



Bromley Branch Campaign for Real Ale

Spring 2016 Newsletter

This is the first edition in 2016 of the Bromley CAMRA newsletter. It is designed for online reading rather than for printing. There are various links to websites, documents and email addresses, which are shown in [blue](#). Feedback regarding this issue would be welcome and should be sent to newsletter.editor@bromley.camra.org.uk.

Election of New Chairman

We are pleased to advise that the branch elected a new chairman following the departure to pastures new of the previous incumbent.

Bob Keaveney has been a branch committee member since shortly after the branch reformed in 2011, and amongst other roles has managed our Good Beer Guide selection process.

Bob is also currently developing a catalogue of pub walks in the borough which will allow readers to enjoy a stroll through the green areas of the borough, punctuated by visits to some of our best pubs. If all goes to plan this should be ready in time for the best of the summer weather.



Forthcoming Events

In addition to our normal social programme which can be viewed on [our branch diary](#), there are several one-off events lined up for the next few weeks.

Greyhound Beer Festival



[The Greyhound](#) in Keston is holding its annual beer festival over **Easter 2016**. The festival runs from Good Friday (March 25th) until Easter Monday, starting at midday each day. There is an excellent list of beers which can be viewed [here](#). Bromley CAMRA are holding a social at the event on Saturday (26th) starting at 12.30.

Cramble

On **Saturday April 16th**, Bromley CAMRA will once again be joining forces with Bromley Ramblers for a day of countryside walking between some rural pubs. This year's route is from Farnborough to Keston, via Leaves Green, with a short detour into Surrey for lunch at Fickleshole. More details [here](#)



Marvellous May Cider Festival.

Bromley CAMRA will be holding our own Cider festival on **Saturday May 22** at [Bromley Labour Club](#) (aka the HG Wells Centre) from 11am until 11pm (or until we run out of cider). The centre is conveniently located 2 minutes walk from Bromley South Station.

More details about the festival, including the list of ciders, will be provided on the [branch website](#) nearer the time. The organiser is keen to hear from anyone who could spare a few hours to help. Please write to cider@bromley.camra.org.uk.



Click on the poster to see a full size version.

3rd Beckenham Beer Festival.

Please mark your diary for our 3rd Beckenham Beer Festival to be held at Beckenham Rugby Club from **July 21 to 23**. We hope to have around 50 real ales available, most of which are rarely - if ever - available in Bromley pubs. More details will follow in the next newsletter, and on the [branch website](#). The festival poster can be seen by clicking [here](#).

Request For Volunteers

Our beer festivals are staffed entirely by volunteers, and nearer the time of the July beer festival Bromley CAMRA will be asking for help. But we would be particularly grateful if anyone with **First Aid qualifications** who could spare a few hours at either of our festivals would come forward now. Please write to festival.organiser@bromley.camra.org.uk

Give Our New Website a Try

Bromley CAMRA now boasts [a newly redeveloped website](#). Some of the new features are still being developed, but the improved [branch diary](#) is already fully live. Please take time to have a look round and send any feedback to webmaster@bromley.camra.org.uk. We hope to build up our Facebook and Twitter profile over time.

News from around the borough

We have mixed news so far in 2016. Unfortunately [The Compass](#) has now closed. This is a particular shame given that it was the last traditional pub in Bromley town centre. We understand that it will be redeveloped as a pizza restaurant. The bad news continues in Orpington where the [White Hart](#) is no longer selling real ale.

We have better news from Beckenham, where the [Coach and Horses](#) has reopened following a short period of refurbishment, and now offers an improved range of real ales on four handpumps. This will normally include offerings from local small breweries such as Sambrooks. Also in Beckenham, the [George Inn](#) now offers CAMRA members a 5% discount on the purchase of pints of real ale.

There is similar good news from Farnborough where the [Change of Horses](#) has also been refurbished and has reopened under new management - again with an improved selection of real ales - particularly at weekends.

Bromley CAMRA Club of the Year Presentation 2016

On February 27, 2016, Bromley CAMRA awarded its 2016 Club of the Year award to the [Orpington Liberal Club](#) for the fourth year in succession. During this time, the club has also been voted the Greater London Club of the year twice and been a runner-up in CAMRA's National Club of the year competition. This year the club is again a finalist in the National competition.



This award came at a rather poignant time. The presentation date marked the last weekend that the husband and wife team of Duncan Borrowman and Grace Goodlad who had managed the club throughout this period would spend there. They also both served on the committee of Bromley CAMRA. They have now bought [The Bailey Head](#) in the Shropshire market town of Oswestry, and we wish them every success with this endeavour, and also thank them for their services to Bromley CAMRA.

The good news is that John Parkhouse is heading up a small team of volunteers at the OLC who intend to continue running the club on the same lines as before, so we expect the range of unusual and interesting real ales to flow unabated.

CAMRA members are welcome to visit the club on production of their membership card. Anyone who wishes to make frequent visits will be asked to buy an inexpensive social membership.



WHATPUB is CAMRA's online guide to the nation's pubs, with nearly 36,000 now included in the guide. All of the pubs in the borough of Bromley are included, as are those clubs which permit access to CAMRA members and also off-licences if they provide real ale. The details shown include a photograph, opening hours, beers served, a description of the premises and much more.

Anyone may view the guide, but members of CAMRA can additionally use the pub pages to vote on the beers they have tasted. These votes are a key factor in our annual choice of pubs and clubs for the Good Beer Guide and members are strongly encouraged to participate in the process.

Keeping the details up-to-date is a difficult task, and we need the help of our membership. If you notice that the details are incorrect for your local (or any other) pub, please use the link which says "send an email to your branch". This link is available to anyone, not just CAMRA members. For Bromley pubs this will result in an acknowledgement of your request, and the appropriate update of the pub details. Enter whatpub.com to visit the site and start your exploration.

Bromley CAMRA Community Pub of the Year 2016



April is CAMRA Community Pubs Month. CAMRA believes that pubs are a vital part of community life, and the “Community Pubs Initiative” gives pubs a campaign to focus their promotions around. Pub visiting is continuing to lose popularity and pubs are continuing to close at an average rate of 29 per week. As mentioned earlier, here in Bromley, just in 2016 The Compass has already closed its door for the last time .

So our branch is keen to support the initiative, and we have gone through an extensive voting process to determine our own “Community Pub of the Year”. We received around 200 votes from our members

After the counting had been completed, the clear winner was the [Bricklayers Arms](#) in Beckenham, which as well as its role as a centre of the community also offers a fine range of real ales, with a discount for CAMRA members. Pictured below are landlady Kim receiving her award from Bromley CAMRA’s Beckenham area representative John Middlemiss.



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