# Brighton’s lost pubs evoke enduring community spirit and nostalgia



The vibrant pub culture in Brighton has long been a cornerstone of the community, but over the years, several beloved establishments have inevitably closed their doors, leaving a void filled with nostalgia. Recent discussions among locals have brought to light a list of favourite lost pubs, demonstrating how deeply intertwined these spaces are with personal memories and community life. Among the many names mentioned, the Royal Pavilion Tavern, often fondly referred to as the Pav Tav, stands out as a particularly cherished memory for many Brighton residents.

The Pav Tav, situated at 7-8 Castle Square, had been a mainstay for locals since the mid-19th century before its closure in 2019. The pub, with its rich history and collective memories of laughter and camaraderie, was well-loved by patrons. Numerous respondents on social media noted their emotional ties to the venue, reminiscing about evenings spent in its lively atmosphere. While initial plans aimed at converting the historic building into residential flats seemed to spell an end for the tavern, it was revitalised in 2022 when it reopened as The Fitz Regent, reinvented yet retaining echoes of its storied past.

Hector's House is another establishment that has garnered significant fondness in the hearts of locals. Once situated on Grand Parade, Hector's House was not merely a pub; it served as a cultural hub during the 1990s and early 2000s. Named after a nostalgic children's puppet show, it became synonymous with vibrant live music and dynamic DJ nights, solidifying its status as a vital part of Brighton’s nightlife. In a community shout-out, former patrons recalled how the venue transitioned to The Blind Tiger Club in 2010 before ultimately closing in 2014 due to noise complaints. It reopened two years later as BrewDog, yet many still long for the electric atmosphere of Hector's House.

The nostalgia extends to other memorable venues as well. The closure of Smugglers on Ship Street in 2015, which paved the way for The Walrus, ended a cherished gathering spot for many. Similarly, Doctor Brighton's, a lively gay bar that operated on Kings Road until 2018, has been remembered fondly by those who frequented its spirited nights. Its legacy continues in the form of Star & Garter, yet many former visitors express a yearning for the vibrancy of the past.

Other pubs like The Elephant & Castle and Cobbler’s Thumb frequently emerge in the conversations among residents, highlighting the diverse tapestry of Brighton's drinking establishments. The sentimental attachments to these lost venues signal more than just a desire for a drink; they represent cherished social interactions, significant life moments, and an ever-evolving landscape of community interaction.

As Brighton continues to adapt to modern demands and commercial pressures, the loss of these beloved pubs resonates with the lingering question of how urban spaces can maintain their cultural significance amidst transformation. For many, these narratives of lost pubs encapsulate the essence of community identity and the fundamental joy that comes from shared spaces. In their absence, the cityscape evolves, yet the memories of nights spent in these memorable watering holes linger on, reminding us of the vibrant tapestry that once was.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.theargus.co.uk/news/25204105.brighton-argus-readers-name-favourite-lost-pubs/?ref=rss), [[2]](https://www.theargus.co.uk/news/25204105.brighton-argus-readers-name-favourite-lost-pubs/?ref=rss)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.theargus.co.uk/news/25204105.brighton-argus-readers-name-favourite-lost-pubs/?ref=rss), [[3]](https://www.brightonandhovenews.org/2019/09/24/one-of-brightons-oldest-pubs-to-close/), [[5]](https://www.morningadvertiser.co.uk/Article/2019/09/24/The-Royal-Pavilion-Tavern-Brighton-to-close)
* Paragraph 3 – [[1]](https://www.theargus.co.uk/news/25204105.brighton-argus-readers-name-favourite-lost-pubs/?ref=rss), [[4]](https://www.brightonandhovenews.org/2020/02/20/brighton-pub-plans-royal-makeover/), [[6]](https://www.sussexexpress.co.uk/news/politics/brighton-pub-prepares-for-royal-makeover-1887160)
* Paragraph 4 – [[1]](https://www.theargus.co.uk/news/25204105.brighton-argus-readers-name-favourite-lost-pubs/?ref=rss), [[2]](https://www.theargus.co.uk/news/25204105.brighton-argus-readers-name-favourite-lost-pubs/?ref=rss)
* Paragraph 5 – [[1]](https://www.theargus.co.uk/news/25204105.brighton-argus-readers-name-favourite-lost-pubs/?ref=rss), [[2]](https://www.theargus.co.uk/news/25204105.brighton-argus-readers-name-favourite-lost-pubs/?ref=rss)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.theargus.co.uk/news/25204105.brighton-argus-readers-name-favourite-lost-pubs/?ref=rss> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.theargus.co.uk/news/25204105.brighton-argus-readers-name-favourite-lost-pubs/?ref=rss> - An article from The Argus discussing Brighton residents' favourite lost pubs, including the Royal Pavilion Tavern, Hector's House, Smugglers, Doctor Brighton's, The Elephant & Castle, and Cobbler's Thumb. The piece highlights nostalgic memories and the impact of these establishments on the local community.
3. <https://www.brightonandhovenews.org/2019/09/24/one-of-brightons-oldest-pubs-to-close/> - A report on the closure of the Royal Pavilion Tavern, affectionately known as the Pav Tav, one of Brighton's oldest pubs. The article details the pub's history, its closure in September 2019, and the plans for its future, including potential redevelopment into flats.
4. <https://www.brightonandhovenews.org/2020/02/20/brighton-pub-plans-royal-makeover/> - An article covering the Royal Pavilion Tavern's plans for a 'Royal' makeover. The piece discusses the pub's refurbishment plans, including new signage and interior changes, as part of its transformation into The Royal.
5. <https://www.morningadvertiser.co.uk/Article/2019/09/24/The-Royal-Pavilion-Tavern-Brighton-to-close> - A report on the closure of the Royal Pavilion Tavern, detailing the pub's history, the reasons for its closure, and the plans for its future, including potential redevelopment into flats.
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7. <https://www.mybrightonandhove.org.uk/places/placestree/castle-square/castle-square-2> - A brief history of Castle Square in Brighton, including information about the Royal Pavilion Tavern. The article discusses the building's conversion from a house to a hotel in the early 19th century and its architectural features.