

CAMRA Bromley Branch

Newsletter

March 2020



Dear CAMRA Member

Hello and welcome to the March edition of our newsletter.

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Branch Diary

More information about all the events, including public transport options, can be found in the Diary on the Branch Website, <http://www.bromley.camra.org.uk/>

7th March.

Tour of Bexley area micropubs

- Noon [Hackney Carriage](#), 165 Station Rd. DA15 7AA;
- 1pm [Hangar](#), 37 The Oval, Blackfen. DA15 9ER;
- 2pm [Broken Drum](#), 308 Westwood Lane, Blackfen. DA15 9PT;
- 3.10pm [Door Hinge](#), 11 High St. Welling. DA16 1TR;
- 4.30pm [Bolthole](#), 12 Falconwood Parade, Welling. DA16 2PL

Many readers of this diary will be aware of the large number of micropubs which have opened in the Bexley CAMRA area over the last five years or so. We have noticed that many of them are situated close to bus routes – particularly the high-frequency 51 route (which runs from Orpington to Woolwich), so we have used that fact to plan this social.

Saturday 14th March. Bromley CAMRA **Annual General Meeting** at [Orpington Liberal Club](#)
(14:30 for prompt 15:00 start)

Please see below for more details

Saturday 21st March

Spring Equinox day trip to Maidstone.

The plan is to meet at Bromley South station in order to catch the 11.12 train to Maidstone East. We aim to arrive at the pubs listed below from the following times:

- 12.15pm [Rifle Volunteers](#), 28 Wyatt St. ME14 1EU;

- 1.30pm [Olde Thirsty Pig](#), 4a Knightrider St. ME15 6LP;
- 2.45pm [Cellars Alehouse](#), The Old Brewery, Buckland Rd ME16 0DZ;
- 4pm [Flower Pot](#), 96 Sandling Rd ME14 2RJ.

Tuesday 31st March

Committee Meeting, 7:30 pm – 10:00 pm

- [Queen's Head](#), 25 High St. Downe BR6 7US.

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 to prepare and print a pack of relevant committee papers to be made available at the meeting.

Monday 6th April

Afternoon social in Downe.

A chance for a pleasant afternoon visiting some of our more rural pubs.

Starting at

- 2pm at [George & Dragon](#), 26 High St. BR6 7UT;
and carrying on just a short distance away at
- 3pm [Queen's Head](#), 25 High St. BR6 7US.

Saturday 11th April

Pub Beer Festival social from 12.15pm

- [The Greyhound](#), Commonsides, Keston BR2 6BP.

A chance to visit one of Bromley's best country pubs which is holding its annual beer festival over the Easter bank holiday weekend. A great range of beers and ciders will be available.

Do check out the beer list, which will hopefully soon be featured on our website.

CAMRA Bromley Branch AGM

Yes, our AGM is now only days away – scheduled for **Saturday 14 March** (2.30 pm, for a 3pm prompt start) at the Orpington Liberal Club in Orpington, our multi award winning CAMRA Club of the Year.

We have mentioned the need for enthusiastic volunteers to help your branch keep going over the next year and it certainly appears that the following roles presently have no nominations:

- Branch Vice Chair
- Web Master
- Pub Protection Officer
- Women's Representative
- Cider Representative
- Young Members' Representative

Can you assist? Do you have a few hours a month to spare with a really friendly group of like-minded (most of the time!) individuals keen on keeping our pubs and beer (& cider) alive and kicking? If so, please consider putting yourself forward. Our nomination form is available on our website and spares will be available before the start of the AGM.

Come on – give it a try.

Bromley Branch Pub and Club of the Year 2020

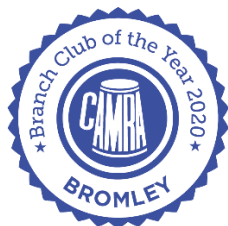
The winners and Runners-up have now been announced:



Pub of the Year

[Star & Garter](#)

Joint Runners-up: [One Inn the Wood](#), [Real Ale Way](#)



Club of the Year

[Orpington Liberal Club](#)

We congratulate the winners and runners-up. Watch out for further announcements about the special events which are being arranged to present the certificates.

Thank you to all the members who nominated pubs and/or clubs for the awards, with special thanks to those who volunteered to be on the judging panel.

Beer Festival Update

The festival planning is progressing at a good pace with all the top-level posts now filled, but we still need more volunteers to help out during the public opening days (23 – 25 July 2020). Please use this link to join us at what is a great family event. <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/DQZHNBf>.

We are also still looking for one or two more qualified First Aiders. By the time you read this, the Festival Business Plan will have been submitted and hopefully approved, which means we can go ahead and order the beers and ciders, and start paying for all the equipment that we need.

The festival theme this year will be “The Roaring Twenties” and the publicity and artwork is now being designed. The next festival team meeting is provisionally scheduled for 19 March at 7.30pm at the Goldsmiths Arms, Penge. This will be a full festival meeting, rather than just the planning sub-group, and anyone who is involved with the festival is invited to attend. The date will be confirmed next week and posted on the Branch website. I would remind all the Area Reps to canvass their pubs to gain sponsorship for the festival, particularly for advertisements in the festival programme.

For further festival information, check the Branch website, https://bromley.camra.org.uk/beer_festival_2020/ or please email festival.coordinator@bromley.camra.org.uk

(Charles Tucker, Festival Coordinator)

Brewing a summer beer in the middle of winter to cheer me up!



In spite of the really foul wet and windy weather, I decided to brave the elements and brew a beer over the leap year weekend – after all, I did have an ‘extra’ day in the year to do it! So up went my brew-gazebo, with a few heavy weights to stop it blowing away, and off I brewed.

English Ales are all very well, but once in a while it’s nice to brew something different, so I decided to brew a **Belgian Witbier**. The most popular commercial version of this beer type is probably Hoegaarden.

So, have a look at [this link](#) to find out more about the history of this unique beer and how to brew one for yourself.

(Charles Tucker, Festival Coordinator)

CAMRA News

A quick round up of some news from the last month which includes:

- **Beer Day Britain** – this is scheduled for Monday 15 June 2020 with the aim of encouraging people to visit a local pub on an otherwise quiet day at 7pm and share that experience on social media; a “national cheer” to beer at 7pm. Have a word with your local publicans – can they support it?
- **Summer of Pub 2020** –CAMRA’s ‘Summer of Pub’ campaign is back this year to get as many people as possible enjoying the season of good – well, better - weather by heading down to their local for a pint.
- CAMRA will be celebrating how our nation’s pubs offer numerous benefits to people’s mental and social well-being and play an instrumental role in the communities they serve. Drinking cheap supermarket booze at home does little to improve your life – but change that setting to the social environment of a pub and you can increase your happiness, make friends and connect with others in your local community, while still enjoying the tipple of your choice! More publicity will follow in March.
- **Pub of the Year** - A heritage pub that has been in the family for 250 years is named the best in the country in CAMRA’s Pub of the Year competition. [Click here](#) for more information.
- **Best winter Beer** – and, in closing a quick note to mention that Fixed Wheel’s ‘Blackheath Stout’ has been named best winter beer having scooped gold in CAMRA’s Champion

Winter Beer of Britain competition. 'Blackheath Stout' is a 5% ABV stout packed with malts, fruits and hops. [Click here](#) for more information.

Some Local Pub News

And some welcome news for a couple of our local pubs:

The [Jolly Woodman](#) in Beckenham gets recognition by Timothy Taylor as a long term stockist of their ales in issue 38 of "A Taste of Taylors". Commenting on its attributes as a traditional back-street pub full of charm and Real Ale, warming open fire and relaxed atmosphere. With a positive welcome from landlord Joe Duffy, who has stocked Taylor's for many years.

The [Blacksmiths Arms](#) at Cudham which, despite a change in landlord, continues to delight visitors with its beautifully stocked and expansive gardens in the summer. A former 'Yellow Book' entry for open gardens, this pub was awarded First place for the 2019 Enterprise best SE London pub Garden. Anthony aims to carry on the good work and did we notice on visiting recently that the former landlady is a regular patron, no doubt to keep an eye on things!

Congratulations for both pubs from the Branch.

If your local has some good news, why not share with us?

March Quiz

This month's quiz is all about history.

- 1) Which country was known by the Romans as Caledonia?
- 2) Iosif Vissarionovich Dzhughashvilli lived from 1879 to 1953 and was educated in a Theological Seminary. By what name was he better known?
- 3) Which Venetian explorer in the 14th century travelled to China where he became a diplomat to Kublai Khan?
- 4) Who was the consort of Queen Victoria?
- 5) Who, in 1977, became the 39th president of the USA?
- 6) What archaic unit of measurement was equal to 18 inches?
- 7) In which year did Hong Kong revert to Chinese sovereignty?
- 8) In which vessel did Sir Frances Drake sail the world?
- 9) Which word meaning 'rebirth' describes the period in European history which began in the 14th century?
- 10) In which year did David Koresh and the Branch Davidians Christian cult hold a siege in Waco Texas?

Answers to February's Quiz

1) 1994 2) Lead 3) The nature and effect of poisons 4) Husky 5) Whooping cough 6) Cirrus 7) Einstein 8) Rocks and minerals 9) Hippopotamus 10) An edible mushroom

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