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Celebrating the Real Ale Scene in Sussex

Sussex Drinker

Summer 2016

Free

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ALBATROSS RAFA CLUB BEXHILL-ON-SEA

PUBLISHED AND FINANCED BY THE SUSSEX BRANCHES OF THE CAMPAIGN FOR REAL ALE

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POTY: TBA
COTY:Albatross RAFA Club, Bexhill-On-Sea

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POTY:Tower, St Leonards-on-Sea
COTY:Albatross RAFA Club, Bexhill-On-Sea

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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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Flying High! Albatross Club wins National Finals

Sussex has the best club in the country! The Albatross RAFA Club, Bexhill-on-Sea, has won the National Finals of the CAMRA Club of the Year competition. The front cover of this issue proudly shows Karen Pelham, Chief Steward, and her assistant, Peter Fell, with the winner's certificate. The club had progressed in the competition from a field of more than 28,000 entries to reach the final four, where it was up against the Cheltenham Motor Club; the Kinver Constitutional Club, Staffordshire; and the Orpington Liberal Club, Greater London. The CAMRA Clubs Advisory Group chair John Holland said: "the CAMRA Club of the Year Competition each year goes from strength to strength as more and more clubs show great commitment to quality real ale. This has made it increasingly difficult to become a CAMRA Regional Club of the Year and then get through to the final."

The award was presented at the Albatross during the lunchtime of Thursday 24 March by Keith Spencer, one of the judges of the Club of the Year award. Keith paid tribute to the enthusiasm of the members for their club and the way that it and the beer scene there had developed. He also praised the friendliness and warmth of the atmosphere he felt at the club. As he put it: "The club offers a wide range of beer and cider which is kept in great condition, but that is only part of the story. The bar staff and steward are part of a bigger team that makes the Albatross the epitome of what a community asset should be. Everyone connected with the club ensures the welcome is warm for everyone that enters the club. On a visit there before Christmas, they were holding a mince pie and raffle evening for the local OAPs and the club was bursting at the seams with happy customers generating a fantastic atmosphere."

The club was very busy that lunchtime with their members celebrating along with many South East Sussex CAMRA branch members by sampling some excellent quaffable ales. A BBC newsgathering crew were also present so a nice item appeared on the regional BBC evening news programme "South East Today" saying that the Albatross had been voted the best club to drink in Britain. As a Royal Air Force Association club, the Albatross boasts an interesting collection of RAF memorabilia. Popular beer festivals are held in April and September in its large function room and there is a full diary of regular social events including jazz, folk and quiz nights. The club has achieved LocAle accreditation, stocking beers from local brewers. It has been the Local Club of the Year each year since 2012 and Regional Club of the Year in both 2013 and 2014.

An Editor's Farewell

This is my last issue as editor of the *Sussex Drinker*. It has been a privilege to edit the magazine but spending time away from Sussex to attend to other responsibilities means that it is no longer practical for me to continue. After seven years and twenty-nine issues (Nos. 58-86) it is, in any case, time for a break. Although it would have been nice to reach thirty issues, I prefer the quirkiness of going out on a prime number.

Looking back, I was surprised to find that I became our longest-serving editor with the publication of the summer 2015 issue. For those who like to know such things, Adrian Towler and Richard Foster jointly edited twenty-four issues (Nos. 29-52); John Yeates edited twenty-one issues (Nos. 4-19 and 53-57); Ken Paris did nine (Nos. 20-28); Colin Cubie edited the first three issues and was also editor of the predecessor of this magazine, the *Weald & Downland Drinker*, as, indeed, was Bernard Stone; finally, Karen Burchell was jointly credited as *Sussex Drinker* editor with John Yeates for one issue, No. 4.

It only remains for me to thank our producer, Neil Richards MBE, our designer, Andy Shaw, and everyone else who contributed to make us, unofficially but in many people's judgement, one of the top ten CAMRA magazines in the country and the top one in A5 format. Andy Shaw is intending to both design and edit the autumn issue so please continue to send in your contributions and provide him with every possible support. Cheers!

The Quaffer

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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 p. 3 applies to all items.

APULDRAM

What was the Pizza Pasta Pub has reopened as a restaurant called **Thyme & Chillies**.

ARUNDEL

There are encouraging reports from both visitors and the Sussex Bus to the Pub group of well-kept local beers at the **Kings Arms**. Regular 'Meet the Brewer' and sausage evenings are held on the last Wednesday of each month at 8pm.

BOGNOR REGIS

The **Wheatsheaf** is now a Mitchell & Butlers Sizzling Pub & Grill. The three hand pumps offer Greene King Morland Old Speckled Hen, Sharp's Doom Bar and Wells Bombardier.

The **Claremont** now has two real ales on hand pump, Arundel IPA and Fuller's London Pride, both in decent condition.

The **Alex** has a new permanent licensee in Ellen.

BRIGHTON

The **Cyclist Pub & Kitchen** now offers a 10% discount to card-carrying CAMRA members on beer purchases. They also held a beer festival (pictured) over the weekend of 18-20 March.

The **Lord Nelson** (Harveys) has reopened after a full refurbishment. The pub has expanded into next door and now offers a nautical themed room which can be reserved for special occasions. Karen Gold and her team are now at the helm and welcome everyone back aboard.

Following the death of her husband, the landlady at the **Mitre** has decided to retire. Until a new tenant is found the pub is being looked after by Jack, the chief barman. It is intended to keep this Harveys house as wet-led locals' pub.

The crowdfunder for the intended **Bison Arms** at the seafront end of East Street closed on 2 February at £150,000! Expect the Bison Beer Crafthouse team behind the venture to make an announcement once their solicitors have all the paperwork signed and sealed. Meanwhile, the nearby Fishbowl, originally the Greyhound, has been renamed the **East Street Tap** or **EST** for short.

The **Verdict**, Edward Street, has a single hand pump, usually serving a Franklins beer.

After their original plans were rejected last summer, J D Wetherspoon has submitted revised plans for a rooftop beer garden at the **Bright Helm**.

The country's first community-owned pub on a housing estate, the **Bevy**, has won the Joe Goodwin Award at the National Pub Design Awards 2015, an event hosted by CAMRA, Historic England and the Victorian Society. The category - named after the late CAMRA chair Joe Goodwin - is reserved for outstanding refurbished street-corner locals.

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Up at Patcham, the **Long Man of Wilmington** has five hand pumps and the beer quality is good. A late-January visit found three Sussex beers – Arundel Sussex Gold, Gun Scaramanga Pale and Lazy Lizard IPA – alongside Fuller's London Pride and Gale's HSB.

■ BURGESS HILL

What was previously the Jacob's Post (formerly Hogshead) was refurbished in early March and is now trading as the **Block and Gasket**. They are advertising an improved food menu. The four hand pumps were dispensing Greene King IPA, Sharp's Doom Bar, Fuller's London Pride and Wells Bombardier Glorious English.

■ CHICHESTER

The former Globe, reported in the previous issue as closed and undergoing renovation, has reopened as the **Foundry**. It is operated by Greene King and has been serving Abbot Ale, St Edmund and Morland Old Speckled Hen plus a guest ale, so far Harveys Best and Black Sheep Bitter.

The Ship Hotel has been purchased by Harbour Hotels and it is now called the **Chichester Harbour Hotel**. There are no hand pumps but bottled beers from Arundel Brewery are on sale.

■ CRAWLEY

The **Brewery Shades** is the joint runner-up (with the White Horse, Maplehurst) for the North Sussex Branch POTY. Of the six lines, three normally serve Greene King beers (Morland Old Speckled Hen, IPA, London Glory); the other three are guests, with Dark Star Revelation being very popular. Nicola also serves a number of ciders (bag in box).

Elsewhere in the town, the **Black Dog** has new tenants, Maria Turner and Janet Reale; they are serving Fuller's London Pride as their house ale and Sharp's Doom Bar as guest.

■ CROWHURST

Garri and Julie Burtt are new owners of the **Plough**. In late-March four beers were on offer at this free house, all in excellent condition, Harveys Best, Dark Star Hophead, Long Man Best Bitter and Sharp's Doom Bar. We received a pleasant welcome and the new owners are keen to have more local beers on. This is good news for the village and for the future of this Asset of Community Value-listed pub.

■ EASTBOURNE

Five hand pumps are now regularly in use at the **Hurst Arms** (Harveys); Best and Armada are regular beers, with the other three being a selection of the brewery's current seasonal ales.

■ FRIARS GATE

The **Deerstalker** (formerly the Half Moon) has closed. The owner is understood to have applied for planning permission for a change of use to residential.

■ FRIDAY STREET (RUSPER)

The **Royal Oak** continues to offer a good selection of well-kept ales, mostly from Surrey and Sussex. Dark Star and Downlands beers are

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proving to be very popular alongside the regular offerings from Surrey Hills. From further afield, Cotleigh and Crouch Vale beers have featured recently, but it was nice to see Summer Wine Resistance Dark Mild making an appearance on the bar.

HADLOW DOWN

After a three-week closure while it was used as a set for a forthcoming British horror film, "The Harbour", the **New Inn** reopened on Saturday 12 March. Free food was provided in the form of sandwiches, pork pies and snacks, and a lady played the piano throughout the afternoon to appreciative applause from the locals. Although a Free House, the pub has for a long time chosen to offer beers only from Harveys brewery. As well as IPA, which was in very good condition, Best and Old Ale were also served. The pub is also on the CAMRA National Inventory of pubs of heritage interest.

HASTINGS

The last issue reported on the refurbished **Albion**, George Street. Four beers were found on during March, including Rother Valley Boadicea, which was particularly appreciated by our correspondent. This pub is definitely worth a visit. A good range of real ales is also to be had elsewhere in the Old Town, with Courage Directors in the **Nelson** always in fine fettle. The **Jenny Lind** and the **Dolphin** continue to display a wide range of local and national ales and the **First In Last Out** continues to offer a selection of its locally brewed range (very locally in Hastings House about 300 metres up the road from the pub).

For a choice of real ales, the **Plough** on the West Hill is the pick of the few remaining pubs in that area of town.

In the town centre, the **Clown** has adopted Titanic Plum Porter as a regular beer alongside Otter Ale. Both were in fine condition at the last tasting.

Pub closures in Hastings over the past few years have mirrored the national pattern so it is good to hear of a new outlet under construction, a Marston's pub/restaurant (as yet unnamed) on The Ridge, near the junction with Chowns Hill. We trust it will offer some of the company's real ales when open, and after trying them out as soon as possible we will be reporting back through these pages.

HEATHFIELD

The **Prince of Wales** has a new tenant. Two or three changing beers are to be found here with usually at least one from Tonbridge Brewery.

At nearby Cade Street, regular beer 1648 Triple Champion is back and in good condition at the pleasant country pub the **Half Moon Inn**: Harveys Best is always on offer here along with two changing guest beers, and Biddenden Bushels Cider is now available all year round.

HORSHAM

The **Anchor Tap**, East Street, reopened on 12 February to much acclaim. It offers six cask beers (four from owners Dark Star and two guests from the likes

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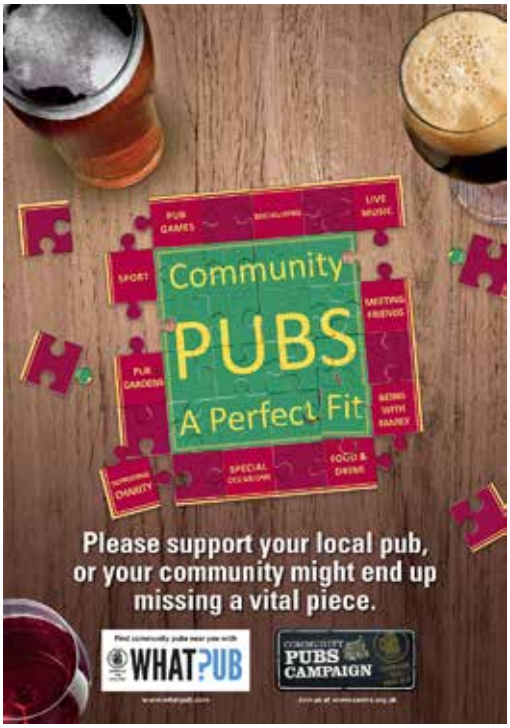

of Bristol Beer Factory, Beavertown, Marble, Tiny Rebel etc.) plus ten on KeyKeg and a wide range of wines and spirits. The quality of the beer is excellent. This was never the biggest of pubs so, now the initial limit on customers has been lifted, when full it really is full!

The **Bear** has a new licensee, Victoria, who has a year lease from Hall & Woodhouse. The **Tanners Arms** is still closed and the owners have challenged the ACV; however, the local branch has found an ally in an organisation called Horsham Blueprint that wishes to shape Horsham from a people's point of view, and so supports our ACV.

HOVE

The **Slug and Lettuce**, George Street, has two hand pumps; one was reversed during a March visit, the other was selling Sharp's Doom Bar.

The **Albion Inn** recently had Exmoor Antler as an unusual guest ale and in very good condition.

LANCING

The Merry Monk has reverted back to its original name of the **Railway** and is now serving Harveys and undergoing further refurbishment.

LOW HEATH (PETWORTH)

The **Welldiggers Arms** is a 300-year-old pub that was in the ownership of the legendary Whitcomb family for three generations. It reopened in February after refurbishment of the bar and extensive rebuilding by the new owners to include fourteen new letting rooms.

MANNINGS HEATH

An early-March report notes that the 'For Sale' sign has been taken down at the **Dun Horse** but the pub is closed and boarded up.

NUTBOURNE

The **Rising Sun**, a charming rural pub with listed outdoor privy, has been owned by the Howard family since 1981 – the father, Regan, recently returned to take over the reins from his two sons. Draught Bass and Fuller's London Pride are supplemented by three guests that can be LocAles.

POLEGATE

The **Junction Tavern** was refurbished last year. New licensees Amy and Guy took over this spring at this Greene King tenancy. They now stock an ever-changing guest beer from Sussex micro breweries as well as the Greene King offerings. New bike racks have been installed for cyclists taking a break from the nearby Cuckoo Trail. Homely food is served Thursday to Sunday and the spacious function room is available for hire.

ROWFANT

The bar and restaurant at **Rowfant House** closed at the end of April. The estate is to be put on the market during the summer.

RUSPER

After a period of closure, the **Plough and Attic Rooms** was reopened by the Time Well Spent Group on 25 March. They plan three lines, one national, one local, and one rotating guest.

RUSTINGTON

The **Windmill** is a family-run community pub and free house that has recently reintroduced Dark Star Hophead and Partridge Best to their increasing range of LocAles. Also seen in recent months have been Arundel, Hammerpot and Lister's beers.

RYE

The **Globe Inn Marsh** now offers five real ales, while the **Ypres Castle Inn** now also offers up to five. The **Standard** had three beers from Three Legs Brewery and one from Old Dairy during a recent visit. Rye is once again a must for lovers of real ale.

SALEHURST

The **Salehurst Halt** is holding a Cart Race on Sunday 12 June, starting early afternoon after the church service. Local breweries may well be producing a special beer for this event.

ST LEONARDS-ON-SEA

New tenants Hayley and her father Ben took over the **Dripping Spring** in late February. Five real ales were on offer during a subsequent lunchtime visit with St Austell Proper Job, Goddards Fuggle-Dee-Dum and Upham Punter all being in very good condition.

The **Tower** is once again South East Sussex CAMRA branch Pub of the Year. This is a wonderful achievement for Louisa and her staff.

The **North Star** regularly has locally produced beers on, recently including those from Rother Valley and Old Dairy.

SIDLESHAM

Following a change of management in January, what for a short while was called the Grey Stag has reverted to its old name of the **Anchor**. The new chap has also reconverted the restaurant back into a bar.

WEST CHILTINGTON

A late-March visit to the **Queens Head** found Harveys Best, Sharp's Doom Bar and two beers from Long Man on the four hand pumps. This pub in the old village centre is now managed by Theresa, who many will remember from the Sportsman, Amberley, when it was a CAMRA branch Pub of the Year.

WORTHING

The **Sir Timothy Shelley** (JDW) continues to offer at least two well kept changing LocAles, whilst a recent 'Meet the Brewer' evening with Ed Anderson from Oakleaf drew a varied and appreciative crowd with an encouraging mix of younger drinkers. Ed's excellent Oakleaf IPA has become a permanent fixture here over the past year.

The LocAle accredited **Corner House** has four hand pumps. These were serving on a March visit Long Man Number Eight, Harveys Old, Dark Star Hophead and Shepherd Neame Whistable Bay.

The **Castle** remains closed after negotiations between the new landlord and the owner fell through at the very last moment.

Photo credits: Michael Schouten, New Inn at Hadlow Down; David Seall, Rising Sun at Nutbourne, Welldiggers Arms at Low Heath, Plough and Attic Rooms at Rusper.

The Sussex Bus to the Pub Group

traveline south east & anglia

Join us on our travels!

The Sussex Bus to the Pub group (BttP) has been running since May 2009 and now attracts participants from many areas of our fine county, so if you too would enjoy visiting different pubs with fine ales and informal convivial company without the constraints of the car, then BttP may just appeal! Itineraries and the number of pubs visited vary but often it is possible for participants to dip in or out of a trip to suit. Often there is a short paved or metalled road walk from the nearest bus stop to the pub. If it is more than an half mile then we will show an approximate distance and if it is across footpaths which could be muddy or uneven, then you will also see a walking boot symbol.

With so many good pubs struggling to survive in the current economic climate and County Council budget cuts threatening the subsidised bus services that serve many rural communities, join us in 'supporting them'.

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Cuckmere Valley www.cuckmerebuses.org.uk

Some of you reading this may also be interested in Pete Brown's bi-monthly Trains to London Pubs (TTLP) group (see the Diary Dates).

May

Thursday 5 Westbourne; Meet from 11.30 in Dolphin & Anchor, Chichester (*GBG*) then catch 12.59 Emsworth & District 54 to Westbourne for Stags Head (*GBG*). Then walk either 1.2 miles path (muddy if wet) OR 1.5 miles pavement to Emsworth for Railway Tavern. There is an option of going to Sussex Brewery at Hermitage afterwards. Return to Chichester via Stagecoach 700 every 20 minutes until 18.30.

Monday 9 Offham, Plumpton & Wivelsfield; 10.45 B&H from Churchill Sq. Brighton to Lewes bus station. 11.35 Compass 122 to Blacksmiths Arms. Then 13.09 Compass 167 to Half Moon. Then 14.51 Compass 166 to Cock at Wivelsfield Green (*GBG*). Return either 16.03 Compass 166 southbound to Lewes or 16.28 Compass 166 northbound to Haywards Heath.

Wednesday 18 West Chiltington & Thakeham; 11.05 Stagecoach 1 from South St. Worthing to Rounabout Lane for Five Bells at Smock Alley (*GBG*). Then 1.5 footpath walk (muddy if wet) to White Lion, return via Ashington 1.7 miles (mainly) road walk for Red Lion, then return to Worthing on Metro 23.

Monday 23 Burwash; 11.53 Sussex Bus 31 from Haywards Heath Perrymount Rd (opposite side to usual) arrive Uckfield 12.35 (for people coming from other directions) then bus carries on to Burwash arriving 13.16 for Rose & Crown (Harveys) OR Bear then 13.53 to Heathfield for Prince of Wales (four changing LocAles). Return from Heathfield 19 minutes past the hour to Haywards Heath for Savana.

Tuesday 31 Around Brighton; Meet Dispensary (*GBG*) Dean St (off Western Rd) at noon – collect Ale Trail passports – then to Victory (Duke St) thence onwards.

COMPASS TRAVEL *June*

Thursday 9 Brenchley; 10.15 B&H 29B from Churchill Sq. OR 10.54 from Lewes (Waitrose) to Tunbridge Wells Station to catch Renown 297 to Halfway House (*GBG*). After a two-hour stop at this fine pub return to Tunbridge Wells for an interesting pub crawl.

Thursday 16 Halnaker, Oving & Eastergate; Meet Pete B at Chichester bus station for 11.10 Stagecoach 55 for Anglesea Arms. Either 12.31 or 13.01 to Tangmere then walk 1 mile (muddy if wet) to Oving for Gribble Inn (*GBG*). Then 15.07 Compass 85A to Eastergate for Wilkes Head (*GBG*). Return either to Chichester on 16.15 Compass 85 OR 17.51 Compass 66 to Barnham station, otherwise a 1.2 mile road walk to Barnham station.

Wednesday 22 Stagecoach 17 Crawl; 11.30 S/C 17 from Churchill Sq. arrive Partridge Green for Partridge (*GBG*) road walk to Littleworth for Windmill (*GBG*); from here head south to Henfield pubs, last bus back to Brighton 18.20.

Wednesday 29 Shoreham & Portslade; meet Piston Broke 11am then on to Old Star (micro pub) & Duke of Wellington (*GBG*), then on to Portslade.

Stagecoach *July*

Thursday 7 Isfield & Uckfield; 10.35 B&H 29B from Churchill Sq. (stop G) or if late 11.05 B&H 29B; either bus can alternatively be caught at Lewes (Waitrose) at 11.14/11.44 to Isfield for Laughing Fish (*GBG*) then 13.31 to Uckfield for Alma Arms (*GBG*), return to either Lewes or Brighton.

Thursday 14 Nutbourne & Petworth; 11.05 Stagecoach 1 from South street Worthing or 11.30 Stagecoach 1 from Midhurst bus stand – both buses arrive approx noon at Pulborough station, then easy road walk to Nutbourne for Rising Sun (*GBG*). Then return to Pulborough for Stagecoach 1 to Welldiggers (on A272) then into Petworth (either walk or S/C 1 hourly service) for Angel and/or Stonemasons.

Wednesday 20 Rye; 10.32 train from Brighton to Rye for Globe Inn Marsh & Ypres Castle (both *GBG*) plus other good pubs also.

Wednesday 27 Friday Street & Horsham; Meet at Horsham bus station for 11.49 Metro 93 to Kingsfold. Then footpath walk (approx 1.5m) with some stiles and could be muddy as well to Royal Oak (*GBG*). Then return to Horsham for Malt Shovel (*GBG*) or/and Anchor Tap (Dark Star).

METROBUS *August*

Thursday 4 Ditchling; 10.05 29B B&H from Churchill Sq. to Lewes bus station, then 11.00 Compass 167 (towards Burgess Hill) arrive Ditchling 11.24 OR train to Burgess Hill for 11.45 Compass 167 (towards Lewes) from Church Rd. Possibility of going on to Hurstpierpoint for White Horse and/or Poacher.

Friday 12 Snargate; 10.32 train from Brighton to Appledore, for Red Lion approx 1.5 mile road walk. Anyone with a yellow hi-viz jacket, please bring it with them.

Thursday 18 West Chiltington & Barns Green; Meet Horsham bus station for 12.35 Compass 74 to West Chiltington for Queens Head. Then 14.45 to Storrington for Moon or Anchor. From there catch Compass 74A to Barns Green for Queens Head. Return to Horsham on 17.33 Compass 74A.

Friday 26 Fulking; 10.55 B&H 77 from either Brighton Palace Pier or 11.02 Churchill Sq. to Devils Dyke – bear left down slope to bottom into pub garden, Shepherd & Dog, with a beer festival on the day. Return same route up to 18.00 B&H 77 from Dyke Hotel.

Please be aware that, due to this programme being planned months in advance, bus time tables could be changed or, worse still, cut completely by the time any trip actually takes place. All members on the mailing list will be notified of any changes as soon as I know about them. It is for this reason that it is in your best interest to join the mailing list at: beermatsRus.max@mypostoffice.co.uk, alternatively phone Max on 01243 828394.

Bru News

The Sussex Breweries Pages

Information here is mostly supplied by the named Brewery Liaison Officer. The Brewery Liaison Coordinator for London & South East Area is Peter Page-Mitchell.

1648

East Hoathly, 01825 840830.
www.1648brewing.co.uk
The brewery will be extending the supply of **Three Threads** (4.3%) into June and introducing **Jack Cade** (4.5%) in July/August, along with **Lammas Ale** (4.2%). These traditionally hued ales are of the type that is scarce in the summer months when golden ales are in abundance. There will also be more bottle-conditioned ales. On the condiments side, a Gold Angel Marmalade and a Porter Strawberry Jam will be produced in time for Father's Day.
David Platt

360°

Sheffield Park, 01825 722375.
www.360degreebrewing.com
In a very busy start to 2016, the commissioning of new equipment and storage will help to meet increased demand and the brewery will completely vacate its old premises in May when the lease expires. A regular stockist of the cask ales is the Blind Busker, Hove. **Mayflower #56** (5.6%, IPA) appeared at the Sussex Branches Beer & Cider Festival.
Jason Phillips

ADUR

Steyning, 01903 867614.
www.adurbrewery.com
The brewery was pleased to host

members of the Arun & Adur Branch, after their 12 March branch meeting, to a brewery tour and tasting. Thanks to all who attended.
Nigel Watson

ALEHOUSE & KITCHEN

Worthing, 01903 238392.
Brewing continues to take place weekly on Wednesday from 2pm. An Easter beer, **Hoppy**, took its place alongside other brews, **Alehouse Allsorts**, **Cheeky Chap**, **The Desperate Mexican**, **Mahogany Malt**, **Pale Black Mamba** and, the most popular pale beer, **Pride**.
Tim Walker

ARUNDEL

Ford, 01903 733111.
www.arundelbrewery.co.uk
Spring seasonal **Springtide** (4.6%), is now in-trade accompanied by monthly special editions, including, in May, **Black Stallion** (3.7%, mild). Speciality beers have continued with **Coffee Milk Stout** (5.0%) made with Sidamo beans - roasted, ground and immediately added to the brew - from Edgcumbes Coffee, just up the road from the brewery. **Wild Heaven** (5.2%, APA) is now available in keg form.
Jeff Vinter

ASHDOWN ALES

Buckhurst Park, Withyham, TN7 4BN
01892 770532 / 07530604064.
The demise of Turners Brewery has prevented Ashdown from brewing because they were guesting at the Turners brew house. Confidence is high that this temporary situation can be overcome and that brewing and selling can recommence quickly.
Jason Phillips

BALLARD'S

Nyewood, 01730 821362.
www.ballards-brewery.co.uk
It was necessary to bottle a second batch of this season's very popular winter brew, **Pagoda Power** (8.5%).
Barry Woodward

BARTLEBY'S

Brighton, 01273 275012 / 07518 485342.
www.bartlebysbrewery.com
Matt and Matt held a Meet the Brewer event in mid-April at the Shakespeare's Head, Brighton, where three of their ales were on.
BLO TBC

BEACHY HEAD

East Dean, 01323 423313.
www.beachyhead.org.uk
All ales are selling well and **Parsons Porter** continues to attract more fans. The Castle, Peacehaven, has joined the ever-growing list of outlets stocking the beers, while there should be more choice of the beers from now on at the Tiger, East Dean.
Tony Harman

BEDLAM

Albourne, 01273 978015.
www.bedlambrewery.co.uk
There was a successful return to Craft Beer Rising at the Old Truman's Brewery, London, where the team showcased their full range of beers to both trade and consumers. They

would also like to say how much they enjoyed the CAMRA Sussex Branches Beer & Cider Festival. Two new ales this summer will be sold on draught in keg format. Also to be launched this summer is an online store with the full range of ales available alongside other merchandise such as t-shirts, glasses and more. The tour and visitors programme is now live, with booking enquiries being taken via the website.
Peter Mitchell

BEER ME

Eastbourne, 01323 729967.
www.beermebrewery.com
The first seasonal beer, **Mars**, was well received. It is now intended to launch a summer seasonal, most likely an IPA, around June. Plans for bottling are well under way - the bottles carry the brewery's brand new logo.
Scott O'Rourke

BEERCRAFT BRIGHTON

The Watchmaker's Arms, 84 Goldstone Villas, Hove BN3 3RU, 01273 776307.
www.thewatchmakersarms.co.uk
Rick Evans, co-founder of the Watchmaker's Arms micro pub, had a long-term goal to open a micro brewery on his premises but achieved this much quicker than expected when his team met brewer Jack Tavaré. The first beer from the latter's 100-litre pilot kit was **Pilot Porter** (5.0%). There are plans for an IPA, APA and Pale Ale.
BLOTBC

BLACK CAT

Palehouse Common, Framfield, 01825 840879.
www.blackcat-brewery.com
Two more record months already this year confirm how healthy the demand for real ale continues to be in Sussex. The incremental upgrade of the brewery has begun, to increase capacity four-fold over the next six months, while small scale test brews are underway with a view to providing limited edition speciality beers across the year.
John Packer

BRICK HOUSE

Patcham, Brighton, 07708 384604.
brickhousebrewingco@gmail.com
A 4.5% version of **Requiem** appeared at the Sussex Branches Beer & Cider Festival.
BLOTBC

BRIGHTON BIER

Brighton, 01273 567374 / 07515 956976.
www.brightonbier.com
Never before had a beer been both brewed and canned in Brighton until the brewery's signature **Brighton Bier**, 4.0% pale ale, now out in eye-catching 330ml cans. A new series of canned beers will follow with **Cyclops Eyedrops** and **Downtown Charlie Brown** both available in May. The range is unfiltered and a very small amount of fermentable yeast remains in the beer. Meanwhile, supplied to the Sussex Branches Beer & Cider Festival were new beers **Freshman Vermont** (4.5%, IPA) and **Project Mayhem** (4.7%, Kolsch, collaboration with Tiny Rebel).
BLOTBC

BURNING SKY

Firle, 01273 858080.
www.burningskybeer.com
A number of beers that have been maturing in the wood will soon be available, in particular, a new bottle-conditioned **Anniversaire** and **Monolith**, plus an aged **Imperial Stout**. A **Stock Ale** is aging in mini-fouders until at least next winter; this recreation of 19th century strong (7.0%-7.5%) keeping beer, is rich and malty using wild yeast; although a blending beer, there is a possibility it will be available in bottles. The brewery has once again been invited to the biennial Toer de Geuze in Belgium, where a number of Belgium breweries and blenderies open their doors to the public. They will bring back some more Lambic beer for blending to produce their **Cuvee** and **Cuvee Reserve**. Look out for something special from the brewery in June at the South Downs Beer & Cider Festival.
Ruth Anderson

CROOKED BROOK

Copthorne, 07595 262247.
www.crookedbrook.co.uk.
Expansion plans are still on the cards. Brewing has been mostly of one-off beers, but in the permanent range are **Prizefighter** (4.3%, best bitter) and **Cascade Carousel** (4.6%, APA). There have also been two brews of **Carnival** (4.3%, golden ale). The beers have been supplied to Cobbett's off-licence and micro pup, Dorking; Hop Stop beer shop, Oxted, Radius Arms micro pub, Whyteleafe; Open Arms micro pub, East Grinstead; also to Worthing (Selden Arms, Brooksteed Alehouse, Anchored in Worthing) and to beer festivals including Equinox and Sussex Branches.
BLOTBC

DARK STAR

Partridge Green, 01403 713085.
www.darkstarbrewing.co.uk
It all started on a Sunday morning last August when James was picking hedgerow blackberries for a crumble and had the idea for a thoroughly English fruit beer. He announced it to the brewing team who felt that it would work well as a wheat beer. Fast forward a couple of weeks and with too much time and misguided imagination James thinks up the name **Wheat Purple** (a nod to his own youth spent being deafened by rock band Deep Purple). So excited by their own genius, news of the secret trial brew was shared with the few people that happen to use the internet. So far, so good. Unforeseen

problem: blackberries in beer produce a (to put it politely) dirty brown colour. Now at this point Headmaster Paul thumps the table and insists that no artificial colours are going to be added to a Dark Star beer. The beetroot juice was too red while the black grape skin extract just settled out, but black carrot juice was perfect (apparently all carrots were black before orange ones were invented). **Wheat Purple** has been Dark Star's second ever fruit beer (after **Seville**) and also their first ever vegetable beer (or was it a smoothie?).
Clive Watson

DOWNLANDS

Small Dole, 01273 495596.
www.downlandsbrewery.com
A 4.8% IPA, named **Northern Hemisphere** after the location of its hops, was launched in March at the Sussex Branches Beer & Cider Festival and is proving very popular. More new beers are planned.
Roger Coton

FILO

Hastings, 01424 420212.
www.filobrewing.co.uk
A new special brew **Thirst of May** (pale ale, approx. 4.0%) is being introduced for the Hastings Jack-in-the-Green Festival (29 April - 2 May). This will supplement the regular favourites **Crofters**, **Gold**, **Old Town Tom** and **Churches**. Brewing is currently near full capacity and demand for FILO beers remains strong in various pubs throughout Sussex and Kent.
Bill Turner

FIREBIRD

Rudgwick, 01403 823180.
www.firebirdbrewing.co.uk
The recent St Patrick's day event was a great success, attracting over 400 people. The image redesigns for pump clips and bottle labels is now complete. New beers will include **Summer Sorachi** using the Sorachi Ace hop, together with **Paleface**, which will go into craft keg for the first time. Sales of craft keg beers are increasing rapidly and being stocked by a number of JD Wetherspoon pubs, including one which has the draught lager **Bohemia** on as a permanent listing.
Roger Tofts

FRANKLINS

Bexhill, 01424 731066.
www.franklinsbrewery.co.uk
The first keg product, **A Bitter Pils to Swallow** (4.7%, English craft pilsner), was released in March and will be followed up with at least two more. It is permanently on the bar at the newly opened Observer Building, Hastings, and many other places. A bottled range is also released and available. The team are in the process of finding a new home as they have outgrown their current site.
Mac McCutcheon

GOLDMARK

Poling, 01903 297838 / 07900 555415.
www.goldmarks.co.uk
A new beer, **TFFT** (6.0%, APA), is to be brought out to mark the occasion of the brewery's third year. Also in the pipeline is **Humbucker Double IPA**, 8.5%. Brewer Frank McCabe is back after his motorcycle accident and a fifth fermenting vessel has been invested in.
Jim Waterston

GOLDSTONE

Ditchling, 01444 257053.
www.goldstonebrewery.co.uk
A 4.5% version of the APA, **Belma** was supplied to the Sussex Branches Beer & Cider Festival, alongside the golden ale **Old Charmer**, also 4.5%.
Paul Free

GREYHOUND

Smock Alley, West Chiltington, 07973 625510.
www.greyhoundbrewery.co.uk
Summer seasonal beers are being developed so look out for new hoppy ale **Tree Frog** (4.8%) and high octane **Rainbow Eyes** (5.2%). The four core beers are still selling well with **Blonde Bird** (3.9%) now available in keg. The brewery will be supplying the beer for the tent at Sadcase car club classic vehicle show in Storrington on 31 July. The team are excited to be finalists in this year's Indie Can Competition and is looking forward to seeing their beer in a can together with fellow Sussex brewery, Firebird.
Ray Pilkington

GRIBBLE

The Gribble Inn, Oving, 01243 786893.
www.gribbleinn.co.uk
Production and sales are up with several new outlets on the books. The usual beer range has been enhanced with a 3.8% **Chocolate and Lime**. This has received a mixed reception but another new offering is in development, hopefully in time for Yapton Beerex.
Chris Wright

GUN

Heathfield, 01323 700200 / 07900 683355.
www.gunbrewery.co.uk
The year got off to a great start when the users of RateBeer.com (the international beer enthusiasts' website) voted Gun the "Best New Brewery in East Sussex." All four regular cask beers - **Scaramanga Extra Pale** (3.9%), **Parabellum Milk Stout** (4.1%), **Project Babylon Pale Ale** (4.6%), **Zamzama IPA** (6.5%) - will now also be available in keg as well as KeyKeg. The kegged beer will continue to be unfined and unfiltered. The Smallbatch range - smaller brews of more esoteric beers - has recently featured a **Black IPA** and an **Imperial Whisky Stout** (8.5%).

This year will see the brewery continue to expand its range with several new beers planned.
Steve Obey

HAMMERPOT

Poling, 01903 883338.
www.hammerpot-brewery.co.uk
A good trading quarter for the men of the Vinery. **Bottle Wreck Porter** has again made the final six in the Porter category of the London & South East Area Champion Beer of Britain Competition; it also did well at the recent Reading Beer Festival. Upcoming specials include **Summer Ale** (3.7%), **Mosaic Pale** (4.1%) and, for Euro 2016, **This England** (4.0%).
Tim Walker

HARVEYS

Lewes, 01273 480209.
www.harveys.org.uk
The brewery won two awards in the recent London & South East Area Champion Beer of Britain Competition: **Imperial Extra Double Stout** was judged Gold in the Real Ale in a Bottle Category; **Old Ale** was judged Bronze in the Old Ale and Strong Mild Category. A fresh brew of **Southdown Harvest** using the Sussex Hop that won the championship at the IBD Hop Awards 2015, has recently been bottled. It will be on draught in June as **Sussex Champion**. Harveys will feature as the only cask ale at the 'Brighton Big Screen' on Brighton beach from 10 June to 10 July. The new kegging plant is now installed and trials will commence shortly. Three separate beers are planned, including a blond and a stout, while some novel concepts are also being examined.
Jack Wilkinson

HASTINGS

St Leonards-on-Sea, 01424 572050.
www.hastingsbrewery.co.uk
The team are still waiting for further plans before brewing will recommence, and are looking later in the year for a possible start date.
Peter Page-Mitchell

HEATHEN

Haywards Heath, 01444 456217 / 07825 429428.
www.heathenbrewers.co.uk
New beer, **Heathen Farmhouse** (4.7%, Belgian style) was much appreciated by discerning drinkers at both the Equinox and Sussex Branches beer festivals. In collaboration with the other Haywards Heath brewery, Top Notch, two smoked ales - **Old Chuffer**, 5.0%, and **Ageing Chuffer**, 7.5% - are under development to celebrate in September the 175th anniversary of the town's railway.
Ruth Anderson

HEPWORTH

Horsham, 01403 269696.
www.hepworthbrewery.co.uk
After fifteen years at the Beer Station, the move to the new brewery building at Brindsbury is expected to be completed by the end of May. The first brews at the new site will include regular seasonal **Summer Ale** and a special IPA. Check the website for regularly updated pictures of the new brewhouse.
Chris Stringer

HIGH WEALD

East Grinstead, 07836 291430.
www.highwealdbrewery.co.uk
The new addition to the cask ale range, **First Gold IPA** (5.6%), is proving popular in pubs and festivals including Egham, Equinox and Sussex Branches. **Chronicle**, **Greenstede** and **Charcoal Burner** continue to do well at the usual local outlets and farther afield. More additions to the range are being developed.
Jonathan Samways

HOP YARD

Forest Row, 07769 313410.
www.hopyardbrewing.co.uk
The end of the refurbishment is in sight and a new stage has been built for music events. The brewery will be reopening with an event on the weekend of 27 May.
BLO TBC

HURST

Hurstpierpoint, 07866 438953.
www.hurstbrewery.co.uk
Sales continue to grow with February showing the best sales figures since the brewery opened four years ago. Plans for expansion are ongoing. The bottling unit is working at capacity and bottle conditioned **Founder's Best Bitter** is now available in a range of Sussex pubs, off licences and farm shops. Other beers will be bottled during the coming months. Seasonal summer ale, **Summer 700**, will be making a reappearance at the beginning of May and plans are afoot to add an additional session beer to the range.
Steve Floor

ISFIELD

Framfield, 01825 750633 / 07803 716758.
www.isfieldbrewing.co.uk
The full range of the 'stock' beers is currently available: **Imperial** (3.7%), **Straw Blond** (4.1%), **Toad in the Ale** (4.8%), **Stiltwalker** (5.2%) and **Amberescent** (4.0%). The single hop summer ale, **Dr Rudi's** (3.6%) is likely to be available in May.
Ian Hartwright

KILN

Burgess Hill, 07800 556729.
www.thekilnbrewery.co.uk
The brewery's flagship beer **Boardwalk** (4.5%) and the more recent brew **Bricks & Porter** (5.6%) both made an appearance at the CAMRA Sussex Branches Beer & Cider Festival. The latter beer was especially well received.
Paul Free

KING BEER

Horsham, 01403 272102.
www.kingbeer.co.uk
Brewing capacity has been further increased recently to meet demand for the King and other beer brands now being brewed by Jordan, Justin and the team. With space at a premium, the shop is unlikely to re-open in the near future.
Mike Head

KISSINGATE

Lower Beeding, 01403 891335 / 07909 975664.
www.kissingate.co.uk
New beer **Metal Cat** (5.8%, amber) will be officially launched at the brewery's Spring Festival on Saturday 14 May. A trio of milds including **Black Cherry** (4.2%), **Gardenia** (4.5%) and **Mary's Ruby** (6.5%) will also make a seasonal appearance. A new pale ale is due for release in midsummer. Bottle production has increased and **Six Crows** (6.6%, stout) is the latest addition to the range. Gary and Bunny now invite local villagers and folks from further afield to 'Micro Club' nights, held at the brewery on the last Friday of the month. Memberships are available.
Roy Bray

LAINE

The North Laine, Brighton, 01273 683666.
www.drinkinbrighton.co.uk/north-laine
New beer **Tap Taketh Over** (5.2%, inter-continentally hopped pale ale) debuted during the recent Drink In Brighton Tap Takeover Beer Festival. A series of single hop ales is now being launched, each brew intended to show off the qualities and differences between each hop.
Ruth Anderson

LANGHAM

Lodsworth, 01798 860861.
www.langhambrewery.co.uk
Some new plant and equipment will all be delivered by mid-May and a new product range is to be launched in July. The Yapton Beerex will meanwhile see the birth of the truly pukka patriotic English pale ale, **Jester EPA**, in time for the Queen's Birthday celebrations!
Peter Luff

LISTER'S

Ford, 01903 885950 / 07775 853412.
www.listersbrewery.com
Expansion continues as demand continues to grow and plans are in the pipeline for an IPA later this year. The beers will soon be available in the north of England and plans are in place to choose an 'e-tailer' later this year.
Glenn Johnson

LITTLEHAMPTON

Littlehampton, 01903 715111.
www.littlehamptonbrewery.co.uk
Brewery membership at £10 allows 15% off all drinks and 10% of all food at the Tap and Barrel brewpub, where the full range of the brewery's beers is served on stillage. There are members' evenings and members' BBQs throughout the year and the brewpub also hosts regular music events.
BLOTBC

LONG MAN

Litlington, 01323 871850 / 07976 777992.
www.longmanbrewery.com
The brewery continues to grow with three new employees joining the team recently. The Rugby-themed **Number Eight** (4.4%) appeared in the spring. The award winning **Golden Tipple** (4.7%), brewed with Tipple Barely from the farm, will return for a three-month period from May, while a brand new beer is appearing in August. **Old Man** (4.3%) picked up a silver in the Strong Milds category in the London & South East Area Champion Beer of Britain Competition.
Scott O'Rourke

NAKED

Lancing, 01903 791230.
www.nakedbeerco.co.uk
Flashing Amber (4.2%, American Amber Ale) was launched in March. **Full On** (7.2%, IPA) was piloted in January at the Selden Arms Beer Festival and it is hoped to brew it again later this year. It uses Magnum, Sorachi Ace, Simcoe, Mosaic and Centennial hops, blended with rye and another ingredient to create a crisp and tropical explosion with a smooth alcoholic finish. The brewery is collaborating with Stock Burger Co., a grill house beneath Brighton's Holiday Inn, to produce the 4.5% house beer, **Stock Burger Co IPA**. They also aim to brew two specials each month.
Phil Boiling

OLD PRENTONIAN

Sompting, 07708 690237.
'Ello Treacle Stowt (4.0%) won several votes for best Dark Beer of the Festival award at the Spring Equinox Beer Festival, and also appeared alongside **Smokey Joe** (4.5%) at the Sussex Branches Beer & Cider Festival. The Egham Beer Festival is also being supplied. Alternative plans are afoot regarding premises and brewing following a recent disappointment. A web page should go live shortly and they are also considering an associated YouTube channel.
Tim Walker

OLD TREE

Brighton, 07413 064346.
www.oldtreebrewery.com
Old Tree has moved operations to Preston Barracks on Lewes Road. There are no new beers to report.
Andrew Coleman

PELLS BREWING CO-OP

The Elephant and Castle, Lewes, 01273 473797.
www.pellsbrewingcoop.org
The new kit has not yet been put to

use. A cask of **House IPA** (6.4%) was the first to sell out at the Sussex Branches Beer & Cider Festival; another cask of it should be ready for the South Downs Beer & Cider Festival. New beer **Sweet Treacle Porter** is available in bottles while **Beery McBeerface** (a strong IPA) will soon be available in a very limited run.
BLO TBC

PIN UP

Southwick, 01273 411127.
www.pinupbrewingco.com
A new mezzanine floor is in place to increase space, with new copper (boil pot) and hot liquor tank to help maximise brewing capacity and efficiency. **Honey Brown** is now in 330ml bottles to great reception as well as the new 5.0% **Pilsner**. As for 'craft beer', **Milk Stout**, **Pale Ale**, **Pilsner** and **cider** are now in kegs, and the brewery will start to keg in-house this summer.
Adrian Towler

RECTORY

Streat, 01273 890570.
The Reverend Godfrey has purchased new kit and will very soon recommence brewing.
Jack Wilkinson

RIVERSIDE

Upper Beeding, 01903 898030.
www.riversidebreweryltd.co.uk
The brew kit is fully installed and working hard. The brewing schedule is being increased as sales are starting to pick up. The team participated in the Steyning Festival and offered a brewery tour and tastings at the end of May. They are also involved with St Peters Church, Upper Beeding, which is holding a beer festival from 11-12 June in celebration of the Queens 90th Birthday. Plans are in hand to launch by mid-May a fifth beer, a 3.5% golden ale.
Phil Boiling

ROTHER VALLEY

Northiam, 01797 252922 / 07798 877551.
www.rothervalleybrewery.co.uk
Seasonal ale **Honeyfuzz** is being brewed for April/May with an increased ABV from 3.8% to 4.1%. Also available in May, now that organic ingredients have been sourced, is **O.P.M.** (4.6%).
Dawn Lincoln

THREE LEGS

Brede, 07783 973161
www.thethreelegs.co.uk
info@thethreelegs.co.uk
Two new fermenters are now commissioned and brewing is two or three times a week. By this summer an additional conditioning tank will be in use, enabling beer in kegs. The original IPA has now been replaced with **English IPA**, 5.5%, complete with distinctive blue pump clip. A special Christmas beer has been brewed, about 7.0%. It will be stored in 660ml bottles before its seasonal release. The brewery is seeking suggestions for the name. Contact them via the website or above number.
Peter Harrison

TOP NOTCH

Haywards Heath, 07963 829368.
www.topnotchbrewing.co.uk
Al recently upgraded to a 1BBL kit (162 litre/4 firkins) to satisfy increased demand. **#Bonzer**, **Flare-Path** and **Royal Fanfare** are the current spring beers. **Old Chuffer** (7.5%, Vintage Smoked Porter) is being test brewed with Heathen Brewers for release in commemorative bottles to celebrate 175 years of the London-Brighton railway through Haywards Heath. More new cask specials are coming soon, including **Oatmeal Red** and **Pilsner Blonde**.
Keith Newell

TURNERS

Ringmer, 08456 892689 / 07896 598172.
www.turnersbrewery.com
The brewery ceased trading this March.
Jason Phillips

UNBARRED

Hove, 07850 070471.
www.unbarredbrewery.com
There will be a range of cask beer from Two Tribes (at Horsham, where brewer Jordan works) known as the UnBarred Series. The first cask, out in early April, is a 5.2% **Indian Brown Ale**, using traditional English malt with experimental US hops. **Benchmark** appeared at the Sussex Branches Beer & Cider Festival and Jordan will continue to bottle from the brewery.
BLO TBC

WELTONS

Horsham, 01403 242901.
www.weltonsbeer.co.uk
The bar is being made for the open nights to be held at the brewery every last Friday of the month, often with Morris dancing and brewery priced beer. There will be live band nights also. Follow the brewery on Twitter @weltonsbrewery or see website for details. **English Pale**, a dark amber bitter at 3.8% is on its ninth brew and has been such a success that it is now to be brewed all year round. **American Graffitti**, a 4.5% golden APA brewed with American Zeus hops will also be a regular, to be available for seven months. May beers include **Broadwood**, 4.0%, **Buckland Shag**, 4.7%, **Topper Mild**, 4.0%, and **Rampant Rooster**, a 5.0% IPA. June beers will include **Vardy Party** at around 4.0%, to hopefully help celebrate English success at the Euros!
Nigel Bullen

CIDER HOUSE NOTES

I'm just recovering from the Sussex Branches Beer & Cider Festival, setting up, running the Cider Bar where we were serving thirty ciders, eleven perries and one cider-perry, and helping to convene the Surrey & Sussex Regional Cider Competition. Everything went reasonably smoothly, with many thanks to all the Cider Bar Team, especially Roger and Malcolm. And I'm pleased to be able to announce the results of both the Regional Cider Competition and the Cider and Perry of the Festival, though of course this will be old news when you come to read this.

Cider of the Festival was Seacider, made by Matt at Ditchling Common, next to Goldstone Brewery; Tutts Clump, in West Berkshire was a close second.

The runaway winner of Perry of the Festival was Black Pig Orchards at Danehill – and they almost didn't supply us, as Mike felt that the perry wasn't really ready!

Winner of the Regional Cider Competition was JB Cider, of Maplehurst, with a newcomer coming in second – Bignose & Beardy, based in Framfield, East Sussex. The two photographs show me presenting winner's certificates to Vanessa and Mike Fishlock of Black Pig Orchards and to John Batcheldor of JB Cider.

I was fascinated by the name of Bignose & Beardy, so had to find out more about them. Their story will enlighten you to their intent and origins. Their enthusiasm is obvious from their own words, which is why I asked their permission to quote them verbatim! The cider that won them the second place was Oast Toast – it was indeed quite 'toasty' in flavour. Following their story is an article written by Ben Fairall of Village Green Cider, Turners Hill.

By the time you read all of this, we'll be preparing for loads of other festivals; please look at the calendar of events in this edition of *Sussex Drinker* for a list.

Jackie Johnson
Cider Rep, Brighton & South Downs Branch.

Bignose & Beardy

What are we about?
Traditional real cider made with enthusiasm in Framfield. It's flat, it's still, it's unfiltered, it's slow fermented in small batches. We leave it alone for months and months and let nature do its thing. It doesn't seem right to mess with it so we add nothing (unless we decide to sweeten it at the end). We never know what we are going to get and we celebrate each batch as a unique moment, those apples, that orchard, that mix of fruit from that season. When it's gone, it's gone.

All our apples come from local gardens and orchards from villages around Framfield in East Sussex. Many of them are donated or swapped

for cider. The apples are hand picked and we press them on sunny autumn days on the farm. Hot and sticky work, but once we've crushed and pressed the apples and cleaned up the mess we made it's essentially a lazy way to make cider, a slow way, a patient way: because we do nothing more than wait until it's ready, which can take a very long time...

Although we taste it every now and again, we never know what we are going to get until the end. One day in midsummer we'll try it and it will be ready. Then we have a party.

Where did we come from?

Bignose & Beardy are Phil Day and Steve Stark (pictured). The Cidery is named after their most prominent features, although, as they age, Baldy & Baldy might become more appropriate. Both work full time so cider is an out of control hobby. Being outdoors, picking fruit with friends, the mechanical process of getting the juice, sunshine, and the joy of making a thing are the reasons we do it. Plus it tastes good. Neither has any relevant experience or much competence and really the best thing you can say about their approach to cider making is that it's enthusiastic. After all, there is only one thing better than getting to the top of the mountain, and that's getting there have been lost on the way. If it wasn't fun they wouldn't do it.

Where do we do it?

Framfield is a small village on the edge of the Weald. We are surrounded by green rolling fields, oak trees, sheep and horses against a backdrop of the South Downs just where they meet the sea. It's good apple country and it's a good place to be outdoors. All around us are forgotten orchards in gardens, estates and neglected corners, as well as good friends we've made who grow fruit commercially - a lot of their sweat and tears go into our cider too. The sun always seems to shine when we are picking or pressing. That helps.

The Cidery is based on Bignose's small holding. The hens and ducks like to watch. The pigs and sheep provide company, and, in due course the filling for a sandwich. Friends come over to help and neighbours bring us apples or like to stand and watch us at our toils. So it's a friendly business.

Our Ciders

One off small batches of slow fermented Real Cider pressed with enthusiasm from hand picked local apples in Framfield, East Sussex, available in 330ml bottles or bag in boxes.

A bit of OMFF! 4.5%

From the odd garden sack full to the odd truckload of apples from forgotten orchards around the village, this batch has a few more cookers than our other ciders. It reminds us of days searching through long grass with the children, Oscar, Margot, Felix and Freddie climbing and picking from the trees - this batch is dedicated to them.

Cockhaisy 4.5%

Roger and Cathy moved to Cockhaise Mill farm and found an orchard bursting with apples overlooking the Bluebell Railway. We gave this mix of cookers and eaters a second life. This reminds us of a sunny day picking with our friends, the children on tractors, a picnic by the pond and steam trains whistling.

Oast Toast 4.5%

A mix of Cox and Bramley with a touch of Red Gloss, from the orchards of Oast Fruit Farm at Buxted. We pressed this one in the darkest depths of February in the cold, wet and frost - numb fingers and a labour of love, enjoy this

one, it's a one off and won't be repeated!

Last Pear 4.5%
Dom and Cassie found two ancient pear trees among their apples, the last of their kind: hard to pick, hard to press but exploding with juice. We blended them with conference pears and balanced them with cookers. We'll take cuttings from those trees and hope for more.

Phil Day and Steve Stark
Bignose & Beardy

Growing a Micro Cider Business in Turners Hill - Village Green Cider

The last year has been fantastic fun; we have grown our cider from just a small hobby to where hundreds of people can enjoy it. The concept of creating a cider began when Ben was just 18 years old. Inspired after visiting a cider farm in Cornwall, he thought "surely, there is a better thing to do with our apples than have a daily apple pie/crumble". Only nine pints were made in the first year, but things kept growing. When more apples were required, Ben encouraged people from the village to get involved, swapping their apples for juice and cider. At this stage, seeing how much people were enjoying it, we knew we were onto something.

At university, Ben met Jack on a cycle ride; he heard Jack was also interested in making cider and had just planted a cider apple orchard. So they went to the place were the very best ideas are crafted - the British pub. Right there, while sitting in the sunshine, Village Green Cider was born. Jack had agreed to create a much bigger press so they could go from a small-scale project to something much larger. After a trial year, and popularity from friends and family, we decided to set up formally. We were worried that as such a small business we would struggle to meet regulatory requirements, however the council have been supportive and all visits have been successful.

In this first official year, we created 500 pints (which we thought was a lot!). But again, it was very popular. After winning the 2015 CAMRA Regional Cider Competition for Surrey & Sussex, we sold out in two weeks. Sadly, apples grow only once a year. The next step was to make even more yet keep creating a cider that everyone loves. After forming a plan for a larger press we decided that we would also launch a Village Green Cider Norfolk, at Jack's home. This meant we could share the equipment and knowledge across both ciders and spread the word of craft cider even quicker.

Across both sites we have crafted nearly 20,000 pints this year. We have had fantastic support from local CAMRA, not only with their assistance pressing some of the apples, but also raising awareness of craft cider in the area through festivals, competitions and word of mouth. It has really helped our cider grow. Follow on Facebook:/VillageGreenCider; Watch on YouTube "How Award Winning Village Green Cider is Crafted"; and most importantly, taste it - at the Open Arms, East Grinstead (more regular places soon to be announced on Facebook)

Ben Fairall
Owner, Village Green Cider Sussex

fig. 4.

THE WESTBOURNE

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DARK STAR

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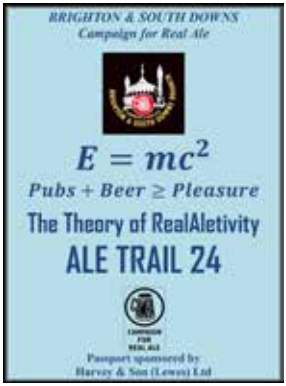

The Brighton & South Downs Branch Ale Trail run from the end of May until the end of September and passports will be available from all forty participating pubs, listed below. A Cider Rider will also be run in conjunction. The theme for this year is E = mc2, The Theory of RealAletivity. It marks the centenary of Albert Einstein's General Theory of Relativity. The launch will be Sunday 29 May from about 7.30pm (Bank Holiday Weekend) at a venue yet to be announced as we go to press. For an update, please visit the branch website, www.brightoncamra.org.

Ale Trail 24

BARCOMBE: Royal Oak; **BRIGHTON**: Admiral, Basketmakers Arms, Bevy, Brighton Beer Dispensary, Craft Beer Company, Evening Star, Hand in Hand, Mitre Tavern, Prince Albert, Victory Inn; **DITCHLING**: White Horse; **FALMER**: Swan Inn; **HOVE**: Neptune Inn, Watchmaker's Arms, Westbourne; **ISFIELD**: Laughing Fish; **LEWES**: Black Horse, Brewers Arms, Elephant & Castle, Gardener's Arms, John Harvey Tavern, Lewes Arms, Rights of Man, Snowdrop Inn; **NEWHAVEN**: Hope Inn; **NEWICK**: Crown Inn; **PORTSLADE**: Stags Head, Stanley Arms; **RINGMER**: Anchor Inn, Cock Inn; **ROTTINGDEAN**: Queen Victoria; **SEAFORD**: Wellington Hotel; **SHOREHAM-BY-SEA**: Duke of Wellington, Old Star Ale & Cider House, Piston Broke; **SOUTH CHAILEY**: Horns Lodge Inn; **UCKFIELD**: Alma Arms, Highlands Inn; **WIVELSFIELD GREEN**: Cock Inn.

Beer Tent
www.ale-inatent.co.uk

Floral Fringe Fair, Knepp Castle, West Grinstead, West Sussex RH13 8LJ
Saturday 4th - Sunday 5th June

Dene Steam Rally, Starter Gate Farm, Charlwood Lane, Monkwood, Ropley, Hampshire SO24 0HA
Saturday 25th & Sunday 26th June

Sadcase Car Show, Storrington Recreation Ground, Storrington, West Sussex RH20 4HJ
Sunday 31st July

Harvesting The Old Fashioned Way, Oldwick Farm, West Stoke, Chichester, West Sussex PO18 9AA
Saturday 3rd & Sunday 4th September

Eastbourne SteamPunk Festival, Eastbourne Seafront on the green by The Wish Tower
Saturday 10th & 11th September

07778 551352 / info@ale-inatent.co.uk

Beer Day Britain 15 June 2016

SAVE THE DATE — 15 June is Britain's national beer day and 2016 is the second in what will be an annual celebration of our national drink. The idea of Beer Day Britain is for beer drinkers, brewers, pubs, bars, and beer retailers to take ownership of the day and encourage people to spread the word, to drink beer, and mark the day in any way they want — as long as it involves beer! There will be a National Cheers To Beer at 7pm, but people can do it at whatever time they want. The significance of 15 June is that Magna Carta was sealed on that date in 1215; ale is mentioned in Clause 35 of Magna Carta and ale was fundamental to life in 1215. You will probably agree with me that in 2016 it still is!

Beer Day Britain 2015 was a great success and there was much media and social media interest. The National Cheers to Beer trended on Twitter with #CheersBDB; the *Daily Star* devoted the front-page headline and a page inside to Beer Day Britain; meanwhile newspapers, magazines, TV and dozens of radio stations printed and broadcast features about it. Several brewers brewed celebration ales; Tesco included the Beer Day Britain logo on its own label beers, and Twitter and Instagram users were very active in celebrating the day. We aim to do the same again in 2016 so please Tweet a message and photo with the hashtag #CheersToBeer. The Twitter address is @BeerDayBritain. We are also on Facebook.

Beer Day Britain is supported by major organisations in the beer industry including Britain's Beer Alliance, British Beer & Pub Association, Society of Independent Brewers, Campaign for Real Ale, Cask Marque, Association of Licensed Multiple Retailers, British Hop Association and more. There's a Beer For That was the key partner in 2015, and I am very grateful that they will be again in 2016. If you want to be involved with Beer Day Britain, please visit www.BeerDayBritain.co.uk, download a logo and information pack, help spread the word, build support and anticipation, go to the pub, arrange events, host parties, visit a brewery, ride on an ale rail, brew a celebration ale, and above all have a great time drinking beer on Wednesday 15 June!

Cheers to Beer.

Jane Peyton
Instigator of Beer Day Britain

We are a country pub situated deep in the heart of Sussex. Here you will find a large selection of local and national ales on 8 hand pumps.

We have an extensive food menu prepared from fresh local ingredients.

Fresh local food served all day Friday to Sunday, and lunch and dinner Monday to Thursday.

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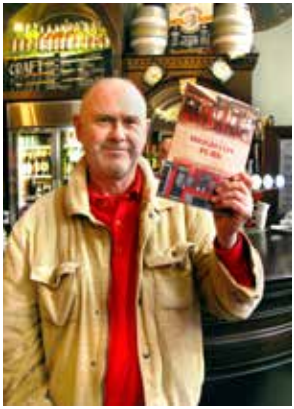
Celebrating 13 years in the *Good Beer Guide*

Come and celebrate Great Beer in our lovely Beer Garden

01403 265028 *The-Sussex-Oak-at-Wareham*

Books on Sussex Pubs



Brighton Pubs by David Muggleton has now been published by Amberley of Stroud, Gloucestershire. At 96 pages with nearly 100 illustrations, it gives a detailed history and guided walking tour of 45 of the city's most notable pubs - including the Louis XIV-style, Grade-II listed building that is now the Post & Telegraph, in which your editor is pictured holding his book. Purchase it from bookstores both real and virtual, including the publisher's website at https://www.amberley-books.com/brighton-pubs.html.

Also in the same series from Amberley, due for publication on Friday 15 July, is *Lewes Pubs* by Kevin Newman, who explores the trivial, the unknown, the spooky, the unusual and the achievements that have taken place in the town's pubs. He also tells of the many characters that have frequented or run Lewes' public houses, including the pub that stands on the site of the UK's highest death toll from an avalanche. Pre order it at: https://www.amberley-books.com/coming-soon/lewes-pubs.html.

Known locally as Wipers this 17th century pub offers five real ales and locally produced food.

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www.yprescastleinn.co.uk

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Sun 11-10.30pm

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dukeofwellingtonbrewhouse.co.uk/seasonal

Beer Festivals and other Delights

CAMRA EVENTS IN BOLD. For FREE inclusion in this column, contact the Editor; for PAID advertisements contact Neil Richards. Copy-by date and contact details on p. 3.

May 13-15 **27th YAPTON BEEREX**, Yapton & Ford Village Hall, Main Road, Yapton, BN18 0ET, www.westernsussexcamra.org.uk

May 14 Kissingate Brewery Spring Festival, 11am-8pm, Pole Barn, Church Lane Farm Estate, Lower Beeding, RH13 6LU, 01403 891335, www.kissingate.co.uk

May 14 16th Loxwood Beer & Music Festival, 1pm-11pm, North Hall, Guildford Road, Loxwood, RH14 0SF, www.loxwoodbeerfestival.com

May 14-15 Bill Target Memorial Steam Rally, Beer Tent Event, Highbridge Farm, Highbridge Road, Eastleigh, Hants, SO50 6HN, 07778 551352, www.ale-inatent.co.uk

May 20 Train to London Pubs, TTLP29. To various parts of southeast London to visit four Late Knights Brewery pubs, and if we get time a fifth one in N4. To be included on mailout list contact Pete Brown, 01243 552908, peteb@custardtowers.plus.com

May 20-21 Portsmouth Guildhall Beerex, Guildhall Square, Portsmouth, Hampshire, PO1 2AB, 0844 847 2362, portsmouthbeerfestival.wordpress.com

May 20-22 Dean Ale & Cider House Festival, Midhurst Road, West Dean, PO18 0QX, 01243 811465, www.thedeaninn.co.uk

May 27 Bluebell Railway Rail Ale Evenings (also July 29 and Aug 19), The Bluebell Railway, Sheffield Park Station, TN22 3QL, 01825 720800, www.bluebell-railway.com/event/rail-ale-evenings

May 27-28 Southwick Beer & Music Festival, Southwick Community Centre, 24 Southwick Street, Southwick, BN42 4TE, 01273 597094, www.southwickbeerfestival.co.uk

May 27-29 Beer & Cider by the Sea, Western Lawns, Eastbourne, BN21 4UH, 01323 412000, www.visiteastbourne.com/events

May 27-29 Kings Arms Third Annual Real Ale Festival, 16 ales (3 racks of 6) plus craft lager TBA nearer the time, food provided by Boca Loca (www.bocaloco.co.uk), music outside on the hill on the Sunday afternoon, 36 Tarrant Street, Arundel, BN18 9DN, 01903 885569, www.facebook.com/Kings-Arms-161633347180633

May 27-30 Crown Inn Real Ale and Cider Festival Weekend, 22 Church Road, Newick, BN8 4JX, 01825 723293, www.thecrownatnewick.co.uk

May 28 Spin Up in a Brewery, Beer, Bikes & BBQ, Dark Star Brewing Co, Star Road, Partridge Green, RH13 8RA, 01403 713085, www.darkstarbrewing.co.uk/events/spin-up-in-a-brewery

May 28-30 Wheatsheaf Beer Festival, Mount Pleasant, Jarvis Brook, Crowborough, TN6 2NF, 01892 667356, www.wheatsheafcrowborough.co.uk

May 28-30 Wivelsfield Beer Festival at the Cock Inn, North Common Road, Wivelsfield Green, RH17 7RH, 01444 471668, www.cockinn-wivelsfield.co.uk

May 28-31 6th Annual Sussex Ale Festival,

Sussex County Cricket Club, The 1st Central County Ground, Eaton Road, Hove, BN3 3BE, 0844 264 0202, www.countygroundsussex.co.uk/events

June 2-4 **20th SOUTHAMPTON BEER FESTIVAL**, Southampton O2 Guildhall, West Marlands Road, SO14 7LP, 07884 693085, www.southamptonbeerfestival.org.uk

June 3-5 Glastonwick, Adur's 21st Annual Beer, Music, Poetry & More Beer Festival, Church Farm, Coombes, BN15 0RS, 07756 956483, www.cask-ale.co.uk/beerfestival.html

June 4 Summer in the Cemetery! Cemetery Tour featuring the past publicans and hoteliers of Worthing, organised by the Friends of Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery. Meet 10.45am inside the main entrance in South Farm Road, Worthing, BN14 7TP, www.fbwc.co.uk/activities.asp

June 4-5 Floral Fringe Fair, Beer Tent Event, Knepp Castle, West Grinstead, RH13 8LJ, 07778 551352, www.ale-inatent.co.uk

June 9-12 Wilkes Head Beer Festival, starts 5pm Thursday, Church Lane, Eastergate, PO20 3UT, 01243 543380, www.wilkesheadeastergate.co.uk

June 11-12 Bouquets and Beer, St Peter's Church Flower and Beer Festival in celebration of the Queens 90th Birthday; real ales from Adur and Riverside breweries in the Rectory garden, plus lunchtime BBQ both days, Church Lane, Upper Beeding, BN44 3HP, 01903 810265

June 15 Beer Day Britain, www.BeerDayBritain.co.uk

June 17-18 **8th ANNUAL KENT & EAST SUSSEX RAILWAY BEER & CIDER FESTIVAL**, Tenterden Town Station, Station Road, Tenterden, Kent, TN30 6HE, www.camra-afrm.org.uk/festivals/camra-kesr-beer-festival

June 17-18 **20th SOUTH DOWNS BEER & CIDER FESTIVAL**, Lewes Town Hall, BN7 2Q5, www.brightoncamra.org.uk

June 17-19 Shepherd & Dog Cider Festival, The Street, Fulking, BN5 9LU, 01273 857382, www.shepherdanddogpub.co.uk

June 17-19 Three Moles Beer Festival, from 4pm Friday and 12noon Saturday and Sunday, 14 ales, cider, open mic on Friday night, live music on Saturday night, food available all weekend, camping 5 mins walk £6 per person, Selham, GU28 0PH, 01798 861303, www.thethreemoles.co.uk/events

June 18-19 West's Wood Fair; The Wood Turner's Rest will be serving a selection of real ale from the Big Shed Brewery and others. With live music throughout the weekend and many timber related exhibits and demonstrations; New Barn, Newhouse Lane, East Dean, Nr. Chichester, PO18 0NJ, 01243 811354, www.westswoodfair.co.uk

June 25 Horsham Cricket Club Beer & Music Festival: a beer festival combined with music from top tribute groups, local derby Sussex Premier League cricket, and food; Horsham Sports Club, Cricketfield Road, Horsham, RH12 1TE, 01403 254628, www.horshamsportsclub.com

June 25-26 Dene Steam Rally, Beer Tent Event, Starter Gate Farm, Charlwood Lane, Monkwood, Ropley, Hants, SO24 0HA, 07778 551352, www.ale-inatent.co.uk

July 1-3 Chichester Inn Annual Beer Festival, 38 West Street, Chichester, PO19 1RP, 01243 783185, www.chichesterinn.co.uk

July 1-3 White Horse Beer Festival with live music everyday and food all day, camping also available, Graffham, GU28 0NT, 01798 867331, www.whitehorsegraffham.com

July 16 Ashstock Plus, 12noon onwards, locals' bands throughout, stalls, children's entertainment, and a well stocked bar including (but not exclusive to) many local ales and local ciders; John Pears Field, Wall Hill, Ashurst Wood, RH19 3TQ, 01342 823770, www.ashurstwoodparishcouncil.gov.uk

July 15-17 Walled Garden Music Festival, local beers on sale from Sussex and Kent micro breweries, Brightling Park, Brightling, TN32 5HH, 01424 838241, www.walledgardenmusicfest.co.uk

July 16 **SUSSEX CAMRA BRANCHES LIAISON MEETING**, Berwick Inn, Station Road, Berwick, BN26 6SZ, 01323 870018, www.theberwickinn.co.uk

July 16 Worthing RFC 7's Tournament & Beer Festival, The Rugby Park, Roundstone Lane, Angerming, BN16 4AX, 01903 784706, www.worthingrfc.com

July 23 Train to London Pubs, TTLP30. To the Tottenham area (N17) to visit (among others) the Beavertown Brewery Tap. To be included on mailout list contact Pete Brown, 01243 552908, peteb@custardtowers.plus.com

July 29-31 Henty Arms Beer Festival, 2 Ferring Lane, Ferring, BN12 6QY, 01903 241254, www.hentyarms.co.uk/Beer_Festival.html

July 30-31 Eastbourne Lammas Festival, King Edwards Parade, Eastbourne, BN21 4UH, 01323 415415, www.lammasfest.org

July 31 Sadcase Car Show, Beer Tent Event, Storrington Recreation Ground, Storrington, RH20 4HJ, 07778 551352, www.ale-inatent.co.uk

Aug 9-13 **GREAT BRITISH BEER FESTIVAL**, Olympia, London, W14 8UX, 0844 412 4640, www.gbbf.org.uk

Aug 12-14 Pett Level Beer Festival, New Beach Club, Pett Level Road, Pett Level, TN35 4EH, 01424 812080, www.thenewbeachclub.co.uk

Aug 18-21 West Marden Fest; real ale and cider, live music, fun dog show, lamb spit roast and much more! Final ale list to be decided so please let us know if you have any requests. Free half pint for current card-carrying CAMRA members; free lifts from/to Emsworth and Rowlands Castle train stations by prior arrangement. Victoria Inn, West Marden, PO18 9EN, 02392 631330, www.victoriainnwestmarden.co.uk

Aug 25-29 Ales of the Riverbank, Duke of Wellington Beer and Music Festival in conjunction with the Shoreham Riverfest, 368 Brighton Rd, Shoreham-by-Sea, BN43 6RE, 01273 441297, www.dukeofwellingtonbrewhouse.co.uk

Aug 25-29 Wetherspoon Bank Holiday Beer Festival at the Hatter's Inn, Bognor Regis, Dolphin & Anchor, Chichester, Three Fishes and the Sir Timothy Shelley, Worthing; 32-40 beers in total over the holiday at all pubs combined; exact details subject to confirmation, email p217@jdwetherspoon.co.uk

Aug 26-29 Shepherd & Dog Beer Festival, The Street, Fulking, BN5 9LU, 01273 857382, www.shepherdanddogpub.co.uk

Aug 27-29 England's Medieval Festival, Beer Tent Event, Mead Tent selling Mead by the Bottle in Market Lane, Herstmonceux Castle, Wartling Rd, BN27 1RN, 07778 551352, www.ale-inatent.co.uk, www.englandsmedievalfestival.com

Sept 2-4 Ale at Amberley 11, Amberley Museum and Heritage Centre, Houghton Bridge, BN18 9LT, 01798 831370, www.Ale atAmberely.co.uk

Sept 3-4 Harvesting The Old Fashioned Way, Beer Tent Event, Oldwick Farm, West Stoke, Chichester, PO18 9AA, 07778 551352, www.ale-inatent.co.uk, www.facebook.com/Harvestingtheoldfashionedway

Sept 9-11 Stanley Arms Beer Festival, 47 Wolseley Rd, Portslade, BN41 1SS, 01273 430234, www.thestanley.com

Sept 10-11 Eastbourne SteamPunk Festival, Beer Tent Event, Eastbourne Seafront on the Green by The Wish Tower, BN21 4BY, 07778 551352, www.ale-inatent.co.uk

Sept 22 Train to London Pubs, TTLP31. By popular request a repeat of our examination last year of the micro pubs of SE London and NW Kent, with any additions or changes found necessary. To be included on mailout list contact Pete Brown, 01243 552908, peteb@custardtowers.plus.com

Oct 6-8 **14th EASTBOURNE BEER FESTIVAL**, Winter Garden, Compton Street, Eastbourne, BN21 4BP, 01323 412000, www.visiteastbourne.com/beer-festival

Oct 14-15 **20th WORTHING BEER FESTIVAL**, Assembly Hall and Richmond Rooms, Stoke Abbott Road, Worthing, BN11 1HQ, www.aaa-camra.org.uk

Oct 21-23 **6th SPA VALLEY/WEST KENT CAMRA BEER & CIDER FESTIVAL AND AUTUMN DIESEL GALA**, Spa Valley Railway, West Station, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN5 5QY, 01892 537715, www.spavalleyrailway.co.uk/events

SPOTLIGHT ON BREWERIES

Kissingate Award

When drinkers at the 2015 Redhill Beer Festival voted for their Beer of the Festival, the clear and popular winner was Kissingate Powder Blue Porter. Festival Organiser Martin Longhurst is pictured presented the certificate to Gary and Bunny Lucas during a visit to their brewery by the festival volunteers on Saturday 12 March. After Martin thanked all the volunteers, Gary said "I very much appreciate the support I have received from CAMRA members in building the reputation of my brewery. I can't wait to put this new certificate on display as it represents the judgment of many real ale drinkers." The Redhill Beer Festival is held at the Merstham Village Hall each year in November.

Gun Award

Saturday 12 March saw the South East Sussex branch visit Gun Brewery in Heathfield to make the award for the Sussex Micro Beer of Festival, won at the October 2015 Eastbourne Beer Festival. Toby from the brewery is pictured holding the certificates having been presented with them by BLO Steve Obey and Branch Chair Peter Adams (both in grey jackets).

Arundel Open Evenings

Arundel Brewery open evenings will be on 25 May, 3 August and 9 November, all at 7.00pm and bookable in advance online or in person at the brewery shop (27 River Road, Arundel); £15 covers the tour, all beer and a complimentary glass. There are wine options for those who prefer, and a designated-driver option at £8.

Beachy Head Birthday Celebrations

Monday 31 October will be the tenth anniversary of Beachy Head Brewery. Roger plans to celebrate by opening the brewery between 10am to 5pm on Friday 29 and Saturday 30, when all regular ales will be available at £2 a pint, with The Famous Christmas Ale costing slightly more. Morris dancing and a BBQ are also planned for the occasion.

North Sussex 3rd Spring Equinox Festival Report

Another hugely enjoyable and successful Spring Equinox Beer & Cider Festival, organised by the North Sussex Branch of CAMRA, took place at the Drill Hall, Horsham over the first weekend of March. The event featured all the local brewers and cider makers, plus a number of the new brewers that have opened in recent years. Others were sourced from further afield by our main Festival sponsor, Dark Star and their new pub the Anchor Tap, recently opened in East Street, Horsham.

Voting for Beer and Cider of the festival was as close as ever, with all but four of the forty-nine beers getting votes, and lots of great feedback being received on the high quality of the beers. Light Beer of the Festival award went to Sixpenny IPA from Dorset. The Dark Beer of the Festival award saw Long Arm Shadow Wolf from Ealing just holding off two great dark beers from last year's local winner, Kissingate. The organisers are looking forward to their trips to Salisbury and the Ealing Park Tavern to present the certificates. We also have a new Cider of the Festival, with Village Green Sussex Dry from Turners Hill just pipping last year's winner Wobblegate Pink from Bolney.

Our festival charity this year was the Samaritans Horsham and Crawley Branch, and we are delighted that donations of money, beer tokens and unwanted glasses raised just over £600. Their presence and support was greatly appreciated. A huge thank you goes to all the volunteers, musicians and sponsors, and particularly to Gareth of Beer Essentials and Sam

at the Malt Shovel for their invaluable support with ticket sales, and to Rob at the Drill Hall for his help over the weekend. If anyone has any comments, or wants to get involved in CAMRA in North Sussex or future festivals, please contact us at camra.equinox@gmail.com. The provisional date for the 4th Spring Equinox festival is the first weekend of March 2017. We hope to see you there.

Photographs are courtesy of John Goodsell.

Mike Head
North Sussex Branch

Summer in the Cemetery

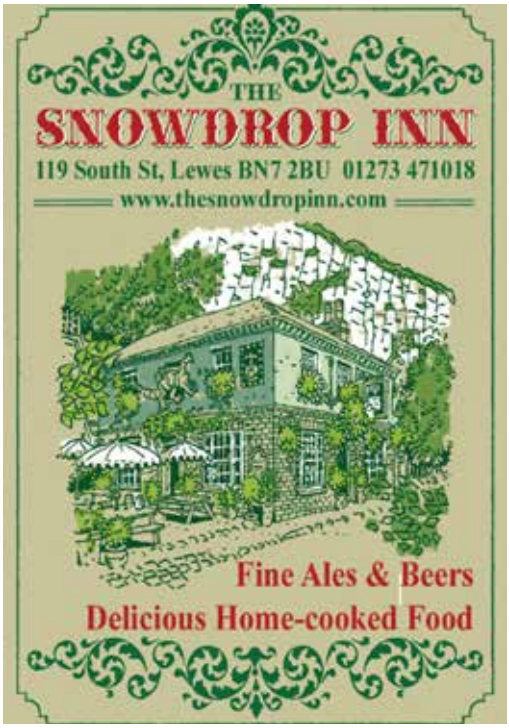
On Saturday 4 June 2016 the Friends of Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery will be conducting another one of their popular thematic cemetery tours, this time featuring the past Publicans and Hoteliers of Worthing. Participants should meet by the chapels just inside of the main entrance in South Farm Road, Worthing at 10.45am. The tour will start at 11.00am and it should last approximately 90 minutes. There will be a Worthing Pubs History stall, refreshments will be available and a small booklet has been produced for the event, which represents great value at £1. The tour is free to all. These are fun events and we would look forward to seeing *Sussex Drinker* readers and CAMRA members at the event. Please make a note in your diaries.

John Vaughan
Friends Treasurer/Editor/Tour Guide

George Ware & Sons Brewery

Although George Ware & Sons closed sixty-six years ago, the building that was once its brewery still stands next to the Frant to Bells Yew Green Road, near the village of Frant in East Sussex. The brewery was first established in 1866 by Thomas Batchelor next to his public house the Royal Oak at Bells Yew Green, where he had been brewing since 1862. Batchelor went into partnership with George Ware in 1866 and after a few years the Ware family ran the business. In 1893 a new tower brewery was built by William Bradford, who was also responsible for Harveys Brewery at Lewes and the Hook Norton Brewery in Oxfordshire. Having become a limited company in 1925, George Ware & Sons Ltd. was taken over in 1950 by E. & H. Kelsey with a total of twelve tied houses and the brewery was closed. The workers from Ware's were transferred that year to Kelsey's Culverden Brewery in Tunbridge Wells, Kent. The brewery building today is used for light industry.

Steve Obey



Jerry Marchant

Jerry Marchant, born 11 July 1948, died in his sleep Tuesday 2 February 2016, after losing his battle with cancer.

Jerry will be remembered as being a naturally relaxed, self-possessed, amiable character, articulate, highly intelligent and widely read. He had a wicked sense of humour, reflected in his many contributions to the *Sussex Drinker*, be they Marchant's Meanderings, his home brew recipes, articles with titles such as "Two firkins and a hangover", or Pub reviews along the following lines: "Following the predictable corporate makeover, I think, to appeal to fans of the Teletubbies, Hale and Pace guard the door so no undesirables get in to spoil the testosterone-fuelled ambience of the pre-clubbing punters. Did I nip in to try the beer? No, I couldn't be arsed" (*Sussex Drinker*, No. 27, 2001). Letters to the Editor followed.

Jerry was a man of principle who believed passionately in worthy campaigns. A Hastings lad, he loved the traditions and culture of the town and its pubs. He joined the newly formed CAMRA and involved himself in the campaign over many years. Not long after moving to Worthing, when it was announced that King & Barnes was to be sold to Hall & Woodhouse, he led a group to Horsham to lay a wreath at the brewery gates as a mark of protest. In 1998 he helped organise a wake and cortege along Tarring High Street to highlight the demise of the infamous Vine Beer Festivals.

Jerry was one who believed in things being done properly, be they branch meetings or national campaigns. When it was required, he could be relied on to make quietly the necessary point. He was supportive of other volunteers whose contributions were perhaps not always properly considered or valued. When Worthing Borough Council turned down Bruce Webster's request to start a register and include the Vine Inn as an Asset of Community Value (ACV), Jerry made one of his most valuable contributions. Having meticulously researched the ACV applications in other areas, he made such a compelling presentation to the council appeal panel that they approved the request without deliberation!

He will be greatly missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing him.

Jim Waterston
Arun & Adur Branch

Tim Dawe

I am sorry to have to report the death of Tim Dawe, former Chairman of North Sussex Branch, who lost his fight with pancreatic cancer in early March. Tim moved to Rugby some years ago, and had continued to be active in his local branch in various posts including Chairman, Secretary and newsletter editor.

Chris Stringer
North Sussex Branch

Return to Crowborough

Into the New Year and time for a bus trip. Once again it is the end of January and we are off to the Coopers Arms in Crowborough for their Winter Ales Festival.

Our steed this time was a 1977-built Bristol VRT double-decker, courtesy of Dark Star Brewery. As usual, the starting point for the trip was Horsham, followed by Newdigate to pick up some of our East & Mid-Surrey Branch friends, then Crawley, Three Bridges Station and East Grinstead, before heading off across Ashdown Forest to our destination, with forty thirsty people aboard. On arrival, everyone was dropped off at the top of the road, so the bus could be turned and a few of us could witness the orderly mad dash to the pub. Once inside, it was good to see that, once again, a group from the West Kent Branch had come along and there was the usual mingling and imbibing taking place.

Our hosts had provided an interesting range of beers, although a couple had still not settled and so were not available, but a couple of reserves came into play. There seemed to be more dark beers than light, not that anyone was complaining, and on offer were Redemption Rock The Kazbek (4.0%) and Urban Dusk (4.6%), Crouch Vale Chinook and Gun Parabellum Milk Stout (both 4.1%), Dark Star Original, Burning Sky Porter (4.8%) and Pig & Porter Slow Black (5.1%).

These were the weaker ones and slightly stronger were Ramsgate Gadd's Black Pearl Stout (6.2%), Burton Bridge Old Expensive (6.5%), a one-year old Moor Old Freddy Walker (7.4%), with Fuller's Golden Pride (8.5%) completing the line-up. The latter proved very popular, with one particular individual trying to polish off the cask by herself.

After about four hours, it was time to move on and after thanking our hosts, David and Judith, we re-boarded the bus for the short trip to the Anchor at Hartfield where it was time to wind down with a pint of something that was of sensible strength, before heading up the road to the Gallipot for another stop. The visit here was all too brief, as it was obvious that some people were a bit tired and emotional and an earlier departure was decided upon; also the driver was having a very long day and still needed to get the bus back to Amberley. We managed to get everyone back on the bus safely and headed back to drop everyone off to complete another successful day out. Thanks go to Vanessa Mason-Hill for getting the trip off the ground (and for also providing photos), to David and Judith at the Coopers Arms and also to Spencer, our driver for the day.

Peter Spooner
North Sussex Branch

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27th – 29th August

August Bank Holiday

All Sussex Ales

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Lamb Inn, Ripe

There has been a campaign by the residents of Ripe to save their pub, the Lamb Inn, which closed in January 2015 and is currently secured with metal shutters and with concrete block across the car park. The residents have placed posters round the village and have written, enclosing a 200 signature petition, to Wealden Council and to owning brewery Shepherd Neame to make aware that they the residents will object to any planning application from a developer. They have even invited Prince Charles to attend to help publicise their plight.

Councillor Philip Ede was quoted as saying that "the permanent loss of the historic Lamb Inn would be a tragedy. This is the pub where the legendary author Malcolm Lowry, who lived in the village, drank his last. It is where generations of Ripe families have celebrated, commiserated, and commemorated over a convivial drink for over a hundred years. To close it down and contemplate its end was, I believe, short sighted. It still has potential as a successful pub, if only investors would recognise that."

Shepherd Neame stated they did not receive any proposal from the local community or offer from any qualifying group to buy the pub during the post-closure six month period necessary with an Asset of Community Value (ACV). Following this period, they consistently marketed the Lamb Inn for sale as a pub, via specialist agents, who advertised it in major trade titles and on business websites. They also emailed a network of potential trade buyers. The brewery confirming that they are now very close to finalising the sale of the pub on an existing use basis, although the outcome is still unknown as we go to press.

White Hart, Lower Horsebridge

Wealden District Council has received an application from a London developer for full planning permission to demolish the free-of-tie White Hart, Lower Horsebridge and redevelop the site. Although the owners stated that the pub is unviable and has been on the market for many years, it remains an attractive village local offering two very drinkable real ales, and classic affordable food. It seemed busy enough on a recent visit. The South East Sussex branch is currently busy compiling an ACV application for the White Hart and wonder how effectively the pub has been marketed, as there is no 'For Sale' board or any listing that they could see on the main pubs-for-sale web sites.

Royal Oak, Crawley Down

On 24 September 2015, Mid Sussex District Council voted unanimously to reject the change of use planning application that would have allowed the owner of the Royal Oak,

Crawley Down to convert the premises into a convenience store. This rejection followed over 300 letters of objection, showing huge support for its retention as a public house. Although a number of parties have expressed an interest in reopening the pub, which is registered as an ACV but closed since March 2015, they have been deterred by what is regarded to be an asking price well in excess of the current market value, especially given the additional cost of the work now needed to restore the property. A local group, Save the Royal Oak has opened a website where you can follow developments and make a pledge to invest in a community-owned Royal Oak, should that option become a necessity. Visit www.savetheroyaloak.org.

Welcome Stranger, St Leonards-on-Sea

There are rumours that the future of the

Welcome Stranger, Sedlescombe Road North, St Leonards-on-Sea, is uncertain because Enterprise Inns may be tempted to sell the pub to a developer for conversion to residential units. The pub remains open as we go to print and the South East Sussex branch have submitted an application to the local council to have the pub registered as an Asset of Community Value (ACV).

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Summer Beer Festival. 9th - 12th June.

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Sussex CAMRA Pub of the Year 2014

ACV Additions

The following pubs have since been added to the list of Assets of Community Value published in previous issues:

Alex, 56 London Road, Bognor Regis, PO21 1PU
Bell Inn, Church Lane, Iden, TN31 7XE
Catts Inn, High Street, Rotherfield, TN6 3LH
Chalk Pit Inn, Offham Road, Offham, Lewes, BN7 3QF
Cuthbert, 136 Freshfield Road, Brighton, BN2 0BR
Downsman, 189 Hangleton Way, Hove, BN3 8ES
Eastgate Inn, 4 The Hornet, Chichester, PO19 7JG
George & Dragon, 1 High Street, Tarring, Worthing, BN14 7NN
Half Moon, Haywards Heath Road, Balcombe, RH17 6PA
Lectern, 5 Pelham Terrace, Brighton, BN2 4AY
Merrie Harriers, Cowbeech Road, Cowbeech, BN27 4JQ
West Hill, 67 Buckingham Place, Brighton, BN1 3PQ

LocAle

The following accreditations are additions to the cumulative lists published in previous issues:

Blackboys: Blackboys Inn; **Crowborough**: Boar's Head Inn**; Ferring**: Tudor Close; **Littlehampton**: Tap & Barrel; **Nyetimber**: Inglenook Hotel; **Rotherfield**: King's Arms; **West Chiltington**: Queens Head; **Worthing**: Alehouse & Kitchen, Beach House Café, Corner House, Egremont Hotel, Sir Timothy Shelley.

LocAle - the local branch initiative that became a national campaign – has its own symbol in the *GBG*. Ask your local publican to source any of the superb range of beers available within thirty miles of their pub from the Sussex breweries listed in Bru News. Pubs closer to the Sussex border will naturally be able to source beers from any of the qualifying breweries in east Hants, south Surrey or west Kent as appropriate to gain LocAle accreditation.

The **20th South Downs Beer & Cider Festival** will take place at the usual venue, Lewes Town Hall, on Friday 17 and Saturday 18 June. There will be around ninety cask beers for you to sample, along with a range of cider and perry. We also have plans for one-off brews and 'first available' beers at this event. Non alcoholic drinks will also be available, plus a range of hot food and snacks, including vegetarian options supplied by local firm, Circa Events. The festival will as usual be music free.

All sessions will be admission by ticket only. Tickets will be on sale from Monday 9 May, at the Gardener's Arms, Harveys Brewery Shop and the Brewers Arms, Lewes, and the Evening Star, Brighton. Alternatively, please apply by post to: South Downs Beer Festival Tickets, 139 Elm Grove, Brighton, BN2 3ES, stating session required and enclosing a SAE and cheque, payable to "South Downs Beer & Cider Festival". Please note if you do not enclose an SAE we will NOT send out the tickets.

The ticket costs are:

Fri 17 June	11.00 - 15.00	£4.00
Fri 17 June	17.00 - 22.30	£7.00
Sat 18 June	11.00 - 18.00*	£5.00

*or until the beer runs out.

Customers will receive a **free festival glass** very kindly sponsored by Harveys Brewery, and a programme with tasting notes. In addition, CAMRA members will receive £2.00 in beer tokens per session on production of their valid membership card. Please note over-18s only. If you are lucky enough to look under 25, please ensure you bring photo ID. The venue is easy to find. From the railway station turn right, climb the hill to the traffic lights, cross over and it is on the right.

20th South Downs Beer & Cider Festival

SERV Sussex (Service by Emergency Rider Volunteers) transport blood and blood products free of charge to the NHS out of hours, 365 days of the year. They were the Festival Charity at the 2015 Brighton & South Downs and the 2016 Sussex Branches Beer & Cider Festivals, and we would particularly like to thank Simon Morley from SERV and Mark Tester from CAMRA for arranging their involvement on both occasions. Over £2,800 was raised from bucket collections and unused beer tokens across the two festivals.

One of the two photographs shows David Duerdoth, SERV Treasurer (in yellow) being presented with a cheque by Miles Jenner, Head Brewer at Harveys Brewery.

The other shows branch member Paul Free (left) presenting a certificate at Harveys Brewery to Second Brewer Peter Yarlett for last year's Beer of the Festival - the excellent Harveys Waterloo Rye IPA. This was the first brew for which Peter was given absolute responsibility, made more difficult by the fact that the brewery had not produced a rye beer before. Congratulations Peter!

Ruth Anderson
Festival Organiser

The Stags Head

Mark & Emma offer a warm welcome

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HARVEYS

Dear Editor

I read with interest Chris Brazier's letter (*Sussex Drinker*, Spring 2016) in which he asks for support of his motion, "This House thinks that CAMRA HQ is too cosy with the J D Wetherspoon empire." In support of this motion he makes two claims that do not stand up to scrutiny.

First, he suggests that the £20 vouchers are a bribe. Well they are not. They are what is commonly known as a 'member benefit', just one of a number of such benefits offered to CAMRA members. Such benefits are very common in membership organisations and in no way can be considered a bribe. Bribes are illegal (and usually hidden) payments made to those at an operational level in the hope that they will influence a commercial decision. Wetherspoon vouchers are above board and in no way can be considered any form of bribe.

Second, he claims that, "J D Wetherspoon has been responsible for closing more pubs than it has opened". From where does he get this fact? I have seen no rigorous research that suggests such a thing. Yes, of course pubs are closing and, of course, some will be closing in towns where Wetherspoon has an outlet. But they are also closing in towns where there is no Wetherspoon. Furthermore, there are new pubs opening in towns where Wetherspoon already has an outlet. In the last *Sussex Drinker* details of three new pubs were given: one in Horsham, where there is a Wetherspoon; one in East Grinstead, where there is a Wetherspoon; and one in Haywards Heath, where there is a Wetherspoon just three miles away.

Wetherspoon-bashing is all too common and it is true that not everyone likes their style of pub. But it is a fact that Wetherspoon pubs always have a fine range of real ales - usually the best range in their area - which are sold at a fair price. Wetherspoon's success is due to good marketing (in all its aspects), not to some evil machinations designed to destroy the British pub industry. CAMRA is to be congratulated on working with an organisation that has done so much for the cause of real ale.

Richard English
Partridge Green

Dear Editor

An apology. Several people have complained that the Spring 2016 edition of the *Sussex Drinker* carried an advertisement for the Sussex Loyal Orange Lodge, which they perceived to be partisan. I have contacted our production company, Matelot Marketing, and they are aware that CAMRA is a non-political, secular organisation and therefore cannot take advertising from overtly political or religious groups. They have assured me that on this one occasion they missed the significance of the content but will be more vigilant in the future in adhering to CAMRA's policy. I would like to apologise on behalf of CAMRA to any readers who were offended by this content and we will endeavour to ensure that this does not occur again.

Chris Stringer
Regional Director Surrey & Sussex CAMRA

CAMRA Discount Scheme

The following are additions to the lists published in previous issues:

Cyclist Pub & Kitchen, Brighton Train Station, Queens Road, BN1 3XP, 10% discount.

Hampton, 57 Upper North Street, Brighton, BN1 3FH, £3.30 cap on pints only.

Station, 100 Goldstone Villas, Hove, BN3 3RU, 10% discount.

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South East Sussex CAMRA LocAle Pub of the Year 2015

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BREWERY OF THE YEAR 2016

'BREWERY OF THE YEAR'

2016 Good Pub Guide Awards

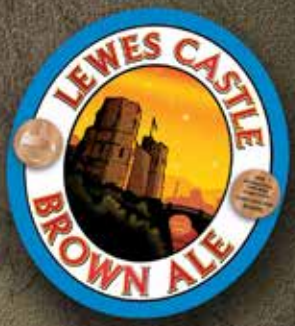
— 2016 —

HARVEYS

The Sussex Brewers

WORLD'S BEST MILD ALE
World Beer Awards 2015

WORLD'S BEST BROWN ALE
World Beer Awards 2015



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Pendle Beer Festival 2015

BEER OF THE FESTIVAL
Eastbourne Beer Festival 2015

BEER OF THE FESTIVAL
South Downs Beer & Cider Festival 2015

SUSSEX BEER OF THE FESTIVAL
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