

# CAMRA Bromley Branch

## Newsletter

### June 2020



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More about what have we been drinking at home since the pubs and clubs have been closed.

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A protest in Mottingham in 2013.

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This month's quiz is on science and nature.

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](mailto:newsletter.editor@bromley.camra.org.uk)

## Newsletter, June 2020

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

Whereas the lockdown has been eased for some activities, it is currently not clear when we will once again be able to enjoy a pint sitting in a pub or club. We are however very fortunate that an increasing number of pubs, and at least one club, are open for takeaways and/or deliveries. In this issue we once again look at what some of our members have been drinking at home during lockdown.

We may not be able to run social events in pubs, but your branch Committee continues to work during lockdown and we all are looking forward to the date when the pubs and clubs can reopen.

*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 once again 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 days/times are revised etc, and yet more pubs have been added to the list since last month. Do 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](mailto:news@bromley.camra.org.uk).

In early May CAMRA launched the new [Brew2You](#) App, to support pubs and breweries during this difficult time. Any pub, club or brewery can sign up to list their products and to enable customers to place online orders for collection.



However, currently only two pubs in our branch area have signed up, namely the **Old Jail** and the **Queens Head** (Downe).

Perhaps, when picking up your next 4 pint carryout from a pub, you could mention Brew2You to your local friendly publican? *You could tell them that more than 5,000 customers used the app to get their beer ordered in time for the May Day Bank Holiday – not bad for an app only a week old at that time!*

## Branch Committee News

A new Committee was elected at our AGM in March and, following some further co-options and changes, we are delighted to confirm that most of the senior positions within the Committee have been filled. Our thanks go to the following members:

Branch Chair & Beer Festival Co-ordinator	Charles Tucker
Branch Secretary & Branch Contact	Kent Sadler
Treasurer	Murray Mackay
Membership Secretary	Norman Warner
Social Secretary	Barry Phillips
Good Beer Guide Coordinator	Nick White
Beer Scores Co-ordinator & Newsletter Editor	Bob Keaveney
Public Affairs and Campaign Officer	Maggie Hopgood
Webmaster & Pub Database Co-ordinator	Tim Wilding
Social Media Co-ordinator	David Wilcock
London Drinker Distribution Co-ordinator	Richard Martin

And, in addition, our thanks to the nine Area Representatives:

BR1. Martin Gee	BR6. Norman Warner
BR2. Richard Martin	BR7. Martin Weatherall
BR3. John Middlemiss	SE19/20. Peter Normington
BR4. Janet Freak	Biggin Hill, Downe and Cudham. Kent Sadler
BR5. Wendy Reynolds	

And finally, a reminder that we do not currently have a: Pub Protection Officer; Local Representative; Women's Representative; and a Young Member's contact. Can YOU assist in these roles?

The business of the branch has needed to continue throughout the lockdown period. Normally our Committee meets monthly in one of the Bromley pubs which has a private room (All members of Bromley CAMRA are always welcome to attend committee meetings).

During lockdown the Committee has now held two virtual meetings, dealing with essential CAMRA matters, including feeding back on what our pubs are offering in these difficult times whilst, in the background, ensuring that we are as ready as we can be for the day when pubs can once again open their doors to us.

*Kent Sadler, Branch Secretary*

*Barry Phillips, our Social Secretary adds:* [As soon as the pubs and clubs do reopen, the branch will be arranging a series of social events to give us a chance to visit and support as many pubs/clubs as possible after the period of enforced closure.](#)



[The events are likely to be arranged fairly short notice and will be arranged in consultation with licensees, to ensure that we comply with any restrictions that are in place. All the events will be announced on the branch Twitter, Facebook and Website.](#)

[In the meantime, we are testing the possibility of running a branch social using Zoom; unfortunately an earlier attempt using CAMRA's Red \(on\)Lion was unsuccessful due to technical problems that evening. A pilot using Zoom is about to be trialled by the Committee, which if successful will then be advertised for all members. Watch out on Twitter or Facebook for further announcements.](#)

## CAMRA News

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

Whilst the Covid virus keeps us locked down and our valued drinking establishments off limits, it is pleasing to see so many pubs in our area being able to offer off sales and even grocery facilities in the more remote villages.

There is still plenty to cover in the CAMRA information sent out to the Branches so, without further ado, starting this month's summary you are invited on a virtual tour of the **nation's best looking pubs** as CAMRA announced the winners of its prestigious Pub Design Awards. To view just follow [this link](#).

**The Red (On)Lion & 15 June Beer Day Britain 2020.** The Red (On)Lion continues to hold events and presentations. To take part, please visit <https://theredonlion.co.uk/login>, sign in, using your membership number and password – and click onto an event to join.

In this respect, and with pubs closed and social distancing measures in place, this year's celebration of Beer Day Britain (national beer day) on June 15th is set to go ahead as a virtual celebration and is a chance for the beer community to come together in a show of strength for the sector. You could perhaps join Jane Payton on 15th June at 6.15pm, in which she will discuss how Britain spread the knowledge and love of beer to the New World and has had more influence on global ale brewing than any other brewing nation. This will include a tasting of three of the most widely brewed styles of beer brewed that originated in Britain, before participating in the national 'Cheers To Beer' at 7pm, when beer lovers across the land raise a glass and say "Cheers To Beer!", and post a social media message with the hashtag #CheersToBeer. And Beer Day Britain may be found at [www.beerdaybritain.co.uk](http://www.beerdaybritain.co.uk)

**GDPR** – General Data Protection regulations - now please do not "turn off"! These regs are now some 2 years old and over the past few months, CAMRA has considered the interpretation of the legislation and updated the guidance documents accordingly. Rest assured that relevant Committee members (Membership Secretary and Branch Secretary to name just two) are aware of these changes and continue to update themselves with regard to data protection issues.

**2021 Good Beer Guide** - Now one for the regular members who look forward to taking delivery of the "Good Beer Guide". CAMRA has had to push the publication of the 2021 volume back a little. Further details to follow but rest assured, it will be with you, albeit a little later this year!

**EBCU** – Who, what? Well that acronym may be a new one to many of us but stands for the "European Beer Consumers Union" which was formed in May 1990 by the national beer consumer organisations of Belgium, the Netherlands and the UK. So were you one of those that took part in the quick 1-minute survey to assess changing consumer habits across the continent during COVID-19 restrictions? This survey was open until 17 May and the results will be made available on their website and social media channels in due course.

**Pub Protection** is a matter key to all our interests – is your local under threat? Well, just in case of the possibility of some pub owners and developers using the current crisis as an opportunity to obtain permission for change of use, CAMRA has written to all Local Planning Authorities in England asking that they stick firmly to existing planning policies that protect pubs. So, the message here is for us to keep an eye on our locals and should we see that white notice nailed to the door, stuck on a lamppost or similar, contact your branch as soon as possible! Even better, it would be remiss of me not to highlight that we currently have a Committee opportunity for a "Pub Protection Officer" Are you interested? If so, get in touch!

**CAMRA's 50<sup>th</sup> birthday** is in 2021 and CAMRA now has a 50th Anniversary Working Group and is recruiting for two essential volunteer members to help. CAMRA is seeking offers of interest now, so we are asked to share this information across our Branch, especially to anyone with relevant experience, perhaps a young member wishing to get into a career in Events. Could this be you? For more information follow [this link](#).

Finally, the **Champion Beer of Britain** and due to the current COVID crisis, it has been decided by CAMRA to suspend the current Area and National Champion Beer of Britain competitions. The real word here is "suspend" not cancel. So, watch this space!

*Kent Sadler, Branch Secretary*

## The Porcupine, Mottingham. The fight continues...



In 2013 the Porcupine pub was sold by Enterprise to Lidl, the pub was promptly closed and the site fenced off, and the pub has remained closed ever since. Lidl then submitted a Planning application to demolish the pub and construct a supermarket on the site, which was rejected by Bromley Council in March 2014. The subsequent appeal by Lidl was dismissed by the Planning Inspectorate in December 2014.

A revised application was submitted to the Council in 2019. Numerous objections were submitted by residents, CAMRA members and by Bromley CAMRA, but nevertheless, the Council's Planning Department were recommending that this revised application should be approved.

The decision was due to be made at the Planning Sub-Committee held on 21st May, however it was then withdrawn from the agenda on the day of the meeting.

It is understood that the item was withdrawn in order to give the Council the opportunity to consider whether the proposed narrowing of the public footway complied with the new guidelines issued by the Government on 9th May (Traffic Management Act 2004: network management in response to COVID-19).

So there is still some hope that the pub may not be permanently lost, and be replaced by a supermarket. Bromley CAMRA will continue to work with Mottingham Residents Association to oppose the current proposed development.

See also ['From the Archive'](#)



## Bromley Pub and Club of the Year, 2020

Had normal life not been put on hold by the virus, the months of April, May and June would have seen presentations being made to the winners and runners-up of our branch 2020 Pub and Club of the Year competitions. The presentations will eventually take place, at some time in the future, once pubs and clubs are permitted to resume 'normal' trading.



Club of the Year:  
Orpington Liberal Club, BR6

Pub of the Year:  
Star & Garter, BR1

Pub of the Year joint runners-up:  
One Inn The Wood, BR5  
Real Ale Way, BR2

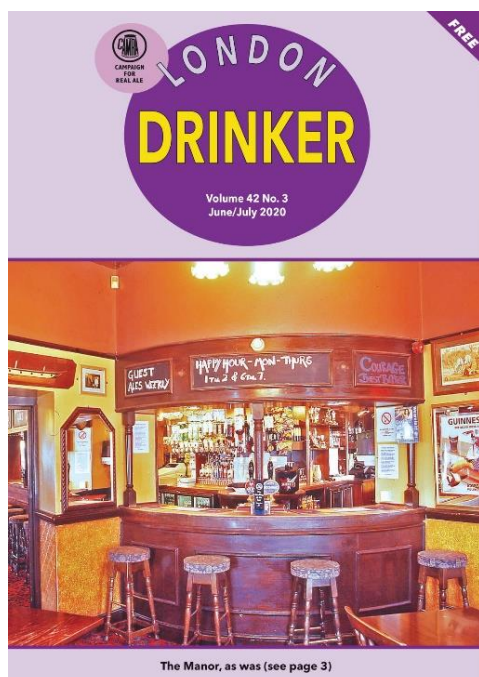


However, **all of these venues are still open** for takeaway sales of cask ales, real ciders, plus bottles and cans. Please check with the venues for opening times and for what beers etc are available:

- [Orpington Liberal Club](#) (Takeaway)
- [Star & Garter](#) (Takeaway, order online for click & collect and local delivery)
- [One Inn The Wood](#) (Takeaway, reserve by email for 'Dark Beer Thursdays', local delivery)
- [Real Ale Way](#) (Takeaway)

This information was correct as at 28th May but may change. For the **full list of venues** (as far as we are aware) that are open for takeaway sales and/or deliveries, please go to the Covid-19 page on the [branch website](#).

## London Drinker



London Drinker magazine is still being published during lockdown, but only in digital versions.

The new June/July issue is now available to be viewed or downloaded in traditional magazine format as a pdf [via this link](#).

It can also be viewed in a 'mobile-friendly' format at [londondrinker.camra.org.uk/](http://londondrinker.camra.org.uk/)

## Surviving Lockdown, Part Two

In April, 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 or clubs.

A selection of the replies were published in the May issue of the Newsletter. This month we publish further extracts from those initial replies, plus a few recent updates, together with some of the photos supplied. Thank you to everyone who responded.



It was on 20th March when the Prime Minister announced that the pubs had to close and then, just three days later, we were into the full 'lockdown'. For a short while it became a challenge to buy any beer, as the supermarket shelves were mostly empty. Several members ordered beer from the local Westerham Brewery for home delivery, whilst others used mail order for their supplies. One member even resorted to trying a 'just add water' home brew kit "just in case of emergencies".



However, if you knew where to look, it did always remain possible to buy quality craft beers in cans from a very few places in the borough, and if you lived in or near BR3 there was (and still is) a local delivery service.

But then gradually it became possible to once again buy cask ale from a few outlets, and that number has been slowly increasing as the weeks have passed. This has meant that, at least for most of us, we were able to stop 'making do' with whatever was available at the supermarket, or having to buy via mail order.

It was certainly a very exciting day for me when I was able to get my first carry-out from the Real Ale Way. After five weeks without any 'proper' beer, cask ale had never tasted so good; even if it did have to be poured from a milk bottle!

So what have other members been drinking?

- In early April, one member wrote that "I got 3 beers from M&S, a 9 hop Westerham Pale Ale, Adnams Blonde, and a Cambridgeshire Citra IPA; I have my pint glass, so I can pretend I'm sat in the pub!"
- Also in April another member wrote "My Sunday excursion normally takes me past Wine Rack in Westmoreland Road - only place I know where they have Tynt Meadow (7.4% English Trappist Ale) at £2.50 a bottle. Plus an eclectic range of Belgian ales ignored by the same locusts that empty shelves of flour, eggs and loo paper - they go for standard lager."



- Whilst one member opted for a special beer from the USA “...Goose Island’s *Bourbon County Stout*. Released in small batches each year, it is now consistently rated one of the best beers in the world. Very few of these arrive in the UK, so when I can I buy two bottles every year. I still have one bottle left from 2017 and 2018, as well as two I bought in November. I can’t think of another annual beer release that generates quite as much excitement around the world as this one does and it’s consistently rated as a top beer on RATEBEER.COM. The 2019 release was aged in a mix of bourbon whisky barrels - Heaven Hill, Buffalo Trace, and Wild Turkey. It yields a rich, complex mouthfeel. Flavours of cocoa, fudge, vanilla, caramel, almond, plus leather and tobacco, permeate this beer and deepen with each sip. It’s a bit special. So are the ABV and the price. It is 15.2% and £20 per pint bottle. The bitterness is also high at 64 IBUs – about twice as much as ordinary bitter.”



Memories of attending heavy metal gigs were revived for one member after finding a bottle of Road Crew APA brewed by Cameron's in conjunction with Motorhead.

Hopefully most of us have found ways to carry on enjoying good beers and ciders during lockdown, however some of our members have had to face the additional real challenges of having to stay at home in self-isolation throughout this period. One member who is self-isolating writes:

- “It’s important for all of us to keep sane and enjoy life’s pleasure and alcohol (drunk responsibly) is no exception. We set up a little home bar one weekend as it was our wedding anniversary. We have also participated in ‘Pub quizzes’ on Zoom with family, and other on line events with friends.”

At present there is no indication when pubs and clubs will be able to return to ‘normal’ trading. I’m concluding this feature on lockdown with the words of one of our members:

- “Now more than ever, we should appreciate how lucky we are to have such wonderful pubs and breweries and cider makers, plus also distillers and wine producers and where possible we should support them during these challenging times.”

Seen in a back garden, somewhere in BR3:





### And also seen in BR3:



Something strange in the cupboard...

#### “Just add water”

After 30 days (\*), our home brewer's verdict was:

- ABV 4.2%
- “Pleasant with a malty flavour but no aftertaste”
- “But it improved as it got lower in the tank”
- Beer score: 3.0 (out of 5)

Branch Chairman, and home brew expert, Charles Tucker said:

- “It actually tastes very good”

(\*) by which time several pubs had reopened offering takeaway and/or delivery



### Meanwhile in BR5 (Petts Wood)

Below: Fuggles checks out deliveries from the One Inn The Wood and Crackington Cider

Centre: Murphy guards a bottle of Brewdog



Whilst someone else was drinking Robinson's Old Tom

## From the Archive, 2013



**Tuesday 24th May 2013.**

This was the day of the protest arranged by Mottingham residents to coincide with the visit to the site by Bob Neill MP, and Pubs Minister Brandon Lewis MP. (Does anybody know if we still have Pubs Ministers...?)

The press release issued by Bob Neill's office read:

### **Press and photo opportunity at "Save the Porcupine Pub Campaign" event**

On Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> May, Bob Neill (local MP and former Pubs Minister), Brandon Lewis (Current Pubs Minister), and Mike Benner (Chief Executive of CAMRA) will be attending a public rally at the Porcupine pub at 10:30am. A large turnout of local residents is expected, which will send a strong message to LiDL that their plans to convert this valued pub into a supermarket are not wanted by the local community.

**Date of event:** Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> May; 10:30 – 11:15am

**Venue:** Outside the Porcupine Pub Site, 24 Mottingham Road, London SE9 4QW

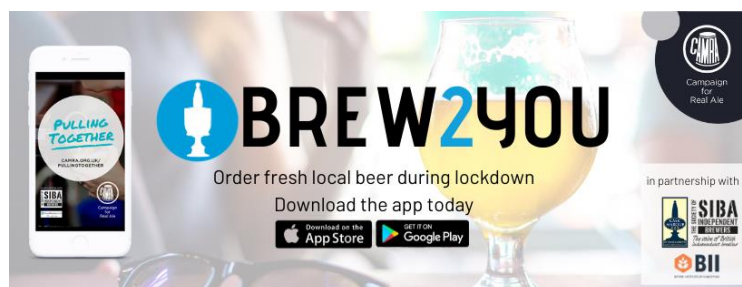
**Purpose:** To draw attention to the campaign to save the Porcupine public house in Mottingham (from proposed demolition & LiDL supermarket replacement)

**Key people there:** Bob Neill (local MP and former Pubs Minister), Brandon Lewis (Current Pubs Minister), Mike Benner (Chief Executive of CAMRA)



Upper: Brandon Lewis MP (Left) and Bob Neil MP, stood on ladders, outside the recently-closed Porcupine Pub.

Lower: Colin Brand (Left), the first Chairman of the relaunched Bromley CAMRA and Chris Crowther have a chat whilst standing on the same ladders, although without the media recording their words.





## Beckenham Hops Update

The hops continue to grow at a rapid pace, on some sunny days the *Fuggles* were growing about 15 cm (6") a day. The first stems have now reached the top of the strings, this means that they have grown from ground level to a height of about five metres since mid-March.

Why not compare this month's photo with the photos in the May newsletter, where the stems had only just started to climb the strings above the trellis?

Elsewhere in the garden there are two other hop varieties, a *Cascade* and a *Target*, both of which grow up strings attached to the house.

If all goes well, the hops will be harvested in early September, some of which will then be used in a beer brewed by our Branch Chairman.

If you would be interested to read more about growing hops in Beckenham, please follow [this link](#) to the branch website.

Bob Keaveney



## The June Quiz

*This month our Quizmaster has set us questions on the subject of Science and Nature:*

- 1) In which country was chemist Lars Onsager born?
- 2) What chemical substance does the Haber process produce?
- 3) Which creature is known as Orange Man or Wise Man of the Forest?
- 4) Which theoretical temperature corresponds to minus 273.15 degrees on the Celsius scale?
- 5) Presbyopia affects which part of the body?
- 6) Which name is given to the promontory of basalt columns on the coast of Antrim in Northern Ireland?
- 7) Which alloy of tin and lead was originally used for making plates and mugs?
- 8) In which part of the human body is the cochlea?
- 9) What is the common name for the condition Myopia?
- 10) Bartlett, Comice and Conference are all types of which fruit?

### Last month's answers:

- 1) Galapagos; 2) Rainbow Warrior; 3) Perestroika; 4) The Royal Albert Hall; 5) Opus Dei; 6) Medusa; 7) Bolshoi; 8) Persephone; 9) Voltaire; 10) Ulrike Meinhof

Enjoy drinking your real ale at home, and remember to stay safe!

Martin Gee, Quizmaster

Seen in a dining room in SE19



### Contacting Bromley CAMRA

- Website: [bromley.camra.org.uk/](http://bromley.camra.org.uk/)
- Twitter: [twitter.com/CAMRAbromley/](https://twitter.com/CAMRAbromley/)
- Facebook: [facebook.com/bromleycamra/](https://facebook.com/bromleycamra/)

General enquiries about the branch should be sent to: [branch.contact@bromley.camra.org.uk](mailto:branch.contact@bromley.camra.org.uk)

All officers of the branch can be contacted direct by email, full details can be found on the branch website: <https://bromley.camra.org.uk/about-us/contact-us/>

The July Newsletter will be published on **1st July 2020**

You can contact the editor by email: [newsletter.editor@bromley.camra.org.uk](mailto: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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