

Celebrating the Real Ale Scene in Sussex

Sussex Drinker



Autumn 2025

Free



(see pages 3 & 4)

**5th Bluebell Railway/
CAMRA Sussex
Branches
Beer & Cider Festival,
Sheffield Park Station,
Friday 19th to Sunday
21st September 2025
(see page 5)**



**Beer & Cider
By The Sea
Friday 12 – Sunday
14 September
Western Lawns,
Eastbourne**

Indian Summer

BEER & CIDER FESTIVAL



The Cooper's Arms

GLORIOUS IPA'S & GOLDEN ALES
26/27/28TH SEPTEMBER



Hofmeister
Join our beer party here!

SATURDAY 11TH OCTOBER 5PM-11PM

HOFMEISTER HELLES & WEISSBIER
SAUSAGES & HOMEMADE SAUERKRAUT
"MASSKRUGSTEMMEN" COMPETITION

SOME OF THE BEST OF
MODERN BRITISH LAGER
SPONSORED BY **Hofmeister**



*Autumn
Beer Festival*

14/15/16TH NOVEMBER

**DARK & DELICIOUS
BEER FESTIVAL**

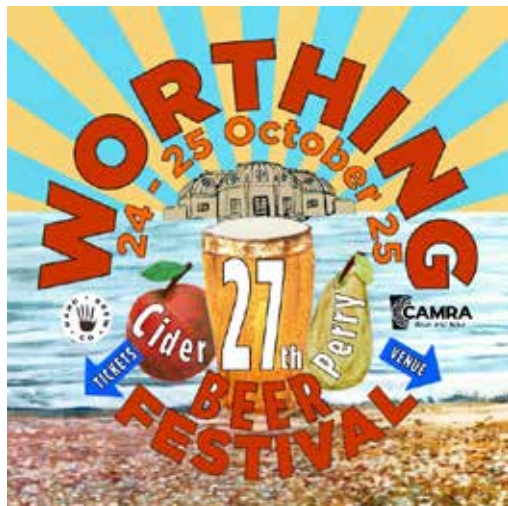
FRI 30/1 SAT 31/1 SUN 1/2/26

OUR ANNUAL WINTER ALES FESTIVAL
NOTHING CONTROVERSIAL
JUST LOTS OF GREAT DARK BEER
IT'S WHAT WE DO!

The Cooper's Arms
Coopers Lane Crowborough East Sussex

COOPERSARMSCROW.COM

Arun & Adur Branch 27th Worthing Beer & Cider Festival Rooms (Guildbourne Centre) Worthing, 24th to 25th Oct 2025



We are back at, **Rooms** in the Guildbourne Centre in Chapel Road, Worthing BN11 1LZ, on Friday 24th to Saturday 25th of October 2025. The Centre is a 12-minute walk from Worthing Station, and town centre bus stops are outside the Chapel Road entrance.

Tickets

Tickets will go on sale on the 1st of August and are available via CAMRA's online Tckty system. Scan the following QR code to access tickets.

Session times are below:

Fri 24th Oct, 11am – 4pm, £8.00

Fri 24th Oct, 5pm – 11pm, £10.00

Sat 25th Oct, 11am – 9:30pm £8.00

Sat 25th Oct after 5pm £3.00.

CAMRA members will receive £5.00 worth of tokens on production of their membership card.

Beers & Ciders

Henry Kirk will be selecting our beers again and the focus will be on independent breweries. As usual we are supporting our

local trade but will be going further afield to breweries in and around Edinburgh. We plan to have forty-five cask beers, ten craft keg/KeyKey beers and ten real Ciders/Perries.

Beer Glasses

There will be no souvenir beer glass this year. We will reuse and recycle existing stocks of glasses from CAMRA. So please do not take your beer glass home with you. This is a less environmentally damaging option and helps keep the ticket prices the same as last year.

Tokens

Beer, Cider and Perry can only be purchased with tokens. Which you can buy at the token desk. Unused tokens can be refunded up until when "TIME" is called at the end of each session. We accept cash or Debit/Credit Card, Visa or Mastercard only (contactless or chip and PIN) up to a limit of £50.

Festival Charity

We are proud to support the Care For Veterans Charity. A simple way to give is to place your unused tokens in the collection boxes near the exits.

Festival Sponsors

Hand Brewery have once again very kindly agreed to sponsor our festival.

Catering

The Humble Pie Company will be on hand with their pies and other products including vegan and vegetarian options. They will also have wines and other alcoholic drinks for those who may like something other than beer or cider. Purchases from their stand will be cash or card only.

More detailed information can be found on the Arun & Adur website:
aaa.camra.org.uk/wbf.

ROOMS, WORTHING

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UPSTAIRS IN GUILDBOURNE CENTRE

WORTHING

24 - 25 October 25



BEER FESTIVAL

10 PLUS KEG BEERS

**10 PLUS CIDERS
FOOD BY HUMBLE PIE**

40 PLUS CASK BEERS



For info & tickets scan QR or visit aaa.camra.org.uk/wbf

BLUEBELL RAILWAY BEER FESTIVAL



2025



What's on Where



EAST GRINSTEAD STATION

Platform Bar | 11am–3pm

Kick off your journey with a pint while you wait! Real ale served on the platform 🍺

KINGSCOTE – New for 2025!

Goods Yard Bar | 11am–5pm (Sat & Sun)

Local cask ale 🍺

Surrey Copper gin & Plumpton Wine Estate 🍷

Fresh crepes 🥞

LIVE MUSIC

Saturday:

Sharon

Sunday:

Bowfiddle Strings

LIVE MUSIC

Saturday

Smokestack

Sunday

Travelling Yukes

HORSTED KEYNES

Platform 1 – Carriage 1520 | 11am–5pm

Great selection of beers 🍺

Platform 3/4 buffet open for refreshments 🍷



SHEFFIELD PARK

Main Festival Hub | 11am–10pm

Nearly 100 cask ales!

Craft & cider bars 🍺 🍎

Food: Bessemer Arms,

Pizza van, jacket potatoes 🍕 🥔

LIVE MUSIC

Fri (Afternoon–9:45pm)

Sat (11:30am–9:45pm)

Sun (12pm–4pm)

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.

■ ALFRISTON

The **Six Bells** has added another cask ale to its regular Harvey's Sussex Best Bitter, a recent visit found a Three Acre beer on the bar, a brewery which is proving ever more popular amongst free houses in the countryside around Eastbourne.

■ BARCOMBE

The **Royal Oak** recently had both Harveys Best and Sisters on handpull as well as South Down Silver lining and a Rhubarb cider.

The **Anchor** is very busy in the garden in the afternoon with holiday makers and boaters. The Harveys is still served straight from the cask and very good.

■ BEXHILL

The **Rose & Crown** has been reopened by Greene King as part of its Hive chain and is serving two of their regular cask ales.

The **Strand** is now serving two cask ales with Harvey's Sussex Best Bitter a regular.

■ BOLNEY

The Eight Bells has reopened. It's open 7 days a week, with food every day except Mondays.

■ BOSHAM

The **White Swan** closed in March, with rent owed.

■ BRACKLESHAM

The owners of the building housing **Little Monster by the Bay** are seeking planning permission to convert to a residential property. The bar's current lease runs until October.

■ BURGESS HILL

At the **Signalbox**, upcoming events include Oktoberfest (17 Sep -5 Oct) Cider Fest (15 Oct - 2 Nov) and Autumn Beer Fest (12 - 23 Nov). In addition there is pub quiz every Wednesday and

a Comedy night 2nd Monday of the month

The **Brickworks** have their end of summer party (music, beers, and cocktails) on 13 - 14 Sep and then October fest (we have 5 different German lagers) from 18th - 28th Sep. They will be holding a November beer festival (Brickfest) w/e of 28th-30th Nov.

■ CHAILEY

The **Five Bells** with their award-winning garden and a full food service the pub is a popular venue. They offer Harvey's Best as a regular cask ale plus two cask ales that change on a frequent basis.

■ CHICHESTER

What was the **Bull** in Market Avenue has planning permission to become an "adult gaming centre". But a plan to open a café/bar in an old taxi office in the station carpark has been turned down.

The **Crate & Apple** is under new management after a short period of closure. Part of a small chain with pubs in Portsmouth & Southampton, it is food-led, its one regular cask ale being Harveys Best, with a guest from a revolving selection including Wadworth's 6X, Proper Job, London Pride and Timothy Taylor's Boltmaker.

After its latest make-over, there is no longer cask ale at the **Four Chesnuts**.

The **George & Dragon**, under the new leadership of Shelly, currently offers Langham Hip Hop, Wadworth 6X and Landlord

Ghost at the Feast in North Street has been offering keg conditioned beer in the upstairs bar. Food from downstairs can be taken upstairs to be eaten, and vice versa.

The **Vestry** in South Street now wants to be called Room 12. Although it is offering "immersive events" and "premium experiences", the drinking of cask ale is not one of them.

■ COCKING

The community easily raised the £30,000 it needed earlier in the year to keep the **Blue Bell**



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running, so the pub is open again, but with more restricted opening hours.

■ **CROWBOROUGH**

The **Cooper's Arms** is holding an Indian Summer Beer and Cider Festival from Friday 26th to Sunday 28th September, midday until 10pm, featuring IPAs and golden ales as well as a selection of real ciders. This will be followed by "Hoftoberfest" on Saturday, 11th October, 5pm until 11pm. The event is sponsored by Hofmeister and beers available will include their Helles and Weissbier along with some of the best modern British lagers. Sausages and home-made sauerkraut will be available and there will be a "Masskrugstemmen" competition. This Bavarian sport involves holding a stein of beer, usually one litre, at arm's length parallel to the ground with the winner being the competitor who lasts longest. "Hoftoberfest" has become a regular event at the Cooper's over the last few years and has proved very popular with those who enjoy proper lager. Further events are planned after October and details will be found nearer the time on the pub's website at coopersarmscrow.com

■ **CROWHUST**

After rumours that the **Plough** had closed we are pleased to report this was not the case. Isabel and her partner have redecorated the pub very nicely and the Long Man Best Bitter was in very good condition. The pub is now open Wednesday to Saturday noon-10pm and Sunday noon-6pm.

■ **EASTBOURNE**

Good Beer Guide listed, **Beerarama**, in Bolton Road, has added a weekend cask ale to their usual key keg offerings.



Back in November 2024 Gun Brewery started conversations with the **Saffrons Sports Club** in Eastbourne about plans for developing the facilities there. The site of 18 acres of trees & beautiful sports fields, all surrounded by an historic flint wall, in the very



heart of Eastbourne, now has the Gun Brewery Saffrons Tap Room. Here you will find 4 cask and 12 keg lines all serving Gun

Brewery beers. Open Monday to Friday 3-10pm and Saturday and Sunday 12.00 to close there is outdoor and indoor seating and various street food offerings are planned.

The folks behind Ascension Cider and Route 21 Beer will shortly be opening an ale and cider bar, to be called the **Wolf on the Corner**, in South Street in the town centre.

■ **EAST GRINSTEAD**

Coming up at the **Engine Room** is the popular annual Oktoberfest which runs from Friday 26th to Sunday 28th September. All days will feature German-style food and live music, as well as a selection of interesting brews. The fourth version of 'In Cahoots', brewed by Flying Trunk with hops chosen by a pub regular, proved popular as ever, and a fifth iteration is planned. As usual, please check with social media for details of music and other special events.

■ **FAIRLIGHT**



The **Cove**, in Waites Lane, continues going from strength to strength, having now become the focus of the village, holding regular quizzes and hosting



live entertainment, in addition to providing excellent meals. Two handpumps pour Harvey's Sussex Best Bitter and a guest cask ale, frequently from a local brewery. On a recent visit the Harvey's was in excellent condition.

■ FIVE ASH DOWN

The **Pig & Butcher** is a very popular family run locals pub with a good selection of Harvey's ales and food on Wednesday-Sunday.

■ FOREST ROW

Flying Trunk have opened a Taproom at the brewery, with their beer available on cask and keg. It's open Thursdays 3-7:30, Fridays 12-7:30 and Saturdays 12-4. There is no parking on site but it's close to the Highgate Road bus stop (Metrobus 270 and Compass Bus 261), and a short walk from the centre of the village.

■ HASTINGS



In Hastings Old Town, at the **First In Last Out (FILO)**, there is a new pale session ale of their

own, 'Hop Cat' (4.0%), which will be available until they change to their winter ale late in the year. They also now have a 4.0% 'craft' pale beer called 'Crafty Cat Pale Ale.'



At the **Prince Albert** in Cornwallis Street, town centre, there will be another Oktoberfest this year, 24-27 September. As last

year, there will be many beers from Munich and Bavaria, and a cask ale brewed to a Munich style, last year was Anspach & Hobday 'Wunderbar.' Check social media near the time.

Across Hastings town, 3-5 October will be the Hastings Tap Takeover, when about 15 pubs and bars will have different breweries take over their beer sales, similarly, check social media nearer the time.

Then 7-15 November will see the Hastings Old Town Cider Festival with a large number of 'real' ciders available. Again not yet confirmed which pubs and bars will participate, but will be about 6 pubs and a bar or two, more news will be available nearer the time on social media.

■ HAYWARDS HEATH

All of the usual programme at the **Hop Sun** with runs, quizzes, gaming groups, with a bit of music and comedy to round it! The freshest Heathen beer, with an Only With Love tap takeover September 5th - 7th. And don't miss out on the Annual Hoptoberfest celebration September 25th - 28th, featuring beer from the UK, US, Germany, and Estonia!

■ HORSHAM

The **Bedford** is now being run by Jodie Munday, who also continues to run the **Kings Arms**.

The **Malt Shovel** had a full week of live music before Sam and Marie-Clare closed the doors in mid July, having rejected Stonegate's lease renewal terms. We are awaiting news of Stonegate's plans.

■ ICKLESHAM



The **Robin Hood**, a family run pub, supports the local community and beyond by providing good food and ales, both

reasonably priced. Although only two handpumps have been in use during the summer it is understood that more will be brought into use as the seasons change. In addition to recently re-entering the *Good Beer Guide*, the pub has also been voted Branch Country pub and Regional Cider pub of the year by the members of CAMRA. It is no surprise that an extensive range of ciders, at least 21 and maybe more, are available. Cash is the preferred method of payment as a result of the high charges imposed by banks on debit and credit card use. A modest discount on the price of a pint of ale or cider is given to card carrying members of CAMRA.

■ LEWES

The **Brewers Arms** will be holding its annual beer festival from Fri 14 - Sun 16 Nov. There will be a quiz held on Sun 16 Nov (booking is advisable).

The **Patch**, is a café with a licence and a very good one. They open earlier and have a very good range of 10 craft beers, including Boobytrap – No milk at the dairy – Milk stout at 5.5%.

The **Royal Oak** in Station Street has Harvey's Best as well as three other changing cask ales.

The **Lewes Arms** has an array of real ales including Harvey's Best and 'Gales' HSB. There is seating in the upstairs 'garden'.

The **Gardeners** has a range of real ales and ciders. The Goldmark Vanilla Black at 5.2% was recently seen and there were beers from Salopian, Thornbridge and Lakedown available too as well as Harvey's Best.

The **John Harvey Tavern** offers an array of Harvey's ales, and the Dark Mild was recently found to be in good condition.

■ LINDFIELD

In September, the **Stand Up Inn** have Badge Night for LBS and their quiz at the end of the month, October sees our toads tournament . Open mic is first Tuesday of the month

■ NEWICK



The **Royal Oak** continues to offer Harvey's Best and Long Man Blonde plus a guest ale which recently was Sharp's Sea Fury. All three were

found to be in good condition on a recent visit. There is currently no food service. The pub continues to operate on a Tenancy at Will basis.

The **Crown** recently hosted the final performance by Ashdown Morris for this season. Harvey's Best was very good as usual and there is always another regularly changing cask ale on handpump.

■ ORE



Inland from Hastings, in a quiet street, sits a traditional community pub, the **Old King John**. On a recent visit CAMRA

members were delighted by the quality of the Harvey's Sussex Best Bitter

■ OVING

The **Gribble** is still a ruin following the two fires earlier in the year. The owners wish to rebuild and reopen as a pub.

■ PETT



The **Royal Oak**, in Elm Lane, Pett is a friendly country pub renowned for the quality of its cask ales. Using all four handpumps means there is

always a selection to suit every taste, usually including at least one from a local brewery. Recent offerings have included Kent Cobnut and Rother Valley Golden Valley, both of which were in excellent condition. An extensive and varied menu from the pub's own kitchen includes pub classics. Additionally on Monday evenings wood fired pizzas are provided by Bell'e Buono Pizza Napoli, whilst on Tuesdays there's Thai cuisine from Asiatique. Live music events take place on Sunday afternoons. The pub holds regular quizzes and other events to support local charities and others further afield. Recently money raised from quizzes enabled a generous donation of £2500 to the Church funds and £860 to support the Army Benevolent Fund.

■ PETT LEVEL



Although the **New Beach Club** is a "Members Only" club it offers complimentary

entry as guests to CAMRA members who visit on

an occasional basis There are five handpumps serving ales from local and regional breweries, all at attractive prices. Reflecting its LocAle status, it now showcases various brews from the Waterworks brewery in Playden. Recently Golden Flush and Pissoir have been available, the latter was tasted and found to be in fine form.

■ PLUMPTON

The **Fountain** is now under new management and with revised opening hours. A visit on Thursday lunchtime found Harvey's Best in excellent condition and additionally there was the option for Timothy Taylor Landlord on another handpump. The pub seems to be popular for its food offering.

The **Plough** is busy at lunchtime with many families in the garden for food as well as drinks. The Harvey's Best was excellent with additional options of Olympia or Armada.

■ PORTSLADE

The **Stanley Arms**, are planning to hold a Beer Festival on 24 - 26 Oct. Details to follow later. Check their website: thestanley.com/ nearer the time for more details. This site also lists current Beers on tap and entertainment.

■ RINGMER

The **Cock** is popular with lunchtime diners, the Harvey's Best was very good and the gardens are ideal in the current hot weather.

The **Anchor** is popular in the afternoon with Harvey's Best, Downlands Bramber and Evening Star Revival APA on the handpumps.

■ ST LEONARDS

There is a new landlord at the **Royal Albert**, Battle Road. Two real ales are usually available, Harvey's Sussex Best Bitter and a guest. Beers from Kent and Greene King have been on offer recently and were in good condition.

The **Tower** is holding its 8th Real Ale Festival from Feb 20-22nd next year. This year as part of the Hastings Tap Takeover (3-5 October 2025), beers from Fell Brewery will be on offer.

The **Horse & Groom** is planning to hold its first Beer Festival in the Spring. Dates to follow, and

the Piper has extended its opening hours to include Thursday and Friday from 1.00pm. Cask ales are priced at £4.00 a pint until 4.00pm.

It is understood that the **Prince of Wales** in Western Road has new owners interested and that it may soon re-open.

■ TURNERS HILL

Phil Shoubridge has been the landlord at the **Crown** in Turners Hill for 28 years but he and his wife Lindsay will be taking a well-earned retirement at the end of September. When Phil took charge of this large popular pub and beer garden, which first became an inn in 1706, it was already famous for its home cured ham, egg and chips, and he has maintained its reputation for good food and beer ever since. Phil has proudly supported local beers and has had many enjoyable pub beer festivals, with beer served from a large shed at the side of the pub. The pub has frequently been in the Good Beer Guide, as the beers are always kept in top notch condition. In 2015 he even held a large beer festival at Crawley Town Hall! Recently the pub has had one hand pump free of tie and St. Austell and Tiny Rebel beers have been on recently. The pub will remain in good hands as current staff Neil and Lindsay will soon take the helm with support from Phil, and we wish him a long and happy retirement, and perhaps a chance to enjoy more time in his passion for motorcycles. Cheers for all the great beer and good times, Phil!



■ WALDERTON

The **Barley Mow** remains closed. It has recently been sold at auction, but as yet there is no news of new owners nor of their intentions, nor signs of activity on site.

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](#) page on the Sussex branches website

<https://sussex.camra.org.uk/breweries>

360 DEGREES

Has now closed down in Sussex and has now moved to the CONWY BREWERY in Wales I have heard that they might have a small place in the vineyard at Ansty more information later.

BLO Roy Bray

BATTLE

Battle Brewery have been busy brewing their new Lager, the newly released 1066 Lager 4.2% is now available in cans and keg - crisp, refreshing, very popular with customers in the Tap Room and pubs in the trade. They will always be a champion of real ale but expanding the keg range is essential for continuous growth. There are plans for a **New England IPA** to be introduced and is currently in the testing stages. The High Street Tap Room is open 6 days a week with a rotating guest stout on keg showcasing some of the other local breweries.

BLO Mac McCutcheon

BEAK

This Autumn, our Head Brewer and Brewery Manager are heading stateside on an exciting mission - to personally select the key US hop varieties that will shape our beers in the coming year. We will also be collaborating with some incredible international breweries for a series of special collaborations (stay tuned - you won't want to miss what's coming). Closer to home, we're getting ready to welcome back **Bampa**, our much-loved annual best bitter, returning this October. Want to be the first to hear about new releases and exclusive brews? Be sure to sign up to our newsletter via our website. Meanwhile, over at our Lewes taproom, things are as lively as ever. Every weekend, expect a rotating lineup of street food vendors serving up the good stuff, plus regular live music and events to keep the good times flowing

BLO Graham Eaton

BREWING BROTHERS

On a recent visit to the Imperial a **Small Batch Pale Mosaic Strata** 4% was excellent. There was also a **Smugglers Stout** 4.2% available in Keg - tasted superb.

BLO Peter Page Mitchell

BURNING SKY

The Brewery remains as busy as ever. Monthly cask ales are now a regular feature and are proving extremely popular. Bottled beers and canned ales are selling well. A visit to their website provides full visibility of what's available at any given time. They remain one of the most popular and highly respected breweries in Sussex.

BLO Ian Hodge

FLYING TRUNK

Flying Trunk's new tap room has opened its doors and is already proving popular. Opening times are Thu 3-7.30pm; Fri 12-7.30pm; Sa 12-4pm. It's a light relaxing space just south of Forest Row near to the Highgate Road bus stop for the 270 and 261 routes. The beer selection varies weekly with a mix of cask and live keg, also the occasional guest. Bottles and takeaways are also available. Some old favourites have featured along with a new brew or two, including **Mon Ami** (5.0%), a pale brewed with Belgian yeast.

The 'In Cahoots' beer series, in association with the Engine Room, has reached No.4, and No.5 is likely to appear soon. Style, strength and hops vary with each brew.

BLO Jonathan Samways

GUN

The big news from the brewery for this edition is that we have now opened our second taproom! Back in November 2024 we started conversations with the Saffrons Sports Club in Eastbourne about their plans for developing the facilities there.

For those of you not familiar with the club, its home is 18 acres of trees & beautiful sports fields, all surrounded by an historic flint wall, in the very heart of Eastbourne. Fast forward to today and it's in this tranquil setting that you'll find the Gun Brewery Saffrons Taproom.

Open to all, it combines the best of a brewery taproom with the warm welcome of a clubhouse. Here you will find 12 keg and 4 cask lines serving brewery fresh beer (all made with our own Sussex Spring water) complimented by a carefully curated list of wines, spirits and soft drinks. Live sports - both televised and, well, live - are a key part of the offering, which is completed by a rotating series of street food offerings. Quiz, music and DJ nights are all in the mix too. So come on over, catch a game and enjoy a pint or two in the sunshine, surrounded by glorious park-like grounds. There really is nothing quite like it anywhere in Eastbourne. In other news the Guild of Fine Foods Great Taste Awards this year saw us taking a Five-For with stars awarded for every beer entered. An amazing achievement and a testament to the hard work and attention to detail of our brewing team.

BLO Keith Brown

HAND

Huge news for Hand Brew Co as they are taking part in Elusive Brew's Collabageddon this November - teaming up with Thornbridge at their Bakewell brewery, and hosting Duration at their Worthing brewery. Hand have introduced a

summer special into their core range - Lobo will now be permanent. It's their **Thick Juicy Tropical** 5.2% New England Hazy Pale, available in keg and cans, but with every batch they produce Hand will rack off a few limited edition casks too.

Our return collaboration with Edinburgh-based Closet Brewing is a 5.5% Negroni IPA called **Opie**. Crystal clear, deep rich and red, with intense pithy bitterness and herbaceous aroma of juniper, pine and orange citrus. Long in the mouth with a lingering sweetness and just a kick of booze, to be enjoyed proudly.

Beside generously sponsoring The CAMRA Worthing Beer Festival for a second year in a row they will also be exhibiting their excellent beers at the following festivals- Horsham Beer Fest at Horsham Brewery (20/09). Lewes' The Depot's inaugural Beer Fest (20/09).

Oct: Tap Takeover at the Crown in Hastings (03/10-15/10).

They'll be launching their fourth Art You Can Drink collab on 30 October. Hand will be getting the old tower brewery up and running again in the Autumn- this time for a fresh tank Helles lager, which will only be available at the Hand in Hand brewpub.

BLO Henry Kirk

HARVEY'S

It's been a busy few months at Harvey's. Their Old Ale was awarded Gold in the London and Southeast area Champion Beer Brown Ales, Red Ales, Old Ales, and Strong Miles category

and in the Ealing Beer Festival London South East CBOB competition. Georgian Dragon was awarded top beer in the Bitters category in the SDBF in June.

After the sad decision of Brighton Beer to cease brewing, and to protect their legacy, Harvey's purchased the intangible assets of the company, including their trademarks and recipes. Miles Jenner, Head Brewer and Joint Managing Director of Harvey's, explained that "While we won't be marketing Brighton Beer brands, we're planning to undertake occasional collaborative brews with them.

These might pay tribute to some of their most popular beers or be something entirely new. They'll be clearly labelled as collaborations and made available for a limited time in both Brighton Beer pubs and our own. If Brighton Beer ever chooses to return to brewing, we'll be more than happy to sell the intangible assets back to them at the same price we paid."

On 12th July, Harvey's held an open day to mark the closure of the existing Harvey's Hoppers club and the launch of the new Harvey Hop Manageable Ale Trail. This runs until August 2026, is open to all to visit ten of their managed pubs. Passports are available by post of by visiting the Harvey's shop in Lewes (a passport photograph is required).

BLO Ian Hodge

LANGHAM

We're enjoying a fantastic summer here at Langham Brewery, with the success of our seasonal brews **Flight** (5.5% Continental Pale Ale) and **Warou** (NZ XPA 3.3%) - perfectly complementing the glorious weather over the past few months. August saw a sold-out Yellow Moon music festival, which showcased some of the finest UK Bluegrass and Americana acts to an enraptured audience. We're already planning the event's return in 2026; please check our socials for updates on all future music events at the brewery. With autumn around the corner, we're looking forward to malty beers making their way back into our glasses. Our **Autumn Ale** and **Langham Special Draught** (LSD) will be available soon, with some exciting additional updates planned for 2025.

Upcoming events include our Autumn Family Day – Bonkers for Conkers, featuring our annual conker competition, live entertainment from Morris dancers and talented musicians, family games, local stalls, and more. Entry is free, and we'll be collecting donations for Chestnut Tree House Hospice Care Sussex. September kicks off with two excellent venues showcasing our beers: The Foresters Arms in Graffham and The Ship Inn in Itchenor. Check out their websites and socials for details. Beers returning to stock include: **Langham Special Draught** (LSD) – 5.2% (Cask), **Autumn Ale** – 4.4% (Cask), **Saison** –

3.9% (Keg).

For updates - including our newly refreshed website - which will be online soon, please visit www.langhambrewery.co.uk. Or better yet, pop into the Shop & Taproom on-site, open Tuesday to Saturday, for more details, brewery tours, and tastings. Draught beer, as always, is available for takeaway.

BLO Pete Luff

KISSINGATE

The Kissingate social calendar has been full during the summer months with private functions and brewery tours taking up most of the weekends. The beer festival season has been challenging as many are requesting specialist beers that are rarely brewed in small batches. Chocolate Cherry Dipper 4.5 has been a hugely successful beer since it's official launch at the North Sussex CAMRA annual Spring Equinox Beer & Cider Festival held in Horsham. Core beers such as **Storyteller Pale** 3.5, **Kissingate Sussex** 4.0 and **Chennai IPA** 5.0 have sold extremely well during the hot spells. It's no surprise that Kissingate is the 'go to' venue for those who enjoy a good dark beer when the sun is out too. This year's October Festival will be held at the brewery on Saturday 11th October. At least 14 beers will be available on the day with a small range of local cider. As always there will be selection of Bunny's legendary fresh bakes direct from the brewery kitchen, and a BBQ using locally sourced meats with veggie options too.

For information on all that's going on visit the website 'Events' page.

www.kissingate.co.uk

BLO Roy Bray

LONG MAN

Our new small batch keg & can range has been launching throughout 2025, so far, a 6% **NEIPA** (now sold out!), 5.4% **Citra** and 4.8% **Mosaic**, with 3 more exciting styles to come before the end of the year. This is in addition to our guest cask beers which still launch every month – in cask September sees the return of **Indian Summer** (4.8% New World IPA), October a brand new and exciting beer, **Long Man Plum Porter** (4.7%), November our **New Zealand Pale** (3.4%) and December our winter warmer, **Inn Keeper** (4.8%).

The Brewery Shop and Tap Room is open 7 days a week, with a minimum of 6 beautifully kept cask & keg beers to drink in or take away, you can also find us at the Eastbourne Farmers Market, first Saturday of every month outside the Towner Gallery. Tour dates are live well into 2026 and book-able on the website.

Harvest has been good, and we have excellent supplies of our own regeneratively grown barley harvested this year from right beneath the Long Man, ready for next year's beers.

BLO Richard Scullion

NORTH GARDEN

Brewery wise, we now have a much-needed cask washer as we are expanding our cask offering. Currently we have a best bitter and golden ale in 4.5 gallon pins and 9 gallon firkin casks and will be brewing an English pale ale in the next

couple of weeks. The brickworks are up to two cask lines and will have a third by the end of August. They'll be putting some of their oatmeal stout (moon) in cask this autumn and will brew an Irish red (**Riverdance**) in autumn too. The plan is to have 3 cask lines at all times

BLO Jeremy Brinkworth

THREE ACRE

The big news is that the brewery's planning application for change of use of the Uckfield signal box to a taproom has been accepted by Wealden District Council. The application was widely supported locally, with many CAMRA members writing letters in favour. Obviously the work to convert the building to a functioning

micropub will take some time, but the aim is to get the venue open by spring 2026.

Another interesting brewery development is a new quasi wholesale arm, Sussex Beer Trader, championing Sussex (and Kent) beers by buying and selling casks and kegs from local breweries, shipping them to pubs further afield, getting beers from our region "out there." As for beers, a raft of single batch cask specials has just been released: **Elderflower White** (4.8%), a wheat beer, with elderflower tincture, **Cask Helles** (4.9%), **Cascade Kveik IPA** (5.5%), and **Summer Stroll IPA** (5.2%). **Ruby Porter** (4.2%) will make its return in cask from 1st September for the autumn. In addition, a new range of keg beers has just been rolled out,

including **Extra Pale**, **Session Pale**, **Hayloft Lager**, **Cascade Kveik IPA**, and **Summer Stroll IPA**.

BLO John Quick

UNBARRED

In the coming months you'll continue see your favourite brews and our **Hazy Pale** cask offering along with some specials with an American Wheat collab with **Mikkeller London**, **Stoutzilla** returning later in the year and more! Our taproom is now open all week Monday - Sunday so you can join us all week long to enjoy a wide selection of beers (keg and cask), takeaway cans and pizza. Keep an eye on our socials for taproom and brewery events, new beers and news!
BLO Graham Eaton



An ever changing range of five cask conditioned ales that always includes one mild, one session bitter, two best bitters and one strong bitter.

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Arun & Adur
CAMRA
Country
Pub of the Year
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Branch Pub of the
Year 2024

Bus to the Pub (Bttp)

Bus to the Pub (Bttp) is organised on a weekly basis. All trips are on Thursdays meeting at noon and usually visiting three pubs.

We mostly travel by train but also use buses as well. The majority of the locations visited are urban ones as town pubs usually have a better choice of beers.

If YOU would like to "join us on our weekly trips" then please contact me at whu@maxmalkin.plus.com to be added to the mailing list.

Spotlight on

BREWERIES

Brighton Bier & Harvey's

Harvey's has taken over the intellectual property of the closed Brighton Bier brewery including its trademarks and recipes.

Brighton Bier, which closed last month citing rising costs, was established in 2012 and described itself as the city's "original craft brewers".

A website statement said: "We are sad to announce that Brighton Bier has ceased trading.

"This does not affect Brighton Bierhaus, Haus on the Hill, The Drop or West Tap.

"These are all separate businesses and will continue to trade as normal.

"Sadly market pressures with reduced margins, high costs, and increases in price of materials, combined with the current economic conditions has forced us to close the brewery."

Brighton Bier operated a 15-barrel brewery close to the city centre.

Now, Harvey's of Lewes has bought the brands to protect their future.

Harvey's head brewer and joint MD Miles Jenner said: "While we won't be marketing Brighton Bier brands, we're planning to undertake occasional collaborative brews with them.

"These might pay tribute to some of their most popular beers or be something entirely new. They'll be clearly labelled as collaborations and made available for a limited time in both Brighton Bier pubs and our own.

"If Brighton Bier ever chooses to return to brewing, we'll be more than happy to sell the intangible assets back to them at the same price we paid."

Brighton Bier director Stephen Whitehurst said: "After over a decade of brewing it was heartbreaking to have to close the brewery. It has

been a pleasure to serve our wonderful customers.

"When we first started who would have known we'd be winning international awards and exporting across Europe and into Japan. That Harvey's, with their proud history and wonderful beers, saw fit to step in and protect this legacy is very humbling.

"We are very grateful to Miles and his team and look forward to exploring ways of collaborating in the future.

"Both companies are excited about this novel approach, and we hope fans of Brighton Bier will support us in keeping that creative spirit alive."



Robin Hood Icklesham

For over 30 years the D'Arcy family have owned and operated the award winning Robin Hood public free house. We offer up to four cask ales (including at least one local cask ale), 22 real ciders (from Kent and Sussex producers), and locally sourced home cooked food. We have a log fire and a big function room. We are dog friendly.

South East Sussex Pub of the Year 2024, Sussex and South East Region Cider Pub of the Year 2025. In the 2025 Good Beer Guide.

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Beer/Cider Of The Festival Awards for the 2025 Yapton Beerex At The Inglenook, Nyetimber

A large number of Western Sussex CAMRA members and other real ale lovers turned out for the annual Yapton Beer of the Festival (BOTF) awards at the Inglenook, Nyetimber on Saturday 19th July. Inevitably, given the distances involved not all the winners could join us but we did have a very strong turnout of winners with not too far to travel!

Beer of the Festival (cask)

The winners were: -

1st equal: - Arbor This Time Next Year Rodney and Goldmark Imperial Vanilla Porter.

Arbor were unable to join us but we were delighted that Goldmark founder Mark Lehmann was able to join us to receive the award for



Mark Lehmann (front) receiving the award from Richard Earl, Chair Western Sussex CAMRA (behind). All pictures courtesy of Western Sussex CAMRA member James Bell

LocAle Of The Festival (cask)

1st outright - Langham Auld Ale

Langham Brewery handed over the reins earlier this year to Charlie Long (ex-Wimbledon Brewery and Fullers) but we were delighted that Lesley Foulkes was able to join us to receive the award on behalf of all the staff at Langham. Lesley assured that the brewery was now in the capable



Lesley receiving the award on behalf of Langham Brewery

they in turn thanked Lesley and all staff at Langham for continuing to look after them particularly during lockdown.

Cider/Perry Of The Festival

1st outright - Nuthurst Orchard Perry Perfect



Tom and Chesca receiving the award for Nuthurst Orchard

even brought along a small sample of their perry for all to try and it went down very well – even amongst the steadfast beer drinkers amongst us.

hands of a beer lover and enthusiast for sustainability and that the legacy of Langhams will go on. Lesley went on to thank Western Sussex CAMRA for their support through the years and

Tom and Chesca from Nuthurst Orchard were delighted to receive the award and noted that it was their third CAMRA Perry award in three years, so they must be doing something right! They

Keg Beer Of The Festival

1st equal – Buxton Black Forest Buttermilk Pancake Stack and Holy Goat Crimson Curse

Given the huge distances involved (from Buxton and Dundee respectively) neither of these breweries could join us but we did have a keg of the excellent Crimson Curse from mixed-



Ken receiving the award on behalf of Holy Goat

fermentation specialists Holy Goat for people to sample and it went down a treat. In true Scottish tradition, Ken Colquhoun accepted the award on behalf of Holy Goat.

Last but by no means least, many thanks to the Inglenook for hosting these awards.

North Sussex ventures to West Yorkshire

In July members of the Spring Equinox team ventured up to West Yorkshire to present Nightjar brewery with the 2025 Light Beer of the Festival award for Lost in Ikea.



In the photo are Mike Head, David Maddison and Thomas Black presenting the award to Matt Bell from Nightjar

A thoroughly enjoyable few days included visits to pubs and brewery taps in Leeds, Hebden Bridge and Halifax. In Hebden Bridge we were delighted to be accompanied and guided by members of the local Halifax & Calderdale branch. In addition to the visit to the Nightjar brewery tap, where we presented the award and

were able to again enjoy the Lost in Ikea, hugely enjoyable stops were also made to the Fox and Goose community pub, Hidden Hebden micro pub and the Vocation bar. With plenty more suggestions of places to visit, the next day we headed to Halifax, starting at the excellent current Branch Pub of the Year, the Cross Keys. Next stop was the Art Deco gem that is the Three Pigeons, where the local branch was formed 50 years ago. From there our day continued with some of the newer pubs in the town, with the Meandering Bear, Victorian Beer Café, Vocation bar and Kobenhavn finishing a brilliant day, apart from for one of our group who had enjoyed the Pigeons so much he ventured back there until closing time. Photos of the Three Pigeons are available at

pubgallery.co.uk/pubs/three-pigeons-halifax/

Mike Head

North Sussex Spring Equinox Festival Organiser

CAMRA North Sussex has some excellent Taprooms at its breweries and cidemakers, with Flying Trunk in Forest Row the most recent addition to those at Brolly, Firebird, Horsham Brewing Company, Kissinggate, Missing Link and Wobblegate/Bolney. This summer it has awarded its inaugural Taproom of the Year award to Brolly Brewing in Horsham. Brolly moved from Wisborough Green to Horsham in 2023, and the Taproom has been a great success, attracting people of all ages with great service and an excellent range of drinks. They have recently taken on an additional unit opposite the Taproom, to help them expand. Our award follows on from their much greater achievement earlier in the



Presenting the award to Brook and Ben from Brolly is Branch Chair James Thornton

year when Brolly made it in to the Top 4 in SIBA's National Best Independent Brewery Taproom competition.

Brighton & South Downs

Following on from the Summer edition, Brighton & South Downs branch have been busy presenting awards to our remaining winners in the 2025 Pub of the Year (PoTY) and Club of the Year (CoTY). Congratulations to all!



The Brewers Arms in Lewes was one of our five pubs which was voted as Highly Commended. Graham Eaton, Vice Chair (right) made the presentation to Liam



Last, but by no means least is the presentation to the The Foghorn in Hove (Highly Commended), with Ian, Jessamy, Niall, Tim, Adrian Heft (Pubs Officer), and Mark.



Turning to our presentations to clubs, committee member Rogor Coton (left) made the presentation to club steward, Gordon, as, once again, Keymer & Hassocks Sports & Social Club was voted Club of the Year – very well done!



And big congratulations to The Signalbox, Burgess Hill on being awarded Cider Pub of the Year. Branch Cider rep (Steve Leyfield), right) makes the presentation to Dan Hipkin



We also made a new special (seasonal) award to the Five Bells, Chailey. Congrats to Mel Routledge and Cazzie on receiving their award as Pub of the Season.



Hole in the Wall

Our 30th Ale & Cider Trail was launched at the Hole in the Wall, Brighton, who were awarded a certificate for being voted the favourite pub by Ale Trailers on the 2024 Ale Trail. Well done!

Don't forget, you have until 30 Sep to collect those all-important stamps in your Ale Trail passport!

Graham Eaton
Brighton & South Downs

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Swan, Fittleworth



The Swan, Fittleworth was a coaching inn, first recorded in the 14th century, but documented from 1536.

It is found between Petworth and Pulborough near the Sussex Downs, and was on the coaching route from London to the South Coast.

In the 19th century it became popular for artists such as Turner and Constable, and others such as the composer, Edward Elgar, to stay there, finding inspiration from the surrounding countryside. Many recorded their names in visitor books, and sometimes painted the wall panels still seen in the newly restored dining room.

In 1924 it was the first venue of the Ancient Order of Froth Blowers, which whilst light hearted, became a large charity with over 500,000 members at one time.

Architecturally it was recognised for being an exceptional building, being first graded 2 by the Government back in 1955. It consisted of stables, and other outbuildings besides the inn and rooms above. It also has one of the last remaining inn signs spanning a public road.

Unfortunately, at some point, it became into the ownership of a pubco, in this instance, Enterprise Inns, and then subsequently Stonegate. It was subleased to various leaseholders, one of whom, undertook ill judged changes that would not have been sanctioned if they had been proposed in a planning application. These were not well received by visitors and the inn deteriorated despite the best efforts of subsequent leaseholders.

In 2022, Stonegate put the property up for sale, and a developer was very close to purchasing it for conversion to residential. The villagers wished to keep it open, as it's the only venue they had, and many remembered how it had been before the changes.

As it's a substantial property, and it was a huge restoration project, they couldn't raise the funds to do this but hoped for a better custodian who would be able to do this. They also alerted Arun & Adur branch of CAMRA.

Luck was on their side as a local entrepreneur, Max Skillman and his wife, decided to take on the challenge, and two of the local CAMRA branch members, met Max, his manager and chef, Angus Davies, and villager, Wade Houlden, at the inn in February 2022 so that the enormity of the task could be viewed.

Initially, progress was slow. Although Max had been able to purchase the building, negotiations with Chichester DC, South Downs National Park and Historic England to agree necessary improvements and subtle alterations to enable the building to be financially viable were torturous. It put off the start of work until 2023.

The size of the building and its upkeep, let alone repairs and refurbishment, which entailed the modernisation of the hotel rooms to be all en-suite, and a modern commercial kitchen, meant that it wouldn't be viable if an agreed planning application couldn't be approved.

Fortunately Max and his team persevered and a very impressive refurbishment was completed by November 2024. It has since been favourably reviewed in the Times, Daily Telegraph and the Metro. The two Arun & Adur CAMRA members revisited in February and found both the cask beer and food quality exceptional. Three ales on hand pump are available including a local Sussex ale.

CAMRA members met Wade Houlden there who commented that the village were delighted with the results. It has also returned to its original purpose of providing overnight accommodation for visitors. These days it will be for the public to visit the area, rather than stopping on a coach trip.

Photos showing before, during and after the restoration are on the next two pages.

More information can be found at swaninnfittleworth.com

Jamie Hooper

Before and during Restoration



After Restoration



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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.

5-7 Sep Brecknock Arms, Bells Yew Green, Annual Beer Festival

12-14 Sep Beer & Cider By The Sea, Eastbourne, Western Lawns Eastbourne

18-28 Sep October Fest, Brickworks, Burgess Hill

19-21 Sep Bluebell Railway/Sussex Branches Beer & Cider Festival, see page 5

17 Sep-5 Oct Signal Box, Burgess Hill, Oktoberfest

24-27 Sep Oktoberfest, Prince Albert, Hastings

26-28 Sep Indian Summer Beer and Cider Festival, Cooper's Arms, Crowborough, see page 2

26-28 Sep Oktoberfest, Engine Room, East Grinstead

24-25 Oct Worthing Beer & Cider Festival, Rooms in the Guildbourne Centre in Chapel Road, Worthing BN11 1LZ, see pages 3 & 4

24-26 Oct Stanley Arms, Portslade, Beer Festival

3-5 Oct Hastings Tap Takeover 2025

15 Oct-2 Nov Cider Festival, Signalbox, Burgess Hill

12-23 Nov Autumn Beer Fest, Signalbox, Burgess Hill

7-15 Nov Hastings Old Town Cider Festival

14-16 Nov Brewers Arms, Lewes

28-30 Nov November Beer Festival, Brickworks, Burgess Hill

Branch Diaries

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

Arun & Adur

16 Sep Branch Meeting, venue tbc

11 Nov Branch Meeting, venue tbc

See aaa.camra.org.uk/events.html.

Brighton & South Downs

See brighton.camra.org.uk/diary.

North Sussex

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

See northsussex.camra.org.uk/diary.

North East Sussex

See northeastsussex.camra.org.uk/diary.

South East Sussex

2 Sep Branch Meeting, Lamb Inn

23 Sep Hastings Gathering, venues tbc

30 Sep PotY & Cider PotY Runner up Presentations, Brickmaker's Alehouse
See southeastsussex.camra.org.uk/diary.

Western Sussex

See westernsussexcamra.org.uk/diary.

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FIND OUT MORE



Sussex Branches of CAMRA

South East Regional Director:

Paul Sanders, 07778 035971

rd_southeast@camra.org.uk

Sussex Area Organiser:

To be appointed

area_organiser@sussex.camra.org.uk

Website: sussex.camra.org.uk

*PotY: Selden Arms, Worthing,

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

*CPotY: Robin Hood, Icklesham

Arun & Adur

Malcolm Barnes,

branch.contact@aaa.camra.org.uk,

www.aaa.camra.org.uk

Beer Festival: Worthing, October 2025

PotY: Selden Arms, Worthing

CPotY: Green Man Ale & Cider House Worthing;

COTY: none

Brighton & South Downs

Jason Phillips

chair@brighton.camra.org.uk

www.brighton.camra.org.uk

Beer Festival: South Downs June 2026

PotY: Watchmakes Arms, Hove;

CPotY: Signalbox, Burgess Hill.;

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, March 2026

PotY: Engine Room, East Grinstead;

CPotY: Engine Room, East Grinstead; CotY: none

North East Sussex sub branch

Richard Saunders,

branch.contact@northeastsussex.camra.org.uk

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: Late Summer Beer and Cider,

12-14 September 2025

PotY: Waterworks, Rye;

CPotY: Robin Hood, Icklesham;

CotY: Albatross Club (RAFA), Bexhill on Sea

Western Sussex

Max Malkin

whu@maxmalkin.plus.com

www.westernsussex.camra.org.uk

Beer Festival: Yapton May 2026

PotY: Wilkes Head, Eastergate;

CPotY: Hopp Inn, Selsey CotY: none

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



Sussex Drinker: Autumn 2025 No. 120

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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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