

beertoday

Championing independent beer, pubs and bars



Georgina Young, brewing director at St Austell Brewery, has been named brewers' brewer of the year at the SIBA Business Awards. "Georgina is one of the UK's most respected brewers," said beer writer Pete Brown, who presented the awards. "She is a true beer enthusiast, with an obsessive eye for quality and consistency."

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IN BRIEF

- Renegade has developed a bespoke lager for Newbury Racecourse. The lager is the cheapest available at the racecourse, part of a commitment by Newbury to make a day's racing as affordable as possible. The lager uses 100% British ingredients, including Berkshire malt.
- Brew Toon has dropped the ABV of its best-selling beer, M'Ango Un-chained, from 5.8% to 5% ABV.
- Organisers have confirmed that the annual real ale festival is returning to Emley Bandroom, in the heart of Yorkshire, over Easter weekend.
- The next beer in Northern Monk's Northern Wild series is actually a beer/cider hybrid. The 4.6% ABV brew has been made using wild yeast from apples and Brett Bruxellensis.
- Round Corner Brewing has earned five double gold medals at the European Beer Challenge, more than any other brewery in Europe.

What now for hospitality?

The chancellor has made her spring statement, full of hope and optimism for the next four years, but with nothing — nothing — to cheer Britain's beleaguered hospitality and brewing sectors.

The financial year looms. Employers' National Insurance contributions will rise. National minimum and living wages will rise. Business rates relief will end. And pubs will close.

"The chancellor, Rachel Reeves, has completely overlooked the 'working people' who keep our pubs and small breweries running across the country," said Dawn Hopkins, vice-chair of the Campaign for Pubs.

"Her budget pushed our industry further into crisis, and today she offered nothing to ease that despair.

She talks about getting people off benefits and into work, but where are these jobs coming from? Pubs are being forced to cut staff just to survive, and nothing she has said or done in the spring statement will slow the alarming rate of closures."

Steve Alton, chief executive of the British Institute of Innkeeping, said successful operators, who serve their communities, provide flexible employment and incredible career opportunities, can be part of the growth that was at the heart of the government's manifesto.

"We have been crystal clear and consistent in our messaging to government. If you remove the barriers to growth, pubs will rapidly deliver revenue, local employment and sup-

port for supply chains and communities. Without recognition of the pressure the autumn Budget put onto our sector, uniquely placed at the heart of every town, city, and high street in the UK, they have failed communities everywhere."

UKHospitality chief executive, Kate Nicholls, noted: "The government's own analysis shows the failure to address the employer NICs threshold will force businesses to freeze recruitment, reduce hours available for staff, and reduce employment levels in the very sectors the government needs to achieve its goal to get people off welfare.

"If the government is serious about getting Britain working, it needs hospitality."

Brew York is bringing new bar concept to Leeds

A new concept, Brew+Bao, is coming to Chapel Allerton, Leeds, this spring, a collaboration between Brew York and YUZU Street Food.

Popular for its Asian fusion dishes, YUZU has been serving Brew York customers across its York venues since 2019.

Brew+Bao will boast more than 16 fresh beers. A curated selection of craft beers — some permanent, some on rotation — will pour alongside a handful of Brew York favourites. Customers can expect a menu carefully curated by the team behind YUZU street food, all perfectly paired with the beers.

WHAT'S ON

2nd-5th April

Egham Beer Festival at Egham United Services Club

Maldon Beer Festival at the Swan Hotel, Maldon

3rd-5th April

Weetwood Brewery tap takeover at Cromwell's Tap House, Shrewsbury

3rd-6th April

Beer festival at Wigan Central, Wigan

4th and 5th April

Nottingham Independents' Castle Beer Fest at Nottingham Castle

Wickham Charity Beer Festival at The Wickham Centre, Wickham

4th-6th April

Real ale and cider festival at South Benfleet Social Club

Beer festival at The Brickmaker's Alehouse, Bexhill-on-Sea

Beer festival at the Atlantic Inn, Porthleven

Eccyfest II in micropubs along the Eccleshall Road, Sheffield

PLAN AHEAD

9th-12th April

Beer festivals at the Brunswick Inn and The Victoria Inn, Derby

10th-12th April

Brew//LDN at Between The Bridges, London

Farnham Beerex at Farnham Maltings

Maltingsfest at Osborne Park, Newton Abbot

11th and 12th April

North Leeds Charity Beer Festival at North Leeds Cricket Club

Oldham Beer and Cider Festival at The Queen Elizabeth Hall, Oldham

Beer festival at the Plum Pudding, Milton

Beer festival at Newbury Racecourse

12th April

Aberdeen Beer Festival at the Music Hall, Aberdeen

There are more — many more

— listings, with maps, at

beertoday.co.uk/events

The biggest beery events guide in the UK? Could be...



Wild Horse Brewing Co is celebrating its 10th anniversary at its Llandudno brewery and taproom this weekend. There are two anniversary beers. Rewind (4.7% ABV) is a tribute to the brewer's first beer, an American brown ale called Fifty Five. The new beer is inspired by the original recipe, but with tweaks. It's rich, malty, and balanced with bold citrus hop notes. Fast Forward, meanwhile, looks to the future. It's a 5.2% ABV West Coast pale that merges classic citrus and pine hop character with modern bursts of tropical fruit.

Birmingham's Big Beer Adventure

Attic Brew Co is marking SIBA's Indie Beer Week, in April, with a new event, its Big Beer Adventure, taking place in venues across its home city of Birmingham.

From Stirchley to the Jewellery Quarter, Solihull to Bromsgrove, drinkers can explore the thriving independent beer scene, discover incredible venues, and drink Attic beers along the way.

Adventurers can pick up a specially curated trail guide from any of the participating venues and make their own route around the different areas. At each venue, they can collect a stamp with any Attic beer purchase (one per venue). The first 500 participants to collect six venue stamps can

pick up a limited-edition festival pin badge from one of the badge collection venues.

Indie Beer Week runs from 11th-20th April and is a nationwide initiative by SIBA to champion independent brewing and hospitality. Attic's Big Beer Adventure will take place from 14th-20th April.

Inspired by Brum Brew Fest, founded in 2022 by Catherine Webber (founder of Brum Beer Babs), this trail continues the tradition of bringing people together through beer.

In a time when independent venues need support more than ever, this event celebrates the resilience and passion of the Midlands' beer community, say Attic.

Craft beer at Maidenhead FC

A new craft beer festival is coming to Maidenhead United Football Club, in Berkshire, over the weekend of 3rd and 4th May.

Arranged by two-time SIBA UK craft beer retailer of the year, A Hoppy Place, in association with Maidenhead United and Berkshire Hospitality CIC, the festival will offer more than 50 beers, plus independent cider and other drinks.

"Rather than just stick a bit of beer on, we wanted to get a good number of brewers down in person to meet the public and have a good time over good beer," said Dave Hayward, co-chair of the organising committee.

Joule's awaits New Inn decision

Joule's Brewery is asking the public to support its plans to give the New Inn, Harborne, a new look costing more than £2 million.

It has submitted a plan to Birmingham Council to refurbish the pub, with a side extension and associated works. This follows a 12-month consultation with local people, culminating in an event in January where people were able to view plans. "At the heart of our vision are the beautifully preserved Victorian parlour rooms, the old snugs, which will remain untouched, offering a quiet space for a peaceful pint, a game of dominoes, or simply a moment to read the paper," says the brewer.