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Bromley CAMRA Newsletter. January 2020

Dear CAMRA member,

Hello and a warm welcome to the first of our newsletters for the new year 2020!

As usual we have the branch diary of events for the month plus articles on the latest CAMRA news, a feature on home brewing a London Porter, articles about beer scores, current membership, news from BR6 and a reminder about a forthcoming beer festival at South Norwood. Lastly there is an update on our own 2020 beer festival

A new newsletter feature for this year is a quiz. A different topic each month and the answers will be published in the following months' newsletter. This month a test of general knowledge. See how you get on and good luck!



Nominations close on 15th January 2020

To nominate your favourite pub or club, or to volunteer to be on the judging panel, please go to the [branch website](#).

Branch Diary

Tuesday 14th January

GOOD BEER GUIDE SELECTION MEETING

7pm for 7.30pm prompt start, at the [Crown & Anchor](#), 19 Park Rd, Bromley BR1 3H.

Yes it's that time of year again when we vote for those pubs which should be included in the 2021 (yes 2021!) guide. As usual the meeting will be held in the **Crown and Anchor**, which offers us the privacy we need. The pub is located a short walk away from Bromley North Station / bus terminal and the Market Square.

All members of Bromley CAMRA are encouraged to attend and vote, but in order to vote you will need to show your current membership card. Please send any inquiries about this evening to gbg@bromley.camra.org.uk

Monday 20th January. Afternoon Social in **Green St Green**.

1. [Buff](#)
2. [Queen's Head](#)

Starting 2pm at **The Buff**, Pinewood Drive BR6 9N. This Greene King pub has recently been improved, and also now offers an increased range of real ales with a newly-introduced discount for CAMRA members. We felt it deserved a CAMRA social to encourage their efforts! Several bus routes pass near to this pub. From Central Bromley or Beckenham use the 358, or alternatively the local R4, R5, R8 and R11 routes. Alight at Crescent Road.

From there we have a short walk to arrive at 3.30pm at the **Queen's Head**, 73 High St. BR6 6BQ. For those joining the social here, the pub can be reached on the high frequency 358 bus route from Crystal Palace to Orpington via Beckenham and Bromley. Alight at Farnborough Hill/Bus Garage from where a 15 minute walk is needed. Or to get closer use the local and less frequent R1, R5 or R11 routes from Orpington bus station and alight at High Street/Green Street Green. The pub has a cask club day on Mondays, with all cask beers priced at £2.99/pint.

Saturday 25th January. **Dartford & Crayford** Social.

1. [Dartford Jug](#)
2. [Dartford Working Men's Club](#)
3. [Penny Farthing](#)

From Central Bromley, the quickest way to Dartford is to get the 269 bus as far as Sidcup Station and then take the train to Dartford station from where a short walk is needed. Begin by crossing the footbridge over the

main road that you will see when leaving the railway station, and then walk past the ALDI (ie with the store on your right) and then follow signs to the bus station. The first pub, The Dartford Jug, is visible from the eastern end of the bus station. Trains leave Sidcup at 11.48, 11.58 and 12.18 (and in each case half-hourly thereafter). Some members will be catching the 11.48.

The social starts at 12.30pm at The **Dartford Jug**, 8 Market St. DA1 1ET. (For information - The pub opens at 12 noon). This new and excellent micropub which opened in September 2018, offers a selection of beers sourced from around the country (ie not just Kent and London).

Our next stop is **Dartford Working Men's Club**, Essex Rd DA1 2AU - is about 10 minutes walk from the Dartford Jug, and is a similar distance from the station. If you like a huge and an ever-changing variety of real ales (served from 15 handpumps) from breweries large and small (but mainly small) from all over the country all priced (as at Oct 2019) at £2.90/pint, then this is the place for you. Please bring your CAMRA card though. The Club has previously been CAMRA's National Club of the Year, and is a frequent finalist.

We aim to get to our final venue of the day, The **Penny Farthing**, 3 Waterside, Crayford DA1 4JJ, by 4pm. This fine micropub has been Bexley CAMRA Pub of the Year for three years in a row up to 2017. From the DWMC, a train journey of one stop is needed to Crayford, with a short walk from there. When it's time to go home, there is a train service to Sidcup from where the reasonably frequent 269 bus runs to Bromley North via Chislehurst and Bickley, and the 51 bus runs to Orpington.

Tuesday 25th January. **Committee meeting.**

- [Imperial Arms](#)

7.30pm. **Imperial Arms**, Old Hill, Chislehurst BR7 5LZ. Bromley CAMRA members who are not on the committee are always welcome to attend committee meetings. Non-committee members planning to attend a meeting may request the Secretary (secretary@bromley.camra.org.uk) to prepare and print a pack of relevant committee papers to be made available at the meeting.

The "Impi" is an attractively situated pub, less than 10 minutes walk from Chislehurst Station but the walk being sharply uphill. The walk can be avoided by catching the 162 (Beckenham Junction to Eltham), 269 (Bromley North to Bexleyheath) or R7 (Five Bells to Chislehurst) bus. In all cases alight at Susan Wood. The first two routes mentioned can be caught in Central Bromley

Thursday 6th February. Social at **South Norwood Beer Festival.**

From 12 noon. The Stanley Halls, 12 South Norwood Hill, London SE25 6AB; This beer festival is run by our neighbouring Croydon & Sutton branch, and will have a good range of ales, cider and perry available.

The hall is easily reached by bus from Penge High Street. Take the 75 bus heading towards Croydon Town Centre, alight at Portland Road. Carry walking forward toward the traffic lights (junction High Street/ South Norwood Hill - Portland Road). At the lights, turn right into South Norwood Hill. The hall is a short distance up the road on the right hand side.

More information about the festival is on the Croydon & Sutton branch [website](#).

Monday 10th February. **Meet the Brewer** and tap takeover.

- [Orpington Liberal Club](#)

From 6.30pm. Meet the Brewer and tap takeover with Musket brewery, at **Orpington Liberal Club**, 7 Station Rd, Orpington BR6 0RZ. An opportunity to visit Bromley CAMRA's Club of the year 2019 to try a range of beers from the Loddington (near Maidstone) based Musket brewery, as well as meet and have a chat with the brewers. The club is located opposite Tesco near the Orpington War Memorial, and is a short walk downhill from Orpington Station. The club is also well served by buses from Bromley, including the 61, 208 and 358 - alight at Orpington War Memorial. Many other local buses stop nearby. The club welcomes card carrying CAMRA members (please do remember to bring your membership card along).

Orpington Liberal Club has also been awarded London CAMRA Regional Club of the Year 2019, and is one of the four clubs going forward to be judged for the CAMRA National Club of the Year.

CAMRA News & Memos

With the CAMRA office closed for the Christmas break through to Thursday 2 January there has not been the usual flurry of news for December but some that you may be interested in included:

Best Bottled Beer

On 2 December, CAMRA named the best bottled beer in Britain. Made by Thornbridge, the Saint Petersburg imperial Russian Stout won the crown as a rich and full-bodied stout with black treacle and dark notes. It has a robust, bitter finish that gives it a great balance. Why not try some?

CAMRA Policy documents

Looking at CAMRA policies, there has been a recent publication of the new CAMRA Policy Document for consultation with members. Comment has been invited by Friday 6 March with the final version being presented for adoption at the annual conference. This is your chance to comment and influence. Log onto CAMRA for more information.

Pub closures

As we pass the end of the year, branches have been asked to ensure any information they hold about recent pub openings and/or closures is recorded on the WhatPub database as soon as possible.

Where a pub has closed, it is particularly important that a date for the closure is recorded (even if this is a best estimate). This is where we at the Bromley branch need your assistance – if you do become aware of any pub openings or closures in your area, please let us know. A quick email to the Branch Contact will be much appreciated – remember we cannot be in every pub in Bromley!

And, finally,

CAMRA comment on the Queen's Speech

Commenting on the Queen's Speech, please use [this link](#) to read the statement from CAMRA Chairman Nik Antona.

If you need further information on any of the above, please contact our Branch Contact at: branch.contact@bromley.camra.org.uk

The Tale of a London Porter

By Charles Tucker

In November's newsletter I told the story of how I brewed an English Pale Ale using the hops of a Bromley CAMRA member. In this month's home brewing slot I will be turning from the 'Light Side' to the 'Dark Side' and go to the opposite end of the beer spectrum. I will be writing about brewing a London Porter. The London Porter I am making is a clone of the very famous Fuller's London Porter. This is a rich and flavoursome dark ale based on an 1880's Fuller's recipe. The only hop used is Fuggles, which gives a delicate, minty, grassy and slightly floral aroma to the beer. The flavour has hints of roast coffee and chocolate, with a complex finish and liquorish maltiness. The recipe I have used is one from Graham Wheeler's book called "Brew Your Own British Real Ale", 3rd Edition, and was published by CAMRA in 2009. Graham was an early pioneer of home brewing and inspired so many to brew their own quality beer in defiance of commercial blandness. Although out of print, his books are well worth

tracking down. Sadly, he left this world to become 'Supreme Beer Cicerone' in November 2017.



One of the joys of brewing your own beer is the pleasure of designing your own beer labels and pub clips. Here's the label I designed for this brew. How many of the London sights can you recognise in the picture?

I was so happy with the way this beer turned out that I entered it into a national beer competition. This was the Brew Con World Series III held in East London in November 2019. There were over 450 entries and I am pleased to say that my beer came second in the "UK Brown Beers" class. Have a look at [this link](#) to find out more about the recipe and how it was brewed.

Beer Scores News

Thank you to all those members of the branch who submitted Beer Scores during 2019. Beer Scoring for 2019 closed on Christmas Eve, and since then the Beer Score Coordinator has been doing the necessary number-crunching to produce the 'long-list' of pubs/clubs that we will be considering for possible inclusion in the next Good Beer Guide. The full report will be presented to the GBG Selection meeting on 14th January.

The Beer Scores results will remain confidential until that meeting, but we can report the following:

- 4,743 valid scores were submitted
- 165 members submitted scores
- At least one score was received for every pub and eligible club in our area

In the next newsletter we hope to be able to give some further data from the 2019 Beer Scores.

Beer Scoring is now open for 2020. If you don't normally do Beer Scoring, why not make it a resolution to do so in 2020? More information about Beer Scoring is available on the [branch website](#).

General Knowledge Quiz

- 1) What name is given to the art of preparing, stuffing and mounting the skins of animals to make lifelike models?
- 2) The name of which Roman god means "shining father" in Latin?
- 3) Which pistol that fires a coloured flare for signalling purposes was named after a US naval ordnance officer?
- 4) What is the name of the artificial language invented by L.L. Zamenhof in 1887?
- 5) Which composer became Artistic Director of the Vienna State Opera House in 1897?
- 6) What is the name of the earthenware, usually with a blue and white pattern, originally made in a town in Holland?
- 7) What is the broad sash tied in a large flat bow at the back and worn as part of Japanese national costume called?
- 8) In which year did Malta become independent?
- 9) What is the title of the French national anthem?
- 10) What kind of foodstuff is Monterey Jack?

Branch Membership Review

By Norman Warner, Membership Secretary

As 2019 has now drawn to a close and a new decade dawned, a quick look at how we are progressing, seems timely. How are things in Bromley Branch?

I'm very pleased to say, last December marked 3 consecutive months over the 1700 mark. An increase of 65 over the last 11 months. Well done to all branch volunteers and of course the wider membership. That is 4% up on a year ago, I think you'll all agree we are doing something right. (Nationally 0.5% annual growth.) It's also almost double the number we started with back in 2011, when Bromley branch was relaunched.

Looking to the future, we are trying new ways to keep our ever increasing numbers, informed about local events and borough's pub & club scene. Electronic mail is proving to be a key part of achieving that. As you are reading this, it is clear that you are part of the majority who have elected to receive Branch Emails. For that I thank you, however an increasing number rarely hear from us. So I'd like to ask your help by asking your friends when you are with them:

- Are they receiving our branch communications?
- If not, it is possible a change to their '*Preferences*' is necessary

I am happy to explain how to do this, just get in touch.
(membership@bromley.camra.org.uk)

BR6 Area News

Some encouraging news from Orpington & Farnborough. The new management took over at the [Cricketers](#), early in December. In the run up to Christmas they were running 2 cask ale pumps and plan for a third, when the turnover increases. Regular beers will include Harvey's Sussex and some familiar brews from around Kent. A bit more exciting than the 6X or Bombardier, that we had become used to. Refurbishment of the interior, has been put on hold, until Spring.

The long awaited reopening of the [Change of Horses](#) finally took place on Election night, under new management. Some subtle improvements have been made inside and the beer range is to be extended. Beers on offer currently are Harvey's Sussex, Tonbridge Traditional and Doom bar. The kitchen is planned to reopen at the end of the month, when they will also be announcing their regular opening times.

Update on Beckenham Beer Festival 2020

The festival team is in the early stages of planning, and the festival is booked for **23-25th July 2020**, plus setting up and taking down days. A meeting was held between the new 2020 Festival Coordinator and last year's Coordinator on the 20th December. All necessary paperwork and procedures were handed over. A Bar Manager and Cooling Manager have been identified. Many more volunteers are needed and no expertise is required – just a genuine desire to see a successful beer and cider festival and to be part of a team.

Inevitably, the long Christmas Holiday break makes progress difficult this time of year, but it is hoped to get the first meeting of a beer festival steering group off the ground in late January/early February. Volunteers are urgently needed for this, so please step forward if you think you can contribute. Two key posts we need to fill quickly are a Volunteer

Coordinator and a Health & Safety Advisor, so please get in touch if you can personally help in this area, or can suggest someone who may have the right skills.

If you feel you have a part to play, no matter how small, or for further information, please email branch.contact@bromley.camra.org.uk or chastuck@beohasbrewhouse.com

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

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