

Celebrating the Real Ale Scene in Sussex

Sussex Drinker



Winter 2025

Free



Spring Equinox Beer Festival

**Horsham Drill Hall, Denne
Road, RH12 1JF**

20-21 March 2026

(see pages 3 and 5)



Published
and
Financed
by the
Sussex
Branches
of the
Campaign
For
Real Ale

THE SELDEN ARMS BEER FESTIVAL

THURSDAY 5TH - SUNDAY 8TH

FEBRUARY

FRIDAY & SATURDAY

11AM - MIDNIGHT

SUNDAY 12-10PM

DJS FRIDAY & LIVE MUSIC SATURDAY & SUNDAY



WOW!
NOW STARTING
THURSDAY
5PM - 11PM!!



PIES ALL WEEKEND
FROM MAGPIES MAGNIFICENT PIES

THE SELDEN ARMS, 41 LYNDBURST RD, WORTHING BN11 2DB

12th CAMRA Spring Equinox Beer Festival Horsham Drill Hall, March 20th & 21st 2026



We are delighted to confirm that the 2026 CAMRA North Sussex Spring Equinox Beer & Cider Festival is able to go ahead again, with the same session times as last year.

The venue remains the Drill Hall, Denne Road, Horsham town centre, RH12 1JF, which is about 15 to 20 minutes' walk from the railway station and less from the bus station.

As in prior years, the beer list will have 50+ ales, with the usual balanced mix of light and dark ales. The keykeg bar will include a 0.5% strength beer for the first time, to reflect the ever-improving quality of these beers and the increasing demand for them, plus there will be a selection of other low alcohol beers available in cans.

All our excellent Branch brewers will again be featured at the event, alongside other breweries from near and far. Sussex cider makers will feature on Stringer's Cider bar, with a mix of traditional and flavoured ciders and perries.

We aim to order sufficient beer and cider so that we run low but do not run out before the end of the festival, so that those attending the final session still have an interesting and exciting selection to the end. We also anticipate reducing beer and cider prices for

the final hour on the Saturday afternoon.

Food and snacks will be available at all sessions.

If you are not already a CAMRA member but go to several CAMRA festivals a year, the decision to give members free entrance to all festivals run by CAMRA gives you a big extra incentive to join. If you join at our event in March, we will give you £10 of beer tokens to spend at our Festival.

Tickets for the Friday 11 am-4pm session are £8, Friday 6-10pm session are £10, and Saturday 11 am-4pm session £7.



Your entry fee includes a festival glass, which can be returned at the end of the event

for a £2 refund if you wish. CAMRA members will receive beer tokens on presentation of their membership card equal to the value of their ticket price less £2.

Tickets will be available to buy on the door, except for the Friday evening session which sold out several weeks in advance last year and is highly likely to do so again.

Tickets go on sale in early January. As well as being able to purchase tickets in Horsham from the Beer Mine and the Anchor Tap, Crawley's Brewery Shades and East Grinstead's Engine Room they will also be available via Tckty and online at <https://www.northsussex.camra.org.uk/equinox>. For more info, including a beer list in due course, contact: camra.equinox@gmail.com, or [northsussex.camra.org.uk](https://www.northsussex.camra.org.uk), or via X @CAMRAEquinox or [northsussexcamrabranch](https://www.facebook.com/northsussexcamrabranch) on Facebook

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.

■ AMBERLEY

Since reopening as a community pub in March 2024, the **Sportsman** has consistently kept three cask ale lines - a best bitter, a pale, and a dark (the bitter is Firebird Heritage, while the other two are rotational). The pub's dedication to cask ale has been recognised by its entry into the 2026 *Good Beer Guide*. It runs two beer festivals a year - the last week of March and the first week of October, always featuring a carefully curated list of 15 cask ales from around the country. The pub is still not safe, as the community is raising funds to buy the freehold (currently operating under a lease). £563,368 has been raised so far (out of the £780,000 target) through share purchases and private loans. Investment information can be found at thesportsmansussex.co.uk/invest.

■ ASHURST WOOD

The **Maypole** reopened with a new licensee following a short period of refurbishment. Sports have become a feature.

■ BALCOMBE

Cask ales at the **Half Moon** were on good form on a recent visit.

■ BARNHAM

The **Murrell Arms** has had its new lessee for a year now. If you call in at this busy, drink-led pub, you will find a warm welcome and well-kept beers from the Fuller's list.

■ BEXHILL

The CAMRA award-winning **Brickmaker's Alehouse** celebrated their sixth anniversary on Sunday 2 November with cakes, the Long Shore Drifters band, and beers at 2019 prices!

■ BODLE STREET GREEN

The **White Horse Inn** continues to impress with its selection of local beers (Lakedown, Three Acres, Harvey's, Long Man) and on a recent visit

by CAMRA members there was a very well attended open mic night.

■ BOSHAM

The **White Swan**, which has been closed since March, is still awaiting a buyer: the asking price has been lowered to £395,000.

Just down the road, the **Old House at Home** in Chidham, is also for sale.

■ BRIGHTON

The **Battle of Trafalgar** - further to a management change at this well established, traditional wooden floor pub with a large heritage central bar and walled patio beer garden it is good all seasons. It's just a 1 minute walk up the hill from Brighton Station. The management with previous experience from the just down the road Great Eastern, maintains a warm social pub vibe. The pub looks to keep it's quality cask ale traditional with five handpumps, usually with representations from Harvey's, Gun, Oakham and a changing cask ale.

The **Mitre Tavern** is located just 10 minutes walk from Brighton Station, this traditional street corner pub maintains its floral welcome with hanging baskets and quality Harvey's cask ale. Indeed some lagers and keg ciders are at times on limited availability. Under new management linked to the well-respected Constant Service pub, the pool table has gone and has returned to a good social drinking environment. The management identify this a welcoming vibe and will be looking only to serve food that supports this environment.

At the **Park Tavern**, you are guaranteed a welcome at this traditional pub that's embedded into the local area. It's only a 10 minute walk from Brighton Station and sits between the Upper Lewes Road and Lewes Road, just a stones throw from the Level. It prides itself on its quality cask ales which when visited included; Harvey's, Three Acre and Timothy Taylor. It has a large patio garden area which they're proud to show and rightfully so. In line with the area it supports a cross section of activities, from Art Club to

CAMRA NORTH SUSSEX BRANCH PRESENTS

SPRING EQUINOX BEER FESTIVAL

www.northsussex.camra.org.uk/equinox
camra.equinox@gmail.com

20-21 March 2026
Horsham Drill Hall
Denne Road
RH12 1JF

Tickets on sale from
January at the Beer Mine
and Anchor Tap in Horsham,
Brewery Shades in Crawley and
Engine Room in East Grinstead,
or online via website
or email above

Friday 20 March
£8 open 11am-4pm
£10 open 6-10pm

Saturday 21 March
£7 open 11am-4pm

Ticket includes a festival glass



Scan Me

Language groups to musical jamming sessions (Thursday), so you can expect a good cross section of social drinkers.

■ BURGESS HILL

The **Signalbox** celebrated its 2nd birthday on December 6. Four additional keg lines are being installed plus a few new food offerings. Quiz every Wednesday and comedy on the second Monday of each month. On December 9 and 16 - "Cask and Carols". December 27 sees an afternoon Toads knockout competition and December 28 the end of year quiz. And...£4 pints of cask ale throughout January and February!

The **Six Gold Martlets** have new craft beers on tap, even broader range of craft cans (12) and 8 ales on tap at all times now. They are looking to do a meet the brewer with Dorking brewery in December and will also be doing a Xmas tombola which will feature some house ales, craft cans and glassware within the prizes. They will also be starting to stock Firebird beers again from the end of November.

■ CHICHESTER

The **Crafty Bishop** is up for sale as a going concern; it is believed that at least three offers have been received.

The **Eastgate** is currently having a change of tenants, the previous ones having been unable to reach agreement on renewal of the lease. At the time of writing, the kitchen was also undergoing refurbishment.

The **Hole in the Wall** is no longer part of Big Smoke; it is now part of the Morgan Pub Collective.

The **Old Cross** in North Street, a Greene King owned pub better known for its food, now serves four changing beers on hand pump. On a recent visit, Black Sheep Best Bitter and Wolfie T from Flack Manor were on offer.

There is to be a new café and bar in a former taxi office in the car park of Chichester station behind the Foundry.

■ COUSLEY WOOD

The **Old Vine** re-opened in late September and

has Harvey's Best as a regular beer and three changing beers from local breweries. When visited, they had Base Ejection by Gun and Lakedown Sussex Pale, which was in good condition. The food offering is good and economically priced.

■ CRAWLEY

The new licensees at the **White Hart** continue to serve good quality Harvey's cask ales.

■ CROWBOROUGH

The cask beer offering in the **Crowborough Cross** Wetherspoons continues to be very well kept and manager Craig was delighted to receive a *Good Beer Guide* pack for 2026. The North East Sussex CAMRA members present greatly enjoyed the beers on offer, including two from the local Three Acre Brewery. Earlier this year, the pub kindly offered to host local CAMRA meetings, and this was gladly taken up when the sub-branch held its first formal AGM in early October. Another *Guide* regular, the **Cooper's Arms**, has featured for over twenty consecutive years, and this continues for yet another year. The Harvey's-owned Wheatsheaf is also included in the *Good Beer Guide* for 2026 and was presented with its pack by North East Sussex Sub-branch members in late September.

■ EASTBOURNE

The town centre's latest bar opened in October. The **Wolf on the Corner** is in South Street (on



the corner of Furness Road) and is a joint venture from the owners of Ascension Cider and

Route 21 Brewery. It joins the recently opened Gun Brewery Tap-Room at Saffrons Sports Ground, Beerarama and Ninkasi in Eastbourne's ever improving craft beer scene.

Recent visitors to the **Lamb Inn** in Eastbourne's Old Town have been delighted to discover no less than six Harvey's cask ales, as always served perfectly in this *Good Beer Guide* pub. Also a *Good Beer Guide* regular, the nearby

Crown held one of its regular beer festivals at the end of October featuring some excellent dark beers.

■ EAST GRINSTEAD

Since the **Engine Room** opened its doors in February 2019 they have sold approaching 2,500 different beers (cask and keg) of which 78% have been cask beers. No mean feat considering that sales in the initial few years were restricted because of 'ssh, you know what'. To mark this incredible achievement, their 2,500th different beer will be produced locally by Flying Trunk as a one-off special 5%+ IPA, to be poured in the Engine Room in early December. The 'In Cahoots' series has continued, with pub regulars selecting hops for inclusion in one-off brews by Flying Trunk. The Engine Room is in the CAMRA Real Ale Discount Scheme, and offers card-carrying members a 5% discount on eligible drinks.

■ EAST HOATHLY

The **King's Head** is up for sale, and a consortium of local villagers and others are hoping to purchase it to safeguard its future as the last remaining pub in the village. In order to raise funds for this, the Kings Head Community Benefit Society held a very well-supported meeting at the pub on the 1st November to launch a community share offer. Full details of this and their business plan, should the purchase of the pub be successful, are on their website at www.kingsheadcbs.org.uk. The society has already received support from Sussex Weald MP Nusrat Ghani, Wealden District Council, Tom Kerridge (the well-known chef and publican), several local breweries, and other organisations.

■ FOREST ROW

The new **Flying Trunk** tap room is becoming a popular venue with local walkers (with or without dogs) and visitors from farther afield. It's normally open on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, typically late afternoon/early evening and usually has a cask or two of their own beers plus another two or three on live KeyKeg (membrane keg conditioned), sometimes featuring a changing beer from another brewery. Cider, wine, soft drinks, and home-made snacks are available.

Times vary seasonally so please check social media, where the 'what's on' board is also featured. There is no parking on site but it's close to the Highgate Road bus stops (Metrobus 270 and Compass Bus 261), and a short walk from the centre of the village.

■ HADLOW DOWN

The **New Inn** was visited by members from CAMRA South East Sussex and North East Sussex branches following their visit to the Three Acre Brewery at the beginning of October. As usual the Harvey's was in very good condition. During our visit, the North East Sussex Sub-branch presented the pub with its *Good Beer Guide* pack for 2026.

■ HASTINGS

Across Hastings we have been spoilt during Autumn with the Hastings Tap Takeover in October, including beers from 17 different breweries at 17 different venues, from the **Tower** in St Leonards/Bohemia to the **Crown** in the Old Town. Then, in early November



Tower



Dolphin

we enjoyed real ciders during ye Hastings Old Town Cider Festival, at seven venues, from the **Albion** at the end of George Street to the **Dolphin** in Rock-a-Nore Road in the Fishing Quarter.

■ THE HAVEN

The **Blue Ship** is now free of tie. Open Fridays to Sundays.

■ HAYWARDS HEATH

At the **Hop Sun Taproom**, the freshest Heathen beer is always pouring, alongside some of the finest brewers in Sussex, with the odd treat from further afield and overseas. Music, quizzes, run clubs, board games are all on offer over the next few months;. Keep an eye out for the Hop Sun's Christmas & New Year opening times on the website and social media.

■ HENFIELD

The **Henfield Club** has recently been redecorated inside and out and taken centre-stage in the village remembrance day events. Two handpumps serve Downlands Best and a rotating Downlands beer. Card-carrying CAMRA members can be signed in at the bar. Snooker, darts and toad-in-the-hole are played regularly and a busy calendar of events can be seen via their Facebook page.

■ HORSHAM

The **Dog & Bacon** was very welcoming for the October branch meeting with four cask ales on, and we look forward to returning at 12 noon for the start of our December 27th annual Christmas day out in Horsham.

■ HOVE

The **Blind Busker** will be continuing its cask ale day on Tuesday evenings during the festive season, with cask ales at £3.30 a pint. The pub is currently stocking new beers from the Portobello Brewing Company in West London, and a range of gluten free craft beers from Only With Love. There will be a Christmas charity raffle with gifts from Long Man and Timothy Taylor.

The **Neptune** will be serving Harvey's Christmas Ale and Greene King Abbot Reserve during the festive period.

The **Watchmaker's Arms** is brewing a Christmas Ale, and will also be serving Christmas offerings from breweries both local and further afield

■ ICKLESHAM



After almost 40 years at the **Queens Head**, Ian and Lee have recently retired.

Throughout their tenure the pub has been a

constant entry in the CAMRA *Good Beer Guide*. So congratulations are due to them for their successful stewardship and they are both wished a long and well deserved retirement. In their



place we welcome Graham and Dan, who between them have over 35 years experience of running pubs in Surrey and Hampshire. It is understood that whilst no major changes are planned to either the drink or meal offerings, there may be some slight

tweaks. On a recent visit, five of the hand pumps were in use. The Greene King Abbot was sampled and in fine form.

The **Robin Hood** recently marked the anniversary of the demise of the much missed landlord by holding Mr. D'Arcy's Tea Party and raised the staggering amount of £5413 in aid of St. Michael's Hospice. On a recent visit it was pleasing to see three cask ales in the form of Bass, Belhaven Haunted Highlander and Harvey's Old Ale. The latter was sampled and was in fine form. Just a reminder that cash is the preferred method of payment in this pub, although cards are accepted.

■ LAGNESS

The future does not look good for the Fuller's pub, the **Royal Oak**. The owners seem still to be looking for a new tenant, but For Sale notices have gone up at the property.

■ LEWES

The **Brewers Arms** continues to offer an excellent selection of cask ales and draught ciders, amongst others, Harvey's Best, Old and Bonfire Boy were all available which were all enjoyed plus a Welsh Dry Stout 'Spectre' at 4.5% from Big Hand Brewing.

The **Lewes Arms** offers a good selection of Fuller's/Dark Star cask ales as well as Harvey's Sussex Best. The HSB was in fine condition.

The **Gardener's Arms** recently had the usual array of cask ales available all in very good condition - at the time of our visit, as well as three Harvey's, there were also ales from Lakedown, Langham and Burning Sky Breweries. The Gardener's Arms is holding its annual 'Darkfest'

beer festival (with strong dark ales) between 25 Feb – 1 March 2026.

At the **John Harvey Tavern**, the usual good choice of Harvey's ales was available including Bonfire Boy and Old. It was Saturday afternoon but we were able to join other locals at a table and watch the horseracing on TV.

At the **Lansdown Arms** was popular without being too busy, Brighton were playing away on the Sunday. As usual, the Harvey's Best was found to be in good condition together with the other ales.

The **Royal Oak** had the usual good selection of ales on handpump and was doing a good trade on Saturday afternoon. Harvey's Best was sampled and was in fine condition.

■ LINDFIELD

The **Stand Up Inn's** firm favourites Firebird and Gun see us through the darkest months with a few fabulous seasonals and specials from 360 and Lost Pier. Open mic takes a break in December but look out for our charity quizzes and a new tabletop games club.

■ MAYFIELD

A new entry to the *Good Beer Guide* for 2026, the **Rose & Crown** had three beers on offer when visited recently. The Three Acre Amarillo Pale Ale was in very good Condition. The other cask beers available were Harvey's Best, their regular beer, and Three Acre Skylark Stout.

■ NEWICK

The **Crown** was popular on a Sunday lunchtime with the usual Harvey's Best plus a guest ale which at this time was Doobar but does rotate. Harvey's Old is expected to be available through until at least January.

The **Royal Oak** has been experimenting with a few functions recently Quizes and Band nights. The cask ale selection is Harvey's Best and Longman Blonde plus a guest ale, all from the cellar. The cask ale varies each week but will include Harvey's Old through the Winter period.

■ NUTLEY

The **Nutley Arms** reopened in early October under new management. On a recent visit, Long Man Best Bitter was in good condition. At that time, they were waiting for their kitchen to be refurbished before offering food.

■ PATCHING

The **Fox** closed some months ago and the premises are for sale – no further information at present.

■ PETT LEVEL

The **New Beach Club** continues to serve excellent ales from its five handpumps. Reflecting its LocAle status, it showcases ales from local breweries, all at very reasonable prices. Recent examples have been Long Man Inn Keeper and Waterworks Pissoir. The latter was tasted and was in fine form. Up to date details of the ales on offer can be found on the Real Ale Finder app. The club has recently been adjudged as Runner Up in CAMRA's local branch Club of the Year 2025 award. Occasional visits by CAMRA members are welcomed. Excellent meals are provided by SteVee's Kitchen & Grill in the middle of the week and by Cockles and Dreams at weekends.

■ ROTHERFIELD

The **King's Arms** continues in the *Good Beer Guide* for another year. When visited recently, the beers on offer were Fuller's Hophead, 360 Degrees Tacoma and Harvey's Best, all of which were in good condition.

■ RYE

As well as a changing list of cask ales, the popular **Waterworks** micropub has its own brewery in nearby Playden (tap room open at weekends). Amongst the range of its beers on offer at the pub (all gluten free) is Pissoir Porter. At a recent Champion Beer of Britain tasting, beers from breweries across London and the South East were judged, and Pissoir was awarded silver in the under 5% Porters and Stouts category. As *Sussex Drinker* went to press a presentation was being arranged.

■ ST LEONARDS

The Hastings Project – a cuckoo brewer that supports different charities with each beer it brews – has announced that it is taking over the **Prince of Wales** in Western Road, St Leonards. A Crowdfunding launch is expected.

The **Tower** was very pleased with the recent Tap Takeover, selling 10 casks from Fell Brewery during the weekend.

New to the *Good Beer Guide*, the **Piper** in Norman Road continues with the £4 pints on Thursday and Friday 1pm to 4pm.

Also in Norman Road, **Heist** had removed its handpumps, however it is now their intention to reinstate at least one handpump. Pins rather than firkins might be used.

Just opposite St Leonards Warrior Square Station, the **Royal** now has two casks available with one locale.

■ SEAFORD

Steamworks and the **Old Boot**, have again been listed in the latest (2026) *Good Beer Guide*. The **Wellington**, **Cinque Ports** and **Old Plough** all offer a good choice of local and other cask-conditioned beers. There are at least another three venues within easy walking distance, with both local cask and craft beers available.

■ SHOREHAM

The **Duke of Wellington** will be holding their London beer festival on the weekend of Saturday 28th-Sunday 29th Feb. It will be a line up of traditional and modern London beers, served up with Pie and Mash and some good old knees up music.

■ SOMPTING

The **Gardeners Arms** is the last pub in Sompting, but closed some months ago. There has been a planning application to convert it to private dwelling(s). A local resident is trying to get an ACV on it which Arun & Adur branch are supporting.

■ UCKFIELD

The tenancy of the **Alma Arms** is currently up for sale on the Harvey's website. The pub has been

in the very capable hands of Ben and Michelle for many years, and the beers have always been in good condition during that time. We wish Ben and Michelle well for the future.

■ WALDERTON

Better news from the **Barley Mow**. Following its recent sale, though there is no sign of activity yet at the pub, a new licence has been applied for.

■ WINCHELSEA



The **New Inn**, situated in German Street, actually dates from the 18th Century, originally being a coaching inn.

Now a quality dining pub with rooms, it has two bars with four handpumps serving real ales. On a recent visit an excellent pint of Harvey's' Sussex Best was enjoyed. It was noted that the pub regularly supports local breweries as their pump clips were on display.

■ WISBOROUGH GREEN

The **Three Crowns** has reopened, with Harvey's Sussex Best available.

■ WORTHING



The **Foresters** is Worthing's newest micropub which celebrated its first year on 1st of November.

The landlord made it an all-weekend event and had eight cask, eight keg and eight ciders available. This micropub seems very popular and has attracted many new customers, serving the people of West Worthing south of the railway line where it is a fair walk to other pubs serving cask ale.



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NATURALLY EXCELLENT BEER

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Our brewery shop and tasting room on site at Church Farm is open 7 days a week. A range of cask and keg beers are available to drink in and take away in cask, bottle, polypin and mini cask. Try a selection of beers with one of our tasting flights.

OPENING HOURS

Monday to Thursday: 9am to 5pm
Friday and Saturday: 9am to 6pm
Sunday: 11am to 4pm

TOUR & TASTING

Book a Brewery Tour & Tasting online. Learn about how we produce Naturally Excellent Beer.
longmanbrewery.com/tour-tasting
Post Code **BN26 5RA**

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>

ABYSS

We've very recently upgraded our brewery, doubling capacity to 24h brews with a magnificently shiny Gravity Systems brewhouse. Allowing us to not only brew significantly more, but with greater consistency and control. November also saw the addition of a couple new beers designed specifically for cask. We will have a 5% stout, brewed in collaboration with the team at The Evening Star / Brick in Brighton, and a 4.5% pale, brewed in collaboration with Lallemand, (a yeast supplier), both of which are expected to be pouring in December. Keep an eye out for more in the future!

BLO Graham Eaton

ALEWORKS

Aleworks have launched their "Roaming Tap" mobile bar, which is available for private hire and events. A photo can be seen on Aleworks' Instagram account. Aleworks are hosting an open day on Saturday the 20th of December. There will be free cask ale available and there will be an

option to buy takeaway bottles and mini kegs.

Aleworks' new 1000 litre system is now in full production, with some new seasonal ales including a dark mild brewed with muscovado sugar.

BLO Ian McIntyre

ARUNDEL

Several old favorites returning including **Dragonfly DIPA & Maple Stout**, all scoring over 4 on Untappd. Opening hours at Arundel Taphouse also increase to include Thursdays and opening from 10 am at weekends

BLO Jon Purdom

BATTLE

It's been a busy and exciting time at Battle Brewery. They had an incredibly busy weekend taking part in the Battle Abbey Reenactment. They are pleased to announce that they have gained an off-sales Licence for the brewery meaning the public will be able to buy directly from the brewery.

BLO Mac McCutcheon

BEAK

This winter, we're thrilled to be releasing a range of new and exciting beers - including some festive specials and an Extra Special Bitter edition of our cask best bitter, **Bampa**. Don't forget to sign up for our newsletter via our website to stay up to date with all the latest news and releases. Over at our Lewes taproom, you can look forward to a rotating lineup of street food vendors every

weekend, along with regular live music and events to keep the good vibes going. Our Christmas Market returns to the taproom on Saturday 13th December, and we'll be ringing in the new year with our legendary New Year's Eve Party. PS Early bird tickets for our beer festival, These Hills (8th–9th August 2026), go on sale 1st December. Grab yours by 31st December to take advantage of the early bird offer!

BLO Graham Eaton

BURNING SKY

It's been a busy time for Burning Sky. They now have cans of **Arise** and **Quench** listed at 200 Waitrose stores. For the first time since 2019, they have increased their capacity by installing 4 x 6000ltr tanks, in addition to their existing 3000ltr tanks. As such, they are extending their core range to include **NZPA** on cask and **Three Arms** gluten free session IPA on keg. They will have a launch happening across 16+ venues to celebrate that, along with their annual "Coolship" release. Cask is as strong as ever and by the time this goes to print, they will have **Porter** up on the bar. Three bottle conditioned "wild" beers (**Coolship**, **Framboise**, and **Provision**), alongside three new cans **Entangled**, **Just Peachy**, and **Dopplebock**, will be available from mid-November. They will do their final release of the year in early December - their continued collaboration with Elusive and Kernel "Destination", will be a trilogy of beers. They will brew the 4% pale ale, **Kernel** the 6% **IPA**, and Elusive doing the 8% **DIPA**.

BLO Ian Hodge

FIREBIRD

Firebird recently won a regional CBOB award for **Two Horses**. They are now brewing a new dark

lager at 5% and **Old Ale** will be available from the 1st of November. The bar is listed in next year's *Good Beer Guide*, and the brewery will be expanding after Christmas into the adjoining premises, with a new (second hand) 4000L brewhouse.

BLO Dave Sharp

FLYING TRUNK

The taproom is becoming popular (see Pub Scratchings for more information) and a selection of new and established beers has featured there. Recent new brews include **Bimble** (3.0%; very light pale), **Way Beyond** (6.0%; strong version of **Forest Way**), the 5th 'In Cahoots' collaboration with the Engine Room pub (4.3%, bitter), and **Devils Coachman** (5.8%; blackberry rye beer for Halloween). A dark Christmas beer is on the cards as are further brews for the Engine Room, including a special to be the 2,500th different beer served at the pub since it opened in 2019. Flying Trunk beers have appeared at various festivals during the autumn, including Redhill and Worthing, and Bluebell Railway. Bottles and pre-ordered mini pins will be available for Christmas. Check social media for availability, and for tap room opening hours and 'what's on'."

BLO Jonathan Samways

GUN

As we move towards winter, our rotating Specials offer trends towards old favourites: This year's Green Hop beer saw us working once again with Hukins Hops in Kent. Challenger was the hop of choice this year and you might still find it in one or two pubs. Our Base Ejection Smoked Rye is also out now and will soon be joined by a 3.8% Hazy pale - Swamper - and our ever popular 4.5% Old Ale.

Both our taprooms are proving popular, with the newly opened Eastbourne Taproom at The Saffrons sports club going from strength to strength. Open to all, it combines the best of a brewery taproom with the warm welcome of a clubhouse. With 12 Keg and 4 cask lines serving brewery fresh beer, it's a great place to enjoy a pint and catch Live sports on TV. There's nothing quite like it anywhere in Eastbourne.

BLO Keith Brown

HAND

The Beercraft Brewery that was originally called the Hand Brewery and Tap Room based on the Garcia Trading Estate, Canterbury Road, Worthing has now closed. Beercraft had evolved into a contract brewing facility which Hand had been using to produce it's beers up until a few months ago amongst many other breweries both local and beyond. The future of the site is unclear at time of writing. Hand is continuing to contract brew at other local breweries and is focusing on producing its core range of beers such as Shaka pale ale in cask, keg and can until the directors can find a new permanent brewery home for the brand. Beers will continue to be made on a small scale at the newly refurbished 5bbl brewkit at the Hand in Hand pub in Kemp Town Brighton. In other news Hand's head brewer Kate Hyde was named Brewer of the Year at the newly inaugurated Women in Beer Awards sponsored by CAMRA and Hand very kindly sponsored the CAMRA Worthing Beer and Cider Festival for the second year in a row.

BLO Henry Kirk

HARVEY'S

Harvey's remains as busy as ever. They are delighted to have received gold awards in a number of national and international competitions and are particularly proud to have been awarded the accolade of UK Brewer of the Year 2025. **Ouse Booze** has been brewed again to mark the 25th anniversary of the Lewes food and is a direct replica of the original. A second canning is planned as the initial run has been selling out fast. **Christmas Ale** will be available from the first week in Advent with the mashing having been blessed by the Rector of St. Margaret the Queen, Buxted on 21st November. They recently collaborated with the Le Coq brewery (the oldest brewery in Estonia) to produce their **Imperial Stout**. They recently took the opportunity to purchase the building occupied by Argos in Lewes. Argos will remain their tenant. The John Harvey Tavern will continue to run as present. Refurbishment of the buildings immediately beyond Cliffe Bridge is ongoing, including necessary underpinning. Hotel rooms are planned above the current Harvey's shop. The recently launched Harvey Hop Manageable Ale Trail is proving popular with some having completed their passports already. With stocks from the original 300 print run now low, a further print run is being planned. Passports are available from Harvey's shop, although readers are reminded that a passport style photograph is required. The "Harvey Hopper" award of either a polo shirt or bone china pint mug will be produced as bespoke items in due course and will be available sometime next year. The ever-popular Christmas puddings are available from the

Harvey's shop together with a range of festive treats.

BLO Ian Hodge

HBC

This year HBC moved the venue of the Horsham Beer Festival to the brewery, this was a great success, and the 2026 Festival will also be held here. October saw the launch of the **Famous Old Ale** at Old Night with the traditional performance by the Broadwood Morris Men, Oktoberfest and various Halloween events. The Christmas period will see the return of a few seasonal favourite beers and events ranging from carol singing, wreath making to a festive themed quiz.

BLO James Thornton

HEATHEN

A brand-new bitter and a decadent stout will be on the taps for the winter period to bring some warmth to the dark nights, alongside the usual **Atemporal** pale, **Emergency Chairs** lager, and **Rotations IPA**.

BLO Jeremy Brinkworth

HEPWORTH

Still going very well, a lot of new Xmas beers are now ready to buy from the brewery and online. Also, beers from Coniston Brewery which also brew on this site, and **Imperial Russian Stout**. Most Beers are gluten-free, vegan-friendly or organic.

BLO Roy Bray

LANGHAM

Join us this festive season at Langham Brewery as we usher in a new era celebrating 20 years of brewing in the heart of the South Downs. Langham has long held a reputation for quality, hop-forward and distinctive beers which are a celebration of the finest ingredients and the pure well water drawn from beneath the

brewery. As we look forward to 2026 and beyond – new and progressive styles will be introduced. Our focus is to source and champion local ingredients and celebrate what the South Downs has to offer, whilst also being able to draw upon a long line of treasured brews reflecting the brewery's history. Langham plans for 2026 are bold, thoughtful, and rooted in its values: Build on our sustainability goals and drive to be less impactful on our stunning environment. Fully updated branding rolling out over the coming months. Expanded formats While cask remains our cornerstone, we're introducing select beers in keg and can – bringing Langham's flavours to new audiences. Updated core range introducing balance to our range of ABVs with a focus on UK ingredients. Events and experiences - from courtyard tastings to brewery tours, we're building Langham into a destination for locals and visitors alike. Winter and Festive highlights - our winter release of Eclipse Porter (4.8%) - A classic dry porter where the combination of our amazing pure well water and the complexity of 5 malts takes this beer to another level. This beer provides creamy roasted coffee and chocolate notes with a complex finish – Cask Only. This festive season join us in our welcoming taproom in the heart of the South Downs - now open until 20:00, to try some of the best our busy brewery has to offer. Trying to buy for someone who is impossible to buy for? Why not purchase one of our gift cards and let them pick. All gift cards are valid for 1 year and can be used across multiple occasions. Our gift packs are perfect for a "taste of Langham Brewery", whether you like bottles or cans.

Keep an eye on the website for festive deals and events.

LONG MAN

The Brewery's Christmas Market is on Saturday 6th December at Church Farm, Littleington, with food, drink, music and market stalls open from 12pm to 6pm, Ten casks and six kegs will be available.

Four new products are out now or before Christmas in 440ml cans: Panettone Chocolate Stout (6.4%), Galaxy Nectaron Pale Ale (5.4%), Nelson Sauvín IPA (4.9%), and Crafty Blonde (4.1% & GF). Galaxy Nectaron IPA marks the brewery's 3000th brew since the very first brew (Long Blonde Cask) in March 2012, that's over 15 million pints of Long Man consumed – thank you! This beer bursts with tropical and stone fruit notes from Galaxy and Nectaron hops.

A new canning line is on order from UK based manufacturer Micro Can and this will allow Long Man to greatly expand its can range in 2026.

The cask offering for December sees the annual return of the fruity winter warmer, Inn Keeper (4.8%). The Brewery Shop and tap room is open 7 days a week with cask and keg beers always available, and lots of Christmas gift ideas.

BLO Richard Scullion

KISSINGATE

It's been an incredibly successful year for Kissingate beers, which have won several major beer festivals this season. **Black Cherry Mild** 4.2% won this year's Bluebell Beer & Cider Festival, and news came in that **Murder of Crows** 10% had been awarded Silver Champion Beer of Britain London & Southeast after the judging sessions, which were held on the day. Most surprisingly is

Kissingate's old favourite **Black Cherry Mild** is now Gold winner for the second year running in the London and Southeast Area Champion Bottled Beer of Britain. After months of brewing core range beers the team have been focussing on crafting some new surprises for the Christmas season. Some will be available at Kissingate's annual Carol Evening which will be held at the brewery on Friday 19th December.

BLO Roy Bray

LARRIKIN

As part of a general back of house re-fit, Larrikin brewing is moving out of the cellar and into the backyard of The Urchin pub, allowing head brewer Nick (2m tall) to finally stand up straight on brew days. This means that the pub will be shut for most of January but upon re-opening expect plenty of yummy stouts, brown beers, juicy hazy ales, cherry sour and of course our lager, all fresh brewed on site.

BLO Graham Eaton

MERAKAI

Merakai Brewing Comes Home to Worthing, we're bringing brewing back to the heart of our community — moving the Merakai brewery into The Tasting Room in Worthing. From now on, it becomes Merakai Brewing at The Tasting Room — a true home for fresh, independent beer. Beer brewed on site doesn't get fresher. You'll be able to see the tanks, smell the hops, and drink pints that were fermenting just days ago. We'll be offering brewery tours, hands-on brew days, and fresh tasting experiences so you can get closer to the process, the people, and the passion behind every pour. This move isn't just about convenience — it's about connection. Brewing where we serve means we can experiment, share new ideas, and let our community be part of the creative journey. Expect small-batch specials, limited releases, and the freshest beer in Sussex, served right where it's made. It's everything Merakai stands for: craftsmanship, creativity, and people coming together over a fresh pint.

BLO Jonathan Purdom

THREE ACRE

The brewery has acquired the use of the building next door which effectively doubles its floor space. This will mean greater long-term growth potential, and a much larger cold store, partly for the Sussex Beer Trader wholesale work. This is a fledgling wholesale arm, which buys and sells a range of other local breweries' beers, including Gun, Long Man, Lakedown, Only with Love, Battle, Lost Pier, and many more. These beers are sold and shipped to

pubs further afield, mostly outside of the southeast, offering a real taste of Sussex, with full, live access to every partnering brewery's cask/keg availability. At Three Acre itself, fermentation capacity has increased to over 33,000 litres by the recent purchase of two new tanks. **Christmas Old Ale** (5.6%) is back in cask, marking its fifth anniversary this year. Production will be bigger than ever, exceeding 300 firkins. Recent new cask releases have included **Amarillo Pale** (4.1%), **Harvest Gold** (5%), and **Ernest Green Hop** (5.2%).

BLO John Quick

UNBARRED

We've just launched this year's **Stoutzilla** along with barrel-aged variants and **King Conka** along with a selection of Pales. Our monthly cask offering continues and we are busy planning for next year's production of beers! Plenty of exciting stuff to come in 2026 from us! Our Brighton taproom continues to be open all week - so you can join us 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

Opportunity to take on a traditional Country Pub

Historic Free House in west Dorset, serving the local community following soft opening.

- Traditional wet-trade pub
- Recently refurbished
- Function Room with skittle alley. Beer garden accessible from three bar areas.
- Living accommodation with three upstairs rooms and private garden area.
- Unique rural setting on a tourist route, well placed for locals and visitors.
- Scope for further development in collaboration with the owners.

Initial six months' live-in management period, with a view to a long-term tenancy.

Please send a brief CV to
pubmanagerinfo@gmail.com for
 further details.

Pressing News

A little bit of cider news since the last drinker was that the rather good Blackfriars Tavern in Great Yarmouth was selected as the CAMRA cider pub of the year for 2025. The search starts now to find the 2026 champion! If you think there is a pub out there in your branch selling at least one cider that meets CAMRA's definition of real cider let your branch know so they can evaluate it for their Cider Pub of the Year. Each branch enters a pub into a regional competition the winner here goes forward to a regional and then hopefully a super-regional competition to evaluate a winner. Please be your branch's eyes on the cider front, it needs to be in it to win it.

Looking after your gluts

No, not a misspelling!

This year has seen bumper crops of apples, hence gluts of apples, not glutes.

There was not only a lot of apples, but also a higher sugar content, leading to a higher alcohol content in the cider. This was mainly due to the favourable weather conditions, especially in the major cidermaking regions of the West Country, which has put cidermakers there in an awkward position duty-wise as the higher the ABV the



higher the duty rate, and hence a higher price for the drinkers. This has probably resulted in many people resorting to making their own cider, either with apples

On the cideries of the county makers will be pressing their fruit to produce next years produce. They may also run picking and pressing events, great fun for the family. Also, around new year there may be a wassail run in their orchard to bless the trees and frighten away bad spirits, expect singing and bonfires!

Until the next time, Wassail!

Paul Sanders

Regional Cider Coordinator

from their own apple trees (myself included) or scrumps from friends and neighbours.

I have just made my first batch of cider for several years (I think the last time I made any was in 2009), using only Kingston Black cider apples from our small but prolific tree which was grafted, grown on and given to us by the late John Batcheldor (creator of JB cider of Maplehurst). Two gallons of cider was the result, coming in at about 6% ABV. It could have been higher if I had let the apples ripen a bit longer, but they were mainly on the ground and needed using. Quite a dry finish, as a bittersharp should be (high in acid, relatively low in tannins).

The process was very labour intensive, using a small food processor and an ancient small Boots wine press c. 1984, though faster progress was made after I bought a juicing machine, though this object proved very messy and long-winded in its cleaning up process.

Hopefully our cider will quench our thirst for a little while.....

Wassail!

Jackie Johnson

(former cider rep/Regional Cider Coordinator)

"LET'S GO TO THE GARDENERS, HAVE A NICE COLD PINT,
AND WAIT FOR ALL OF THIS TO BLOW OVER."



DARK FEST

A ROMANTIC BEER FESTIVAL

WITH ~~ZOMBIES~~

STRONG DARK ALES!

25TH FEBRUARY TO 1ST MARCH

THE GARDENERS ARMS - 46 CLIFFE HIGH STREET - LEWES - 01273474808

Arun & Adur Branch Pub of the Year Awards

Selden Arms: The Selden Arms was Arun & Adur branch Pub of the Year and was then voted as Sussex Pub of the Year.



Certificate presentation to Selden Staff by Arun & Adur Chairman

Green Man Ale & Cider House: The Green Man (as it's usually known) has been Arun & Adur branch Cider Pub of the Year for several years, since it regularly stocks around six ciders plus a perry and a mead. This year it has also been voted as the Regional Cider POTY but presentation will take place after deadline for submission to this magazine.

Brighton & South Downs – Presentations and Awards

Brighton & South Downs branch have been busy presenting Sussex breweries with well-deserved awards from the Brighton & South Downs Beer & Cider Festival, held back in June. Congratulations to all!

Voted beer of the festival (again, as it won in 2023) is the Chocolate Hazelnut Pendulum Porter, brewed by Rick Evans of The Watchmaker's Arms (which is also our branch Pub of the Year)! A good number of CAMRA members helped to celebrate this fantastic achievement back in August.



Above: Rick Evans, of the Watchmaker's Arms (left) receives the award from Richard Williams, Committee Member, for the beer of the festival at the South Downs Beer & Cider Festival, June 2025.



Yet more awards for Kissingate Brewery! In late August, Gary and Bunny from Kissingate Brewery received no fewer than 3 awards from recent CAMRA beer festivals, with their Raisin The Bar (at 14%) winning the Beer of the Festival award from the 2025 Isle of Man Beer Festival (presented by Angela Aspin of the Isle of Man branch, first from right), the Pig's Ear Beer Festival 2024, presented by Roy Bray, Kissingate BLO and Brewery Liaison Co-ordinator (left) and last, but no means least, the award for joint third place at the 2025 South Downs Beer & Cider Festival, for Ripple en Plus and Chocolate Cherry Dipper, presented by Graham Eaton, Brighton & South Downs Vice Chair, right).

The 2026 Good Beer Guide was launched at the end of September, and we were delighted to be able to mark a significant milestone, by presenting The Basketmakers Arms, Brighton, with their award for an impressive 20 consecutive years in the Guide. Very well done!



Above: Robyn, of the Basketmakers Arms, Brighton, receives the award from Jason Phillips, Branch Chairman, for 20 consecutive years in the Good Beer Guide.

Graham Eaton
Brighton & South Downs

North Sussex Branch 2026 Ale Trail

Our Ale Trail returns for 2026, with an earlier start following feedback from our publicans, and about 36 great venues to visit.

The Trail is open to all, members and non-CAMRA members, as the Trail is all about supporting our great local pubs and taprooms.

The event starts with a trip to our current Pub of the Year, the Engine Room in East Grinstead, from 1pm on Saturday February 7th, and ends on Friday May 29th with the draw to choose the prize winners.

Ale Trailers will need to pick up the Trail Leaflet, which will detail all the Ale Trail venues to visit and collect a sticker at each. Leaflets will be available at each venue and also at our Spring Equinox beer festival on March 20th and 21st.

To receive a sticker, you need to spend money at each venue. We'd love it if that was a pint of the great local Ale or Cider available there, but we appreciate that might not always be practical.

The Branch will be running trips to some of the Ale Trail pubs during the four months. Details of the events will be published on the Branch website and social media channels, along with our monthly emails to Members.

There will again be six prize winners this year, who will receive a voucher to spend in the Ale Trail venue of their choice:

- Top prize is a voucher for £60, for those who have collected over 80% of the stickers
- Two second prizes of a voucher for £40, for those who have collected over 60% of the stickers
- Three third prizes of a voucher for £20, for those who have collected at least 40% of the stickers

We hope you enjoy the Trail. If you want more info, please email secretary@northsussex.camra.org.uk.

Mike Head
CAMRA North Sussex branch secretary

North East Sussex Branch Good Beer Guide Certificate Presentations



Crowborough Cross manager Craig with the GBG 2026 poster alongside CAMRA North East Sussex Branch members

North East Sussex Branch Good Beer Guide Certificate Presentations (continued)



GBG 2026 pack is presented to Annie at the New Inn by NES Chairman John Quick



The GBG 2026 presentation to the Rose & Crown, Mayfield.



Antonia, Kings Arms landlady, with their GBG 2026 envelope

South East Sussex Branch Awards



The Tower in St. Leonards was the branch pub with the highest average National Beer Score in 2024, pictured are Branch Vice Chair Roger presenting Landlady Louisa with the award.



Bexhill's Albatross (RAFA) Club is the Branch Club of the Year and Roger also presented the then Head Steward, Emma, with the Regional Award for 2024.



The Waterworks micropub in Rye is Branch Pub of the Year, Roger is seen with landlord David behind the pub's bar.



The Plough & Harrow, Litlington is LocAle Pub of the Year, Roger is seen making the presentation to pub manager Lucy.



The Cider of the Festival at Eastbourne was Nuthurst Orchard's Passion Fruit. Branch Cider Rep Angela is pictured between owners and cider makers Tom and Chesca.



Landlady Liz and her partner Russ run the White Horse Inn in the small village of Bodele Street Green. This year it received its first ever CAMRA award, voted Country Pub of the Year.



The Area Cider Pub of the Year 2024 was the Robin Hood, Icklesham, Angela presented landlady Carly with the award along with the current Branch Cider Pub of the Year.



The Crown pub and Ninkaci bar in Eastbourne are run by husband and wife team, Andy and Jo. At a joint presentation at the Crown, Andy was presented with the Community Pub of the Year and Jo the branch bar with the highest average National Beer Score in 2024.



The previous Branch Pub of the Year, the Brickmaker's Alehouse was runner up in both this year's Branch Pub of the Year and Branch Cider Pub of the Year. Pictured with Roger are joint landlords Martin (left) and Robin.



The Sussex Beer of the Festival at Eastbourne was Three Acre Brewery's seasonal Bonfire Beer, left to right are branch Vice Chair Roger Brewery Operations Director Jamie, Senior Brewer James and John, CAMRA's Brewery Liaison Officer.

Bus to the Pub (Btpp)

Bus to the Pub (Btpp) 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.

Give a gift membership to the beer lover in your life!

Beers are best shared with others. So, treat someone you like to a CAMRA gift membership and bring them along to the pubs and festivals that matter.

Set the membership to start on someone's special day!

They'll receive all the great discounts, benefits and vouchers you do, through the post. Cheers

Gift a membership today!
camra.org.uk/gift-membership



Bluebell beer & cider festival finds its groove

A dear, sadly departed friend, Gareth Jones, told me many years ago that it took 5 years for the Horsham beer festival to settle down in to a smoothly run event, with lessons learned from the previous years. The same felt very true this year for the 5th Bluebell Railway event, run in association with CAMRA Sussex Branches this September.

Over 1500 festival goers enjoyed the 105 ales and 23 ciders spread over the bars at Sheffield Park, Horsted Keynes, Kingscote and East Grinstead stations, along with the steam trains, plus live music at Sheffield Park, Horsted Keynes and the new bar at Kingscote.

The additional challenge of running a bar at a 4th station was met, with the new bar at Kingscote proving very popular, and a great decision by the Railway to expand the event.

Kissingate's Black Cherry Mild picked up another award for this ever-popular beer, winning beer of the festival. On the cider and perry bar, Worthing producer Beechwood proved particularly popular, with their Worthing Red winning cider of the festival, and their Hoop & Mallet winning perry of the festival.

As ever, a huge thanks to our brilliant team of CAMRA and Bluebell volunteers, and to the team from Heathen Brewery who again set up and ran the keg wall at Sheffield Park.

Mike Head
CAMRA Volunteer Manager



Worthing Beer Festival 2025

Arun & Adur branch organised the 27th Worthing beer festival which took place on 24th and 25th October. The festival went well with much positive feedback from festival-goers. The drinks sold well across the board suggesting that (again) the beer and cider selection was about right to suit many tastes. The food this year was provided by Humble Pie (of Sussex) whose pies – with optional mash, peas and gravy, were very well received. We signed up a number of new CAMRA members at the festival.

The organisers would like to thank Hand Brew Co for sponsoring the festival and donating their product as did Sunble Knave and Ascension Cider. Festival attendees generously donated unused beer tokens and we have made a donation to our festival charity (Care For Veterans) of £302.10.

Finally the organisers would like to thank all who helped at the festival from setup to takedown and of course during the festival itself.



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

Plus Hacker Pschorr genuine Munich lager, and Weston Old Rosie cider on gravity.

Homemade traditional food, plus 5 en suite bedrooms.

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Arun & Adur
CAMRA
Country
Pub of the Year
2024

Branch Pub of the
Year 2024

www.thefivebellsinn.com

The Gardeners Arms, Sompting

The Gardeners Arms in Sompting has been closed for a few months and has been sold by the pubco which owned it. The previous landlord wished to buy it and run it as a going concern but could not. It has been bought and planning permission is being sought to convert it into a 5 bedroom domestic property. Sompting (which used to be on the main road from Brighton to Worthing before the northern bypass) used to have a number of pubs, The Ball Tree (which was Gales), the Joyful Whippet, The Marquis of Granby and another whose name has been forgotten which is now an Indian restaurant. The Gardeners Arms is the last remaining pub in the area and with 400 new homes planned nearby, it would serve the community. A Sompting Village resident wishes to petition for an ACV to save the building as a pub. Arun and Adur branch members are supporting him especially as the planning application to convert the property has had quite a few objections. The main purpose of an ACV is to enable communities to make a purchase bid if and when listed premises are put up for sale.

Micropub Adventures

Micropub Adventures is a website and blog about micropubs, independent pubs, and breweries around the UK published by Scott Spencer. Here are his notes for some pubs in Sussex.

"I visit a number of notable pubs and micropubs in Worthing, starting with Anchored in Worthing, the town's first micropub, which initiated a local real ale movement. Each venue showcases unique character and local charm, like The Toad in the Hole's rich history and The Fox & Finch's cosy living room feel. Other establishments, such as The Brookstead and The Green Man Ale & Cider House, emphasise community involvement and traditional pub values. Newer places like The Tasting Room and The Old Bike Store maintain friendly atmospheres while contributing to Worthing's vibrant social scene. Overall, these venues represent a rich tapestry of local culture and beer enjoyment."

www.micropubadventures.co.uk

Visit for the latest pub and travel blogs and an updated Micropub and Brewery Tap Map.



DARK & DELICIOUS BEER FESTIVAL

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Coopers Lane Crowborough East Sussex

FRI 30/1/26 12-10 SAT 31/1/26 12-10
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 JUST LOTS OF GREAT DARK BEER IT'S WHAT WE DO!

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A GOLDEN YEAR FOR HARVEY'S

We are delighted to report that three of our draught Sussex beers have taken First Prize in **CAMRA's London and South East Area 2025 Champion Beer of Britain Competitions**

Sussex XX Mild Ale Gold Award

Milds Category
'Born to be Mild' Festival,
Wandsworth

Sussex Best Bitter Gold Award

Session Bitters Category
Farnham Beer Festival

Sussex XXXX Old Ale Gold Award

Brown Ales and Red Ales, Old
Ales and Strong Milds Category
Ealing Beer Festival



We also competed in national and international competitions with our packaged products.

Our entries in the **British Bottlers' Institute Competition 2025** saw us take Gold Awards for Christmas Ale, Lewes Castle Brown Ale, Southdown Harvest Ale and Star of Eastbourne East India Ale.

At the **World Beer Awards 2025**, we achieved Gold UK Winner Awards for Christmas Ale, Old Ale and Prince of Denmark Stout.

While, at the **International Beer Challenge 2025**, we were given Gold Awards for Georgian Dragon Ruby Ale, Old Ale and Prince of Denmark Stout. Gold Medallists then go head to head in each category and these heats saw successes for

Old Ale (Trophy for Best Ale up to 5%) Prince of Denmark (Best Stout or Porter Trophy)

The seven trophy finalists then compete in the final.

The judges named Harvey's Old Ale 'Supreme Champion'

We were also awarded the accolade
UK Brewer of the Year 2025

"Winning the 'Supreme Champion' Trophy, in competition with a wealth of beer styles and brewing nations, is an accolade we had not expected. Our Sussex beers are brewed in the County Town using authentic methods of production that have stood the test of time. Combining our spring water and yeast strain with locally sourced hops and barley remains fundamental to our brewing process, as does the skill and dedication of our staff. Every member of the team has contributed to this success and I am immensely proud of them."

Miles Jenner, Head Brewer & Joint Managing Director



HARVEY'S BREWERY



THE BLUE BELL INN

Celebrating 30 years

A FAMILY OWNED PUB • GREAT HOME COOKED FOOD
WELL KEPT REAL ALES • FABULOUS WINE LIST
3 NEW LUXURY EN-SUITE BED & BREAKFAST ROOMS

The perfect place to enjoy a drink, unwind after work or enjoy locally sourced seasonal menu. Well-stocked with a wide range of real ales and lagers, together with an extensive wine list, prides itself on serving fresh produce sourced locally.



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Opening Times: Monday: 09:00 - 23:00, Tuesday: 09:00 - 23:00, Wednesday: 09:00 - 23:00,  
Thursday: 09:00 - 23:00, Friday: 09:00 - 00:00, Saturday: 09:00 - 00:00, Sunday: 09:00 - 23:00

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Specialising in Sussex Real Ales  
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Wide selection of Wines  
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# PISTON BROKE

**Jam Session** occasional Mondays from 8pm

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**Open Mic night** every Wednesday from 8.30pm

**Live Sports** - All Formula 1 races, Rugby, Cricket  
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**Live Music Every Week**

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Sunday afternoons

Bank Holiday Monday afternoon  
And occasional other sessions

**For details of Performers, Event Timings, and Offers, please contact the Pub,  
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**Also see live streaming of some performances on Facebook.**

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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](http://sussex.camra.org.uk/festivals).

**20-22 Feb** 8th Real Ale Festival, Tower, St Leonards

**25 Feb-1 Mar** Gardeners Arms, Lewes, Darkfest

**28 Feb-1 Mar** Duke of Wellington, Shoreham, London Beer Festival

### Branch Diaries

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

#### Arun & Adur

See [aaa.camra.org.uk/events.html](http://aaa.camra.org.uk/events.html).

#### Brighton & South Downs

See [brighton.camra.org.uk/diary](http://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](http://northsussex.camra.org.uk/diary).

#### North East Sussex

See [northeastsussex.camra.org.uk/diary](http://northeastsussex.camra.org.uk/diary).

#### South East Sussex

See [southeastsussex.camra.org.uk/diary](http://southeastsussex.camra.org.uk/diary).

#### Western Sussex

See [westernsussexcamra.org.uk/diary](http://westernsussexcamra.org.uk/diary).

# The Crown

Family friendly community pub in the heart of Eastbourne Old Town.

Large enclosed rear garden, Dog friendly, WiFi, Sports TV.

Open Mon-Thu noon-11pm, Fri & Sat noon-midnight, Sun 12 noon-11pm.



CAMRA award winning pub  
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Community Pub of the Year 2016,  
LocAle Pub of the Year 2015,  
Community Pub of the Year 2020



22 Crown Street, Old Town, Eastbourne  
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## Sussex Branches of CAMRA

### South East Regional Director:

Paul Sanders, 07778 035971

[rd\\_southeast@camra.org.uk](mailto:rd_southeast@camra.org.uk)

### Sussex Area Organiser:

To be appointed

[area.organiser@sussex.camra.org.uk](mailto:area.organiser@sussex.camra.org.uk)

Website: [sussex.camra.org.uk](http://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](mailto:branch.contact@aaa.camra.org.uk),

[www.aaa.camra.org.uk](http://www.aaa.camra.org.uk)

Beer Festival: Worthing, October 2026

PotY: Selden Arms, Worthing

CPotY: Green Man Ale & Cider House Worthing;

COTY: none

#### Brighton & South Downs

Jason Phillips

[chair@brighton.camra.org.uk](mailto:chair@brighton.camra.org.uk)

[www.brighton.camra.org.uk](http://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](mailto:chair@northsussex.camra.org.uk)

[www.northsussex.camra.org.uk](http://www.northsussex.camra.org.uk)

Beer Festival: Spring Equinox, 20-21 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](mailto:branch.contact@northeastsussex.camra.org.uk)

[www.northeastsussex.camra.org.uk](http://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](mailto:contact@southeastsussex.camra.org.uk)

[www.southeastsussex.camra.org.uk](http://www.southeastsussex.camra.org.uk)

Beer Festival: Beer & Cider by the Sea, May 2026

PotY: Waterworks, Rye;

CPotY: Robin Hood, Icklesham;

CotY: Albatross Club (RAFA), Bexhill on Sea

#### Western Sussex

Max Malkin

[whu@maxmalkin.plus.com](mailto:whu@maxmalkin.plus.com)

[www.westernsussex.camra.org.uk](http://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: Winter 2025 No. 121

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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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### For Consumer Advice:

If you have a complaint about goods or services, please contact Citizens Advice for information and advice:

Visit the Citizens Advice Website

[www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/)

Or you can call the Citizens Advice consumer helpline on 03454 04 05 06

Please note: National Trading Standards cannot help members of the public with specific complaints or advice about goods, services or specific businesses.

Campaign for Real Ale Ltd

230 Hatfield Road, St Albans, AL1 4LW

Tel: 01727 867201 Fax: 01727 867670

Website: [www.camra.org.uk](http://www.camra.org.uk)

# Award winning beers from The Waterworks Brewery



Our **Pissoir Porter** has recently won three awards including a **CAMRA Silver Medal for London & South East England** (Stouts & Porters)

We serve our full range of beers in the taproom along with a local lager, ciders, wines, gins and soft drinks. There is also live music every Sunday 3-5pm.



## TAPROOM OPENING TIMES

Fri 3-7pm, Sat 2-7pm  
Sun 1-5pm

## BREWERY & TAPROOM

The Old Dairy, Rye Road, Playden,  
(opposite the old Peace & Plenty) East Sussex TN31 7UL

# Serving 10 local ales & 18 local ciders



Along with our own beers, we serve a good range of ales and ciders. We also have a selection of wines, gins and soft drinks and award winning Scotch eggs and pork pies.



## RYE'S MICRO PUB

Tower Street, Rye, East Sussex TN31 7AT Tel: 01797 224110

## PUB OPENING TIMES

Mon - Fri from 2pm  
Sat & Sun from 12pm

[www.ryewaterworks.co.uk](http://www.ryewaterworks.co.uk)

# Southwick **BEER ENGINE**

2 Southwick Sq. BN42 4FJ  
Bus 46 stops outside 5 min from Southwick station and 700 bus. 01273 945694

**Mondays**  
12pm - 7pm  
**Tue - Thurs**  
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**Fri/Sat**  
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**Sun**  
12pm - 8pm

**LIVE MUSIC**  
**Every Sunday**  
**@ 15.00**

*See Website,  
Google,  
Facebook for  
latest info.  
We are always  
looking for  
new  
musicians.*



**The Beer Engine isn't just a pub; it's your community hangout where tradition meets modern vibes. Whether you're after a classic pint, a Sunday afternoon live band, or a laid-back gathering, we invite you to be part of the community. Cheers to feeling right at home, no matter who you are!**

[Southwickbeerengine.co.uk](http://Southwickbeerengine.co.uk)

## *A fresh take on the classic pub*

Walkers, cyclists, outdoor enthusiasts, locals and visitors; you'll find them all at our bar. We have a relaxing, friendly atmosphere that welcomes everyone! Known in the local community as the destination for variety of craft beers, real ales, wines, spirits, and cocktails, making it a welcoming space for all.

Inside and outside seating areas, well behaved children and dogs are always welcome.

**Check out our website, Google or Facebook for full details of all upcoming events including Bands, Real Ale, Cider and Gin events**

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