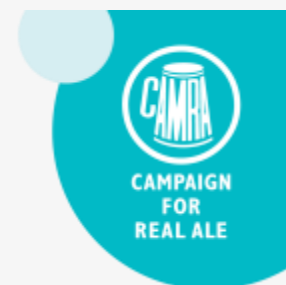


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Bromley CAMRA Newsletter September 2019

Dear CAMRA member, Welcome to this month's edition of our newsletter.

This edition includes the month's upcoming events in the Branch diary detailing an all day trip to various micropubs on the Isle of Sheppey, also this month, details of a new entry to the Good Beer Guide (GBG) 2019, as well as a very informative article from our Young Members (YM) representative Ed Charnley, an article about the latest editions of our walking guides to Bromley's pubs and lastly a note on beer scoring. So lots of interesting articles this month!

The season of mellow fruitfulness is now upon us being officially Autumn, so why not take the time to search out some of the darker beers available, such as the milds, stouts, porters and old ales.

Why not let us know about any unusual flavours - coconut perhaps or maybe even a mint stout, that you may find on one of our pub walks (See article later in this issue for details).

Branch Diary

September Saturday 14th Local Micropubs Social.

(2pm) Real Ale Way, 55 Station Approach, Hayes BR2 7EB;

(3.45pm) Lock & Barrel, 18 London Rd, Bromley BR1 3QR;

(5.15pm) Bitter End Bar, 139 Masons Hill BR2 9HY;

(6.30pm) One Inn The Wood, 209 Petts Wood Rd BR5 1LA.

Mon 23rd (7.30pm) Cttee Mtg, Five Bells, Church Rd, Chelsfield BR6 7RE.

Sat 28th Sheppey, & Sittingbourne soc.

(10.10am) Meet Bromley South Stn. for 10.27 Train to Sheerness-on-Sea.

(12 noon) AY's Man. 10 Marine Parade, Sheerness ME12 2AL;

(1.10pm) Flying Sheep Micropub, 193 High St., Sheerness ME12 1UJ;

(2.40pm) Heritage Micropub, 17-19 Minster Rd, Halfway ME12 3JE;

(4.20pm) Admiral's Arm, West St., Queenborough ME11 5AD;

(5.23pm) Train to Sittingbourne (possibly visiting further 3 micropubs in Sittingbourne).

October Thursday 3rd (from 7pm) Beer of the Festival Presentation Evening to Five Points Brewery, Pembury Tavern, 90 Amhurst Rd, Hackney E8 1JH.

-Friday 11th (7.30pm) Greater London Regional Club of the Year Award, Presentation Evening at Orpington Liberal Club Beer Festival, 7 Station Rd, Orpington BR6 0RZ.

The 2020 CAMRA Good Beer Guide is now available

Today, September 12th, is the official release date of the 2020 CAMRA Good Beer Guide (GBG). This marks the culmination of many month's work by volunteers all over the country to choose and describe the pubs where the best beer may be found. This year's edition is the 47th.

In Bromley we have the task of choosing nine or ten pubs and clubs for inclusion in the guide. Not an easy task, given that there are

around 100 venues in our branch area who dispense real ale. Our selection process is predominantly driven by beer-scoring by our membership. We receive many thousands of scores each year, and these are used to create a shortlist of the pubs with the highest scores. At the selection meeting - which is open to all members - all the short-listed pubs are discussed and a secret ballot is held at the end of the meeting to choose the final entrants to the guide.

This year, we are delighted to advise that we have a completely new entry from our branch area in the guide. This is the Real Ale Way in Hayes, close to Hayes railway station and to bus routes 119, 138, 246, 314 and 353. To celebrate, we are going to have an impromptu social there tonight (Thursday) at 7pm. The couple who run the pub will both be in attendance, and will receive their publicity material from CAMRA.

If you are interested in buying a copy of the guide (and finding out which other pubs we have chosen), the best way to help our campaign is to buy it directly from the CAMRA Shop.

If you want to influence our choices for next year, the best way is to score your beers. There is an item about Beer Scoring later in this newsletter.

Tim Wilding (Bromley CAMRA Good Beer Guide Coordinator)

CAMRA Bromley – Young Member Contact Report (23 August 2019)

This report covers activity since the previous report made on 20 June 2019, to 23 August 2019. Author and contact: Edd Charnley (young.members@bromley.camra.org.uk / cby-m-ec@outlook.com)

Note: Young Member(s) is/are referred to as "YM".

1. Inaugural Bromley YM Visit to Ignition Brewery

On 19 July the inaugural Bromley Branch YM event took place at Ignition Brewery, Sydenham (<https://ignition.beer/>). Ignition is 'a vibrant South London brewery which employs and trains people with learning disabilities to brew and serve great beer'. We were treated to a free brewery tour and tasting, hosted by Tash (Head Brewer) and Michaela, with nine CAMRA members and guests in attendance.

I promoted the Beckenham Beer Festival by wearing the official festival T Shirt (obtained in advance from Bob K; thanks Bob!) and

left some of the festival business cards at the bar. I opened the event by giving a very brief talk to the attendees to welcome them, explain the ethos of YM events and the aims and objectives to get more YMs involved.

Feedback from the event was very positive and I have continued to engage with the members and guests who attended Ignition, by personally emailing them individually to provide them with the dates and details of the upcoming YM Branch events (see point 3, below). (I have done so in accordance with CAMRA data protection/GDPR policy with an 'Opt Out' option).

2. Thank you very much to all committee members and all volunteers at Beckenham Beer Festival for their efforts in supporting the recruitment drive for new YMs. As a result of this drive we recruited nine new members.

As noted at the time the Beckenham Beer Festival is the biggest opportunity of the year to recruit new Young Members and the substantial effort by all to accomplish this is much appreciated. Alan, on the membership stand, did a great job in engaging new Young Members to complete a separate, small form with their name and email address, which stated they gave permission for me to email them direct. As a result of this, each new YM has been personally contacted by myself via email to welcome them to the branch and promote the upcoming YM Event details (although unfortunately the handwriting on two of the forms was illegible and having tried multiple interpretations of the email address, they all bounced).

As well as 'word of mouth' promotion, I produced an A3 and A4 sized poster which was displayed prominently around the venue.

On a personal note I greatly enjoyed the festival again this year, a fantastic range of beers (including some really high profile breweries known to many YMs from both cask and keg experience), and a real pleasure working with the committee and other volunteers in facilitating the festival. It was excellent to have a Key Keg presence. Brilliant atmosphere and the burgers were excellent too!

3. YM Events for October, November and December

The following events have been organised and these details have been passed to the Social Media team for promotion.

Please note that for each event there will be an online booking system – it is mandatory for any attendees to book using the online form. The events are free but the online system allows for anticipation

of attendance levels, personal engagement with members, etc. Forms for online booking will be set up closer to each event.

Thursday 17th October – Mondo Brewing Company
(<https://mondobeer.com/>).

Wednesday 13th November – Brick Brewery
(<http://www.brickbrewery.co.uk/>). Tuesday 10 December – The Real Ale Way (<https://www.therealaleway.com/>).

The events will be Member + 2 (IE two guests per member), in an attempt to get non-CAMRA members to attend and potentially join as a result.

4. Great British Beer Festival (GBBF)

I was present at the Tuesday evening, Wednesday and Thursday evening GBBF sessions.

On Tuesday I attended a tutored Champion Beer of Britain tasting hosted by Roger Protz. After this I stayed on until close. I obtained some more CAMRA business cards thanks to Barry, Bob K and Murray coordinating this activity! On Wednesday afternoon, I attended Beer Judging Panel training (hosted by Christine Cryne) and am pleased to confirm I passed the end of course 'exam', so am now accredited to CAMRA's standards to be a beer judge. I volunteered on a beer bar on the Wednesday evening. On Thursday I was on site about 17:30 until close.

It was notable that in the "Pioneer Pavilion" section of the festival, there was strong representation from young breweries, many of whom are primarily known for their keg offerings. In particular, Tiny Rebel, Magic Rock, Wild Beer Co all had their own concessions at the festival, with a large number of other breweries represented at Bar 18 (Apollo Bar: Key Keg), notably Kernel and Marble (offering an excellent table beer). The Pioneer Pavilion was very busy especially with guests in the 'YM' age range and I think this is further evidence for the presence of Key Keg at our Beckenham Beer Festival next year. Five Points once again had their own concession and I am delighted to report their Pale won CBOB Silver in the Gold Ale category (significant as their Railway Porter won our Beer of the Festival at Beckenham this year).

It was another great GBBF week and next year, I proposed to have a Bromley YM session at GBBF.

There were two issues I have fed back to the organising committee; The strange and very unhelpful decision to include the

map of the festival in the larger, Beer magazine, and not in the smaller Beer Listings publication. An extract from my email to CAMRA: “. It is not very helpful to have to consult two different publications, and both in different sizes and formats, when trying to look at both the festival layout and the beer list, then coordinate between the two. My workaround for this was to colour photocopy the festival map from Beer magazine and staple it in to the back of the beer list, but this is not practical and delegates shouldn't be expected to do this. I completely understand the motivation to get the excitement of the festival going by a promotional section in beer magazine, but more thought needs to go in to the practicalities of the materials provided at the festival.” The poor handling of glasses by volunteers – I saw this happen an awful lot. Stephen as bar manager at Beckenham, and Beth as staffing manager, were both great at flagging this at Beckenham Beer Festival to ensure we handle glasses correctly. An extract of my email to CAMRA explains: “the ongoing mishandling of glasses by bar staff, whereby glasses are handled near the top and are also touched against the tap. I was shocked to see that even in the GBBF promotional photographs, this is showcased by a member of staff serving a beer! I was disappointed to see not only new volunteers but also bar managers and experienced volunteers regularly repeating this habit and it would be good to have a much more prominent stance on improving this for the future.”

I've engaged with Mutineers Brewery following Beckenham Beer Festival, to scope the possibility of a YM event. They were keen and I will revisit this towards the end of the year.

I plan to visit the Lock and Barrel and to engage with a potential event for early next year.

Bromley Pub Walks

As reported last month, Bromley CAMRA is publishing a series of online walking guides to try to encourage members and others to explore the rural parts of our branch area, and to visit the many pubs and clubs that are linked by a vast network of footpaths. So far, the guides for 18 routes have been published, covering the area bounded by Hayes Station, Keston, Biggin Hill, Cudham, Pratts Bottom and Farnborough. Seven of these routes include the attractive village of Downe, with its two pubs.

Guides for a further 10 routes are currently being prepared and will be added to the website before the end of September; these guides will cover walks in the areas around Chislehurst, Petts Wood, Chelsfield and Knockholt Station.

In addition to the guides for each of the individual routes, we have also published a comprehensive general information sheet about walking in the area and a list of the pubs and clubs which can be reached by walking the Bromley Pub Walks network.

You can see all the Bromley Pub Walks information on the branch website at: <https://bromley.camra.org.uk/more/pub-walks/>

Beer scoring

Just a quick and further reminder with the publication of the "Good Beer Guide" that your local CAMRA Bromley branch uses beer scores in identifying the top cask ale pubs in our area for consideration in the Guide.

It goes without saying that we need members scores for the beer quality served by our pubs (as do other branches for pubs on your travels). Guidance is readily available on the CAMRA website: <https://www.camra.org.uk/beer/learn-more/national-beer-scoring-system>

In logging your scores it is often a problem identifying the correct brewery and a topical example is that of a popular East Kent beer "Gadd's". Are you one of those who have enjoyed a Gadd's number 3, number 5, number 7, Seaside etc and then had problems logging on and scoring? Problem solved. It may be called Gadd's but you need to dig a bit deeper! These beers are brewed by **The Ramsgate Brewery** - owned by members of the Gadd family - so more than one Gadd = Gadd's and the beer is theirs hence Gadd's'. All very confusing! Anyway, why not get sampling and scoring the cask beers in your local!

And finally, for those of you interested in sports, the Rugby World Cup starts later this month and some of our pubs will be showing some if not all the matches and even opening to serve early morning breakfasts, so if you're a rugby fan, why not get down to your local pub perhaps for a full English fry up and a breakfast stout. To quote a T-shirt of mine "Beer, so much more than a breakfast drink"!

But do remember to drink responsibly.

Martin Gee, Newsletter Editor

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www.camra.org.uk | camra@camra.org.uk | 01727 867201

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