

CAMRA Bromley Branch

Newsletter

July 2020



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In our final review of what we have been drinking during lockdown, we look at what has been on offer at some of those pubs and clubs which have been offering draught beers to take home.

[Beckenham Beer and Cider Festival](#)

Sadly the 2020 festival had to be cancelled, but we have a glimpse back at some previous festivals and look forward to 2021.

[On Your Beer Bike!](#)

Branch Chairman Charles Tucker visits some of our pubs by bike to buy his beers to take home.

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The hop plants, having reached their full height, are now bushing out.



Drinking at Home



Beckenham Beer & Cider Festivals



Beer Bike

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

Branch Newsletter, July 2020

This newsletter was prepared only three days after the Prime Minister confirmed that “*the pubs can reopen on 4th July*”, and also announced that the social distancing rule was being reduced from two metres to one metre.



Licensees will need time to decide whether it is feasible for them to reopen, and what measures they will have to put in place if they are going to be able to comply with the new recommendations. As I write this, all that is certain is that enjoying a pint in our pubs (or clubs) is going to be a very different experience than it was before lockdown.

However, I am confident that we are all looking forward to once again being able to enjoy a pint (or two) in a pub or club, even if we do have to book a table, order our drinks via an app or table service, or whatever is else required. Cheers!

Bob Keaveney, Editor

Once the Pubs and Clubs Are Open

Bromley CAMRA is aiming to keep the [Covid-19 page on the website](#) as up to date as possible once the pubs and clubs do start to reopen, and our team of Area Reps will each be keeping an eye on what is going on in their area.

However, in what will inevitably be a fast-changing situation, it is probable that we won't be able to capture the information for every pub, especially for those pubs which do not currently use social media. Members are therefore requested to pass on whatever information you can about your local pubs(s). Please email us at news@bromley.camra.org.uk

Throughout lockdown, Bromley CAMRA's [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) have been sharing or retweeting any information that we received from those pubs and clubs who used social media. We will be continuing to do this once the pubs start welcoming customers back to enjoy their drinks at the pub, rather than just as something to take home in a plastic bottle or growler.

As yet we are not able to confirm when the branch social calendar will be resuming. The branch Committee will be discussing this at the next 'virtual' meeting of the Committee. Whilst the branch wants to do everything we can to support our pubs and clubs at this difficult time, it is possible that we may need to wait for a while, to see what the 'new normal' looks like, and to give the pubs/clubs and their regular clientele time to get reacquainted, before potentially large socially-distanced groups of us descend upon them.

A message from CAMRA's Chief Executive

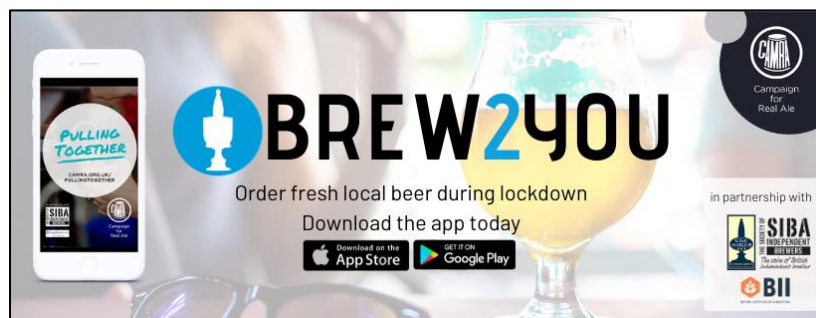
Tom Stainer, Chief Executive CAMRA made the following statement following the Government announcement on 23 June:

"Getting down to the pub for a pint with friends and family has been one of the things people have missed the most during lockdown, so it is fantastic news that people in England can start returning to their locals from 4 July.

“Understandably, this comes with a responsibility to do so safely and responsibly in line with the government’s guidance. CAMRA is urging all pub-goers to follow the rules so that they can keep themselves, other pub-goers, and bar staff safe.

“On recording customer details to help testing and tracing, this seems to be above and beyond what is being asked of other types of businesses. The Government need to make sure that this doesn’t disadvantage pubs and that the privacy of pub-goers is properly protected.

“Not being able to go to our local has made us realise just how important pubs are to communities, and in tackling loneliness and social isolation. That is why we need a second wave of financial support to ensure that all pubs - both those operating at reduced trade and those that cannot open safely under social distancing - can survive the next few weeks and thrive in the weeks and months ahead.”



CAMRA Launches New Campaigns

As pubs across the UK prepare to reopen, CAMRA is launching two new campaigns, ‘Cheers to Choice’ and ‘Save Pubs, Join CAMRA’.

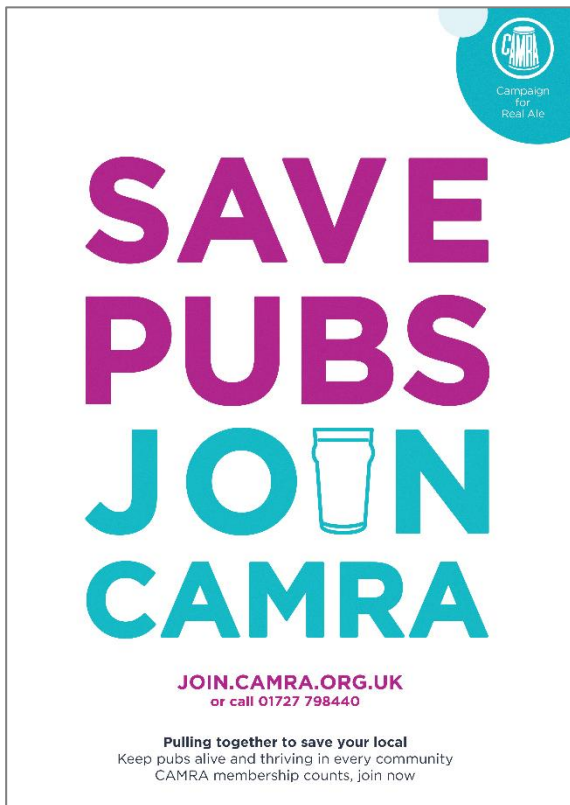
Cheers to Choice is a campaign to try to make sure there is a good choice of beers and ciders from local and independent producers on offer, by asking the Pubcos and multinational drinks companies to allow publicans to stock locally brewed products when they reopen.

- As pubs prepare to reopen, they are going to face many challenges to get customers back through their doors.
- One thing likely to help entice people back to their local is a good choice of beers and cider from local and independent brewers and producers.
- But publicans who are tied tenants are restricted in what they can sell, and are often prevented from putting products behind the bar that they know their customers want to drink.



CAMRA is now calling on pub companies to help the pub sector recover by allowing all tied pubs to stock local brews. Please get involved by signing our 'Cheers to Choice' petition today.

[Click here for more information and to sign the petition.](https://www.camra.org.uk/cheerstochoice)



Save Pubs Join CAMRA

During lockdown, CAMRA has been campaigning to save and protect pubs and breweries as part of the *Pulling Together* campaign and by launching initiatives like the *Brew2You* beer-ordering App.

CAMRA needs to keep momentum going and membership support is vital to enable us to continue to be an effective lobbying organisation for pubs lovers and the pub industry.

CAMRA is asking all members to download the poster and put it up in their front window and across their local area, including in pubs when they reopen, to help us get the message out to ALL that we must support pubs at this time, or risk permanently losing them.

The posters can also be displayed around your local area on community boards in libraries, supermarkets, parks, community halls, church halls, waiting rooms etc.

Please support this CAMRA campaign to keep pubs alive and thriving in every community. The poster can be downloaded [via this link](#).

CAMRA News

The Branch Secretary runs through some of the national and regional news from CAMRA.

Whilst hopefully, when you read this summary, it will be only a matter of days before we can once again enjoy a pub pint on the premises (and let's hope good weather permits), the Covid virus has kept matters a little quiet on the social side. Nevertheless CAMRA continues to keep us advised through mail outs and press releases and I am pleased to summarise some of those issued since the June issue of the newsletter.

And, on the subject of pubs re-opening, **a survey of 22,000 pub goers and beer drinkers** across the UK has found that two thirds of people are confident to get back down the pub when their local reopens. So let us give all of our pubs the support they deserve when we get that opportunity. https://camra.org.uk/press_release/majority-ready-to-get-back-down-the-pub-survey-finds/

Last month we covered the recent release of **Brew2You**. CAMRA is pleased to announce that beer lovers have been beating the lockdown blues by ordering £50,000 worth of beer, ciders and perries through this popular beer delivery app launched by CAMRA. Have you tried this app yet?

The **Red (On)Lion** (<https://theredonlion.co.uk/bar>) continues to spread the word through its webinars and other events. Have you visited yet? Some of the events covered in June included:

- 9th June; Beer expert and author Des De Moor led a tasting of the beer style Mild, talking about the Mild style's fascinating history, the myths and some contemporary examples.
- 23rd June; The brewer and co-founder of Small Beer Brew Co, Felix James lead an on line tour of their Bermondsey brewery including a tasting of their four vegan low ABV brews.

- 30th June; The Head Brewer, David Rogerson of WooHa Brewing Co led a tasting of the brewery's core beer styles. WooHa is based in the Scottish Highlands and their beers are brewed from the same cool, clear water that go into some of Scotland's most famous whiskies!

So far, two further events have been planned for July:

- Tue 7th July; Ciderniks, makers of vegetarian- and vegan-friendly ciders
- Tue 14th July; Meet the Crumber, Crumbs Brewing brew all their beers using left over bread from their local bakery

These events limited to 50 participants in number, on a first come first serve basis, so get in there quick!

Some good news regarding **Beer Festivals**. Did you know that recent research from Northumbria University demonstrates what a positive impact beer festivals have on the local economy? It seems just one beer festival can inject substantial cash into the local economy, both directly and indirectly, with little or no cost to the local council. The report goes on to advise festivals help boost income for local hospitality and tourism businesses.

Now, given that CAMRA normally runs over 200 beer festivals across the country, we can extrapolate these findings to suggest beer festivals contribute many millions into local economies, as well as providing a valuable route to market for numerous independent breweries.

This is great news all round – for local councils, local pubs and consumer choice. So, here's looking forward to a return to near normality and our enjoyment of a beer festival or two in the near future

Are You a Cider drinker?

CAMRA has published two new pieces of cider-focused content as part of its new Learn & Discover offering: a video guide on how to taste cider by cider writer James Finch, and an article revealing the story of women and cider by Cath Potter. Freely available, this content aims to help beer and cider lovers learn more about their favourite drink while pubs remain closed across the UK. Read the full story [via this link](#).

If cider is not your cup of tea, there is much more content to explore in the Learn & Discover Zone which will be home to new content from beer writers, educators and experts throughout June and July. Each week there are new guides, articles, videos and podcasts exploring everything there is to know about beer, cider, perry and pubs – log on and have a visit.

Kent, Sadler, Branch Secretary

Pub of the Year & Club of the Year update

It is with regret that, in view of the current restrictions posed by the coronavirus situation, the CAMRA Awards Committee has confirmed that the regional, super-regional and final rounds of this year's Pub of the Year and Club of the Year competitions are to be cancelled.



Bromley Branch had made arrangements to hold presentation events for the branch Pub and Club of the Year winners, and for the two joint runners-up in the pub competition, however these all had to be postponed due to the lockdown. We are currently in the process of contacting the management of the four venues to discuss alternative arrangements.



Bob Keaveney, Beer Score Coordinator

Surviving Lockdown, Part 3

Hopefully in the August issue of the Newsletter we'll once again be able to report on what we have been able to drink in the pubs, rather than having to rely on takeaways. In this, the third (and hopefully final) report on drinking during lockdown, we're looking at what draught beers have been on offer in some of the pubs (and club) which were able to open for takeaway, for 'click and collect', or even for home delivery.



Orpington Liberal Club

Social media has proved to be very useful during lockdown, as a simple means for pubs to keep their customers informed about their revised opening hours and which beers were on offer. Most of the photos on this and the next two pages are taken from social media or websites.

The Bromley Branch Club of the Year, **Orpington Liberal Club**, has been open for takeaways since 25th March,

with a choice of up to four cask beers being available. Over the 3 months, in excess of 40 different beers were on offer from more than 20 breweries, including Bexley, Gadds, Iron Pier, Kent, Musket, Tonbridge, and Whitstable.

Branch Pub of the Year, the **Star & Garter**, reopened in early May for takeaway, including 'click and collect' and home delivery. A selection of draught beers (cask and keg) and ciders, plus bottles and cans could be ordered online for collection or local delivery. *(There is something surreal about having your beer order delivered to your own front door, by one of the pub's regular barmen...).*



The pub has normally had a choice of three cask ales available, which have included beers from Arbor, Bristol Beer Factory, Five Points, Siren, Wild, Wylam and many others.



Both of our 2020 PotY joint runners-up have also been open. In Petts Wood, the **One Inn The Wood** has been offering a takeaway service since late March, and has also been delivering locally to customers who were having to self-isolate at home. With almost-daily Tweets, the pub's customers were kept up to date on the beers available on draught, plus new additions to the range of bottles, cans, and mini-casks. Apparently their 'Dark Beer Thursday' special beers were particularly popular; ordering in advance was often essential, otherwise you risked disappointment.



NAME	BREWERY	ABV	TYPE	PRICE
PERMANENT WOOD	TONBRIDGE	3.6%	SESSION ALE	£3.80
HIBISCUS, RASPBERRY ROSEHIP	IRON PIER	3.9%	SAISON	£3.80
SAISON	TEAM TOXIC	4.0%	SESSION IPA	£3.80
SKYLARKING	PIG + PORTER	4.5%	BEST BITTER	£3.80
WINKLE PICKER	WHITSTABLE	4.3%	SESSION IPA	£3.80
ROADIE	SIGNATURE	5.5%	WEST COAST IPA	£3.80
BIG SEA	MAD SQUIRREL			

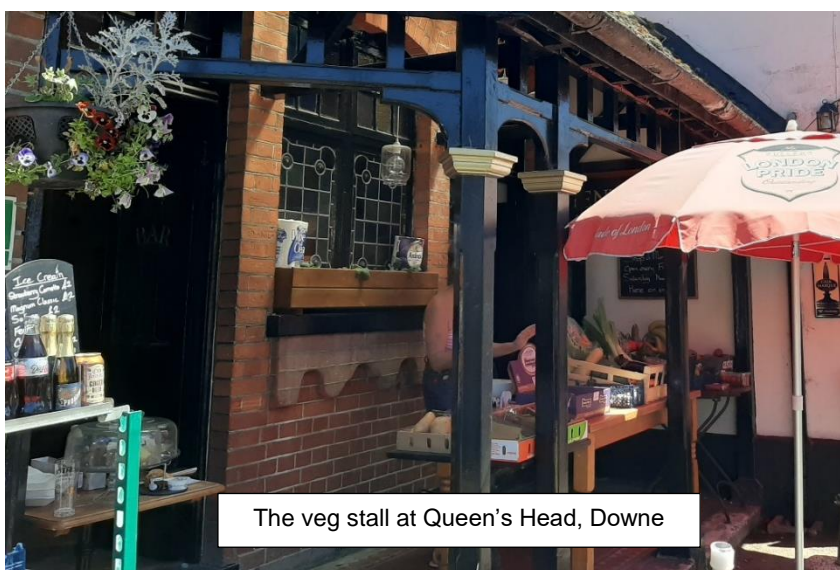
One Inn The Wood

Meanwhile, in Hayes the **Real Ale Way** reopened for takeaway on 22 April.



Real Ale Way

Up to 4 cask ales were available, plus draught ciders, cans, bottles, plus a range of mini casks in almost industrial quantities. The selection included beers from Bexley, Iron Pier, Kent, Larkins, Tonbridge, and from several other Kent-based microbreweries.



The veg stall at Queen's Head, Downe

A number of pubs, in addition to selling beers to take away, also offered fresh fruit and veg for sale. This included the **Alma** in Crystal Palace, **Change of Horses** in Farnborough, and the **Queen's Head** in Downe.



Alma



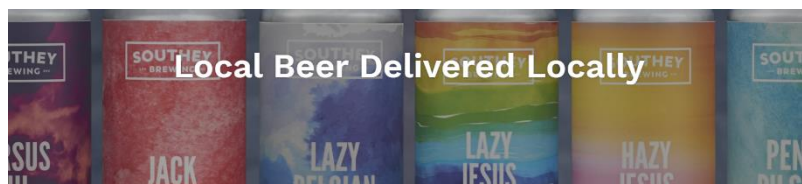
Craft Metropolis

The **Craft Metropolis** in Penge was open throughout, selling bottles, cans and draught beer on tap, whilst the **Three Hounds** in Clock House operated a local delivery service, and in late June reopened for takeaways.

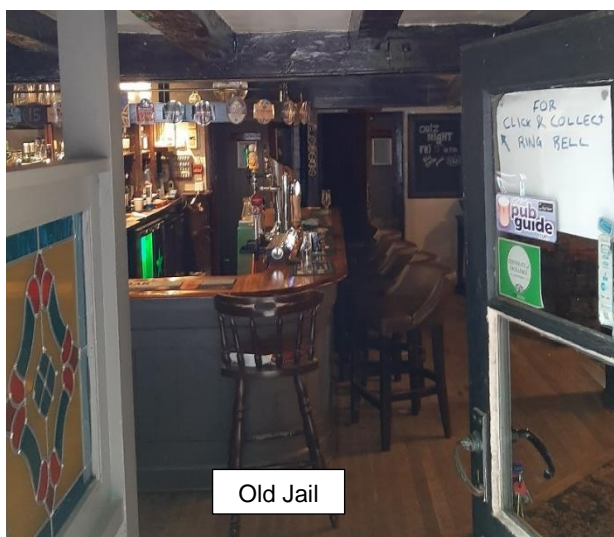


Three Hounds

And, not far away, **Southey Brewing** reopened their Penge taproom for takeaways, with customers being able to order online for 'click and collect', or for local home delivery.



Local Beer Delivered Locally



Old Jail

In Biggin Hill, the **Old Jail** made use of CAMRA's Brew2You app to enable customers to order online for collection, with draught beer and 5 litre mini-casks on offer.

The **Bitter End Bar** in Bromley South has been open for takeaway during most of the period, and for home delivery via their associated company beerbarrels2U.



Bitter End Bar

And in early June, the **Craft Beer Rooms** in Hayes (formerly the Pie & Pint) reopened on Fridays and Saturdays for takeaways, with beers on tap and in cans.



Craft Beer Rooms

Some pubs were open for predominantly food-based offerings, and their websites and social media contained numerous photos of very tempting plates of food. Some of the pubs doing food to take away included the **Alexandra** in Penge, **Imperial** in Chislehurst, **Shortlands Tavern** and the **Rose & Crown** in Green St Green.

Some pubs will be continuing to open for takeaway only after 4th July

It is already apparent that some of pubs are not going to be able to open for the time being, due to the difficulties of providing a suitable safe environment for customers and staff, even with one metre distancing, due to insufficient space in smaller pubs.

Bromley CAMRA will aim to keep [WhatPub](#) and the [Covid-19](#) page on the website as up to date as possible over the coming weeks as the situation develops.

Beckenham Beer and Cider Festival



We're going to miss you!

This July edition of our Branch Newsletter should have been regaling you with exciting details of our annual Beckenham Beer Festival, which was due to start on 23 July. However, with the COVID-19 crisis, we all know that it had to be cancelled. The festival is the highlight of our year and we really miss the fact that we won't be able to see you there and enjoy your company over a fine selection of real ales and ciders. The recent unfortunate passing of Vera Lynn brings to mind the heartfelt sentiment of her famous song "We'll meet again". And so we shall. The 2021 beer festival will be bigger, better and bolder. So put the dates of **22nd to 24th July 2021** into your diary and help us make 2021 the best festival ever!

Charles Tucker
Festival Coordinator



On your beer-bike!

One of the greatest pleasures in my life was long hikes in the local countryside, stopping on the way at any village pubs I could find for refreshing beers and occasionally a cider.

A recent relaxation of the Covid lockdown rules now allow us to do country walks again, but we can't use public transport for leisure journeys, which makes it nigh on impossible for a linear ramble. The village pubs have been forced to close anyway, so my usual "pint per mile" walks are out of the question. However, we are blessed in our borough that a few pubs with an off-sales licence, and likewise micro-pubs, are doing takeaways. There are currently around 15 in total. So the beer is there if you can get to it. (See our [Covid-19 page](#)).



So, just what will a beer-drinker do to get decent ale during the lockdown? Well, in my case, this has meant refurbishing my old push bike to cycle around the local countryside and buy beer from as many of the takeaways that I can - one at a time of course!

Bromley is surprisingly rural in parts and it has been a real pleasure to cycle along the country lanes and through our lovely villages, with always a welcome purchase of takeaway beer before I pedal back home. And of course, upon my return I can give myself a nice reward as soon as I get the bike back in the shed.

So why not have a read of my cycle beer trips [here](#) and discover the joys of beer drinking and cycling - although not done concurrently of course!

Keep your eye on the web page for I will be updating it with new cycle adventures until our pubs are finally open again.

Charles Tucker, Branch Chairman

A promotional graphic for 'Beer Scoring' and the 'Good Beer Guide App'. The background is yellow. At the top, it says 'THE BEER SCORING FUNCTION ON THE APP IS FREE AND EXCLUSIVE FOR CAMRA MEMBERS'. Below this, the words 'BEER SCORING' are written in large, bold, black letters. Underneath, there are five golden beer mugs. A small text block explains that as a CAMRA member, you can tell about the quality of beer in the pubs you visit, and that the National Beer Scoring System (NBSS) is a 0-5 point scale for judging beer quality. It also mentions that the app is a way to assist CAMRA branches in selecting pubs for the Good Beer Guide and to monitor beer quality. A red button says 'DOWNLOAD THE GOOD BEER GUIDE APP FOR FREE'. Below this, it says 'These scores will sync with WhatPub.' and shows the 'WHAT?PUB' logo. At the bottom, it says 'Unlock all functions of the App for a subscription of 99p p/month or £4.99/12 months. Visit gbgapp.camra.org.uk for more info.' and includes the CAMRA logo.

A reminder about Beer Scoring

Bromley CAMRA uses **Beer Scoring** as the means of identifying pubs and clubs for possible inclusion in the Good Beer Guide.

In a normal year we receive thousands of scores from members, but due to the pubs being closed, not many scores have been submitted during 2020.

Once the pubs reopen, please don't forget to submit your scores.

More information about beer scoring can be found [via this link](#).

Beckenham Hops Update

The Editor is growing three hop varieties in his garden, *Fuggles*, *Target* and *Cascade*. All have now reached the top of their strings and are 'bushing out' as the side stems grow. Over the next 2 months the flowers, the 'cones', will start to develop and ripen to become those 'hops', with which most of us will be familiar.

If all goes well, the crop will be harvested in early September, and then our Branch Chairman will make a brew using the hops.



One stem has found its way into the bathroom

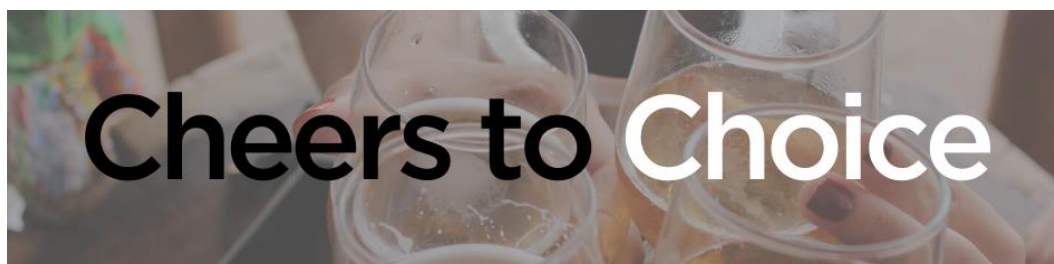


Cascade, on strings attached to the eaves of the house

The Quiz

Unfortunately we have not been able to bring you a quiz this month.

The answers for the June quiz will be given in the August issue.



[Click here for more information and to sign the petition.](#)



Contacting Bromley CAMRA

- Website: bromley.camra.org.uk/
- Twitter: twitter.com/CAMRAbromley/
- Facebook: facebook.com/bromleycamra/

General enquiries about the branch should be sent to: 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 next Newsletter will be published on **1st August 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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