

[00:00:00] **Lottie:** This is Lottie Gomes for the AMP Kingston project from Creative Youth, exploring art, music and pop fashion heritage in the Kingston borough and beyond. Uh, today is Thursday 29th of November, 2023 and I am with Adam and Liz Lewis.

[00:00:15] **Jarek:** I think it's actually the 30th of November.

[00:00:17] **Lottie:** Oh, 30th! Sorry, I was writing this yesterday and I must have just

[00:00:22] **Jarek:** That's alright, just do that one again.

[00:00:27] **Lottie:** Um, today is Thursday 30th of November 2023, and I am with Adam and Liz Lewis, who run the, um, Lamb Pub in Surbiton um, do you mind stating your names, um, for the tape, as well as your date and place of birth?

[00:00:43] **Liz Lewis:** Okay, um, my name is Liz Lewis. I was born on the 15th of August 1971 in St Margaret's.

[00:00:50] **Adam Lewis:** I'm Adam Lewis and I was born on the 8th of July 1971 in Shepperton.[00:01:00]

[00:01:02] **Jarek:** Oh great, you're going to find out about each other over the course of this.

[00:01:07] **Lottie:** Um, so as I said, this is kind of a research project looking at Kingston Borough and kind of the surrounding area. So my first question is, what is your relationship to sort of Kingston, Surbiton, this local area?

[00:01:20] **Adam Lewis:** I grew up in Kingston.

[00:01:22] **Adam Lewis:** I moved there when I was three and have drunk in most of the pubs in this area. Um, that's really my connection. I spent most of my adult life trying to get away from Kingston and then fell in love with Surbiton and just the community spirit, the green spaces and the river is just wonderful and I love it here.

[00:01:42] **Adam Lewis:** And the transport links are fantastic too.

[00:01:46] **Liz Lewis:** Um, yeah, so I was brought up in Richmond, which is not, which is a stone's throw from Kingston, so I'm quite familiar with it. And, yeah, when we got hitched I moved to Surbiton. And then we found the pub, and we've been here for [00:02:00] 17 years.

[00:02:01] **Lottie:** Thank you. Um, okay, so, lots of things in that.

[00:02:05] **Lottie:** Um, I guess my next question is You already discussed having kind of drunk in a lot of pubs around here, but what was your relationship to music? Um, where did that begin and kind of, did it begin from being in this area?

[00:02:18] **Adam Lewis:** I used to go to the Grey Horse and to Bacchus to listen to live music regularly during my teenage years.

[00:02:27] **Adam Lewis:** Um, Other than that, not much more in my youth. I did go and see Prince and Michael Jackson and things like that live in concert, but that's not really what we do here. We're a bit more grassroots. Although we'd like, love to have either of those.

[00:02:45] **Liz Lewis:** Might have a problem with Prince.

[00:02:46] **Adam Lewis:** And Michael Jackson.

[00:02:49] **Liz Lewis:** Michael Jackson. Oh dear. Yeah. I have went to some big gigs as a teenager, um, [00:03:00] and used to go on a fairly regular basis to a pub gig in, um, a pub nearby, uh, with a little local band called Cry No More and it was just really fun to be, um, to be in that environment because you get so, there's a real camaraderie about being in a, around a small little venue like that.

[00:03:23] **Liz Lewis:** Um, but yeah, I haven't, aside from from that, which was quite some time ago, it's really been here and being part of that, that has made, you know, my music experience so rich. You know, I didn't anticipate how much I would love having a venue. And how much music means to people. So yeah.

[00:03:50] **Lottie:** Um, amazing. Okay, so my next question is, um, I suppose, starting with this, when did The Lamb as a pub, before you had it [00:04:00] maybe, kind of, when did it come onto your radar?

[00:04:02] **Lottie:** Um, and kind of as an, as an idea for your lives? Like, when did that come up?

[00:04:08] **Adam Lewis:** What, just taking the pub on, or as a music venue?

[00:04:10] **Lottie:** Um, taking the pub on and as a music, were you were aware of it beforehand, but

[00:04:14] **Adam Lewis:** I've, I've been looking for two years for a pub, um, and I had three tick boxes, I wanted a nice big garden.

[00:04:22] **Jarek:** Ooh, sorry. Do, do we just start that again? That was my, my fault. Shouldn't, shouldn't try to move the microphone while you're talking.

[00:04:28] **Adam Lewis:** Yeah. We've been looking two years to actively to buy a pub, um, because my background's in catering. Um, and it's the only way I could think of to have a family and still do a hundred hours a week doing what I know.

[00:04:43] **Adam Lewis:** Um, and every time we found a high street pub, They got sold to the big breweries before it even hit the market and I never got a look in. And this pub came up and, um, it wasn't on the market. A sale had fallen
[00:05:00] through and I found out by a guy called Jim McGlynn, who was a local hero who ran a kitchen shop just down the road.

[00:05:07] **Adam Lewis:** Um, and he said, pop your head in and ask. And I did and the sale had just fallen through as he said and they wanted to sell it quickly. Uh. And then about a year and a half later, that's quickly I guess, we, we had the pub. It was closed for a year between them and us, um, and then we, we took it on and my tick boxes were basically a garden, high street, and decent accommodation of which this has all of those.

[00:05:37] **Adam Lewis:** And so yeah, we started a family here.

[00:05:39] **Liz Lewis:** I didn't really, I didn't know the pub before. Um, I know quite a few of our regulars did come here. Um, and yeah, we were looking for a long time for the right place for us to move to, sort of, and to raise a family and to have a business. And [00:06:00] this was the first, the first place that we walked in and it felt right, to be honest.

[00:06:06] **Liz Lewis:** It's the right, you know, there's something very intimate about this space. So, yeah. And when we first took it on, we weren't looking. to,

to run a music venue or, you know, we were looking to open a restaurant and do a big development um, and were in planning for ages to get this massive extension and then after a couple years when it finally was granted we were like that's a really stupid idea, this is great as it is and people like just a boozier.

[00:06:38] **Liz Lewis:** And we were running it for Probably, well, a year, and then through contacts we made through Community Brain and the, um, the, uh, the Youth Arts Festival, we met lots of wonderful musicians and went to lots of events in Kingston. And one of those, [00:07:00] there was a band called Tankus the Henge, and Tim from Tankus said, Could we bring some bands back here sometimes, because then we can pass the pot round and they can make some money and it would just make it a bit more worth their while if they're travelling.

[00:07:13] **Liz Lewis:** We were like, yeah, we don't know how you do that, but if you think it'll work, then do it. And we just cleared some space, he brought the kit, the bands got on with it, and it was magic, you know, it was brilliant. And over time he then said, well, maybe we could do this on a regular thing and did a music night once a month.

[00:07:34] **Liz Lewis:** With a few different acts. And then, from there, we thought, well, this is something. And it's fun. And there's an appetite for it. Well, we hope there's an appetite for it. We didn't know, actually, at that point if there was.

[00:07:49] **Adam Lewis:** We've done a few gigs beforehand. Um, a very old friend of mine from when I was a child, Toby.

[00:07:54] **Liz Lewis:** Oh yeah, that was, oh God, yeah.

[00:07:56] **Adam Lewis:** Um, Toby, who's reputed to be- He's [00:08:00] still local, lives in Kingston, um, he's still reputed to be one of the best session trumpeters in the country. And he's multi instrumentalist. And he brought some klezmer bands?

[00:08:10] **Liz Lewis:** Yes, he did!

[00:08:12] **Adam Lewis:** Balkan beats and that sort of stuff, sort of really stomping.

[00:08:14] **Liz Lewis:** And the crazy bloke who played the

[00:08:15] **Adam Lewis:** He played a sheep.

[00:08:16] **Liz Lewis:** Played a, yeah, it was like, um, what's that thing that you do that with? And blow into the Scottish people. Bagpipes. It was a bagpipe, but in the shape of a sheep. And it was absolutely insane. And his dad came and played the musical saw. So we'd had some quite diverse

[00:08:34] **Adam Lewis:** Strativarius saw.

[00:08:34] **Adam Lewis:** A genuine Strativarius saw.

[00:08:36] **Liz Lewis:** I think that might be made up.

[00:08:37] **Adam Lewis:** No, it was. It was a genuine one.

[00:08:41] **Liz Lewis:** But so we'd had some, yeah, and actually I'd forgotten, not forgotten about those events, but they did come prior to all of that. There was another, and it was just that they wanted to play, you know?

[00:08:51] **Adam Lewis:** Yeah. There was another key part of it, which was, um, a manager of ours, Tina Dézart who, uh, [00:09:00] was studying at Kingston and realised she didn't really like her course, and we were discussing what, what she could do, and she liked music programming, she wanted to get into and now she's actually very successfully doing that and stage managing on her own, but here, she said okay, let's do that. I kind of said I don't want pub circuit band. Something that's a bit different, something folky jazzy bluesy. Something- not not covers bands So she did that, we quickly realised that because we're such a small venue £50 for a sound engineer was most of the profit, extra profit, that we were making from having a band on.

[00:09:39] **Adam Lewis:** So I bought some more kit and swallowed a book and, uh, had a friend of mine teach me a lot. We upgraded the sound system in here and, uh, off we went. I was sound engineering and I've been doing that ever since. Um, and I think I'm fairly good at it now.[00:10:00]

[00:10:01] **Lottie:** That's great, thank you. Um, so I'd say, I mean you've already gone into it quite a lot there, but I wonder if you could give me a sort of description of, like, how you would describe The Lamb as a, as a venue, what you kind of aim to do with it.

[00:10:14] **Liz Lewis:** I quite like the fact that people don't know what to expect when they come in, um, because we do a broad ish spectrum of musical styles, um, and the aim

[00:10:30] **Jarek:** Can I just get you to say that again, just because there was a vehicle, just the musical styles sentence.

[00:10:37] **Liz Lewis:** Yeah, we have, um, whatever, hang on. Yeah. We have a broad range of musical styles, um, and now I've lost my train of thought, so we'll have to go back. No, it's okay!

[00:10:49] **Liz Lewis:** Same thing, so I'll ask again.

[00:10:51] **Jarek:** You were saying, uh, that you like how it's different every time.

[00:10:54] **Liz Lewis:** Yeah.

[00:10:54] **Jarek:** Some people don't know what to expect.

[00:10:55] **Liz Lewis:** Yeah, so they come in, we've got different types of music, and there's [00:11:00] The main thing we aim for is quality.

[00:11:05] **Liz Lewis:** And we're lucky that we started with people who know really good musicians. And through word of mouth, we've, you know, got to know some really fabulous musicians who recommend other great musicians. And it's, it's, that's, that's the best, you know, that's fantastic. And now we get people writing to us saying, can we come and play here?

[00:11:27] **Liz Lewis:** And it's wonderful. And that all the way from Argentina and, you know, India and it's, I love that international scene as well that we can provide something for them, you know, they want to come here. I love that. So, yeah.

[00:11:45] **Lottie:** That's great, thank you. Um, I wonder if you could explain to me a little bit about the decor in here?

[00:11:52] **Lottie:** I suppose it's quite striking when you walk in, there's lots of

[00:11:56] **Adam Lewis:** It's, it's predominantly things left over from parties that we've [00:12:00] had, but something else we do is a lot of theme parties.

Uh, our customers seem to love dressing up, um, so we do theme dressing up parties. And when we do that, we try and do some decor that suits the theme.

[00:12:16] **Adam Lewis:** So the, the LED lighting on the walls, uh, were originally done for a, a fine art. New Year's Eve themed party where I did a Mondrian painting on the wall out of the LEDs. And quickly realised that they were kind of fun and that we could do a lot with them, so we've continued to keep them up and use them for other things since.

[00:12:39] **Adam Lewis:** Um, the bits, the crow up there and the, they're all bits that are left over from parties that, you know, when we've been putting things away, we've gone, actually, just leave that there.

[00:12:48] **Liz Lewis:** Or, they've been given to us by people who are moving house or somebody's died and they're like, I don't know what to do with this thing, will you have it?

[00:12:57] **Liz Lewis:** So we have, uh, yes, quite an eclectic [00:13:00] array of unusual items.

[00:13:05] **Jarek:** I love the fact that every time I come here I spot something new on the shelves. Considering I'm here like twice a week, that's quite something.

[00:13:13] **Lottie:** I think that would have piqued the listener's interest to come and have a look. Um, so I think you kind of mentioned it there about different people giving you things, and you've spoken about your customers a lot.

[00:13:26] **Lottie:** I wonder if you could kind of give us an idea of the type of person that often comes in, or if there is even a type of person, and if that may be it's changed since you opened, what kind of

[00:13:37] **Adam Lewis:** it's so varied. Um, there's a full range of ages from students from Seething Wells up to, and kids, and retired people. We've been here long enough now that some of the smaller kids are now old enough to drink and they're coming, which is good, a new generation of people.

[00:13:59] **Adam Lewis:** [00:14:00] Um, we couldn't really put a finger on an age group. Um, I guess people who like a shabby, chic, slightly bohemian place is our kind of fit. We're not your standard pub with horse memorabilia around the fireplace type thing, if that's what people like. We're more of a proper public house. This is our house and we treat it as such and this is our living room.

[00:14:26] **Adam Lewis:** And people come and share that with us, uh, rather than it being a business which it- I wish it was, but it's not really.

[00:14:33] **Lottie:** Um, and so you've both spoken about, um, your work with kind of State of Seething and Community Brain. Um, and I wondered if you could talk a little bit about the programming that you do and how that has come about and why it's important to the venue.

[00:14:53] **Liz Lewis:** The music programming.

[00:14:54] **Lottie:** The music programming, yeah.

[00:14:55] **Liz Lewis:** And it's relationship to Community Brain.

[00:14:58] **Lottie:** Um, yeah, just kind of [00:15:00] about the music programming but also events and the different ways that you engage with-

[00:15:04] **Liz Lewis:** yeah, I mean the, that was a real gift, you know, Community Brain being around us and getting us, you know, inviting us to be involved in community events because we've been, you know, helping. run festivals for 16, 17 years and that, that creates a wonderful environment for creativity and, um, yeah. Drawing, bringing people together and that's what, you know, a pub should be. Well, in our view, about bringing people together and giving them a lovely experience. Um, where they can make connections and that's what Community Brain does so well.

[00:15:51] **Liz Lewis:** With the festivals and the events, it brings people together, gives them a reason to hang out, gives them opportunities to talk, and [00:16:00] that's so much about what a pub is as well. It's a place where people come, maybe they don't want to talk, but they want to be around people. And those two, you know, it's so influential, um, those experiences.

[00:16:14] **Liz Lewis:** And yeah, in terms of the programming, what I really like to do, unus- you know, unusual things, if I can, you know, if I can. Wacky stuff is great because life's so monotonous often, and you can take risks with things. And actually some of the most enjoyable or talked about gigs are those which are more unusual.

[00:16:39] **Liz Lewis:** Um, and, yeah, I like people to come in and go, Whoa, I wasn't expecting that. I wasn't expecting it to be so good. I wasn't expecting it to be You know, two young French people doing 80s pop on a synthesiser, um, or

an eight piece Mexican [00:17:00] band, or, you know, whatever, you know, so many different things, so yeah.

[00:17:05] **Jarek:** Might be worth mentioning as well, that, uh, music is a key component of a lot of the community events, right?

[00:17:10] **Liz Lewis:** Yes, yes it is. Yes, and, you know, a lot of, there's, there's that nice connection now, because the, you know, there's a big community, uh, of musicians that come to those events that have been introduced to us, that have told us about other musicians that now perform at community brain events, and it's a nice, um, I don't know, what's the word?

[00:17:38] **Adam Lewis:** Feeling.

[00:17:39] **Liz Lewis:** No. What's that word? No? Another word for naturally occurring.

[00:17:45] **Jarek:** Organic.

[00:17:45] **Liz Lewis:** Organic. Sort of thing. Yes.

[00:17:52] **Adam Lewis:** Can you put that in a sentence?

[00:17:54] **Liz Lewis:** Yeah.

[00:17:54] **Jarek:** If I cut that, if I [00:18:00] cut that organic into a clip. It's a really nice, organic!

[00:18:05] **Liz Lewis:** Organic.

[00:18:06] **Lottie:** Um, sorry, I've lost my train of thought now. Um, what I was gonna ask?

[00:18:15] **Lottie:** Yeah, I was going to ask, obviously our research project is looking at the music heritage of this local area. Did you kind of, I mean, obviously you have had a relationship with the local area for a long time, but did you know much about that kind of thing? The past and, and has that influenced what you've done with the Lamb?

[00:18:49] **Adam Lewis:** Yeah, I mean, I used to go and see, I mentioned before Toby Knoll, the session trumpeter. I used to go and see him at the

Yellow [00:19:00] Heaven Soup Kitchen, which was a great music venue in Kingston. Um, and he introduced me to some music people back then. But I wouldn't know if I saw them again now. I wouldn't remember to be honest.

[00:19:20] **Adam Lewis:** Um, so yeah, I don't know.

[00:19:22] **Lottie:** No, that's perfect, Um, and then I wonder if you could just go into a little bit about actually the daily running of the Lamb and like what goes into just an average kind of a day and what your duties are maybe. I don't know if that's

[00:19:41] **Adam Lewis:** We, we run a, a bit of an anarchistic business without many rules.

[00:19:49] **Adam Lewis:** Um, which is an interesting way of doing it. We do obviously have some rules because otherwise, you know, the staff would be flat drunken and not being able to serve. So [00:20:00] would we. Well, yeah. Um. So, we let the staff, to some extent, we've written, we've, we've, we've- direct them as to what needs to be done each week, but we don't specifically say how, or when, or why, it just, we just say it needs to get done.

[00:20:18] **Adam Lewis:** And so, they come up with their own solutions and their own ways of doing things. And over the years, that has actually ended up being quite beneficial. It's a, it's a very lazy way of managing, but at the same time we found that we get more care out of the staff and the staff tend to treat this slightly like it's their home and it's, uh, more like a family.

[00:20:41] **Adam Lewis:** Um, and staff come and some of them don't fit in, some of them just don't get it, some of them love it and stay with us for years and we have quite a low staff turnover for catering. People stick with us and like what we do, and I think it's because of that.

[00:20:59] **Liz Lewis:** And I think it's [00:21:00] similar with the musicians as well.

[00:21:02] **Liz Lewis:** We've, we generally treat people with respect and a lot of, you know, and are kind to them and appreciate them. And, um, that's something that a lot of them say they don't get in a lot of places. You know, we can't pay them very much money. Um, because we don't make much money, but we really value what they do.

[00:21:27] **Liz Lewis:** And so do the people that come to listen to them. You know, I think they have an appreciative audience and for the musicians, I think that's so important. Um, so that's something we've actively foster. When we first started booking music, I was like, I want this to be a place where they, where people want to come.

[00:21:47] **Liz Lewis:** So we have to, make sure that we're looking after people in, you know, in all those little ways that aren't necessarily normally considered. It's not just, although money is very important, it's not [00:22:00] just about that, that people want to perform here. They like it, they like the people, they like the atmosphere and so that's what we're trying to foster is a nice, sort of, welcoming, appreciative space.

[00:22:18] **Lottie:** Uh, so also when I was doing the research I found, like, Lambstock, um, the festival, and I wondered if you could just give a bit of a description of what that is and how it originally came about.

[00:22:31] **Adam Lewis:** That was, um, that was Tina's idea, actually. It's a two day, uh, music event at the beginning of June. And we have a stage outside in the garden, which we run until, originally six o'clock, now until eight.

[00:22:48] **Adam Lewis:** Excuse me. And now until 8 o'clock in the evening, um, and then we bring the music inside, uh, and then have some big headlining bands inside, [00:23:00] and we were overwhelmed by the success from the start, and really we should move to a bigger venue because we're, we just can't contain that number of people, um, the garden is absolutely packed for it, and standing room only, which is fantastic.

[00:23:16] **Adam Lewis:** Fantastic for us. The bar can barely cope, but we're all having great fun and it's, it's absolutely fantastic weekend. Um, 16, 16 bands last year, I think. Um, over the weekend. Uh, really wonderful. Everything from tried and trusted greats to new bands, all sorts of things, and we try and keep it varied, we build up the music during the day, just like a little festival.

[00:23:49] **Adam Lewis:** Uh, two or three food caterers, um, and it's just been absolutely wonderful.

[00:23:56] **Liz Lewis:** Uh, I think that's one of the things, is that people who come here, come [00:24:00] here because they want to see what we've got on. Obviously we've had some artists that have been coming for a long time, and people will be loyal to those particular artists.

[00:24:08] **Liz Lewis:** But, you know. They will just come here on a Thursday and a Sunday because there's music on and they want to see what's, what it is. They don't necessarily mind what it is because it's going to be, you know, hopefully fun. Um, but they're not, you know, they're not necessarily following bands or musicians.

[00:24:28] **Liz Lewis:** They're coming here to see and experience something new. Which is really good fun and that's what's lovely about the festival is it's not a genre, you know, it's not a specific genre. It's just come, there's loads of different music, people will come at a particular time if there's someone they really love, but they'll just come and stay for the whole day because there's going to be something fun happening, you know.

[00:24:50] **Liz Lewis:** So it's, it's great, yeah.

[00:24:54] **Jarek:** Do you mind if I just get a sentence that involves the word Lambstock? Because I don't think either of you said Lambstock, so could I
[00:25:00] just get Lambstock is a two day music festival we run or something like that?

[00:25:04] **Adam Lewis:** Lambstock is a two day music festival that we run.

[00:25:07] **Jarek:** Or exactly like that.

[00:25:17] **Lottie:** Um, and then I just sort of wanted to ask about, obviously, the last couple of years have been, you know, pandemic and things like that, and there's been quite a lot of closures of different music venues. Um, and certainly since the period that we're researching, there's been an awful lot of closures of live music venues.

[00:25:35] **Lottie:** Um, and I just kind of wanted to ask how your experience of that has been and why do you think The Lamb has been able to kind of

[00:25:42] **Liz Lewis:** I think it's probably because we're a pub as well.

[00:25:46] **Adam Lewis:** Well, we also jumped on a fantastic trick for during the pandemic. Most live music venues are inside. Um, but we found there
[00:26:00] was a slight relaxation of licensing laws to help pubs actually survive during the pandemic.

[00:26:06] **Adam Lewis:** Our garden is at least one half, if not twice the size of the pub. So we partitioned the tented areas off into little booths with the, uh,

with tent sides. So that had a degree of separation of each table. And then I built a, a very big stage out in the garden and we had live music again as we did inside twice a week outside.

[00:26:33] **Adam Lewis:** Um. So that during the periods we could be open, but we were all respecting social distancing, people could come and sit and watch the music. And we actually were doing better then, during the times we could open, than we were now. Purely because we can sit 30 people in here to watch music. Um, out there we could seat a hundred people, um, all [00:27:00] socially distanced and separated and we smashed it out of the park.

[00:27:04] **Liz Lewis:** And it was one of the few places that people could come and see live music because like he says, they're mainly inside.

[00:27:10] **Adam Lewis:** We had some fantastic musicians bashing on our door, begging us to play. Let them play, and it was, it was a wonderful, wonderful time. Um, really great. Unfortunately, the council has since deemed music outside as a nuisance, and has stopped us from doing it, except for Lambstock and occasional events.

[00:27:33] **Adam Lewis:** Um, but we can't do it on a regular basis anymore, um, which is, I think they're wrong, but I don't have the means to fight them on it, and I don't want them to close down on my license.

[00:27:56] **Jarek:** Anything else? I [00:28:00] mean, we've got plenty. I think you've covered a lot of the main themes.

[00:28:02] **Liz Lewis:** I feel like we should have mentioned Tina more.

[00:28:04] **Jarek:** Tina's got a couple of shout outs, let's not boost her ego too much.

[00:28:07] **Liz Lewis:** No, and the fact that through her and Yell, getting musicians from other festivals.

[00:28:13] **Adam Lewis:** We haven't mentioned Robin either.

[00:28:14] **Liz Lewis:** Well, Community Brain is Robin, isn't it?

[00:28:18] **Jarek:** Yeah, I mean, yeah, I think. Yeah, I don't think Robin is going to be too fussed. Um, I would just like, there's a couple of things that I've noted down. I'd just love, I'd love to get just a line from Adam on the Yellow

Heaven Soup Kitchen. What, what was it, where was it, what was the character of the place and why was the name so weird?

[00:28:37] **Adam Lewis:** Um, the Yellow Heaven Soup Kitchen was, uh, set up by, I believe, some festival goers. I'm not, or organisers, I'm not sure where they were from. I think they were part of the Big Chill. Um, and it was on the Richmond Road opposite where the new Sainsbury's is. It was a bizarre place with a [00:29:00] kind of slightly rubbish restaurant upstairs.

[00:29:03] **Adam Lewis:** And then downstairs was All painted black with a little tiny bar, and then sort of doll's heads and hands and gloves and the wall. You couldn't touch the walls because there was stuff everywhere stuck to the walls. Much, much more so than in here. And they had a tiny, tiny stage with live music at least twice every weekend.

[00:29:33] **Adam Lewis:** And we just fell in love with the place. I was drinking underage and it was a place you could hide away from prying eyes because it was downstairs in a basement that was all dark and blackened and you couldn't see anything. And it was, it was a really fun place. Um, great fun place to be.

[00:29:51] **Liz Lewis:** You don't know what the name was?

[00:29:52] **Adam Lewis:** What, what name?

[00:29:53] **Liz Lewis:** The name, where it came from.

[00:29:56] **Adam Lewis:** No.

[00:29:56] **Jarek:** Yellow Heaven Soup Kitchen, yeah.

[00:29:58] **Adam Lewis:** No. [00:30:00] I think it was probably just a, a mad idea at a party, probably.

[00:30:04] **Jarek:** Um, the only other thing that I would, that I would think of, um, you know, quite, quite often I, I do interviews in sort of past, present, future, so I would say if we, if we look into the future now, um, as a music venue, I mean, we've, we've spoken about music venues shutting down, um, and the fact that, you know, yourselves, Fighting Cocks, The Grey Horse.

[00:30:27] **Jarek:** Beyond that, there's not a huge amount left. Um, what do you think the future is for live music in the area and more widely? And I guess what are some of the challenges of keeping a live music venue open?

[00:30:42] **Adam Lewis:** We're finding the music nights are predominantly our busiest nights and sometimes a Sunday evening can be busier than a Saturday night just because we've got a big headliner on.

[00:30:56] **Adam Lewis:** So I'd like to expand the music, maybe visit some other [00:31:00] genres. We've recently started a night called Bang Belly, where we give youth an opportunity to, uh, try their music and get on a stage because it's a catch 22 for musicians. Have you got any experience? No. Well, you can't play here. So we have one, one night a month, uh, the first Wednesday of every month, uh, which is Bang Belly and it's been very, it's been very popular. Um, and it's bringing new people in who wouldn't necessarily see our venue or. And it's also exposing me to different styles of music. Um, it's a lot of heavy rock and stuff like that, which I'm not used to mixing for, but actually finding it easier. I'd like to expand that and give more people an opportunity and maybe have a, a different themed, uh, entry level music night.

[00:31:54] **Adam Lewis:** Um, we're having quite a few people coming to see them and it's, it's been very popular. So I'd like to expand rather [00:32:00] than contract, I think.

[00:32:03] **Jarek:** Cool. Well, I think that's good, unless anything else has come to mind, Lottie?

[00:32:07] **Lottie:** I don't think so.

[00:32:08] **Jarek:** No? No? Okay, great, great. Well, uh, this would be the point where you just thank your interviewees for their time.

[00:32:14] **Lottie:** Thank you very much.

[00:32:15] **Liz Lewis:** Thank you for coming.

[00:32:16] **Adam Lewis:** Pleasure.

[00:32:16] **Liz Lewis:** Thank you, thank you.

[00:32:17] **Jarek:** Cheers, guys.