



CAMPAIGN  
FOR  
REAL ALE

# Celebrating the Real Ale Scene in Sussex **Sussex Drinker**

Spring 2016

Free



## **NATIONAL FINALIST**



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

## **ALBATROSS RAFA CLUB BEXHILL-ON-SEA**



**'BREWERY OF THE YEAR'**  
*2016 Good Pub Guide Awards*  
**— 2016 —**



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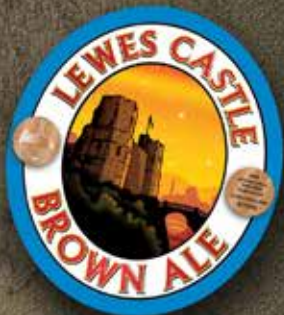


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MILD ALE**

*World Beer  
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*World Beer  
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**BEER OF THE  
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**BEER OF  
THE FESTIVAL**

*Eastbourne Beer  
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**BEER OF  
THE  
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*South Downs Beer  
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**Sussex Branches of CAMRA****Surrey & Sussex Regional Director:**

Chris Stringer; 01403 270505 (Horsham)  
 pennyandchris@btinternet.com

**Sussex Area Organiser:**

Peter Page-Mitchell, 01424 422128  
 (St. Leonards-on-Sea)

ppagemitchell@hotmail.co.uk

**Beer Festival:** Brighton Corn Exchange, 17-19 March 2016

**POTY:** Tower, St Leonards-on-Sea

**COTY:** Albatross RAFA Club, Bexhill-On-Sea

**Western Sussex**

Max Malkin, 01243 828394

ifitrainsitisanastyday@mypostoffice.co.uk

www.westernsussexcamra.org.uk

**Beer Festival:** Yapton, 13-15 May 2016

**POTY:** Inglenook, Nyetimber

**Arun & Adur**

Nigel Watson, 07555 167804

aaacamracontact@gmail.com

www.aaa-camra.org.uk

**Beer Festival:** Worthing, Oct 2016

**POTY:** Parsonage Bar & Restaurant, Tarring

**North Sussex**

Roy Bray, 07833 205901

r.bray755@btinternet.com

www.northsussexcamra.org.uk

**Beer Festival:** Equinox, 5-6 March 2016

**POTY:** White Horse, Maplehurst

**Brighton & South Downs**

John Kirkland, 01293 519844

john.kirkland@btinternet.com

www.brightoncamra.org.uk

**Beer Festival:** South Downs, Lewes, 17-18 June 2016

**POTY:** Brewers Arms, Lewes

**South East Sussex**

Phil Cozens, 01323 460822

contact.camra.sesusx@gmail.com

North East Sussex Sub Branch

John Packer, 07841 669096

john\_packer@me.com

www.southeast-sussex-camra.com

**Beer Festival:** Eastbourne, 6-8 Oct 2016

**POTY:** Tower, St Leonards-on-Sea

**COTY:** Albatross RAFA Club, Bexhill-On-Sea

**Sussex Drinker: Spring 2016. No.85**

**Circulation 13,250**

Published by Sussex Branches of the Campaign for Real Ale

**Editor:**

The Quaffer

Email: [sussexdrinker@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sussexdrinker@yahoo.co.uk)

**Advertising:**

Neil Richards MBE Email: [N.Richards@btinternet.com](mailto:N.Richards@btinternet.com)

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

Tel: 01536 358670 Mobile: 07710 281381

**Next Publication Date:**

5 May. Copy by 21 March

**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  
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Website: [www.brighton-hove.gov.uk](http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk)

Campaign for Real Ale Ltd

230 Hatfield Road, St Albans, AL1 4LW

Tel: 01727 867201 Fax: 01727 867670

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





As depicted on our cover for this spring issue, the South East Sussex Branch Club of the Year, the Albatross RAFA Club in Bexhill-on-Sea, has made it through the various rounds of the competition to reach the National Final (see also *What's Brewing*, January 2016, p. 3). The outcome will not be known until later in the spring so it will be for a future edition of the *Sussex Drinker* to report on its progress in more detail. Whatever happens, it is now one of the top four clubs in the country and the steward, Karen Pelham, and the staff deserve hearty congratulations.



Branch Pub of the Year, the Tower, St. Leonards-on-Sea, made it a stage further to become Sussex Pub of the Year, before narrowly losing out to the Surrey Pub of the Year in the next round. Again, congratulations are due to all at the pub, in particular to landlady Louisa Gover. This was the first time the pub gained a CAMRA award, yet ended up with four! As well as the two already mentioned, it was the branch Cider Pub of the Year and the

## South East Sussex Branch Pub and Club Awards, 2015

Community Pub of the Year. The presentation photographs featured in the autumn and winter issues.



Other first-time award recipients were Andy and Jo Plumbley of the Crown, Eastbourne, for the LocAle Pub of Year. The picture above shows Andy (in grey) receiving the award from Peter Adams.



The Country Pub of the Year award went to the Robin Hood, Icklesham. This pub has been a regular recipient of branch awards since it was the Branch Pub of the Year in 2012. The landlord, D'Arcy, insisted that all his staff should be packed behind the bar for the award, as the picture above shows.

As well as sending our congratulations, South East Sussex branch members would like to thank all of the pubs for their fantastic reception and hospitality when we visited to make the awards.



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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.*

## ■ BARNES GREEN



A new licensee took over the **Queens Head** during the latter part of last year and has become free of tie from

Enterprise-listed beers. Available on an early January visit were Fuller's London Pride, Long Man Best Bitter, Shepherd Neame Spitfire and St. Austell Proper Job, the latter sampled in very good condition. It is intended to rotate some of the beers. The pub was fairly busy and the atmosphere friendly and congenial. Beer is £4 per pint and free Wi Fi is available.

## ■ BLACKBOYS

The beer is well kept at the **Blackboys** and this Harveys house has a good range. The pub works for foodies and beer drinkers alike.

## ■ BOGNOR REGIS

Jamie Boyle, formerly of the Four Chesnuts (Branch POTY 2007) and later of the Bull, Chichester, took over late last year at the **Waverley** (Young's). He is now intending to source some guest beers.

## ■ BRIGHTON



The **Crown and Anchor**, Preston Road, is a Punch outlet that offers three Long Man beers alongside Black Sheep

Bitter and Sharp's Doom Bar. A pint of Long

Man APA was recently sampled in good condition and at a very reasonable price of £3.40. The pub also sells beers in three third-pints.

A planning application was submitted by Burger King to convert the disused ex-pub under Clarendon Mansions at the seafront end of East Street and was met with an opposing petition of nearly 12,000 signatures. A crowdfunding project has since been launched to open a craft beer pub, the **Bison Arms**, on the site. The team at the Bison Beer Crafthouse shop are behind the venture. For more information and an



Investor Pack, visit [www.thebisonarms.co.uk](http://www.thebisonarms.co.uk).

A recent visit to the Kemp Town area revealed the **Round Georges** to be serving four Sussex Ales: Harveys Best, Arundel Sussex Gold, Long Man APA and Gun Extra Pale. The **Saint George's Inn** offered Franklins English Garden and two regional brewery beers. The **Bristol Bar** was selling Sharp's Doom Bar, Harveys Best and Dark Star Hophead; the latter (£4.00 a pint) was in good condition and going down well with the regulars.

A planning application has been received to convert the **Freshfield Inn** to two buildings of eight flats. An ACV application has been completed.

## ■ CHARLTON

The National Heritage List for England has updated details of four buildings to recognise their historic links to the Women's Institute to





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mark last year's centenary of that organisation. One of the four is the **Fox Goes Free** (formerly the Fox Inn). The first meeting of the WI in England took place there, in the backroom known as the Hat Rack Bar on 9 November 1915. The landlady of the time, Mrs Laishley, was a founder member of the Institute.

## ■ CHICHESTER

Although Chichester District Council's Planning Committee turned down an application for a change of use of the former St Pancras Antiques Shop to the **Old Antique Brewery** micro pub (as reported in our winter issue), the applicant, Mr Lawrence Keen, has launched an appeal after the Council's Alcohol and Licensing Sub-Committee granted him a license for the venture. The Western Sussex CAMRA branch pledged its support for local resident Mr Keen, who also runs four pubs in London.

What was once Wests and before that the Slurping Toad is now the **Duke and Rye** and operated by Marston's. Of the three hand pumps, two have been in use dispensing Ringwood and Wychwood beers. Beer quality was decent and prices competitive.

By the station, the **Globe** is currently (mid-January) closed, clad in scaffolding and with its exterior signage erased. A peek through the windows shows an extensive refurbishment in progress.

## ■ CROWBOROUGH

The **Cooper's Arms** continues to offer an interesting range of ales. Dark Star provide the regulars, although seasonal offerings from Harveys appear occasionally. From further afield, Moor brewery beers prove popular, along with a range of their bottled products. There are also beers from the smaller London micro breweries. Brewers noted during recent visits include Bristol Beer Factory, Harbour,

Hawkshead, Highland and Thornbridge. It is hoped that lunches and evening meals will be available again by the time you read this.

At the other end of town, just a short walk from the railway station is the **Wheatsheaf** (Harveys). Up to five ales are available, including Dark Mild.



The **White Hart on the Green**, formerly the White Hart, has reopened following a ten-month closure.

It is now owned by the Stonegate Pub Company, which has spent £500K refurbishing the building to a high standard. There are five rotating beers. In December, these included Adnams Ghost Ship and Dark Star Hophead. Food is available from 10am to 10pm.

## ■ EAST ASHLING

As a replacement for the ubiquitous Sharp's Doom Bar, the **Horse and Groom** now features a beer from the excellent Vibrant Forest brewery.

## ■ EAST GRINSTEAD



The North Sussex area now has its first micro pub, the **Open Arms**. It was converted

from a former printer cartridge shop in Railway Approach, ideally situated for public transport with a bus stop outside and a two-minute walk to the station. The owners are John and Nick. John has been a licensee for twenty-seven years, the last eight being at the Barley Mow, Tandridge, Surrey. They plan to have mainly, but not exclusively, cask beers from the South East. So far seen have been Long Man Best,



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Dark Star Hophead, Beachy Head Legless Rambler, Hogs Back Advent, and Open Arms Bitter brewed by Turners. Waiting in the wings were three from High Weald. The ales will be complemented with some wines and a range of bottled beers. Cold bar snacks and coffee are also available.

### ■ ELMER

Andy Fox is the new manager at the **Cabin**. The core beers remain Courage Best and Sharp's Doom Bar, but he is looking to replace the latter with something more interesting. Two guest beers are also served from regional breweries; at the time of visiting the beer sampled was Wadworth Swordfish, with Black Sheep Bitter being replaced by Exmoor Ale. By the time you read this Andy will probably have an Arundel beer on permanently as he seeking to obtain LocAle accreditation. Beer quality is very good and prices are decent.

### ■ ERIDGE

The **Huntsman** has received the Hall and Woodhouse Public House of the Year Award. This is the Dorset brewery's most coveted award by its estate of around 240 pubs. Their judges particularly commented on the pub's commitment to innovation, growth, the community and their beer quality. This thriving community local is also right next door to the steam Spa Valley Railway.

### ■ FAYGATE

A consortium of former customers has bought the **Frog and Nightgown**. Renovation work is currently in progress with a view to soon reopening.

### ■ HARTFIELD

It is sad to report that the **Hay Waggon Inn**, which closed last February, has been sold and will not reopen as a pub. Nevertheless, the close-by **Anchor** continues to offer well kept Harveys Best and Larkins Traditional as their

regular beers, with the guest ales usually coming from other local-ish brewers, such as Pig & Porter and Westerham. The same regular beers are also stocked further up the road in Upper Hartfield at the **Gallipot**, with a guest ale usually available. Isfield beers are popular there.

### ■ HASTINGS

The **Clown** in Russell Street, just off Queens Road, has been serving Titanic Plum Porter in excellent condition as well as the regular Wychwood Hobgoblin. The pub is one of the few outlets for top-quality real ale in the town centre.



The **Albion**, formerly the Royal Albion, George Street, has been tastefully refurbished with many

improvements, including a stage for live music, beautifully designed bar tops and stylish furniture. It has kept its traditional ambience as an ex-William Younger house complete with old tartan panels. There are six hand pumps, and food is coming when the refurbishment of the kitchen is complete. Beers from Dark Star, Harveys, Timothy Taylor and Theakston, plus Heck's Farmhouse Cider and Farmhouse Perry are served.



The Old Town has a plethora of quality real ale establishments. The **Stag** has reopened under new management

and has a new kitchen, and so is now doing food alongside the Shepherd Neame ales. Beer



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**DETAILS ON THE CLUB WEBSITE FROM APRIL 2016**

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quality is good but opening hours have been cut so check before you go. Both the **Dolphin** and the **Jenny Lind** continue to stand out for quality and variety. The FILO strong winter ale was exceptionally good this year at the **First In Last Out**, while Fuller's ESB in the **Cinque Ports** is again getting back to its best. The **Crown** still serves a selection of local ales and gets busy with diners.

### ■ HAYWARDS HEATH

New Dark Star bar, the **Lockhart Tavern** will open early in the year at 41 The Broadway. Guest ales will be local heroes like Top Notch and Downland to name but a few. There will be a wall of interesting keg beers and wines and spirits. A simple but delicious menu will have the freshest ingredients all prepared onsite.

### ■ HOOE



After more than a year with new tenants, the **Red Lion** has added a guest ale to the regular Harveys Sussex Best. On a recent visit, West Berkshire Mr Chubb's Lunchtime Bitter was in good form.

### ■ HORSHAM

Dark Star will open the **Anchor Tap** at 16 East Street early in the year. The site had previously traded as, variously, a coffee shop and a shoe shop but was built in 1898 as the tap bar of the Anchor Hotel. It was at this tap that a Horsham Branch of CAMRA was formed in January 1975, later to be merged into the current branch.

The **Tanners Arms** has had a To Let or For Sale

notice up for several weeks but there do not appear to be any takers so far.

### ■ LITTLEHAMPTON

Kevin Jenkins of the Littlehampton Brewery has relinquished the **Crown Inn**, which is now under new ownership and management. Kevin is now concentrating on the **Tap & Barrel** brewpub and the **Contented Pig** café bar.

### ■ LOWER BEEDING

The **Plough** continues to perform well as a free house and there are four ales available, all usually from local brewers. A large stuffed badger on show in a display case serves as a reminder of the pub's previous owners.

### ■ MILLAND

The **Rising Sun** has won the coveted Griffin Trophy, Fuller's internal POTY competition. The award is well worth winning because as well as the trophy itself, it comes with a £5,000 holiday, a staff party and an engraved plaque.

### ■ ORE

Millis Gravesend Guzzler is a regular guest beer at the **Old King John**, a free house in the village. Harveys Sussex Best Bitter is the house beer.

### ■ RIDGEWOOD



The **Brickmakers Arms** is now a free house selling Harveys Best and Isfield Flapjack.

### ■ RINGMER

After an extensive refurbishment, the **Anchor** reopened in early December under the same management as Plough and Harrow, Litlington. Six hand pumps serve mainly Long Man beers, plus one guest ale from a national brewery.

## ■ ROTHERFIELD



The new landlords at the **King's Arms** have revived trade. This welcoming village inn has

three beers on offer in good order, with a good chance of more in the future.

## ■ ST LEONARDS ON SEA

The **St Leonard** had stronger beers on during a recent visit, with two from local brewery Franklins.

## ■ TURNERS HILL



Recent visits to the **Red Lion**

(Harveys) have found up to six beers available,

including three dark offerings and quality remains good. It is nice to see Dark Mild available all year round. Sunday lunches prove very popular and it is advisable to pre-book for these.

## ■ UCKFIELD



The **Alma** (Harveys) in Framfield Road is a bit of an oasis in this town. Four Harveys beers

are available, including Dark Mild, so it was nice to see it available in December, with Old Ale and Christmas Ale alongside. All were in very good condition. A real cider is also available on hand pump.

## ■ WEST CHILTINGTON

The **Five Bells**, Smock Alley, continues to offer an interesting selection of ales and is another regular outlet for mild. A recent visit one Saturday found the rarely seen (in this part of the world) Jennings Mild on sale, together with brews from Teignworthy and Tring breweries.

## ■ WORTHING

The **Castle Inn** is closed at the time of reporting but has been taken on by Nigel Watson of Anchored in Worthing who aims to reopen it in late-January. His plans are for it to remain a proper pub, serving a good range of local and other real ales and ciders. The hugely successful open mic nights will carry on uninterrupted. An 'as and when' performance space will be constructed for experimental and alternative shows and the venue has been registered with the 2016 Brighton Fringe Festival.



**Alehouse & Kitchen** has a new manager, Richard, ex-licencee at the Thomas a Becket, and is brewing weekly.

A recent visit to the **Grand Victorian**

**Hotel**, opposite the station, found them selling two beers from the nearby Alehouse & Kitchen micro brewery, both establishments being in the same ownership.

# The Sussex Bus to the Pub Group



## 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'.

Local Bus timetables can be found at:  
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Cuckmere Valley [www.cuckmerebuses.org.uk](http://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).

## METROBUS February

**Wednesday 3 Emsworth, Bosham & Chichester;** Meet Pete B at Chi bus station for 11.42 St'coach 700 to Coal Exchange (GBG). Return to Bosham roundabout at 13.50 or 14.10 for White Swan, then catch Stagecoach 56 at 15.00 to Old Town for Anchor Bleu. Return to Chichester for city centre pubs on Stagecoach 56 at 16.45.

**Monday 8 East Dean & Eastbourne;** 10.30 B&H 12x from Churchill Sq. to Tiger Inn (GBG) then 12.56 bus to Old Town to meet John J for Crown (GBG) & Lamb.

**Wednesday 17 Billingshurst & Horsham;** Either meet Dave O at Sth St Worthing for 10.27 Metro 23 to Washington for 11.12 Compass 100 to Billingshurst for Kings Head. OR 11.03 train from Barnham. Buses dept Billingshurst for Horsham hourly at 58 past the hour for Malt Shovel (GBG).

**Thursday 25 Around Lewes;** 10.55 B&H 28 from Churchill Sq. to Lewes. Meet at Brewers Arms (GBG) then onwards to other town pubs inc Gardeners and Snowdrop (both GBG).



## March

**Thursday 3 Easebourne, Henley & Midhurst;** Meet Pete B at Chichester bus station for 11.14 Stagecoach 60 to Midhurst bus stand, then 12.30 Stagecoach 1 (or 0.8 mile pavement walk) to Easebourne for White Horse (GK). Short road walk through to A286 Stagecoach 70 to Henley for Duke of Cumberland (GBG). Return to Midhurst for Swan (GBG) or Wheatsheaf (Badger) then return to Chichester via Stagecoach 60 every half hour up to 19.05.

**Friday 11 Ferring & Worthing;** 11.02 Stagecoach 700 from Worthing Marine Parade to



Henty Arms and Tudor Close returning to Worthing for Anchored micro pub.

**Wednesday 16 Around Chichester;** Meet Max at Chi bus station for 11.44 St'coach 60 to Bell Inn (Enterprise – 3 changing beers ) then very short walk to Rainbow (3 changing beers). Short walk to Chichester Inn (GBG) Bring CAMRA membership cards. Then Stagecoach 700 to market and Eastgate Inn (GBG) in Hornet. Short walk to Dolphin & Anchor or/and Belle Isle (both GBG).

**Wednesday 23 Seaford & Newhaven;** 10.30 B&H 12x to Seaford Library for Plough and Wellington (GBG), returning to Newhaven for Jolly Boatman and Hope Inn (GBG).

**Thursday 31 Horsted Keynes & Danehill;** 11.15 Metrobus 270 from Churchill Sq Brighton, for Green Man and onward to Coach & Horses, Danehill (GBG). Option for going on to the new micro pub Open Arms at East Grinstead.

## COMPASS TRAVEL April

**Thursday 7 Horsham and follow the Metrobus 23 route to Dial Post;** 10.27 Metrobus 23 from Worthing Pier to Horsham and meet in the Malt Shovel (GBG) at noon then return on the 13.09 to the Crown at Dial Post (GBG) followed by a later bus to the Red Lion at Ashington.


**Friday 15 Hastings Old Town;** 10.32 train from Brighton to Hastings. Walk (20 minutes) to Jenny Lind and then on to Crown and Dolphin (all GBG).

**Thursday 21 Dell Quay & Wittering;** Meet Pete B at Chichester bus station (front lay-by opposite rail station) for 11.16 Stagecoach 53 to Dell Quay Road. Half mile road walk to Crown & Anchor. Return to bus stop for S/C 53 to Shipton Green for Lamb and on to East Wittering for Shore (GBG). Then return to Chichester – buses run every 15 minutes until 17.22 after that time every half hour.


**Thursday 28 Chailey & Newick;** 11.25 B&H 28 from Churchill Sq Brighton to Lewes bus station

for 12.30 Compass 121 to Horns Lodge (GBG). Option of getting an earlier 28 and meeting at JHT at Lewes (GBG). Then onward to Crown at Newick (GBG) return, via Lewes.

## Stagecoach May

**Thursday 5 Westbourne;** Meet from 11.30 in Dolphin & Anchor at Chichester (GBG) then catch 13.09 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. 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 29 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 south bound to Lewes or 16.28 Compass 166 north bound to Haywards Heath.

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

**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: beer mats Rus. 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](http://www.1648brewing.co.uk)

**Ruby Mild** (3.6%), **Three Threads** (4.4%) and **Saint George's Ale** (4.5%) are available in the spring. Also back for the hay fever sufferers will be **Bee Head** (4.6%). Remember to try the 'Sussex Ale' Chutney and Mustard made with 1648 beer. Brewery tours are back this year at no charge; food and drink can be purchased in the brewery tap, the King's Head. For details and to book please phone the office on 01825 880044.

**David Platt**

### 360°

Sheffield Park, 01825 722375.  
[www.360degreebrewing.com](http://www.360degreebrewing.com)

A successful run of supplying beers to Indigo pubs in Brighton has reached a natural end and a deal has been secured with another Brighton Pubco. The brewery will occupy new premises early in 2016, continuing to produce its regular and seasonal range. Current seasonal **Oatmeal Stout #45** will be replaced in the spring by **Single Hop Pale Ale #41**. All cask beers are available in 500ml bottles; seasonal beers are available bottle-conditioned rather than filtered. New beers for distribution in kegs and 330ml cans are **Project Gemini** (4.3%), **Apollo IPA** (5.6%) and **Mercury Seven** (5.2%).



**Jason Phillips**

### ADUR

Stevington, 01903 867614.  
[www.adurbrewery.com](http://www.adurbrewery.com)

Christmas sales have gone very well and the beers can be found at local farmers' markets on a regular basis, as well as in pubs in the region. The cooperative is constantly on the lookout for new members. Contact us for more information in becoming an active member.

**Nigel Watson**

### ALEHOUSE & KITCHEN

Worthing, 01903 238392.

The brewpub is under new management. Brewing is taking place every Wednesday and a wide variety of new and seasonal beers is currently offered including the intriguing **Black Russian**. Proving very popular are the 'Spend a day with the Brewer' packages; at £25, including lunch, these offer great value for anyone interested in seeing the process through from start to finish.

**Tim Walker**

### ARUNDEL

Ford, 01903 733111.

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

The 5.0% festive brew, **Red Nose**, made its annual appearance in December; this time flavoured with hops grown by local gardeners. It was followed by the 10% cask-conditioned **Barley Wine Ale**, one of the new 'Sussex Craft' range, allowing the company to explore more unusual styles with a view to moving any successes into the 'core' range. This core range has been expanded by the addition of **Smokehouse Porter** (6.0%), which sold well nationally in the Wetherspoon autumn festival. It also represents the company's first foray into canned beer; and the cans sold extremely well from the moment they arrived in the brewery shop. The next seasonal and special brews in trade are **Winter Knights** (4.9%, dark), **Pickled Mouse** (4.1%, tawny) and **Sussex Giant** (5.0%, amber).  
**Jeff Vinter**

### BALLARD'S

Nyewood, 01730 821362.

[www.ballards-brewery.co.uk](http://www.ballards-brewery.co.uk)

As 2015 ended the 35th anniversary of brewing, both draft and bottled beer continue to sell well. January 2016 also commemorates Fran's 35th year as brewer. Well done that man! Another very enjoyable Ballard's Walk saw a few spots of rain, the weather otherwise unseasonably warm. Thanks go to everyone involved in making it a special day out. The year's winter brew was the topically named **Pagoda Power** (8.5%) in reference to the Chinese investment in UK electricity generation. The bottled bitter **Worthing Southern Pavilion** was well received and is on its second brew.

**Barry Woodward**

### BARTLEBY'S

Brighton, 01273 275012 / 07518 485342.

www.bartlebysbrewery.com  
A six-month contract with Drink In Brighton began at the end of October, so Bartleby's beers should still be appearing in that Pubco estate by the time you read this.

### **BLOTBC**

## **BEACHY HEAD**

East Dean, 01323 423313.  
www.beachyhead.org.uk  
Although bottling has ceased, the remaining bottles are to be filled with the **Famous Christmas Ale**. The success of **Parson's Porter** means it will probably be brewed to the spring and perhaps the summer.

**Tony Harman**

## **BEDLAM**

Albourne, 01273 978015.  
www.bedlambrewery.co.uk  
The brewery continues with its expansion, hoped to be completed by the end of 2016. Business continues to grow. Three times as much beer is being produced than at this time last year. The new bottled range of ales has been introduced and more of the cask ale is being poured than ever before, with over sixty new accounts since the start of last summer. There have been several successful brewery tours, 'Meet the Brewer' sessions, and the hosting of Homebrew Brighton.

**Peter Mitchell**

## **BEER ME**

Eastbourne, 01323 729967.  
www.beermebrewery.com  
The new **Christmas Ale** (7.8%) was very well accepted and will be available until March. It is now hoped to always provide a seasonal beer throughout the year.

**Scott O'Rourke**

## **BLACK CAT**

Palehouse Common, Framfield,  
01825 840879.  
www.blackcat-brewery.com  
**Original** won 'Beer of the Festival'

at the Spa Valley Railway Beer Festival in October. The award will be presented at the brewery in February. Two new beers have been added to the range: **Tip Top** is a full-bodied session ale at 3.2%; **Imperial Stout** is a limited edition brew of 6.8%, produced in five cask batches and matured for at least sixteen weeks to bring out its complexity, including a touch of real chocolate. Most will be released in 330ml and 500ml bottles. Plans to increase the size of the plant are back on the agenda as more pubs take the beers on a permanent pump.

**John Packer**

## **BRICK HOUSE**

Patcham, Brighton, 07708 384604.  
brickhousebrewingco@gmail.com  
From November, Brick House beers will normally be available only in the Long Man of Wilmington, Patcham, and from Quaff off-licence, Fiveways, Brighton.

### **BLOTBC**

## **BRIGHTON BIER**

Brighton, 01273 567374 / 07515 956976.  
www.brightonbier.com  
The range of beers and dispense methods will continue to expand during 2016. The first two months will be marked by a couple of exciting collaboration brews, the first with Minoh Beer from Japan, arguably the most award-winning brewery in Asia with a multitude of major international successes behind them.

### **BLOTBC**

## **BURNING SKY**

Fire, 01273 858080.  
www.burningskybeer.com  
The automatic bottling machine will be up and running by the time you read this, enabling the new bottling of **Monolith** to be available. **Anniversaire**, **Flanders Red** (aged for two years in wood) and **Cuvee Reserve** (aged in lambic barrels) will

also be available in bottles. The new **Provision**, aged on gooseberries, is available in bottles and keg. Planning permission has been applied for to restore the adjacent barn to provide extra storage and perhaps space for small experimental brews. A Herriot Watt University-trained third brewer is due to join in the New Year.

**Ruth Anderson**

## **CROOKED BROOK**

Unit 5 Woodside Service Station,  
Cophthorne Road, Cophthorne, West  
Sussex RH10 3PD.

Former owner Mr Simon Howard has sold the brewery to Mr Simon Dismorr and Mr Juha Nakari. Some expansion as regards to fermenters etc. is planned in the current premises. Meanwhile, brewing of APAs, bitters and, most recently, a smoky winter porter is taking place at least once a week for firkins and key kegs. **3 Heads Pale Ale** sold out the second quickest at the Redhill Beer Festival.

### **BLOTBC**

## **DARK STAR**

Partridge Green, 01403 713085.  
www.darkstarbrewing.co.uk  
**Antares** is a red super giant, not as massive as some but still powerful enough to light up the evening. The star that goes by the same name is also pretty impressive but Dark Star's **Antares** is a hop-filled red ale using the dark mellow Munich malt and the bite of Southern Cross hops. In its small way Dark Star are trying to combat the colour prejudice among the unlightened beer lover by proving that darker beers don't have to be 'heavy', 'sweet' or stupefyingly strong. Meanwhile, keep a watch out for a special run of dry hopped **Hophead**, and a short return appearance of **Six Hop**.

**Clive Watson**

## **DOWNLANDS**

Small Dole, 01273 495596.



[www.downlandsbrewery.com](http://www.downlandsbrewery.com)

**Black Seven Four** is the new 7.4% dangerously-drinkable strong and dark malty ale. It will be made in small batches and be available over a longer selling period than its predecessor, **Pyecombe AllYe Faithful**, now dropped from the line-up. There are plans for other changes to the beer range, some of which will hopefully be ready by March in time for the Sussex CAMRA Branches Beer & Cider Festival.

**Roger Coton**

## FIL0

Hastings, 01424 420212.

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

The Christmas brew **OurAuldAle** (6.5%) and other seasonal beers **Cardinal** (4.6%) and **Churches Pale** will be making a welcome return for the colder months, while regulars **Crofters**, **Gold** and **Old Town Tom** remain as popular as ever.

**Bill Turner**

## FIREBIRD

Rudgwick, 01403 823180.

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

All fermenters are now in full production, while a new bottle labelling machine and upgraded filtration system has speeded up bottle and keg beer production. The brewery now has three full-time and four part-time staff to deal with the increased capacity. To compliment the well-stocked shop the brewery bar is now fully functional. A very successful Winter Brew Festival was held at the end of November. The next brewery function will be a St Patrick's Day celebration (a couple of days late) on Saturday 19 March. Details of opening times and events are on the website and Facebook page @FirebirdBrewing.

**Roger Tofts**

## FRANKLINS

Bexhill, 01424 731066.

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

December saw the launch of **Pavilion 35**, a brew exclusively for the De La Warr Pavilion to commemorate their 80th anniversary. The beer will feature throughout the whole year of celebration that is planned. Another new beer already well received is **Explorer**, 4.7% red rye. The **Pudding Stout** recipe is tweaked to give a new and improved version for the winter. There will be the arrival of a brand new concept in January and the beers once more available in bottle. **Citra IPA**, **Smoked Chili Porter** and **Mama Knows Best** will be the first three bottled beers, with another few to follow soon after. Extensive work on the barn will begin around March in order to accommodate the new brew kit that is on order.

**Mac McCutcheon**

## GOLDMARK

Poling, 01903 297838 / 07900 555415.

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

Sales continue to increase as the brewery takes on more customers. Three new beers will be available in the spring, including a Barley Wine and a German Bock. Mark has set up a new weekly blog to help home brewers and give an insight into micro breweries.

**Jim Waterston**

## GOLDSTONE

Ditchling, 01444 257053.

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

Complimenting the standard **East Slope Ale**, a special autumn/winter brew for the East Slope Bar at the Sussex University Students' Union was **Ginger Beard**. This golden-coloured ale featured root ginger, cloves, cinnamon and chilies in its 4.8% recipe. The brewery continues to expand with new plant delivered in November.

**Paul Free**

## GREYHOUND

Smock Alley, West Chiltington, 07973 625510.

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

Sales continue to grow and the conditioning tanks have been extended to increase to a 7-bbl operation. More casks have been purchased and the chilled storage area enlarged. Production of bottle-conditioned ales has also increased; these are available through Hennings wine merchants. The experimental green hop pale **OnTarget** (3.8%) has been well received. The brewery will to continue to produce their four core beers - **Blonde Bird** (3.9%), **Amber Eyes** (4.2%), **Good Ordinary** (3.8%), **B-46** (4.6%) - with plans to develop another one or two ready for the spring/summer and also to start work on a porter.

**Ray Pilkington**

## GRIBBLE

The Gribble Inn, Oving, 01243 786893.

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

With the main pub now fully functional the Brewery Tap is now available for functions, with its own bar. There are plans in the very near future to have a small bottling plant on site to cover the full range of beers brewed. There are now seven beers available: **Gribble Ale**, 4.1%; **Fuzzy Duck**, 4.3%; **Pigs Ear**, 5.8%; **Plucking Pheasant**, 5.2%; **Reg's Tipple**, 4.8%; **Sussex Quad Hopper**, 4.0%; **Wobbler**, 7.2%.

**Chris Wright**

## GUN

Heathfield, 01323 700200 / 07900 683355.

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

The brewery made a memorable debut at the Eastbourne Beer Festival when **Zamzama IPA** won the Sussex Micro Beer of the Festival Award and **Parabellum Milk Stout**

came second in the same category. A limited edition beer, **Smoked Rye** (4.7%), is now available. All the regular cask beers can be bought direct from the brewery in pins, mini-kegs, bottles and cans. Sales continue to grow, with an increasing number of pubs and off-licences from Worthing (Selden Arms, Anchored in Worthing, Corner House) to Tunbridge Wells (Bedford, Pantiles Tap, Ragged Trousers) featuring their beers.

**Steve Obey**

## HAMMERPOT

Poling, 01903 883338.  
www.hammerpot-brewery.co.uk  
A good year at the Vinery was capped by the best fourth quarter for many years. The 10th anniversary celebrations were curtailed by site work but will continue into 2016. Some revisions to the beer list will be announced shortly as well, with a rebooted **Shooting Star** coming on stream amongst other changes.

**Tim Walker**

## HARVEYS

Lewes, 01273 480209.  
www.harveys.org.uk  
Harveys have acquired another London pub, the Phoenix in Stockwell. Work will continue in the New Year on the kegging plant followed by essential repairs to the micro brewery. The last quarter of 2015 saw another Beer of the Festival award when **Prince of Denmark** took the Eastbourne title in October. The new website is now live and offers a wide range of features including an interactive 360-degree tour of the Brewery Shop and an informative 'behind the scenes' video about what goes into a pint of **Best Bitter**.

**Jack Wilkinson**

## HASTINGS

St Leonards-on-Sea, 01424 572050.  
www.hastingsbrewery.co.uk  
The company has paused production

from November 2015 until spring 2016, by which time they will be back using a bigger brew kit.

**Peter Page-Mitchell**

## HEATHEN

Haywards Heath, 01444 456217 / 07825 429428.  
www.heathenbrewers.co.uk  
The brewery recently produced a sherry-like 7.0% beer, brewed with black treacle, cocoa nibs, Greek honey and figs grown by the brewster's family in Puglia, Southern Italy. Sadly, stocks were very limited and it was only available from its home at the Grape and Grain off-licence and deli. Other bottle-conditioned Heaten beers can also be found there. They will continue to experiment and expand on their brews in 2016.

**Ruth Anderson**

## HEPWORTH

Horsham, 01403 269696.  
www.hepworthbrewery.co.uk  
Construction of the new brewery at the Brindsbury site is well under way, and it is expected the buildings will be handed over for fitting out in late February, with the move taking place in late spring. Seven out of eight keg and bottled beers are now gluten-free, the main exception being **Conqueror Stout**. Details of allergens are available on the website.

**Chris Stringer**

## HIGH WEALD

East Grinstead, 07836 291430.  
www.highwealdbrewery.co.uk  
The rebranded bottles of **Chronicle**, **Greenstede** and **Charcoal Burner** are proving very popular and becoming available more widely though off-licences and similar outlets, though usually not now in bottle-conditioned form. Cask sales at local and other free houses have also been doing well, and all three beers have featured at the new East Grinstead micro pub, the Open Arms.

Thoughts are now turning to possible new beers and future festivals.

**Jonathan Samways**

## HOP YARD

Forest Row, 07769 313410.  
www.hopyardbrewing.co.uk  
The brewery is currently (January) closed for renovations. The team hope to be back by spring 2016. In the meantime, follow the progress of the building work on their Facebook and Instagram pages.

**BLO TBC**

## HURST

Hurstpierpoint, 07866 438953.  
www.hurstbrewery.co.uk  
**Old Acquaintance** (6.5%, old ale) will be a seasonal brew, made in small batches as a luxury addition to the core range. Prompted by increasing demand, the ales are now available in 500ml bottles in addition to the current cask products. A new bottling plant has been set up.

**Steve Floor**

## ISFIELD

Framfield, 01825 750633 / 07803 716758.  
www.isfieldbrewing.co.uk  
Sales of the darker brews have reached an all-time high; three times the amount of **Flapjack** was brewed in 2015 compared to the same period last year, while sales of **Toad in the Ale** were also up. Five-litre mini-cask retail sales have doubled, and **Ethel Red** ruby ale, at its new strength of 4.4% (previously 4.2%), is proving to be very popular. The new labelling is now rolling out to farm shops and off-licenses across the county. Experimental work is underway on a number of new brews, with a new ale due for release in early 2016.

**John Packer**

## KILN

Burgess Hill, 07800 556729.  
www.thekilnbrewery.co.uk

**Broadwalk Pale** (4.5%) made a November appearance in cask at the Burgess Hill Inn (a.k.a. the Top House). New smoked beer, **Bricks and Porter**, a combination of seven malts and a single English hop, is now available bottled; the bottled beers are now appearing in Bison Beer Crafthouse, Brighton.

**Paul Free**

## KING BEER

Horsham, 01403 272102.

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

Jordan Mower is joining in the New Year as brewer, having had success with his own brand, UnBarred. Look out for some new beers in 2016, along with further brewery renovations and expansions.

**Mike Head**

## KISSINGATE

Lower Beeding, 01403 891335 / 07909 975664.

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

**Powder Blue Porter** won best beer at the Redhill Beer Festival. Old (4.2%) has now been released after nearly two years on the 'to do list'.

**Murder of Crows** (10%, barley wine) is still being brewed in small batches and has made rare appearances at the Pigs Ear Beer Festival and the Hope in Carshalton Dark Beers Festival. There are now seven bottled beers in the range, all available to buy direct from the brewery. The brewery continues to host a variety of themed events and there are many planned for the New Year. Details are on the website 'events' page.

**Roy Bray**

## LAINÉ

The North Laine, Brighton, 01273 683666.

[www.drinkinbrighton.co.uk/north-laine](http://www.drinkinbrighton.co.uk/north-laine)

The Christmas beer previewed in the last issue was released as **Pudding Porter** (5.4%). The brewery has been running a number of joint 'Meet the

Brewer' sessions over the last few months. Recent examples were with 360° and Dark Star. See the website for future events.

**Ruth Anderson**

## LANGHAM

Lodsworth, 01798 860861.

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

Busy times up at Lodsworth where the shop was full in the lead up to Christmas. **Christmas Cracker** (4.5%) has sold well again, a lovely recipe this year using spice and a plum addition. **Decennium** (4.0%) was the tenth year of brewing a special; it sold very well requiring four brews to be made, yum yum! **Triple XXX** (4.4% dark chocolate malty winter mild ale) will be available through the coming months. There are plans to increase the brewing capacity soon.

**Peter Luff**

## LISTER'S

Ford, 01903 885950 / 07775 853412.

[www.listersbrewery.com](http://www.listersbrewery.com)

Joining **Best Bitter** and **Special Ale** are recent additions **Golden Ale**, light and refreshing with rounded citrus notes, and **Limehouse Porter**, 4.1% with hints of coffee and molasses. All four are regularly available in Sussex, Surrey, Hampshire and London, with the porter especially popular in the East End, the area that inspired its name. The brewery has recently added a number of local Wetherspoon pubs to its customer list. This year will see further beer development, expansion of the brewery and increasing availability of all four beers in cask and bottle format.

**Glenn Johnson**

## LITTLEHAMPTON

Littlehampton, 01903 715111.

[www.littlehamptonbrewery.co.uk](http://www.littlehamptonbrewery.co.uk)  
A Brewery Club is to be launched early in the New Year. At £10 to join, the benefits of membership include

food and drink discounts, special members' evenings and summer BBQs.

**BLOTBC**

## LONG MAN

Litlington, 01323 871850 /

07976 777992.

[www.longmanbrewery.com](http://www.longmanbrewery.com)

The launch of the festive **Inn Keeper** (4.8%) was very successful; it will definitely be returning next Christmas. Two favourites will return from February: **Sussex Pride** (4.5%) for a three month run, and **Number Eight**, for the Six Nations during February and March.

**Scott O'Rourke**

## NAKED

Lancing, 01903 791230.

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

A Russian Imperial Stout at 11.0% was brewed in December and sold in bottles and cask.

**Phil Boiling**

## OLD TREE

Brighton, 07413 064346.

[www.oldtreebrewery.com](http://www.oldtreebrewery.com)

Produced at the end of December was the first **Silo Ale**; made from all English hops, this very smooth, fruity, dark-amber drop is available from the Silo restaurant, Brighton.

**Andrew Coleman**

## PELLS BREWING CO-OP

The Elephant and Castle, Lewes,

01273 473797.

[www.pellsbrewingcoop.org](http://www.pellsbrewingcoop.org)

The Christmas charity tasting raised £400 for St. Peter and St. James and the Salvation Army. The team is looking to increase production with their new kit and will be trying out some new recipes. They are brewing a barrel of new beer for the Yapton Beerex and if people do want any casks for festivals etc. the team require a couple of months notice to produce these as everything is otherwise bottled.



**BLOTBC****PIN UP**

Southwick, 01273 411127.  
[www.pinupbrewingco.com](http://www.pinupbrewingco.com)  
 The new **Winter Stick** (5.4%, amber-orange English bitter) has had an excellent reception across both London and Brighton and has proved extremely popular. The brewery expansion is well under way with the new mezzanine floor almost in and a larger boil pot on its way. Production is increasing and it is planned to start kegging and bottling in-house.

**Adrian Towler**

**RECTORY**

Sreat, 01273 890570.  
 Although still not brewing, the Reverend Godfrey hopes to have some positive news early in the New Year.

**Jack Wilkinson**

**RIVERSIDE**

Unit 6, Beeding Court Business Park, Shoreham Road, Upper Beeding, West Sussex, BN44 3TN, 01903 898030.

[www.riversidebreweryltd.co.uk](http://www.riversidebreweryltd.co.uk)  
 This new 5-barrel brewery was founded by Keith Kempton, Mike Rice and Roger Paxton. Beers are **Tubbers' Tipple** (5.6% premium bitter), **Sneaky Steamer** (5.1% hoppy) **Beeding Best Bitter** (4.2%) and **Steiny Stinker** (4.0% smoked beer).

**ROTHER VALLEY**

Northiam, 01797 252922 / 07798 877551.

[www.rothervalleybrewery.co.uk](http://www.rothervalleybrewery.co.uk)  
 New beer **Keyworth** (4.5%, blonde) has been brewed with a revived hop from the early 20th century. Keyworth's Early was a popular hop used by Guinness. The citrus floral flavour is well suited to modern tastes.

**Dawn Lincoln**

**THREE LEGS**

Brede, 07783 973161  
[www.thethreelegs.co.uk](http://www.thethreelegs.co.uk)  
[info@thethreelegs.co.uk](mailto:info@thethreelegs.co.uk)

**Dark** is now available in cask. The **IPA** recipe is being changed to an American style. **Gold**, 3.8% session ale, is a new addition. Ten local pubs are now being supplied. The brewery consequently remains very busy with the enlarged, 4-barrel plant in full production and brewing twice a week. Two more fermenters will be added early this year. The on-site shop is doing well: opening times are 10am to 6pm Friday and Saturday; variable Tuesday to Thursday (please phone ahead to confirm); closed Sunday and Monday. 1-litre glass flagons, refilled as many times as needed, are available for all cask-conditioned beers, only at the brewery. All beers are available bottle conditioned in 330cl or 500cl sizes. Bottles are also sold at both Bison Beer Crafthouse and 21 Wines, Brighton.

**Peter Harrison**

**TOP NOTCH**

Haywards Heath, 07963 829368.  
[www.topnotchbrewing.co.uk](http://www.topnotchbrewing.co.uk)  
 Going down well was the one-off cask special for the Rowfant Winter Beer Festival, **Old Nutter** (5.8%, old ale, roasty with Fuggles). **#Bonzer** (5.9%, dark IPA) is now on general release in 500ml bottles, available at South Downs Cellars, Lindfield and the Grape and Grain, Haywards Heath. Work begins in the New Year on **1841 Honey Porter**, a collaboration with Heathen Brewers for the 175th anniversary of the Haywards Heath railway and produced in association with Haywards Heath Town Team and Railway Station. It will be available throughout 2016 in limited cask and bottles. Following a successful trial in August at a private function at Haywards Heath Golf Club, a special edition **Elderflower Hop Festival**

will be supplied for the Sussex CAMRA Branches Beer & Cider Festival.

**Keith Newell**

**TURNERS**

Ringmer, 08456 892689 / 07896 598172.

[www.turnersbrewery.com](http://www.turnersbrewery.com)  
 The brewery continues to sell a core range of eight beers in cask across the South East. Strong feedback has received from publicans on the greatly improved quality and consistency of the beers.

**Jason Phillips**

**UNBARRED**

Hove, 07850 070471.  
[www.unbarredbrewery.com](http://www.unbarredbrewery.com)  
 Although Jordan Mower has joined King Beer as Brewer and Product Ambassador, his UnBarred venture will carry on for the time being on an evenings and weekends basis.

**BLOTBC**

**WELTONS**

Horsham, 01403 242901.  
[www.weltonsbeer.co.uk](http://www.weltonsbeer.co.uk)  
 There will be monthly beer festivals at the brewery every last Friday of the month, often with Morris dancing and brewery-priced beer. If these prove popular then the brewery may open more weekends. Follow the brewery on Twitter @weltonsbrewery or see website for details. **Broadwood Wassail** was brewed for the January Wassailing at the White Horse, Maplehurst. Beers to be brewed for the Rugby Six Nations in February will include **Tipperaray Black IPA** (4.2%) **Scotch Ale** in 80 Schillings style, **Le Coq** in Old Cocky style, **Golden Taf** lager, **Azuri Gold** (5.0%) and **English Pride** (3.8%). March beers include **Equinox** (4.3%), **Here Comes The Sun**, **Hopburst** (5.0%), **Quatre Bras** (4.6%) and **Twelve Trees Saison** (6.5%).

**Nigel Bullen**



# CIDER HOUSE NOTES

## A Bit of a Barny



A short tale of woe, and the start of a new life of cider making in a new barn, for John Batcheldor of JB Cider, Maplehurst. Having been forced to move house in 2015 due to family quarrels, John had to give up a third of

his orchard space and his old Cider Barn as well as his home. Luckily, he found another place to live in the village, and his neighbour, who runs a garden nursery business and just happened to already own the land on which the rest of his orchard was growing, allowed him to build a new Cider Barn on that land.

And so a new Cider Barn has arisen over the last few months, built by John with much help from his friends, and is looking magnificent, if slightly unfinished on the back wall. The timber frame was all lovingly handmade by one of his oldest friends, a talented builder and carpenter, and then clad in timber as well, with reused



windows, and the crowning glory of a weathervane showing an angler with a silver fish

dangling on his rod (one of John's passions is fishing). All the old cider making equipment has been rescued from the old barn, and installed in the new one, and the floor is hard-packed earth (clay!) with gravel on top.

Everyone will be able to view it for themselves at the Wassail on 2 January; unfortunately, this

issue of the *Sussex Drinker* will not be in your hands until after the event, so here is a picture for you to see it for yourself.

Wassail!

## Jackie Johnson

*Cider & Perry Rep, Brighton & South Downs Branch*

## Presentation to Village Green Cider Co, winners of the Surrey & Sussex Regional Cider Competition



On Sunday 25 October, four intrepid cider drinkers - the current and ex-Regional Cider Coordinators and their partners - spent several hours at the "cider barn" in Turners Hill helping Ben and Jack press their apples for the next batch of Village Green cider, and presented them with their certificate for winning the Regional Cider Competition in March.

Very messy and hard work, but worth it for the prospect of a tub of the cider when it is ready in March, and we were also given some freshly pressed apple juice to take away. Ben and Jack were both informative and entertaining, and



Ben's parents also helped out by providing us with a barbecue lunch (the dog also tried to join in!).

# CIDER PRODUCERS OF SURREY AND SUSSEX – CAMRA NEEDS YOU!

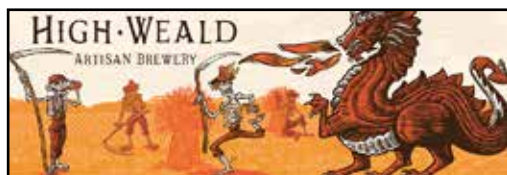
**QUESTION: WHAT'S THE BEST CIDER IN OUR AREA?**

**ANSWER: WE DON'T YET KNOW, BUT WE NEED YOUR HELP TO  
FIND OUT, SO PLEASE ENTER YOUR CIDER INTO THE  
SURREY & SUSSEX REGIONAL CIDER COMPETITION**

**TO BE JUDGED ON SATURDAY 19 MARCH 2016 AT THE SUSSEX  
BRANCHES BEER AND CIDER FESTIVAL (17-19 MARCH 2016)  
AT BRIGHTON CORN EXCHANGE.**

For this competition, any traditional (i.e. made from freshly pressed apples and not micro-filtered, pasteurised or artificially carbonated) cider produced in Surrey or Sussex is eligible. Only one cider per producer will be judged, so makers are asked to nominate which of their ciders is entered. Producers need to be able to provide at least a 10-litre box, for although we only need a small amount for judging, the ciders will all be on the Cider Bar from Thursday 17 March to the end of the Festival, and the public will want to drink the winning cider and other entries after the final judging!

To enter your own, or nominate a cider, please contact  
Jackie Johnson, email: [johnsonjackiem@aol.com](mailto:johnsonjackiem@aol.com), tel: 01273 202730.



**TRIED OUR BEER YET?**

**HIGH WEALD BREWERY**  
**EAST GRINSTEAD | TEL: 07836291430**  
**[andy@highwealdbrewery.co.uk](mailto:andy@highwealdbrewery.co.uk)**  
**[www.highwealdbrewery.co.uk](http://www.highwealdbrewery.co.uk)**



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produced food.

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Castle the pub is ideally  
located to enjoy the  
surrounding views from  
the pretty beer garden.

Live music is provided  
every Friday & Sunday  
night.

**Ypres Castle Inn**  
**Gungarden**  
**Rye**  
**East Sussex**  
**TN31 7HH**  
**01797 223248**

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







The four page insert in the centerfold of this edition of *Sussex Drinker* (opposite) was included in a recent mailing of *What's Brewing* to every CAMRA member to give them the opportunity to register their own "local" as

an Accet of Community Value (ACV). We would like to offer the same opportunity to all readers of *Sussex Drinker*.

Over 1,200 pubs have now been registered as ACVs, and this is a very good start, but it is not enough and many pubs which should remain open that are at threat of closure. You can download the full list of pubs registered as ACVs using [www.camra.org.uk/ACV-List](http://www.camra.org.uk/ACV-List).

CAMRA accepts that not all pubs can be saved from closure, and perhaps not all pubs should be saved. Some pubs are simply not

## List Your Local!

economically viable, e.g. where there is a high concentration of pubs in an area of limited population. In these situations, the pubs which survive will obviously be those which are the most creative and inovatitive and seek to fully meet the needs of their customers.

Far too many pubs are closing which are in every way economically viable as pubs, but the pressure to close these pubs and convert them to some other use, e.g. as residential dwellings, is simply because as financial assets these properties have a far greater value as something other than a pub. It is in these cases that registration as an ACV is most critical. We are still seeing over 1,500 pubs permanently close every year. If this continues, in 10 years time there will only be 35,000 pubs compared with 50,000 currently. The time to act is now.

# Asset of Community Value Nomination Form

Council Name:

Council Address:



## Introduction:

The Community Right to Bid was introduced in the 2011 Localism Act to enable local groups including CAMRA Branches, Parish Councils, and community organisations to nominate 'Assets of Community Value' (ACVs). Councils are required to maintain lists of these nominations. Since April 2015, pubs nominated as ACVs have required planning permission to be demolished or converted to any other use.

The Act states that Councils must accept valid nominations if:

- “(a) an actual current use of the building or other land that is not an ancillary use furthers the social wellbeing or social interests of the local community, and
- (b) it is realistic to think that there can continue to be non-ancillary use of the building or other land which will further (whether or not in the same way) the social wellbeing or social interests of the local community.”

## This Form

This form was created by CAMRA, the Campaign for Real Ale. The form satisfies the requirements under the Localism Act and as such must be accepted as a valid form.

For more information please contact CAMRA's Campaigns Officer Faye Grima on [acv@camra.org.uk](mailto:acv@camra.org.uk).

## Section 1: About You – the lead nominator

Please fill out your personal details in the section below. Your details are provided so the Council can contact you should they require further information or want to contact you about the nomination.

Title	First name
Surname	
Address	
	Postcode
Telephone	
Email Address	
Signed	
Date of nomination	

## Section 2: About Your Unincorporated Group

- ☐ I would like to submit this nomination on behalf of an unincorporated group of at least 21 local people registered to vote locally [PLEASE TICK]  
See p4 for full list of members

What is the name of your unincorporated group? (Such as 'Save the Red Lion')	
---------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--

- ☐ I confirm that this unincorporated group was set up for the purpose of submitting this Asset of Community Value nomination [PLEASE TICK]

## Section 3: About the pub you wish to nominate

Name of the pub	
Address and postcode of the pub	
Description of the pub and its boundaries <i>Please remember to include anything in addition to the building itself which you believe should be listed such as the car park, beer garden or any integral residential quarters such as accommodation above the pub</i>	

- ☐ I am enclosing the Title Plan of the property [PLEASE TICK]  
*Please contact [acv@camra.org.uk](mailto:acv@camra.org.uk) to obtain this information*
- ☐ I am enclosing land registry documents indicating anyone with a freehold or leasehold interest in the property [PLEASE TICK]  
*Please contact [acv@camra.org.uk](mailto:acv@camra.org.uk) to obtain this information*



#### Section 4: Reasons for the Nomination

In order for the Council to accept your nomination, you will need to set out why the pub is of community value. Please include as much information as you can to show:

- That the pub is valued by the community and it furthers (or could further) the social wellbeing and social interests of the community
- That the pub can be viable in future

## Section 5: List of 21 local people supporting the nomination

This page is for 21 people living in the local community to demonstrate that they support the nomination, as required by your local Council.

Please note that each of these people must appear on the electoral register in the same or a neighbouring Council to where the pub is located. The 21 names should be from different households.

No.	Name (please print clearly)	Your full address (including postcode)	Signature
1			
2			
3			
4			
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21			

Further optional support

22			
23			
24			
25			
26			

## **Sussex Loyal Orange Lodge wishes you a very happy, healthy and prosperous 2016**



The Loyal Orange Institution is a worldwide Brotherhood committed to supporting and promoting the Protestant faith, the Monarchy in the UK and upholding the principle of civil and religious liberties for all.

We are an active Lodge which meets monthly in Lewes. During the year we take part in parades throughout the UK and raise money for charity.

**If you are interested in finding out more or would like to join please see our website – [www.orangelodgesussex.org](http://www.orangelodgesussex.org) or email us at [sussexorangeorder@hotmail.com](mailto:sussexorangeorder@hotmail.com)**



# **Beer Tent**



**[www.ale-inatent.co.uk](http://www.ale-inatent.co.uk)**

**Arun Yacht Club Beer Festival, Riverside West, Littlehampton, West Sussex BN17 5DL  
Saturday 9th April 12-11pm & Sunday 10th April 12-4pm**

**St Georges Day Beer Festival, George & Dragon, 1 High Street, Tarring, West Sussex BN14 7NN  
Friday 22nd - Sunday 24th April**

**Bill Target Memorial Steam Rally, Highbridge Farm, Highbridge Road, Eastleigh, Hampshire SO50 6HN  
Saturday 14th & Sunday 15th May**

**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**

**07778 551352 / [info@ale-inatent.co.uk](mailto:info@ale-inatent.co.uk)**



## BEER FESTIVALS AND OTHER DELICHTS

**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.

**Feb 17-20 CAMRA NATIONAL WINTERALES FESTIVAL**, Roundhouse, Pride Park, Derby, DE24 8JE, [www.nwaf.org.uk](http://www.nwaf.org.uk)

**Feb 19-20 GOSPORT WINTERFEST XXIV**, Thorngate Halls, Bury Road, Gosport, Hants, PO12 3PX, [www.portsmouthcamrabeerfestivals.co.uk/gosport-winterfest.html](http://www.portsmouthcamrabeerfestivals.co.uk/gosport-winterfest.html)

**Feb 25-27 Petersfield Beer & Cider Festival**, Festival Hall, Heath Road, Petersfield, Hants, GU31 4EA, 01730 264182, [www.petersfieldfest.com](http://www.petersfieldfest.com)

**Feb 26-28 Rose in June Winter Beer Festival**, 10 ales and 6 ciders, 102 Milton Road, Portsmouth, PO3 6AR, 023 9282 4191, [www.theroseinjune.co.uk](http://www.theroseinjune.co.uk)

**Feb 26-28 Stanley Arms Beer Festival**, 47 Wolseley Road, Portslade, BN41 1SS, 01273 430234, [www.thestanley.com](http://www.thestanley.com)

**Mar 5-6 3rd CAMRA SPRING EQUINOX FESTIVAL**, Drill Hall, Denne Road, Horsham, RH12 1JF, [www.northsussexcamra.org.uk](http://www.northsussexcamra.org.uk), [camra.equinox@gmail.com](mailto:camra.equinox@gmail.com)

**Mar 4-6 Prestonville Arms Spring Beer Festival**, 12noon-midnight every day with 15 ales plus cider, 64 Hamilton Road, Brighton, BN1 5DN, 01273 701007, [www.theprestonvillearms.co.uk](http://www.theprestonvillearms.co.uk)

**Mar 10 Train to London Pubs, TTLP28.** To the Wimbledon area, SW19, hopefully to visit the new Wimbledon Brewery Tap, plus the

Sultan, whose brewery may or may not be operating. Other targets TBA. To be included on mailout list contact Pete Brown, 01243 552908, [peteb@custardtowers.plus.com](mailto:peteb@custardtowers.plus.com)

**Mar 11-13 Sussex Spring Ale Showcase**, Fri-Sat evening, Sat-Sun daytime, a new event at Amberley Museum & Heritage Centre, Station Road, Amberley, BN18 9LT, [www.aletamberley.co.uk](http://www.aletamberley.co.uk)

**Mar 17-19 26th SUSSEX CAMRA BRANCHES BEER & CIDER FESTIVAL**, Brighton Corn Exchange, Church Street, Brighton, BN1 1UE, 07450 656148, [www.sussexbeerfestival.co.uk](http://www.sussexbeerfestival.co.uk)

**Mar 19 Firebird Brewery Function**; a St Patrick's Day celebration, Old Rudgwick Brickworks, Lynwick Street, Rudgwick, RH12 3UW, 01403 823180, [www.firebirdbrewing.co.uk](http://www.firebirdbrewing.co.uk)

**Mar 25-28 Victoria Inn Easter Beer Festival**, 27 Latimer Road, Eastbourne, BN22 7BU, 01323 722673, [www.victoriaeastbourne.co.uk](http://www.victoriaeastbourne.co.uk)

**Apr 1-2 Southsea Beerex**, Fri 6-11pm, Sat 12noon-5pm, 6-11pm, Wedgewood Rooms, 147b Albert Road, Southsea, Hants, PO4 0JW, 023 9286 3911, [www.wedgewoodrooms.co.uk/WhatsOn/SouthseaBeerex.aspx](http://www.wedgewoodrooms.co.uk/WhatsOn/SouthseaBeerex.aspx)

**Apr 1-3 CAMRA MEMBERS' WEEKEND & AGM**, Liverpool Guild of Students, Mountford Hall, Mount Pleasant, Liverpool, Merseyside, L3 5TR, [www.camraagm.org.uk](http://www.camraagm.org.uk)

**Apr 9-10** Arun Yacht Club Beer Festival, Beer Tent Event, Sat 12-11pm, Sun 12-4pm, free entry, all welcome; Riverside West, Littlehampton, BN17 5DL, 07778 551352, [www.arunyc.co.uk](http://www.arunyc.co.uk), [www.ale-inatent.co.uk](http://www.ale-inatent.co.uk)

**Apr 15-17** Victoria Inn Spring Beer Festival, West Marden, PO18 9EN, 02392 631330, [www.victoriainnwestmarden.co.uk](http://www.victoriainnwestmarden.co.uk)

**Apr 16** SUSSEX CAMRA BRANCHES LIAISON MEETING, New Inn, 5 Norfolk Street, Littlehampton, BN17 5PL

**Apr 22-24** St George's Day Beer Festival, Beer Tent Event, George & Dragon, 1 High Street, Tarring, Worthing, BN14 7NN, 07778 551352, [www.ale-inatent.co.uk](http://www.ale-inatent.co.uk)

**April 22-24** St George's Day Mini-Beer Festival, The Bevy, 50 Hillside, Brighton, BN2 4TF, 01273 281009, [www.thebevy.co.uk](http://www.thebevy.co.uk)

**Apr 28-May 2** Beltane Beer Festival, Duke of Wellington, 368 Brighton Road, Shoreham-by-Sea, BN43 6RE, 01273 441297, [www.dukeofwellingtonbrewhouse.co.uk](http://www.dukeofwellingtonbrewhouse.co.uk)

**Apr 29-May 2** Anchor Inn 5th Annual Bank Holiday Beer and Cider festival, with live music and (if fine) BBQ; Church Street, Hartfield, TN7 4AG, 01892 770424, [www.anchorhartfield.com](http://www.anchorhartfield.com)

**May 13-15** 27th YAPTON BEEREX, Yapton & Ford Village Hall, BN18 0ET, see back page advert and [www.westernsussexcamra.org.uk](http://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](http://www.kissingate.co.uk)

**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](http://www.ale-inatent.co.uk)

**May 20** Train to London Pubs, TTLP29. To South London, possibly to visit some of the growing list of Late Knights Brewery bars/pubs, plus others TBA. To be included on mailout list contact Pete Brown, 01243 552908, [peteb@custardtowers.plus.com](mailto:peteb@custardtowers.plus.com)

**May 27-29** Beer & Cider by the Sea, Western Lawns, Eastbourne, BN21 4UH, 01323 412000, [www.visiteastbourne.com/events/beerandciderbythesea.aspx](http://www.visiteastbourne.com/events/beerandciderbythesea.aspx)

**June 4-5** Floral Fringe Fair, Beer Tent Event, Knepp Castle, West Grinstead, RH13 8LJ, 07778 551352, [www.ale-inatent.co.uk](http://www.ale-inatent.co.uk)

**June 17-18** 20th SOUTH DOWNS BEER & CIDER FESTIVAL, Lewes Town Hall, BN7 2Q5, [www.brightoncamra.org.uk](http://www.brightoncamra.org.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](http://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](http://www.ale-inatent.co.uk)

**July 31** Sadcase Car Show, Beer Tent Event, Storrington Recreation Ground, Storrington, RH20 4HJ, 07778 551352, [www.ale-inatent.co.uk](http://www.ale-inatent.co.uk)

**Aug 9-13** GREAT BRITISH BEER FESTIVAL, Olympia, London, W14 8UX, 0844 412 4640, [www.gbbf.org.uk](http://www.gbbf.org.uk)

# SPOTLIGHT ON

# BREWERIES

## The Empire Expands



As reported in the Sussex Pub Scratchings section of this issue, the Dark Star empire has now established soon-to-open outposts in both Haywards Heath and Horsham with the

opening of the Lockhart Tavern and the Anchor Tap respectively. James from the brewery assures us the new pubs will be worth visiting: "First and foremost we want to establish these as genuine free houses. As with the Evening Star, you will be able to enjoy a great range of beers from some great breweries, and a few of ours thrown in for good measure. Much like our 'strategy' for brewing beers that we want to drink, we'll be creating pubs we want to drink in - we hope you'll join us".

## Orange Skies

Burning Sky brewery has been invited to be one of seven UK breweries to take part in the International Rainbow Project, which started in 2013. Each brewery is paired with a foreign brewery - this year from New Zealand -



assigned a colour and asked to brew a beer loosely based around that colour. Burning Sky has been paired with Liberty Brewing Co. and their colour is orange. They will also be doing a collaboration brew with the Italian Birra del Borgo brewery.

## Faithful to the Last

After the team at Downlands brewery made the decision to drop Pyecombe All Ye Faithful from



their line-up, the beer promptly won Silver in the London and South Eastern

Region Champion Beer of Britain Competition. The Brighton & South Downs Branch recently awarded the certificate to the brewery, during which visit they were able to sample the winning beer's successor, Black Seven Four.

## Old Prentonian



Al is still brewing on a temporary basis from home, but should move his Old Prentonian Brewery in January into new premises in Worthing. The regular beers will include 'Ello Treacle Stowt and



Smokey Joe Ale, while a dry-hopped light ale is under development.

## New Brus



Ashdown Ales is a new brewery to start small-scale production over Christmas with beer available in

bottles and casks from mid-January 2016. They will initially be utilising spare capacity at an existing brewery. The Lazy Lizard Beer Company has its registered office in Peacehaven and is currently brewing at Naked Brewery, Lancing. Two Tribes was launched on 23 March 2015, operating from the Jubilee estate, Foundry Lane, Horsham, with the same post code and phone number as King Beer.



17th century coaching inn in a historic market town

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Sun 11-10.30pm



# The Victoria Annual Beer Festival

## easter weekend

### FRIDAY 25TH TO MONDAY 28TH MARCH

*A fine selection of real ales from around the country and a selection of Harvey's ales from the bar*

## Food Available

11.30 till 2.30pm, 6pm till 9pm Fri & Sat, 12.00 till 4pm Sun & 12.00 till 3pm Mon

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**BN22 7BU Tel: 01323 722673**

**email: [the-vic-eastbourne@sky.com](mailto:the-vic-eastbourne@sky.com)**

**[www.victoriaeastbourne.co.uk](http://www.victoriaeastbourne.co.uk)**





The Beer Me Brewery was launched in 2014 in the basement of the Belgian Café, Eastbourne. Its opening was the culmination of a three-year project for Café owner Greg Corona and brewer Damien

Dudon (see right), who built on ten years experience in the catering industry and were inspired by a trip to Columbia where they experienced at first hand some of the new micro breweries in that South American country. Having taken brewing training in Belgium, they attended a Dave Porter course. Their 2.5-barrel plant was also a Dave Porter installation on



# Beer Me!



which, in December 2014, they test-brewed both Blonde and Dubbel. These, alongside their other continental-style beers are served at the café direct from the brewery, hence the choice of name, Beer Me.

Beer Me Brewery, The Belgian Café, 11-23 Grand Parade, Eastbourne, BN21 3YN, 01323 729967, [www.beermebrewery.com](http://www.beermebrewery.com)



# The Crown

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

Large enclosed rear garden and children's play area.

Six real ales: Harveys Sussex Best Bitter, Shepherd Neame Spitfire, Wadworth 6X, Young's Special and two guest beers.

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



## Easter Beer Festival 24th – 28th March

**Live music and 20+ ales**

Free festival t-shirt for CAMRA members  
South East Sussex LocAle Pub of the Year 2015

**22 Crown Street, Old Town, Eastbourne,  
BN21 1PB, (01323) 724654**

ROWFANTHOUSE PRESENTS

## ROWFANT Spring Beer Festival 30th April ~ 2nd May 2016

- Our 'Beer Stalker' bar will showcase rare and award-winning beers from acclaimed local brewery Kissingate and many other top brewers.
- Join our 'Beer School' (advanced booking necessary) with renowned sommelier The Hopflower, Lisa Wadlow, who will host lively, informative sessions on combining beer with locally sourced gourmet treats.

Opens 12 noon • For more information contact the Events Team now

**T: 01342 714869 E: [info@rowfanthouse.co.uk](mailto:info@rowfanthouse.co.uk)**



ROWFANTHOUSE

Wallage Lane, Crawley West Sussex RH10 4NG





The Mad March Pub Quiz Challenge is simplicity itself. During the month of March, pubs across East and West Sussex are asked to support Friends of Sussex Hospices (FSH), a charity that champions

and supports the work of all twelve hospice care providers across the county. The challenge has gone from strength to strength and 2016 will be its third year. In 2015 over 100 pubs took up the challenge and held auctions, ran raffles and organised quizzes, with one quizmaster even having a sponsored haircut! There was a quiz every evening of the month and multiple quizzes on some nights. In 2014 the challenge raised £10,000, and FSH is seeking to surpass the 2015 total of £19,000. As FSH is run entirely by volunteers, every pound raised goes to the hospice care providers.

FSH can supply posters, flyers, and beer mats. It will promote your quiz through social media, post it on its website and the local press will be backing

## MAD MARCH

the MMPQ challenge. Pubs have found they have more customers on Charity Quiz nights. The closer involvement between members of the local community and the pub provides positive PR. Many pubs have already expressed interest in taking part once again and the word is getting around as pubs and clubs are now approaching the



charity. Al Murray, the pub landlord, will again endorse MMPQ in 2016, and in his words: "The Mad March Pub Quiz Challenge is a TOP NOTCH idea and I urge you to support it in whatever way you can to raise money for Sussex Hospices."

To get involved, and for more information, contact Patricia Evans, MMPQ Event Director; tel: 07837 130688; email: [patricia.evans@friendsofsussexhospices.org.uk](mailto:patricia.evans@friendsofsussexhospices.org.uk).

[www.goddardsbrewery.com](http://www.goddardsbrewery.com)



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From home brew to pro brew



*Oliver Cromwell*  
**Our Signature Ale!**

*Very pale and malty with a surprising bitter back taste*



Mill Lane, East Hoathly, East Sussex. BN8 6DP.  
01825 840830 ~ [www.1648Brewing.co.uk](http://www.1648Brewing.co.uk)



The *Harvey Hoppers' Handbook*, a 1990s guide to the pubs on the Harvey Hop, states that the Grenadier Hotel dates back to the Napoleonic Wars, when it “was originally known as the British Grenadier and served to quench the thirsts of the soldiers garrisoned in the barracks which once stood nearby.” The existing premises, however, are the result of a 1910 rebuilding with later additions including a parapet. It is of two storeys in redbrick with attractive decorative stonework elements in the rusticated pilasters and the arches above the ground floor doors and windows.



These bear the names Private Bar, Public Bar and Saloon Bar in scrolled relief above the windows with H&S (Harvey & Son) over the doors. Room names also survive on a number of etched windows and door glass.

The present bar on the left is a combination of the old Private and Public Bars. The Toad in the Hole game is played here. Fixed seating now blocks off the Public Bar door where the load-

## The Grenadier, Hailsham



bearing beam once divided the two rooms. The original bar back and counter remains but the latter has newer panels on the front. The internal door with the sign ‘Saloon Bar and Toilets’ leads first to a small lobby with what appears to have once been an off sales; or perhaps this was the entrance and serving hatch for the hotel residents. The large right side room has a ‘Saloon Bar’ etched panel in both exterior and inner doors. The bar counter is the original with replacement front panels that match the dado panelling on the walls, some of which has covered up an old fireplace. This room has been combined with a former sitting room at the rear where there is another small hatch/doorway for service.



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## Sussex CAMRA Pub of the Year 2014



The fate of two Brighton pubs that have previously been the subject of this feature is now confirmed. From a CAMRA point of view it is very disappointing that neither has been saved as a real ale pub. The silver(-ish) lining in the cloud is that they have at least been retained for community use instead of becoming the offices and flats they were originally destined to be.



The Horse and Groom, Islingword Road, Hanover, was taken over by Majid Bensliman, owner and chef of the Blue Man in Queen's Road, and reopened in December as the Village. It is a community-focused fully-licensed café bar, serving food and drink from 12noon-11pm (midnight Friday and Saturday), including tapas, breakfasts, dinners, coffee, cakes, teas and alcohol, including craft keg and bottled British and Belgian beer with prices ranging from £4 to £5.

There is free wi-fi, disabled access and amenities and a changing station for families with babies. Live events will take place on a regular basis such as music, comedy and spoken word, while the soundproofed performance space can also be booked for private events. Those over 65 get a 15% discount while students and NHS staff get 10% off. See [www.villagebrighton.com](http://www.villagebrighton.com).

## Brighton Update



Meanwhile, the Rose Hill Tavern Action Group seemingly did not raise enough capital to purchase this pub in Rose Hill Terrace, off London Road. The *Brighton and Hove Independent* (Friday 18 December) reports that the property has been bought by an unnamed Brighton couple who aim to turn the closed tavern into a community arts hub. The buyers issued the following statement: “We are keen to set up arts studios and a recording studio in the cellar, and the ground floor space we will keep as flexible space for a variety of creative and community uses, for instance, we run a regular extended artists residency programme in France and would like a space in the UK to run some of those activities. We would like to put on events, exhibitions, performances, live music and community activities. We would run a variety of creative workshops. We belong to an extended local network of artists, musicians, photographers, creative workshop leaders and performers and we would like to set up a space that can help contribute to the configuration of the London Road area.”

Both pubs were the result of a 1930s remodelling by architect Stavers Hessell Tiltman for the Portsmouth and Brighton United Breweries. Both were listed last year as Assets of Community Value.





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## 2000 Members Milestone



The Brighton & South Downs branch are pleased to announce that their membership now stands at 2000. Formed on 13 September 1974, their branch numbers steadily grew in response to what was in the early years a very limited choice of beer. But “due to the resurgence of real ale and the demand from discerning drinkers for quality beer, branch membership has accelerated over the past few years” said Keith Newell, Branch Chairman and Membership Secretary. Andy and Julie McNamee from Lewes joined as joint members bringing the branch to the 2000 number. And the rate by which people are joining CAMRA shows no sign of slowing down as national membership nears 175,000.

**Peter Mitchell**

*Brighton & South Downs Branch*



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## Victoria Inn, West Marden

The second annual Festival of Christmas Ales at the Victoria Inn, West Marden was very well received. Members of the local CAMRA branch



turned up very early on the second day; lovely to see them, although I'm not sure that they all enjoyed wearing the Santa Hats!

The festival got off to a great start on the Friday



with Downlands Generic Festive Pun being the favourite of the day. The Christmas Jumper Competition was well supported.



The final day saw the Prize Olde Mummers perform and they managed to consume plenty of ale.

The overall Ale of the Festival was a close run thing between Ballard's Pagoda Power, 8.5%, and Langham

Christmas Cracker, 4.5%. We are now looking forward to our Spring Beer Festival, which runs from Friday 15 to Sunday 17 April. As always, we are open to suggestions for ales people would like to see and can provide transport to and from Emsworth and Rowlands Castle stations by prior arrangement.

**Toby Morgan**

*Victoria Inn Landlord*



Homebrew Brighton is Brighton's brew club, a community of home-brewers. Come along if you are interested in learning how to start or improve your brewing, tasting and sharing great beers, and having a great time. At the moment I am the primary organiser but I hope to keep getting more people on board so that we can get some more interesting collaborative group work going.

We have been a group on Facebook since autumn 2013 and have been meeting monthly since October 2014. Meetings generally rotate between a few of the craft beer scene pubs in

## Love beer? Make beer!

Brighton but as we open up more we will be moving further afield. Keep an eye on the website, Facebook, Twitter and the mailing list for news about the weekly meets.

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

Twitter@brewbrighton

Facebook: groups/homebrewbrighton

**James Torr**



**HOMEBREW  
BRIGHTON**

Homebrew Brighton is about building community, meeting awesome people, tasting great beers, learning how to make better beers, and having a great time. All the time.

Have a look on the Facebook group or Twitter for details on the monthly meet and other events like competitions, brewery visits and bottle swaps.

INGREDIENTS	
<b>Meet:</b>	1st Tuesday of the month
<b>Do:</b>	Share brews, discuss, support
<b>Twitter:</b>	@brewbrighton
<b>Facebook Group:</b>	groups/homebrewbrighton

## LocAle

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

Eastbourne: London and County; Selmeston: Barley Mow.

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.

## ACV Additions

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

Dew Drop Inn, 96 Wick Street, Wick, Littlehampton, BN17 7JS

Independent, 95 Queen's Park Road, Brighton, BN2 0GH

Lamb Inn, 144 Pagham Road, Nyetimber, Bognor Regis, PO21 4NJ

Maypole Inn, Maypole Lane, Yapton, BN18 0DP

Richard Cobden, 2 Cobden Road, Worthing, BN11 4BD

White Horse, Albourne Road, Hurstpierpoint, BN6 9SP



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

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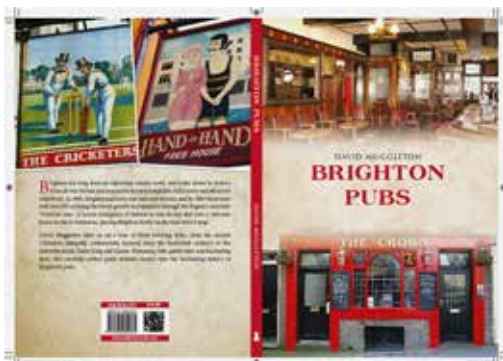


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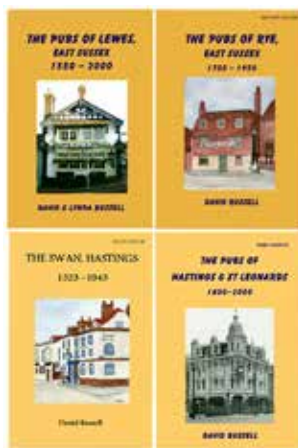
Your editor's new book, *Brighton Pubs*, is due out by mid-March from Amberley Publishing of Stroud, Gloucestershire, ISBN 978 1 4456 4993 1 (Print) and 978 1 4456 4994 8 (ebook), price £14.99. At 96 pages with 93 photographs and illustrations, it features histories of forty-five of the city's pubs, still open to visit at the time of completing the book. They fit into a series of five walks, each with its own chapter, starting with a map and covering a different area of Brighton. All the pubs are in some way notable, whether by heritage or architecture, a setting for events, or association with people. For those who were familiar with my free pub fazine, *The Quaffer*, this book reads like one big Quaffer but with photographs. It tells a tale of wagers, inquests, killings, hauntings, conjoined twins, architects, froth blowers, family publican dynasties, and two dogs – one very lucky, the other a trickster. *Brighton Pubs* by David Muggleton is available to pre-order at a special price of £13.49 from [www.amberley-books.com/brighton-pubs.html](http://www.amberley-books.com/brighton-pubs.html).

A new book by David and Lynda Russell, published September 2015, is *The Pubs of Lewes, East Sussex 1550-2000*, ISBN 978 0 9562 9179 0, price £14.99, featuring histories of fifty pubs and beer houses plus a register of licensees. At 322 pages it includes 186 photographs and illustrations. Meanwhile, David's book, *The Pubs of Rye, East Sussex*

## Books on Sussex Pubs

*1750-1950*, has now gone into its second edition, ISBN 978 0 9562 9178 3, price £13.99. At 286 pages, this fascinating and informative history of thirty-three Rye pubs also includes a register of licensees and research into the Rye Temperance Movement. Also in its second edition by the same author is *The Swan, Hastings 1523-1943*, ISBN 978 0 9562 9176 9, price £8.50. This is a 120 page history of the famous Hastings pub destroyed by enemy action in the Second World War. It was way back in the Winter 2009 issue of the *Sussex Drinker* that this editor ran a review of David's book, *The Pubs of Hastings & St Leonards 1800-2000*. This is now in its third edition, including new research. Seventy-two pubs are featured, past and present in its 332 pages, which include 200 photographs and illustrations - ISBN 978 0 9562 9177 6, price £13.99. Finally, David's *Register of Licensees for Hastings & St Leonards 1500-2000*, is now in its second edition, ISBN 978 0 9562 9752,

price £8.50. At 138 pages, it contains some 4,400 names. It is the only listing of 341 public houses in the town and is a useful reference for family historians, pub historians and genealogists.



All of the books can be purchased by Pay Pal from [www.hastingspubhistory.com](http://www.hastingspubhistory.com). Otherwise email: [hastings.pubs@gmail.com](mailto:hastings.pubs@gmail.com).



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Dear Editor

As a long time advocate of the potential benefits of sub branches, I was delighted to read in the winter issue that the South East Sussex branch has established a North East Sussex sub branch. National membership of CAMRA continues to grow, mainly through recruitment at beer festivals. Yet 'activating' more of those new members to participate in the important areas of our branch organisation and campaigning - other than helping at the local beer festival - can be a real challenge, one that can, however, be met, at least in part, by the establishment of sub branches.

Other examples where having sub branches could be beneficial include the annual surveys for the Good Beer Guide (GBG), and the branch, county and regional Pub of the Year (PotY) competitions where participating numbers are often lower than a decade ago. It is also the case that - with a significant percentage of members living in the main urbanised areas - getting to rural pubs, many of which have a limited bus service, if any, presents yet another challenge.

The creation of sub branches thus has the potential to 'activate' more members in outlying areas or even urban areas away from the core. Whilst each sub branch remains a part of the parent branch, it can agree with the parent on a structure that will best enable local members to take responsibility locally for 'looking after' local pubs and breweries. This then provides invaluable feedback to the parent branch - together with CAMRA regionally and nationally - and crucially gives local members the opportunity for a real voice in the campaign!

Food for thought?

**Stuart Elms**

*Tarring*

Dear Editor

Is there a definition of what constitutes 'craft beer'? The Craft Beer Co. in Upper North Street,

Brighton sells a lot of real ale, yet J D Wetherpoon seem to think American beer in cans is craft beer. In Australia (and probably the USA) the 'craft beer' term is widely used, although many Oz beers can in no way be considered real ale. Another term which I think needs defining is 'beer festival'. I expect a beer festival normally to be a two or three-day event held in a moderately large hall (or a function room or marquee if on pub premises) with a large choice of drinks available to appeal to real ale and cider drinkers. I am increasingly finding the term applied to pubs where (say) they normally serve three regular real ales and one guest from the bar, but for a period of (say) a month this is turned around to three frequently changing guest beers with just one regular available. On such occasions you are not solely in the company of other real ale and cider enthusiasts because many people are in the pub for a variety of other reasons - to drink Fosters, wine and dine or watch Sky TV! Also, I am not quite sure how the current J D Wetherpoon 'beer festival' [a local not the national event] substantially differs from their normal real ale and cider offerings.

**Keith Milborrow**

*Ed's reply: in the UK at least, there is no definition of Craft Beer. It is a wholly meaningless term.*

Dear Editor

I propose a MOTION from the Jolly Tanners, Staplefield. This house thinks that CAMRA HQ is too cosy with the J D Wetherspoon empire. The £20 of vouchers 'subsidy' to all CAMRA members is surely nothing but a bribe to make the noble CAMRA organisation quiescent to the fact that J D Wetherspoon has been responsible for closing more pubs than it has opened.

Would any readers care to support or contest this motion?

Yours contentiously

**Chris Brazier**





Rudgwick RH12 3EB

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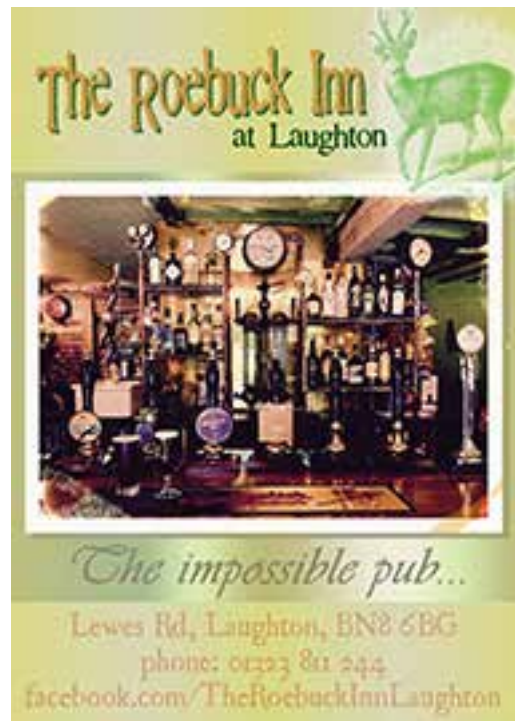
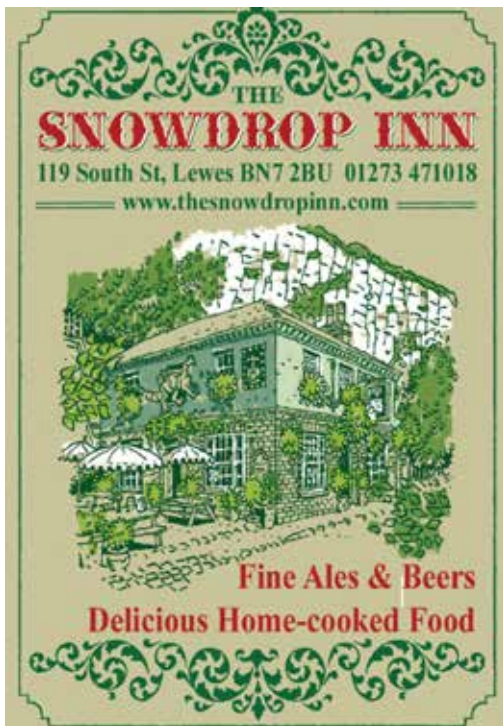


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