition of their classic barrel aged **Petite Saison**. **Big Picture** (6% ABV) is a brand-new soft IPA that uses a new strain


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2002



of yeast and is loaded with Citra and Mosaic hops. They also have an old classic back, **Saison Houblan** (5.2% ABV), a crisp modern Saison. A tour of their website provides a fuller overview of what is available to order from their on-line shop.

BLO Ian Hodge

FIREBIRD

Firebird are expanding output with another new fermenter to be installed in the new year. Sales are up 20% on last year and August was their best month ever. They are looking for additional staff for the bar. A new table beer has been produced in cans/keg, called **Table Manners**, a NEIPA style at 2.8%. **Citra** is being brewed until mid-October when it will be replaced by **Old Ale**. **Festive 51** will be brewed from November or

December. Sussex pubs making regular orders include the King's Arms and Malt Shovel in Horsham, White Swan in Arundel, Blacksmith's Arms at Adversane, The George and Dragon at Dragon's Green, Horseguards at Tillington, Red H in Midhurst, Sun at Dunsfold and White Lion in Thakeham, as do Horsham Football Club and Horsham Sports Club.

BLO Dave Sharp

FLYING TRUNK

Forest Row

Flying Trunk's quest for new and often unusual beers has resulted in interesting brews, including **Ernest** (4.5% - a traditional best bitter), **Belle Tout** (5.5% - SEIPA) and **Bramble** (4.4% - stout featuring blackberries and vanilla pods; a.k.a. Wild Sussex at the Bluebell BF). The award-winning **Past Your Bedtime** (6.0% - stout) has been brewed again. To increase production extra fermenting capacity has been squeezed into their tiny space. Having produced a wide selection in their first year or so, they are aiming to refine the range into a small core, with one-off brews throughout the year. Bottle conditioned beers are sold at the monthly community market in Forest Row and direct from the brewery on dates advertised on social media. Beers continue to be available at festivals (CAMRA and other), pubs and other outlets, local and not so local.

BLO Jonathan Samways

GRIBBLE

The Gribble Inn is a charming traditional pub located in a 16th century beamed cottage in Oving. The cottage was converted into a public house in 1980. The Gribble Inn's own on-site micro brewery dates back to those early days, and over the years

the original head brewer passed on his knowledge to his son, Rob, the previous head brewer. It serves up to six of its own real ales at the bar, including **Fuzzy Duck**, **Plucking Pheasant**, **Gribble Ale** and the aptly named **Wobbler Ale** (7.5% ABV). If you can't make up your mind, try a beer flight (3 or 6 glasses holding a third of a pint each). Good news is that this year, Simon the owner and current Brew Master, (having taken over from Rob who is now sadly incapacitated after a stroke) has promised to repeat his excellent dark winter brew (ruby red ale) called **Santa's Sack**. This brew is also available in a two-bottle gift pack at a very reasonable price, which would make for an excellent Christmas present. Address: Gribble Lane, Oving PO20 2BP; Phone number: 01243 786893; Opening Hours: Monday to Saturday 11am to 11pm. Sunday 12 noon - 10pm. For more information you can visit their web site.

BLO Peter Lunn

HARVEY'S

Wild Hop was well received earlier in the year and will be available in future as **Pells Pale**. Harvey's were delighted that their **Dark Mild** was awarded Gold in the Mild's category of the 2023 CAMRA Champion

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Beer of Britain competition. In the International Beer Challenge they achieved seven awards, including gold for **Lewes Castle Brown Ale** in the best Ale up to 5% category. In the World Beer Awards they achieved seven awards and eight in the British Bottler's Institute competition. **Best Bitter** was voted champion at Woodfest. **South Down Harvest Ale** and **Star of Eastbourne** has been brewed using single variegated green hops from local growers in Burwash and Salehurst. **Bonfire Boy** will be available as usual in November and **Christmas Ale** in December. **Prince of Denmark** has been racked and is available for pubs and beer festivals. A co-coordinated exercise of brewery tours has enabled them to clear a back-log dating back to 2019. Tours can now be booked via their website. The Royal Oak in Barcombe will be reopening soon with new tenants from an existing local pub.

BLO Ian Hodge

HORSHAM

Old evening went down very well and tasted amazing. **Sedgwick** stout has been brewed again and Rohan's daughter Lucy will be brewing a Xmas beer, which may well be **Doomsday**, a 7.2% American Amber. Look out for a sour in the near future. The tap room is open

Thursday and Friday evenings and Saturday daytimes.

BLO Nigel Bullen

KISSINGATE

Lower Beeding

Kissingate's green hopped beer **Little Green Nutter** 5.0% was brewed as scheduled early September despite a much lower than expected hop yield. A skilled and dedicated bunch of volunteers ensured they had picked just enough to reproduce this wonderful harvest beer. The much-anticipated 2023 edition of **Raisin the Bar**, a 14.0% imperial stout has completed its ageing process and was available from cask mid-October. After much deliberation, and on the back of very positive feedback the brewery has decided to add **Horsham Ditty Porter** 6.0% to the permanent list. Steady demand for core beers throughout 2023 have created a predictable brewing schedule and allowed the brewery to concentrate creating new beers. There will be some special releases over the Christmas period. A varied calendar of events ensured that the summer months were busy. However Bunny has had to hang up her apron on several occasions as the brewery has invited outside caterers to provide food on Friday evenings. However her tight control

over the Kissingate kitchen ensures there are always homemade fresh bakes, curries to enjoy during the week. Up to ten cask beers are always available from the stillage. A range of local cider, wine, gin, rum and much more can be enjoyed from the taproom. Details of all that's going on can be found on the brewery website 'Events' page.

BLO Roy Bray

LAKEDOWN

Burwash

Lakedown is fine tuning the new brewery and hoped to brew their first beers week commencing 11 Sep.

They've got their **Sussex Green Hop** coming first - it's a 3.8% Bramling cross green hopped pale ale. Then reworked **Goldhawk Stout** should appear - a smooth, dark, and creamy 4.8% London stout. Their latest ale is **Harmonium**, a classic cask IPA, 5.7%. Once they're up and running they will be focusing on refining their current line up and getting quality and consistency rather than bringing out lots of new beers..

BLO Kris Cymer

LANGHAM

After the success of **Sour Puss**, our refreshing cherry sour, there are two new brews in the pipeline. Our first dunkel weissbier coming soon! And watch this space for an exciting transatlantic collab! Our

RENEGADE

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canning machine is starting to earn its keep. Limited edition brews now split three ways to suit all tastes: cask, keg and can available. Something for everyone.

LONG MAN

Eastbourne CAMRA Beer of the Festival 2022 award winner, **Oatmeal Stout**, is now available in 440ml cans from the brewery shop, various Sussex retailers and online for home delivery. The small batch cask ales continue to be well received and sell out quickly each month, **Wild Man IPA** (5.2%) will be back for November and the fruity winter warmer **Inn Keeper** (4.8%) will be in pubs from the beginning of December. **Long Man Best Bitter** has won World's Best Beer 2023 in the Pale Bitters up to 4.5% category at the World Beer Awards. The long awaited, bourbon barrel aged **Vintage Old Man** (6.9%) will launch in November. This beer has gorgeous depth and warming notes of bourbon after 14 months ageing - the initial batch is a very limited run. New dates have been added for Brewery Tour and tasting experiences, now running on most Saturdays: bookings via the Long Man Brewery Website. A Christmas supplier fair will run again at the brewery on Saturday 2nd December with lots of Sussex artisan

producers showcasing their creations, live music, food trailers and the full range of cask and keg beers will be available on the bar.

BLO Richard Scullion

THREE ACRE

Blackboys

A new introduction due in mid-October is **Chocolate Oat Stout** (5.1%), **Blood Orange Pale** (4.9%) has proven to be exceptionally successful, and its production has been increased accordingly. The beers are now available in Wetherspoons nationally, with **Ruby Porter** (4.2%) being especially popular. In addition, the brewery has a 6-month contract to supply Brighton-based pub chain **Indigo. Best Bitter** (4%), **Session Pale** (3.7%), **Blood Orange Pale** (4.9%), IPA (5%) and **Christmas Old Ale** (5.6%) will also be available bottle-conditioned from November in time for Christmas. To cope with all this increased demand, it is intended to nearly double production, helped by the installation of the second 50hl vessel mentioned in the previous report. The mobile bar has also continued to attend outside events with more planned.

BLO John Quick

UNBARRED

Brighton

When winter arrives, it

means one thing at Unbarred, **Stoutzilla** is coming! This year we have our annual launch of our titan stout, both our 10% regular **Stoutzilla** and barrel aged versions both in 330ml cans this time round. **Stoutzilla** will be launching at the end of November. We have a couple more cask beers on the way before the year is out with a **Pale** and a **Brown Ale** lined up along with a handful of keg and canned specials like our **Apple Pie Pastry Sour** and a **West Coast Pale**. The taproom continues to be open Tuesday - Sunday in winter for drink in and takeaway as well as bookings for your Christmas drinks, parties, and socials.

BLO Graham Eaton

WATERWORKS

The brewery, an adjunct to the pub of the same name in Rye, has now been operating for a year. On average 16 casks a week are brewed. Regular brews are **URYEnal Best Bitter**, **I PeeAlot IPA** and **Golden Flush Pale**. A recent seasonal special was a green hopped ale made using local hops. A porter is next on the list. There is an on-site tap room.

BLO Mike Pinkney



THE WILKES HEAD

Open 7 days a week: (Mon-Thu noon-10pm; Fri-Sat noon-11pm; Sun noon-7pm). Freshly prepared food served Wed - Sat: Lunch noon-2.30pm; Dinner 6pm-8pm. Five regularly changing real ales



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Traffers is a quiet, cosy, traditional community pub with good beer, pub grub, quiz nights, happy hour and function room.

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South East Sussex
CAMRA Branch
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Year 2022



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Traffers Bar, 19 Egerton Road, Bexhill on Sea, TN39 3HJ

Spotlight on

BREWERIES

Why Langham's keg is considered to be 'live' beer

Langham Brewery are rightly famed for their cask ales. Live beer stored in casks with a small amount of viable yeast still in the beer which carries on fermenting and allowing the beer to condition in the cask so that when served it has a freshness and liveliness that sets it apart from pasteurised, filtered and processed keg beers offered by some brewers.

So why are Langhams saying their keg beer is live and can be considered an acceptable alternative to their cask beers?

From leaflet CAMRA's Definition of Real Ale: "*CAMRA defines real ale as live beer. The purpose of retaining live yeast in a beer is to improve its flavour development while in its final container. A beer without live yeast will tend to be at its best on leaving the brewery*, gradually fading as it loses freshness. In contrast, a living beer continues to develop character after leaving the brewery*"

* hence Budweiser's strapline in their advertisements that 'Fresh beer is better'



Dave Taylor and samples

Some members of Western Sussex CAMRA were recently given a presentation by Saulo, Langham's Head Brewer and Fran, his assistant on

this subject. Saulo has sent samples of their kegged American Pale Ale to Brewlab in Sunderland (originally part of the University of Sunderland, and now an independent testing laboratory). Their analysis showed the beer to have 0.97m viable yeast cells per ml. CAMRA defines a Live Beer as any that when first put into its final container contains at least 0.1m cells of live yeast per millilitre.

Langham's store this beer in Sankey steel kegs; these are not chilled like many other brewers keg beers, but are reduced to 6°C so as to slow down fermentation but not stop it.



A keg tasting sample

Langham's investigated using KeyKegs, but decided they were not sustainable, as they are expensive, which adds to the cost of the final product, and in spite of recycling claims, tend to be 'one-use'

only, so do not fit with the brewery's environmentally friendly ethos.

CAMRA's leaflet defining Real Ale has live yeast in the final product as one of the parameters used to define Real Ale. Langham's admit this is not Cask Conditioned ale, as defined by CAMRA in this leaflet, and dispensing of the beer from keg is done using 'top pressure': CO₂ is

used to push the beer from the keg to the bar font.

In their leaflet, CAMRA say that the optimum level of CO₂, or 'condition', in an authentic cask beer is around 2gm per litre. For comparison, carbonation in bottled and other beer formats is typically 4-8gm of CO₂.

This does mean that the product does not fully comply with CAMRA rules concerning cask conditioning, which many members seek out when ordering beer, but it does mean that the product can be defined as a Live Beer, with the flavour development, freshness and character sought by many.

Brewlab's analysis report says that CAMRA will issue a badge to Langham to identify the beer as live; this mystified us as we were not aware of such an accolade from CAMRA and we await what this might be.

Laurie Dooley
Western Sussex Branch



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PRESSING NEWS

Hello readers, I hope this finds you well and dreaming of what this year's harvest will taste like next spring. This year appears to have been seen a good crop delivered.

When you read this CAMRA's October Cider month will have finished, you may have noticed it got a new name this year Perry Month, a fine choice so we could showcase the underestimated proud product of pears, not apples! To many perry is a far more interesting and exciting beverage than its apple derived cousin. To tie up with this year's rebrand we are promoting a kick starter for a book *Perry: A Drinkers Guide* by Adam Wells to help promote Perry. Perry as a style had fallen out of favour in recent years but it is starting to find its feet again. You are probably more aware of perry that you realise, did you ever enjoy a pear drop sweet, a good perry may well exhibit that flavour, wow. You've probably walked down as many perryfield roads as orchard streets!

We are entering Autumn, and this is the traditional time to collect apples and pears to make cider and perry, look out for orchards offering picking days, a great way to get outdoor exercise, sometimes in return for some of last year's product.

As the nights draw in for the festive season we will be soon looking forward to Wassails where the trees in the orchard are dressed to protect them and encourage their yield. Look out on social media for these events which usually occur in the first week or two of the new year, often a good excuse for a bonfire (ok in Sussex we don't need much excuse for one of those), some drinks at a good pub, and some music and dancing.

If you have any cider news or find a pub selling real, especially local cider please let me or your branch cider representative know. You can contact me at cider@northsussex.camra.org.uk. Wassail

Paul Sanders

Regional Cider Coordinator

Find the most comprehensive list of real cider and perry in the UK

Is your cider #NotFromConcentrate?

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South East Sussex



The Tower, St. Leonards gained another two awards this year. Branch Deputy

Chair, Roger, presented the Pub of the Year Runner Up and Community Pub of the Year to Louisa and her staff.



Ex Sussex Area Organiser and sometime Branch Chair, Peter Page Mitchell

was delighted to make the presentation of Country Pub of the Year to Karen at the Salehurst Halt, to which he has been an enthusiastic regular visitor for many years.



At a branch meeting held at the Albatross (RAFA) Club, Bexhill, Branch Chair,

Matt, took the opportunity to start proceedings with a presentation of the Branch Club of the Year Award to Dorothy, the Chairman of the Club.

Brighton & South Downs

CAMRA members attended the Anchor Inn, Ringmer to celebrate the presentation of Cider of the Festival to South Downs, with their excellent Rhubarb cider.



Photo: Lee (centre) and Paul (right) receiving their award from Jason Phillips (Branch Chairman)

Also, a further presentation was made – over £550 was raised for the Guide Dogs charity from the charity donation box at the festival - thanks to all who contributed.



Photo: Representatives from Guide Dogs receiving their cheque from Mark Tester (right) Branch Vice-Chairman

Graham Eaton

North Sussex and Arun & Adur branch social

Steve Keegan of Only with Love brewery gave a fascinating talk on their new alcohol free beer Juicy AF at the Windmill, Littleworth, near Partridge Green, West Sussex on Tuesday 10th October.



CHAMPION BEER OF BRITAIN AWARDS

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SCAN HERE

Bus to the Pub (Bttp)

Bus to the Pub is organised on a weekly basis, all the trips are on Thursdays, generally meeting at noon, usually visiting three pubs.

Max is the coordinator: "We mainly travel by train whilst buses are used as well. We visit various locations across Sussex but our core area is between Worthing & Lewes because of the high volume of great pubs with an excellent choice of great beers."

If you would like to be added to their mailing list, please contact whu@maxmalkin.plus.com or phone 01243 828394.

Stay connected with CAMRA

WHAT'S BREWING

Our dynamic online news platform is updated daily with stories from the pub & brewing industries, Campaign news & opinion pieces

wb.camra.org.uk

POBS PNTS PEOPLE

Tune in via Spotify or Apple Podcasts for great chat about pubs, clubs, beer and cider

camra.org.uk/podcast

BEER

Our colourful quarterly magazine is full of interesting features from the biggest voices in the trade

Available in print and online

Hello from the campaign.

Many of you will have seen the news coverage of the Crooked House in the West Midlands and also of two recent fires in closed pubs in Croydon. These were probably the result of frustration by the owners or agents caused by the planning protection given to pubs and the communities they serve through the campaigning activity of CAMRA. If you have concerns about the status of a pub, let your local branch know, or start a campaign to save your local. The campaign has resources on our web site https://camra.org.uk/campaign_resources/saving-your-local-pub or contact campaigns@camra.org.uk.

Things to think about in the next few months especially if you are a member of the campaign, we are fast approaching our annual Members Weekend and Conference in April 2024 which is in Dundee, Scotland. This in part is to celebrate 50 years of the campaign north of the border. There we will elect our new

National Executive. If you feel that you could help guide the campaign forward, why not stand for the NE. The other way to be come involved there is to put forward a motion to be debated to change elements of our campaigning. Please look for notices in online What's Brewing, or just attend to meet like-minded people.

There is no better time to get involved in campaigning with us, we can even look good on your CV. Many of our volunteer roles provide you with life skills that can translate into business and build confidence in yourself, because, you did that or worked with a team to deliver a festival. You could have saved your local!

Have a good read. Please don't bin me - pass me on.

Paul Sanders

Regional Director, Surrey & Sussex



Love beer?
Love pubs?

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We're leading the fight to keep pubs alive and thriving in every community, serving quality ales and ciders. We offer you fantastic benefits and everything you need to find the perfect pint and pub - anytime, anywhere. Find out more camra.org.uk/joinup

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*Price for paying by Direct Debit and correct at 1 July 2021. Concessionary rates available, please visit camra.org.uk/membership-rates †Joint members receive £40 worth of vouchers.

BEER FESTIVALS AND OTHER DELICENTS

CAMRA EVENTS IN BOLD. For FREE inclusion in this column and on the Sussex Branches website, contact the Editor; for PAID advertisements contact Neil Richards. Copy-by date and contact details on the contacts page 30. For up to date information on beer festivals and other beer and cider related events in Sussex, and often more details than appear here in print, please visit the Beer Festivals page on the Sussex Branches website, sussex.camra.org.uk/festivals.

10-12 Nov Brewer's Arms, Lewes, annual beer festival

11 Nov Langham Brewery, Epic Comedy Presents "A Barrel of Laughs", 7pm. Four top rate comedians, hot food and bar.

25 Nov Langham Brewery, Mission Impossible jazz funk soul, 7.30pm. Special performance in aid of Multiple System Atrophy. Hog roast and bar.

2 Dec Langham Brewery, Midwinter Festival, noon-3.30pm. Two politically incorrect top class mummings plays;

Mary Rose & St George unique street style morris dancing and some singalong folk tunes. Plus steak & chips and bar.

26-28 Jan 2024 Cooper's Arms Crowborough, Dark & Delicious Beer Festival (see page 5)

2-4 Feb 2024 Selden Arms Worthing, Beer Festival (see page 13)

21-24 Feb 2024 Gardeners Arms, Lewes, DarkFest - annual beer festival of strong dark beers (see page 2)

Branch Diaries

The following are the details of planned meetings and socials of the six Sussex CAMRA branches for Aug-Oct.

Arun & Adur

Fri 10 Nov Branch meeting, Coast Cafe, Worthing, 7pm. Beer Festival Wash Up Meeting. Mini beer festival featuring Worthing brewed beers from Hand, Cloak & Dagger and other local brewers.

See aaa.camra.org.uk.

Brighton & South Downs

Fri 10 - Sat 11 Nov Ale Trail Prize Distribution, Brewer's Arms, Lewes
Sat 2 Dec Branch AGM & Ale Trail Prize Distribution, 2pm, Poets Ale & Smoke House

See brighton.camra.org.uk/diary.

North Sussex

Branch meetings are on the second Tuesday of the month, starting 7.30pm

Sat 4 Nov Branch outing to Worthing

Thu Dec 28 Day in Horsham from 12noon, details tbc

See northsussex.camra.org.uk/diary.

North East Sussex & South East Sussex

Sat 11 Nov Queen's Head, Icklesham (catch 1317 Bus 100 from Hastings Stn.) Robin Hood, Icklesham

Sat 25 Nov White Dog Inn, Ewhurst Green (catch 1237 Bus 349 from Hastings Stn)

Tue 5 Dec Detail TBC

Sat 16 Dec Christmas Drinks: Eastbourne, 2pm, details TBC

Sat 23 Dec Christmas Drinks: Hastings, 2pm, details TBC

See southeastsussex.camra.org.uk/diary.

Western Sussex

See westernsussexcamra.org.uk/events.

Sussex Branches of CAMRA

Surrey & Sussex Regional Director:

Paul Sanders, 07778 035971

RD.SurreySussex@camra.org.uk

Sussex Area Organiser:

To be appointed

area.organiser@sussex.camra.org.uk

Website: sussex.camra.org.uk

***PotY:** Watchmakers, Hove,

***CotY:** Albatross Club (RAFA), Bexhill on Sea,

***CPotY:** Watchmakers, Hove

Arun & Adur

Jamie Hooper, 07956 502152,

chairman@aaa.camra.org.uk,

www.aaa.camra.org.uk

Beer Festival: Worthing, September 2024

PotY: Five Bells, West Chiltington

CPotY: none; COTY: none

Brighton & South Downs

Jason Phillips

chair@brighton.camra.org.uk

www.brighton.camra.org.uk

Beer Festival: South Downs June 2024

PotY: Watchmakers Arms, Hove;

CPotY: Foghorn;

CotY: Keymer and Hassocks Sports & Social Club

North Sussex

James Thornton

chair@northsussex.camra.org.uk

www.northsussex.camra.org.uk

Beer Festival: Spring Equinox, 22-23 March 2024

PotY: Brewery Shades, Crawley;

CPotY: Brewery Shades, Crawley; CotY: none

North East Sussex sub branch

Richard Saunders, 07773 013063,

richard@rsaunders.plus.com

www.northeastsussex.camra.org.uk

PotY: King's Arms, Rotherfield;

CPotY: King's Head, East Hoathly; CotY: none

South East Sussex

Howard Millichap 07599 257522

contact@southeastsussex.camra.org.uk

www.southeastsussex.camra.org.uk

Beer Festivals: Beer & Cider by the Sea May 2024

Eastbourne Beer Festival, October 2024

PotY: Brickmaker's Alehouse, Bexhill;

CPotY: Waterworks, Rye;

CotY: Albatross Club (RAFA), Bexhill on Sea

Western Sussex

Max Malkin, 01243 828394

whu@maxmalkin.plus.com

www.westernsussexcamra.org.uk

Beer Festival: Yapton May 2024

PotY: Wilkes Head, Eastergate;

CPotY: none CotY: none

*PotY: Pub of the Year; CPotY: Cider Pub of the Year;

CotY: Club of the Year



Sussex Drinker: Winter 2023 No. 113

Published by Sussex Branches of
the Campaign for Real Ale

Editor: Andy Shaw

Email: drinker@sussex.camra.org.uk

Advertising: Neil Richards MBE

Email: N.Richards@btinternet.com

Paper Red Media

Tel: 01536 358670 Mobile: 07710 281381

Printed by Zenith Media

www.zenithprintgroup.com

Next Publication Date: 1st February 2024

Copy deadline 11th January 2024

Copy Submissions:

The Editor invites submissions that celebrate the real ale scene in Sussex. Please keep to a maximum of 700 words. Please use plain text or Word files. Please send good quality pictures separately, preferably in JPG format.

Standard Disclaimer:

Views expressed in this magazine are those of the individual authors and not necessarily supported by the editor or CAMRA.

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Visit the Citizens Advice Website

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