

# CAMRA Bromley Branch

## Newsletter

### August 2020



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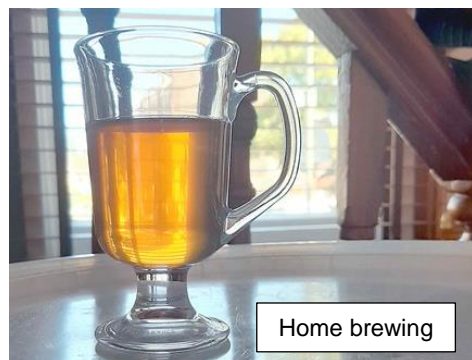
This month Charles brews a Golden Bitter.

##### [Beckenham Hops Update](#)

The 'flowers' are just starting to form on the Editor's hops.

##### [The Quiz](#)

This month's quiz is on the theme of Sport and Leisure.



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.

## Newsletter, August 2020

I took over as Newsletter Editor at the branch AGM in mid-March, so this is the first issue where I have been able to report on our members enjoying their beer(s) freshly-pulled or poured from the cask, whilst actually sitting in the pub or club, rather than being stuck at home, drinking their beer poured from bottles, cans, mini-casks, growlers or milk bottles.

Whilst 'going to the pub' (or club) might now not be quite the same experience as it was a few months ago, I've certainly enjoyed being able to do so. I hope that you have also been able to return to the pubs and clubs, although I am aware that some members are still required to stay at home for shielding reasons.



The Editor's first post-lockdown beers, Sunday 5th July at Orpington Liberal Club

In recent issues we have been reporting on what CAMRA has been doing, both nationally and locally to try to support members, pubs, clubs and breweries during this crisis. Your Branch Committee has



The Branch Committee meeting via Zoom on 28<sup>th</sup> July

continued to meet during lockdown, albeit as 'virtual meetings', rather than sat around tables in the back room of a pub as normal. Initially the meetings were done by exchange of emails, however for the July meeting we actually got to grips with technology and used Zoom.

Branch officers have also been undertaking their various CAMRA duties throughout this period. The main focus has been on trying to keep WhatPub up-to-date, in what continues to be a very fast-changing situation; you can read more about that on page 3 of this issue.

Also this month we hear how the two pubs in Downe village helped the community during lockdown, we celebrate the reopening of the pubs by sharing some photos of our first post-lockdown pints, look back 40 years to GBBF 1980, and our Chairman describes how to brew a golden bitter.

Cheers!

*Bob Keaveney, Editor*



Photo: Lock & Barrel



Pubs and clubs are working hard to try to make their premises safe for customers

Signing-in, hand sanitiser and safety signage are now the 'new normal'

L to R: Lock & Barrel; Orpington Liberal Club; Bricklayers Arms (BR3)

## Keeping WhatPub Up-To-Date. Your Help is Requested!

*Our Branch Pub Database Officer, Tim Wilding, reports on the work being done to try to ensure that the pub information WhatPub is kept up-to-date, and asks for your assistance.*

During July, pubs and clubs have been progressively reopening around the borough, and there are now only a very few which haven't either reopened already or plan to do so in early August.

However, most are operating with reduced opening hours or with restrictions in place in order to comply with social distancing guidelines.

Here at Bromley CAMRA we are doing our best to keep both members and the general public up-to-date with the latest information we have for each pub. To do this we are using CAMRA's nationwide online pub database – WhatPub. But with more than 100 drinking establishments in the borough, most of which are experimenting with their post-lockdown opening arrangements, we have a near-impossible task to keep everything up-to-date.

And that's why we are asking you - our members - for your help. WhatPub has been temporarily altered to include a new grey box entitled "updates" which is being used for the latest information during this post-lockdown period. An example is shown here:

The temporary information appears as a grey box to the left side of the WhatPub screen



The temporary information appears as a grey box to the left side of the WhatPub screen

So, if you visit any of our pubs, please review the "grey box" for the pub concerned and let us know if anything needs adding or amending. We are particularly interested in opening times and any special arrangements. Don't worry about the other information on the screen, which will be comprehensively reviewed as and when we move out of this post-lockdown phase.

To send us information please either click on the "submit updates" tab on the WhatPub page and follow the instructions or - if you prefer - send an email to: [pubinfo@bromley.camra.org.uk](mailto:pubinfo@bromley.camra.org.uk)



**The Good Beer Guide 2021 will be published on 29<sup>th</sup> October 2020**

*(This is slightly later than normal due to Covid-19)*

CAMRA members can receive an advance copy at the discounted price of just **£11**, with free postage, by joining the Privilege Club

For more information follow [this link](#).



## An Update From The Social Secretary

I know how difficult it has been for us all with pubs having been shut for ages, and with many of us having to self-isolate, therefore getting out and about to enjoy real ale has been a challenge. Now with the pubs having mostly re-opened, it's a good time to get out and about to support our pubs, clubs and breweries.

Unfortunately, due to various legal issues about CAMRA insurance, I as Social Secretary, cannot yet arrange official branch socials in the real world. However, if you can't yet get out and about to your local, I have arranged weekly on-line social using the ZOOM platform. This is an opportunity for members to meet up and chat, to discuss their favourite pubs, the best beers that they have consumed during lockdown, and how best to support our pubs and breweries. Inevitably our socials drift onto topics other than beer and pubs, which makes them all the more fun, so do please consider trying one out.

If you would like to join in with one of our Zoom video socials, please email me requesting the joining details. My email address can be found on the [Bromley CAMRA website](#).

I look forward to catching up with you at one of our Zoom socials, and hopefully in an actual pub or two in the not too distant future.

*Barry Phillips, Social Secretary*

## CAMRA News

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

It seems only a few days ago I was putting together the CAMRA news article for our previous newsletter and saying that it should be only a matter of days before we can once again enjoy a pub pint on the premises. Hopefully you have all been resuming your relationships with your favourite pub(s) and perhaps trying a few different ones. Certainly, if in doubt of where to go, have a look at 'WhatPub' for your immediate guidance.

### Cider and Herbal Beers

CAMRA have launched new content on its Learn & Discover platform to help members get to grips with cider and herbal beers. [See this link](#).

This covers a beginners' guide to cider terminology, put together by cider writer, educator and reviewer James Finch, otherwise known as the Cider Critic. James' introductory guide will help cider lovers learn about some of the words and details to unlock a more informed cider and perry drinking experience.

And there is also a video guide to foraging for brewing ingredients, created by writer, broadcaster, educator and bestselling author of 'Booze for Free' Andy Hamilton.

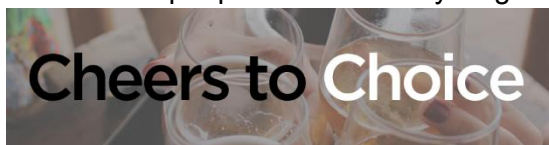


## Beer and Cider terminology

But perhaps you merely want to brush up on your beer and cider terminology. For instance, do you know what is meant by a balanced beer or what a cloudy beer really signifies? If so, then CAMRA, with its recent release of new content on its Learn & Discover platform, is just the place for you. To help you further your beer and cider vocabularies follow [this link](#).

## The need for local ales

Did you know a recent survey of 21,000 beer drinkers and pub goers carried out by CAMRA found that 68% of people are less likely to go to a pub if it isn't selling local and independent beer and cider? The current beer ties mean that most pub tenants are restricted in what they can sell in their pubs and are often banned from putting on the products they know their customers want to drink.



With that in mind, CAMRA released a statement on 1 July along with the 'Cheers to Choice' campaign pushing for every pub across the UK to be allowed to stock and sell beer and cider from small, local and independent brewers and cider producers to help them recover post-lockdown..

So were you perhaps one of those of CAMRA's 190,000 members across the UK who signed a petitions to pub company bosses urging them to allow all landlords to stock local brews?

## The Chancellor

You may (or indeed may not) have noticed that the Chancellor recently gave the Summer Economic Update from the Exchequer. Equally so did you read the response from CAMRA? That Lockdown has shown just how valuable our pubs are to local communities and the pivotal role they play in tackling loneliness and social isolation. It is absolutely right that they receive extra support during the difficult months ahead to ensure their continued survival. Further information about this may be found via [this link](#).

## Lower those pub prices

Following the Government's announcements on an alcohol duty review, CAMRA have responded advising that *"This review into how alcohol can be taxed more fairly is a fantastic opportunity for the Government to save our pubs by introducing a lower rate of duty on draught beer, with savings passed on to pubs and consumers"*.

For more information on this follow [this link](#).

## And remember....

CAMRA urges people to get back down the pub safely and has released an easy to follow guide to help people use and support their local pubs safely over the coming weeks and months. For further information about this follow [this link](#).

And please remember not to move those chairs – It could be the publicans' licence at stake (and your pub) if we disregard the advice given to us!

*Kent Sadler, Branch Secretary*



## Pub News From Orpington

*Our BR6 Area Rep, Norman Warner, reports on some recent changes in Orpington.*

**Orpington GPO**, located at the site of the former Orpington Post Office, opened its doors for the first time on July 4th. Described by their management as 'Cafe, Bar & Kitchen' however our more familiar adjective, would be 'Gastropub.' This pleasantly spacious modern eatery, welcomes the casual drinker, with initially St Austell Proper Job and longer term, Harvey's Sussex is planned to join it. The Covid-19 measures have been incorporated from the start, so a 'please wait to be seated' sign, encourages you to opt for table service. However on each of my 3 visits, having said I'm only here for the beer, I have ordered from the bar and taken my drink to the table, with no fuss. See this pub on [WhatPub](#).



Photo: Cricketers Knoll

The **Cricketers Knoll**, as it is now known, reopened on 4th July after an extended closure. The 5 month period has allowed a complete refurbishment inside and a fresh new look to the exterior. The traditional central bar at the front and extension to the rear, have been retained. However the internal decor now leaves no trace of the old pub. Work is still in progress in the garden, as a fully accessible toilet is being added to the existing facilities. Harvey's Sussex was the only cask ale offering, on my last visit. However this was in excellent condition and I am confident that as trade builds up, a wider selection of beers will be offered. Situated away from the High Street, next to Broomhill Common, this has all the makings of a hidden gem.

See this pub on [WhatPub](#). (Note: The current WhatPub entry will be updated once building work is complete)

*Norman Warner, BR6 Area Rep,*

## Beer Scoring

As most members will be aware, Bromley CAMRA uses **Beer Scores** as the starting point for selecting pubs and clubs for consideration for inclusion in the Good Beer Guide. Any pub/club which does not receive sufficient scores, from sufficient members, throughout the year cannot be considered, no matter how good are their beers.

With the pubs/clubs having been closed for more than three months during 2020, it is now more important than ever that we receive as many scores as possible during the remaining months of this year.

If you have never previously submitted a Beer Score, now is the ideal time to start. It's very easy to do, either via WhatPub or the [GBG App](#).

More information about Beer Scoring can be found on the [Branch website](#).

*Bob Keaveney, Beer Scores Coordinator*

## Enjoying a (socially-distanced) pint in the pub or club

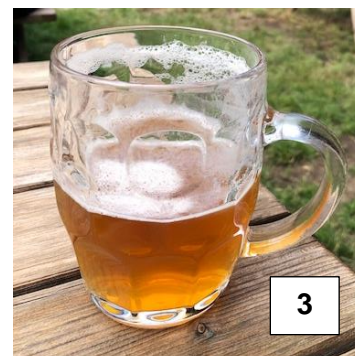
The Editor asked members of the Committee to submit photos of their first pint(s), and a selection is shown here.



1



2



3



4

1. Five Bells, Chelsfield
2. Greyhound, Keston
3. Goldsmiths Arms, Penge
4. Sydney Arms, Chislehurst
5. Orpington Liberal Club
6. Royal British Legion Club, Hayes
7. Bricklayers Arms, Beckenham
8. The Chelsfield, Chelsfield
9. Orpington GPO, Orpington
10. Five Bells, Eynsford
11. O'Neill's, Beckenham
12. Sovereign Of The Seas, Petts Wood



5



6

Thank you to everyone who submitted photos, sorry that they couldn't all be included



7



8



9



10



11



12

## Lock Downe

*Steve Barnes describes how the two pubs in Downe village helped to support the community during lockdown.*

In common with the rest of the UK, the Covid-19 lockdown had a dramatic effect in Downe village over the spring of this year. With most people being confined to home, most shops, restaurants and pubs in the area closed, the church closed, and all sorts of village events cancelled (including the VE75 celebrations). However, as a true village, despite being 3 miles from Orpington, the Downe community stepped up to the challenges faced. Firstly, the residents banded together to form a “co-ordination team” whereby every road in the village was appointed a representative who would identify and then ensure elderly or vulnerable people were looked after – in terms of shopping, medications etc.

Being the only retail businesses in Downe (apart from the Dakshin curry restaurant), the pubs also rose to the challenge. Nigel, Jackie and Lana converted the **Queen’s Head** from a pub to being a take-away emporium – continuing to cook delicious hot meals for the village, and also providing take-away ales and lagers in plastic containers (a life saver!). A meals delivery service was even set up for those unable to visit the pub – Lana delivering meals on her bicycle was a sight to behold – it could only happen in Downe! The front porch of the pub also converted to a village shop every Friday and Saturday, selling fruit, vegetables and other essentials. The popularity of the shop was to be witnessed by the queue of residents (safely distanced) outside during shop opening hours.



Meanwhile, over the road at the **George & Dragon** (which also closed as a pub), Jamie, Mike and staff were cooking and delivering hot meals to NHS front line workers at the Princess Royal University hospital in Locksbottom, as well as supplying take-away meat packages, and latterly, take-away Sunday roasts.

Various locals got to work in making ‘personal protective equipment’ items for hospitals, and face masks – initially for front line workers, and latterly for everyone. With the Sunday night regular quiz

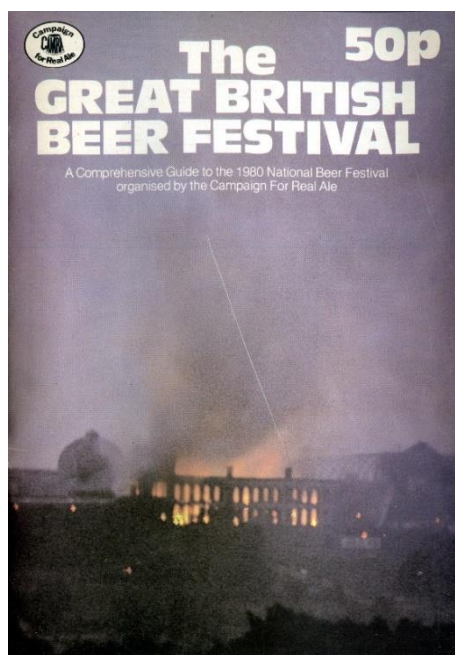
cancelled, local man Robert Herd made the best use of technology in running a weekly Sunday evening quiz over “Zoom” video conferencing – complete with a round of bingo at the end! At Christmas Tree Farm, there was a worry there would be no food for the animals (with no paying customers) – however, a “Go Fund Me” campaign was run and raised over £9,000 for animal feed.

The way the pubs served the community during this time really justified the “*Assets of Community Value*” status that was awarded to them a year or two ago, and demonstrated the importance of these establishments to the village. Now, with restrictions easing, people are delighted to be returning to the pubs. If anything that the pandemic has taught the village, it is the sheer importance of the pubs to the community, and the need to see them survive.

*Steve Barnes*

See the Downe pubs on **WhatPub**: [Queen’s Head](#). [George & Dragon](#).

## From the Archive, 1980



*Or, to be slightly more accurate, from a box that the Editor found a few weeks ago in his loft.*

Like many of our members, with no pubs to visit, I found myself doing some of the many tasks which had been put off for several years. In my case this included a major sort-out of the loft, which unearthed a box which had been packed in 1995. For some inexplicable reason, this box had then survived two subsequent house moves.

Most of the contents of the box went straight into the recycling, however amongst the random items was a programme for the **1980 Great British Beer Festival (GBBF)** at Alexandra Palace.

The 1980 GBBF is remembered by CAMRA members (or those with long memories) as being the year when the venue was destroyed by fire, less than 2 months before the festival was due to start. However the event did still go ahead, albeit in a large marquee.

The programme reports that the festival was offering ‘300 Real Beers from 114 UK and continental breweries’. The list of breweries included many names that were then either to totally disappear over the subsequent years, or where the brewery was to be taken over and closed by one of the bigger players, even if the brand name did survive. The list included breweries such as Eldridge Pope, Hartley, Morland, Morrell, Simpkins and many more.

Several of the ‘local’ breweries of the ‘Big Six’ brewers were represented, including: Ansells, Benskins, Charrington, Fremlin, Mann, Tetley, Truman, Usher, Webster and Wethered.

Some still-familiar names were there too, such as Adnams, Bateman, Brains, Fuller’s, Hydes, Robinsons, Shepherd Neame, and Wadworth. It was interesting to note that several of the early ‘new breweries’ were represented, including the sadly short-lived Penrhos from Herefordshire (1977-1983) and Pollard from Stockport (1975-1982).

Some of the advertisements may stir a few memories...

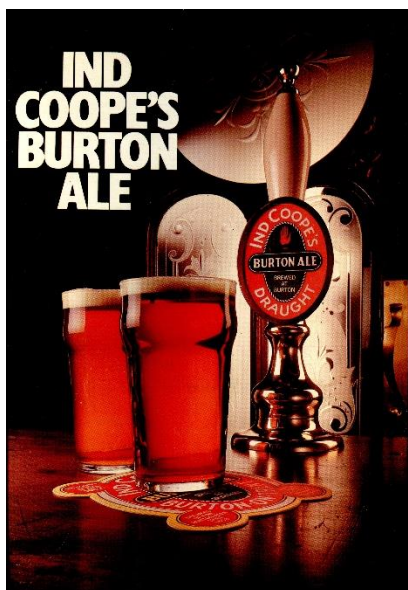
**Traditional Beers from Watneys.**

London Bitter, a draught beer brewed the traditional way has a full, firm flavour yet is not too heady and is ideal for lunch-time and evening enjoyment.

London Bitter. Brewed at Mortlake Brewery, where traditionally beer has been brewed since the 15th century.

Stag Bitter, the stronger sister beer to London Bitter already established as a great favourite with beer drinkers around town.

London and Stag are both beers for the experienced palate. They are unfiltered and fined in the traditional manner giving a bright, round and clear flavour—whatever your choice.



Did you know there are only Two Pubs in London brewing their own beer on the premises?

Both Firkin Bruce Pubs.

No Juke Boxes, Carpets, Fruit Machines, Space Invaders, Green Dralon Button Back seating or Droopy Red Lamp Shades

Simply Real Ale, Real Food, Real Fun

This page is worth 1 FREE Pint of Bruce's Bitter: Any night Monday – Thursday before 8.30pm in either Firkin Pub till 30th September

Keep Firkin Boozin'

**FOX**  
**FIRKIN**  
USQUE AD MORTEM BIBENDUM

316 Lewisham High Street,  
London SE13

**GOOSE**  
**FIRKIN**  
USQUE AD MORTEM BIBENDUM

47 - 48 Borough Road,  
London SE1

## Home Brewing

*This month Charles Tucker, our Branch Chairman and Festival Coordinator, looks at brewing a Golden Bitter.*



As I write this we are moving fast towards the end of July and the good news on the Covid front is that we are allowed unlimited use of public transport once again. This means I can think about doing my long walks without worrying how to get back when I reach the end, especially after refreshing my weary feet with a pint or two!

Thinking of long walks always makes me think of the Lake District and the delightful hikes I have done there. That in turn makes me think of the many fine Lake District beers, one of my favourites of which is **Cocker Hoop** brewed by Jennings at Cockermouth in Cumbria. To celebrate the further lifting of Covid restrictions I decided to brew my own version of Cocker Hoop.

The name is derived from 'Cock-a Hoop', an old custom of removing the cock (or spigot) from a barrel and resting it on the hoop of the cask so that the beer flowed out more readily, but Jennings changed the spelling to also reflect the brewery's location on the banks of the River Cocker.

Jennings Cocker Hoop is an award-winning golden bitter, with Styrian Golding hops added at various stages, to give a classic hop flavour and aroma. A bitter beer of great character, appealing to those drinkers who really appreciate their beer and are looking for a traditional bitter with a modern twist.

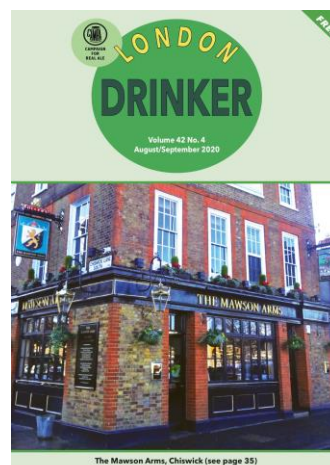
Regrettably, the brewery no longer routinely brews Cocker Hoop and mainstream production has ceased to allow Jennings to brew alternative beers and tap into the new madly hoppy India Pale Ale market. My version is sympathetic to the original, but makes use of the very fine Cascade and Fuggles hops picked from Bob K's garden last autumn. So if you want to try this very fine English ale, follow [this link](#) and brew your own.

## London Drinker

The August/September issue of London Drinker is now available to view and download as a PDF [via this link](#).

Once again, no printed version has been produced due to Covid-19.

The on line version can be viewed [via this link](#)



## Beckenham Hops Update

From a distance, the hop plants don't look much different from last month, but closer examination shows that the 'flower' buds are now beginning to form on all three varieties, but they are most advanced on the *Target* and *Fuggles*.



This year, a pair of blackbirds decided to build a nest in the trellis behind the *Target*, very close to the back door. The one chick left the nest on 8th July; unfortunately

this was a rather damp day, and the chick was evidently struggling to fly due to being so wet. However I'm pleased to say that it survived, and is now regularly seen in the garden being fed by its mother. The male bird generally supervises the feeding operations,

often perched on top of the *Fuggles*.

During the next month the hop cones will develop and ripen, hopefully being ready to pick in the first or second week in September. Then it will be over to Charles to brew the beer...

*Bob Keaveney*



## The August Quiz

*This month our Quizmaster has set us questions on the theme of Sport and Leisure*

- 1) Which New Zealand golfer won the 2000 Australian Masters in Melbourne?
- 2) Which darts player is nicknamed '*The Power*'
- 3) UIT is the international governing body of which sport?
- 4) Who was the first man to run a mile in under four minutes?
- 5) Which Swedes won the 1987 Australian Men's Doubles tennis title?
- 6) Which seven-a-side ball game is played in a swimming pool?
- 7) In which sport did Briton Ben Ainslie win a gold medal at the 2000 Sydney Olympics?
- 8) How many dominoes are there in a standard set?
- 9) What is the colour of the ball worth one point in the game of snooker?
- 10) What was the basketball player Magic Johnson's real first name?

The answers for the June Quiz:

- 1) Norway, 2) Ammonia, 3) Orang Utan, 4) Absolute Zero, 5) The eye, 6) The Giant's Causeway, 7) Pewter, 8) The ear, 9) Short sightedness, 10) Pear

*Martin Gee, Quizmaster*

## New from CAMRA Books

This unique and beautifully-illustrated book completes CAMRA's series of regional guides to pubs with genuine historic interiors and identifies over 100 key examples throughout the counties of Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Kent, Surrey and East and West Sussex.

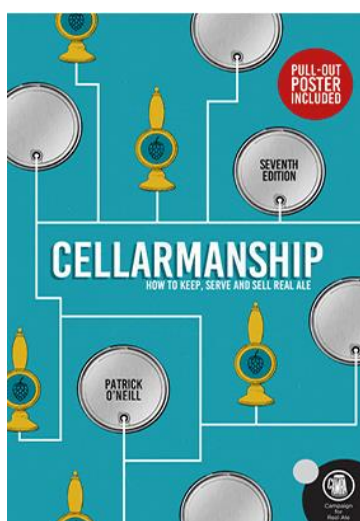
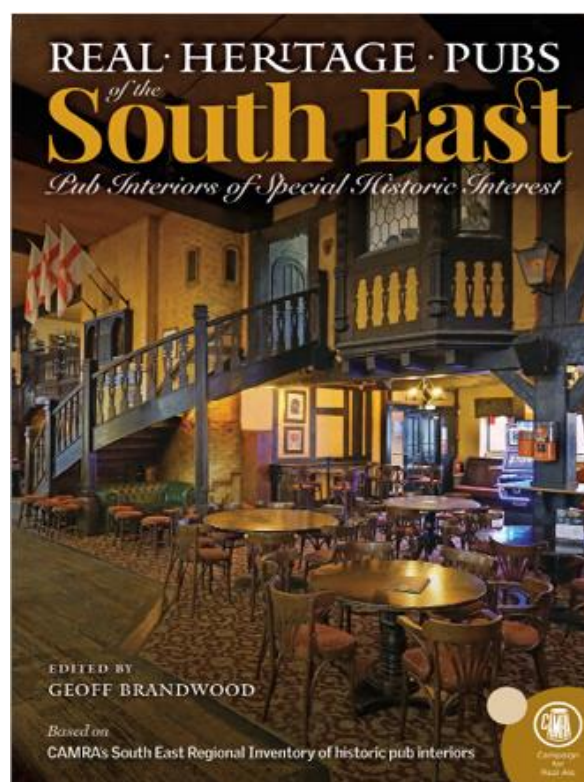
Each is described to highlight its special features along with the address, contact details and information about the availability of real ale, real cider and food. Listings range from unspoilt country delights and old coaching inns to cosy Victorian locals and little-known pubs of the inter-war and post-war periods.

The many feature articles include one for each county on its lost breweries written by Martyn Cornell. In addition there are articles about the fantastic ceramics that grace pubs round Portsmouth, games at the pub, the history of pump clips, how pubs have changed over the last sixty years, and what smugglers got up to.

The illustrations not only show each pub as it is today but also include historic photographs and a number of historic plans. Once pubs start reopening again, these are places to explore and cherish where you can experience at first-hand the pub history of the South East while doing your bit to help protect a vital part of the region's heritage.

Edited by Geoff Brandwood. 136 pp and over 200 illustrations

It is available to buy now at the [CAMRA shop](#). Price £7.99 but to CAMRA members only **£5.99**



The first edition of this title was published thirty years ago with the purpose of ensuring that anyone handling and serving real ale both professionally and for personal interest, was fully aware of the intricacies and skills in handling a live product.

Thirty years on and much has changed in the industry but the skills and understanding of how to keep, serve and sell real ale are now set out in a new and clearer format.

Available now from the [CAMRA Shop](#).

Price for CAMRA Members is only **£9.99**



Thanks to Charles Tucker for the photo (and caption)

### 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 September Newsletter will be published on **1st September 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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