

CAMRA Bromley Branch

Newsletter

May 2020



In this issue:

[CAMRA and Covid 19](#)

An update on what CAMRA has been doing since the lockdown was announced.

[Other CAMRA News](#)

The Branch Secretary runs through some of the (mostly) non-Covid news from CAMRA.

[CAMRA Podcasts](#)

Find out about CAMRA's new podcasts

[Surviving Lockdown](#)

What have we been drinking at home since the pubs and clubs have been closed?

[Home Brewing](#)

This month Charles describes brewing a traditional English IPA

[Beckenham Hops Update](#)

The hop plants are now growing fast

[The Quiz](#)

This month's quiz is on general knowledge



The Bromley Branch Newsletter is published every month, on approx. the first day of the month.

Members who have 'opted in' to receive emails from the branch will receive an email to notify them when each newsletter is available to download from the Branch Website.

You can contact the Editor on:

newsletter.editor@bromley.camra.org.uk

Newsletter, May 2020

I do hope that you, your family, and your friends are all safe and well.

This is the second issue of the branch newsletter to be produced since the pubs and clubs were instructed to close on 20th March. This inevitably means that once again this issue lists no branch social events nor is there any 'normal' pub news to be reported.

However one of the few items of good news is that **real ales and ciders are still available** to purchase from a few places for takeaway or, in some areas, by home delivery. There is also a good selection of 'interesting' other beers to be found.

Please do read on to find out where you can get these drinks, and also to see what some of our members have been drinking during lockdown. In addition, if you want to have a go at brewing your own beer, we have instructions on how to brew an English IPA. And finally, if you are missing your regular pub quiz, why not try our monthly quiz?

Bob Keaveney, Editor

Covid-19

In the [April issue of the Newsletter](#) we gave details of a number of initiatives that CAMRA had launched to try to help to support pubs, the brewing industry and members during the period of lockdown. For full details please use the above link to view the April newsletter, but a summary is given here:

- [WhatPub](#) has been temporarily modified to enable you to search for pubs, bars, clubs etc which are offering takeaway and/or delivery services during the emergency;
- The Bromley Branch website has a [Covid-19 page](#), which lists all the pubs, bars, clubs etc in our area which are offering these services (*but please see the note below*);
- The branch social media ([Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)) has been re-posting/re-tweeting any information we receive about pubs/clubs/breweries/specialist bottle shops who are still open for take-ways and/or deliveries. Please note that you don't have to be signed up to either Facebook or Twitter to view the Bromley CAMRA social media sites;
- An online virtual pub has been created, [The Red \(on\)Lion](#), to enable CAMRA members throughout the country to chat with each other.

Important Note:

The situation is almost constantly changing, as opening times are revised etc, and more pubs have been added to the list since last month. Please let us know if you find any of the information listed is out of date, by emailing us on: news@bromley.camra.org.uk.



CAMRA News

The Branch Secretary runs through some of the (mostly) non-Covid national and regional news from CAMRA.

Whilst the Covid virus has been so topical over the last month there is still plenty going on which has been covered in various CAMRA communications and also directed to your Committee.

Starting this month's summary off were the annual awards to **CAMRA magazines** (think London Drinker). We are pleased to congratulate our colleagues in Norfolk for the "Norfolk Nips" (Best magazine), to Tyneside & Northumberland for the "Canny Bevvv" (Most improved magazine) and Central Manchester for "Beer Buzz" (best newcomer).



As you are aware London Drinker is presently only available on line and may be found [via this link](#).

This was quickly followed up by annual award for **Branch Websites** and here our congratulations go to our colleagues at the South Hertfordshire branch for winning the National Branch Website award of the year which may be found here: <https://southherts.camra.org.uk>

Now we are busy on our own website too and we hope you find this a valuable site to visit. If you do have any ideas, suggestions, areas you would like covered etc, please drop a line to us at: branch.contact@bromley.camra.org.uk

Turning to **volunteering** (don't run away just yet!), CAMRA has been updating the volunteers area of the National Website to make it easier for you to find information. The homepage is now split into 3 areas covering "My membership", "Get involved" and "For volunteers". The idea being to encourage members to find out how to get involved with CAMRA issues and objectives.

It would of course be remiss of us not to mention, at this point, that your Bromley Branch has vacant positions for Women's Representative; Young Persons' Representative; Pub Preservation & Protection Officer; and LocAle Representative. Can you help us out?

Turning, as we must, to **Covid** related issues, the CAMRA (National) Members' Weekend, due to be held in York in April, had to be cancelled. The AGM was consequently a rather restricted affair – but a summary of the 'deemed' CAMRA AGM, held on 4 April, is now available and can be viewed at https://camra.org.uk/beer-festivals-events/aggm_info/ This covers CAMRA Articles, 2019 Financial Statements, FAQs and voting for the National Executive.

On a lighter note, we have previously brought to you news of the virtual CAMRA pub "The Red (on) Lion". This goes from strength to strength and has now had over 1,500 members and 9,000 non-members visit.

Have you popped in yet or, even better, had a virtual chat with some friends? The site is also used for events including, on 28 April, a virtual cider tasting session. Keep an eye on the site for future events.

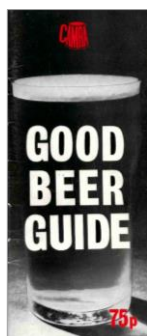


Kent Sadler, Branch Secretary

New!! CAMRA Podcasts

CAMRA has now produced a series of podcasts, called **Pubs. Pints. People.** Each episode looks at a different aspect of the beer and pubs industry, including interviews and something from CAMRA archives to source some gems from the past. See <https://camra.org.uk/podcast/>

- Episode 1 – Unsung Heroes. There are a lot of jobs in brewing aside from making the beer. Sit down with David Bremmer from Robinsons Brewery to find out how they got a band like Iron Maiden to collaborate with them, and Ben Watson, sensory test lead at Beavertown Brewery.
- Episode 2 – All about beer writing. Learn all about the art of beer writing with legendary beer writers Pete Brown and Roger Protz.
- Episode 3 – Craft Beer. We interview Craft Beer Channel's Jonny Garrett and Channel 4's Beer Expert Mark Dredge about what makes craft beer really craft.



Listen to Episode 2 to find out why lawyers advised CAMRA to pull the very first edition of the Good Beer Guide off the shelves!

Surviving Lockdown, Part One



The Editor asked members of the Committee and some of the branch's active members to tell him how they had been surviving without being able to go to pubs. With thanks to those members who responded, here are a selection of their comments, together with some of the photos they supplied:

1. What was the most 'interesting' beer (or cider) you have consumed at home during the lockdown, and where did you buy it?
 - Thornbridge, Coca Wonderland, 6.8% Chocolate Stout, from Morrisons in Petts Wood. *"a bit stronger than I normally go for. Luckily it was in the smaller bottle! Very chocolate in taste and as you would expect slightly sweet"*
 - Fuller's, Vintage Ale. *"A Christmas gift"*
 - Crackington Cider Company, Farmhouse Cider. *"Tart but light and really refreshing- very drinkable! We stumbled across these guys during a visit to Cornwall last year. We loved their cider so much we went back during our New Year's break and bought more. I believe they are doing mail order now. Lovely people in a wonderful setting"*
 - Goose Island (Chicago), IPA, from Beerhawk.co.uk.
 - Mutineers, Radio Minty Fresh, from the Lock and Barrel. *"...in my quest for a mint flavoured beer. Very subtle but moreish!"*



- Arbor, Café Crème, 6.9% coffee & chocolate stout. M&S. £3.50 for 440 ml can. *“Worth every sip! Now this is my new favourite - whether this is better than Thornbridge Cocoa Wonderland will require further research ...”* (Note: This comment is not from the same person as the first listing in this category)
- Wild Beer, Pogo, ‘a boldly hopped pale ale with tropical fruit’ *“From the Star & Garter on the final evening before lockdown”*.
- Zombie Cake, Praline Chocolate Porter, delivered from Brewdog.
- Bexley, Anchor Bay IPA, on draught to take away from Orpington Liberal Club.
- Five Points, Jupa, from the Star & Garter.
- Magic Rock, Salty Kiss, from Clapton Craft (by mail order) *“An interesting style, but one I will probably avoid in the future”*.



2. What was the most enjoyable beer (or cider) you have consumed during this period, and where did you buy it? (NB. This is not necessarily the same answer as Q1; sometimes an 'interesting' drink is not always the most enjoyable!)

- Kent, Cobnut. Delivered by One Inn the Wood. *“A lovely rich, sumptuous ale. Due to a lack of beef stock in my kitchen I had to use a few tablespoons in a mince beef and onion pie filling. I've not eaten the pies yet but a cheeky try of the pie filling was lovely!”*
- Thornbridge, Jaipur (Tesco).
- Padstow Brewery, The Smoke, 5.5% smoked oatmeal stout, from Craft Metropolis.
- Redchurch, Old Ford Export Stout, 7.5%. Delivery by Flavourly. *“Very nice, velvety chocolatey caramel flavours - went down a treat”*.
- Goose Island, Bourbon County Stout. (Read more about this beer in Part 2 next month)
- Wells, Sticky Toffee. *“...does everything it says on the tin (apart from stick things)”*.
- Westerham, Double Stout. Delivered by the brewery.
- Magic Rock, Dairyfreak, Milk Ice Porter *“From the Star & Garter on the final evening before lockdown”*.
- Northern Monk, Mocha Porter. Also from the Star & Garter.
- *“Also, as the weather has been warm:”* Brewdog, Clockwork Tangerine (citrus session IPA) plus Doom & Bloom fruity & dry Rose Cider from Brewdog partners, Hawkes. *“Pressed dessert apples from the SE1 based Hawkes team. Refreshing on a hot day”*.



3. Have you had any cask beer from the outlets that are selling it to take away, if so, what and where from?

- *"No take away as in strict self-isolating for duration".*
- Several members have reported getting takeaway beers from Orpington Liberal Club, including: Iron Pier, Cast Iron Stout, English IPA & Long Ferry; Dorking, Porter; Tonbridge, Traditional; Bexley, Anchor Bay IPA; Gadds (Ramsgate), No 5; Tonbridge, Rustic.
- One Inn The Wood. *"Best (so far) was Tonbridge, Old Chestnut. A nice nutty kick".*
- Imperial Arms. Harveys, Sussex Best. *"Wonderfully kept condition cask ale".*
- Bitter End Bar. St Austell Tribute and Bingham's Macchiato Stout *"Both very delicious, especially the stout".*
- The Real Ale Way resumed selling take-away beer after the deadline for submitting replies for this article. *(However the Editor can confirm that he is currently enjoying a Tonbridge Blonde Ambition from there).*




4. Have you had any beer delivered to your door, if so, what and where from?

- One Inn the Wood. *"the wonderful team there have been bringing us beer, cider and pork scratchings from the start of our self-isolation".*



- Westerham Brewery, Spirit of Kent (mini casks), Double Stout, Audit Ale (bottles).
- Fullers, Imperial Porter and Bengal Lancer and also Titanic, Plum Porter Reserve and Captain Smith. All bottles, delivered to the door.
- A selection of beer in cans from Brewdog.
- A selection from Flavourly.
- A selection from Beerhawk.

Seen on a sideboard, somewhere in BR6...



NEXT MONTH

Part Two of 'Surviving Lockdown' will appear in the June Newsletter, and will include members' replies to the questions:

- Any beers that you got, which you would not normally have chosen to buy in normal circumstances? (*But this is an emergency...*)
- Anything else related to the subject of drinking at home during lockdown?

Additional contributions, including photographs, would be welcomed for inclusion in Part Two. (No member's names will be quoted, so you can own up to drinking that major brand). Please send to the Editor: newsletter.editor@bromley.camra.org.uk

Home Brewing. An English IPA

This month our Branch Chairman, Charles Tucker, writes about brewing an English IPA.

Every once in a while I like to step back in time and brew a traditional English IPA to remind me how great English beer can be. I've gone through various malt, hop, and yeast variations over the years when brewing my English IPA, but the recipe I am writing about today on my blog is one I enjoy the best. It is a true classic representation of the style.



The basic grist is 87% pale malt, 3.5% pale wheat malt, 3.5% amber malt, and 6% crystal malt. Only traditional English hops are used to give a nice balance to the malts. The English yeast chosen stops the attenuation falling too low, so as to give a nice residual sweetness on the palate.

In my view, the bottled version of my brew tastes very similar to the historic India pale ale fondly remembered as 'Worthington White Shield', although at 7.4% ABV mine is slightly stronger than the original at 5.6%! White Shield was first brewed by the Worthington Brewery in Burton upon Trent in 1829, principally for export to the British Empire. Worthington merged with local rival Bass in 1927, which was itself taken over by Coors in 2002.

Back in the late 1970's White Shield was brewed by Bass-Worthington, at their historic brewery in Burton-on-Trent. Being bottle-conditioned, the beer was a real life-saver, as it was often the only beer worth drinking in a pub where all the other beers at that time were keg.

So, why not brew up a batch and let me know how you like it! Follow this link for the recipe and brewing notes on my brewing blog: <https://beohhasbrewhouse.com/bromley-camra-branch/>

Beckenham Hops Update

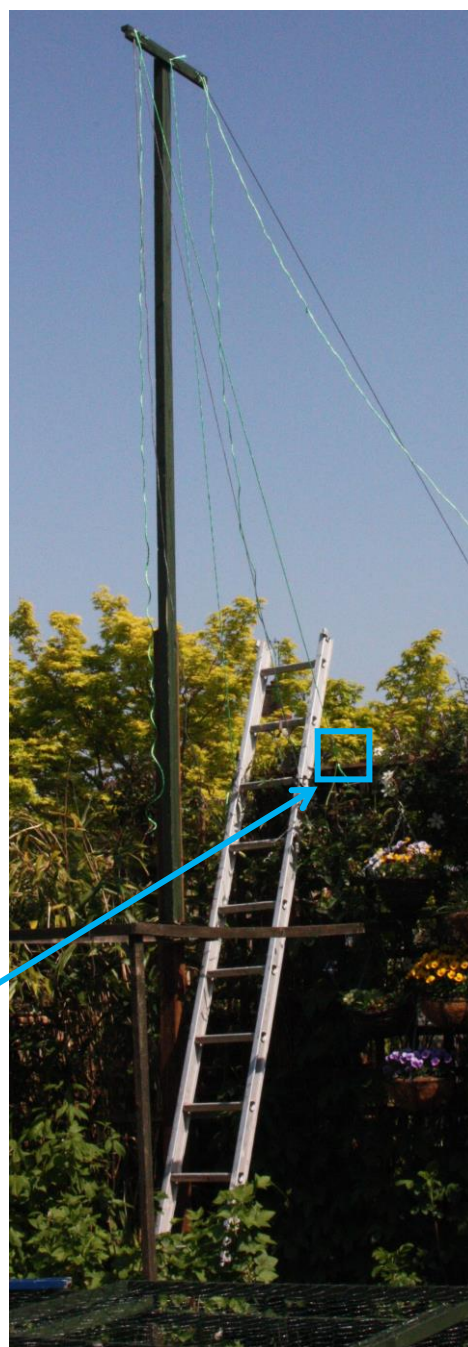
In the [November 2019](#) edition of the newsletter, Charles wrote about brewing a traditional English Pale Ale, using *Target*, *Cascade* and *Fuggles* hops grown in my small suburban back garden in Beckenham.

Charles plans to brew another beer this autumn using some of the 2020 harvest. During the spring and summer we'll keep you updated as the hops grow and the cones develop, ready to be picked in early September.

In the April issue there was a photo showing the *Fuggles* hop having grown only about 30 cm (12"). In the subsequent 4 weeks, this plant has now reached the height of 2.4m (8').

The strings have now been installed, I left this task a bit late this year, and the first stems were starting to climb the strings within a few hours of installation.

Bob Keaveney



Don't forget to check the Bromley CAMRA [website](#) to see the list of local pubs, clubs and bottle shops that can supply (some can even deliver) quality beers and ciders.

The May Quiz

This month our Quizmaster, Martin Gee, has set us questions to test our general knowledge:

- 1) In January 2001, oil spilt from the stricken tanker “Jessica” posed a threat to the unique wildlife of which group of islands?
- 2) What was the name of the Greenpeace ship sunk in Auckland harbour in 1985?
- 3) What word refers to the “restructuring” of the Soviet System?
- 4) In London, which concert hall is the traditional home of the Promenade Concerts?
- 5) Which Roman Catholic organisation takes its name from the Latin for “God’s Work”?
- 6) In Greek mythology, who was the only mortal gorgon?
- 7) Founded in Moscow in 1780, what is the name of Russia’s principal ballet company?
- 8) In Greek mythology, who was the goddess of the underworld and the daughter of Zeus and Demeter?
- 9) Which French author was born Francois-Marie Arouet?
- 10) What was the name of German terrorist Andreas Baader’s female partner?

Answers to the April Quiz

1) Dusty Springfield; 2) Patrick Stewart; 3) Angelina Jolie; 4) Sydney; 5) Thriller; 6) Julia Roberts; 7) Saving All my Love for You; 8) Chim Chim Cher-ee; 9) Leslie Charteris; 10) Destiny’s Child



Mango; passion fruit; blood orange; elderflower & lime; grapefruit.
Can we count them as our five-a-day?

The June Newsletter will be published on 1st June 2020

You can contact the editor by email: newsletter.editor@bromley.camra.org.uk.

The views expressed in this newsletter are those of their individual authors and are not necessarily endorsed by the editor or CAMRA.

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