

CAMRA Bromley Branch

e-Newsletter

November 2020



In this issue:

[Welcome to the November e-Newsletter](#)

The Editor is drinking pub beers at home.

[The new 2021 Good Beer Guide](#)

GBG 2021 was published on 29th October.

[The Impact of Covid-19 on Pubs, Clubs, Bars and Breweries](#)

CAMRA is urging all members to write to their MP.

[CAMRA News](#)

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

[Pub and Club of the Year 2020](#)

The pubs and the club now have their certificates.

[GBG 2021. Featured Pub of the Month](#)

Our BR6 Area Rep writes about an unspoilt village pub.

[Pub News](#)

Some good news from Mottingham and Beckenham.

[Green Hop Brewing](#)

Charles reports on the brewing of one of the 3 green hops beers.

[CAMRA Podcasts and video guides](#)

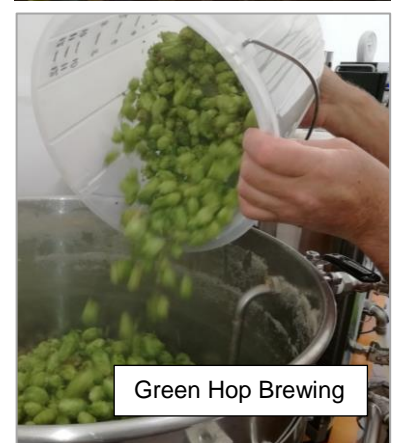
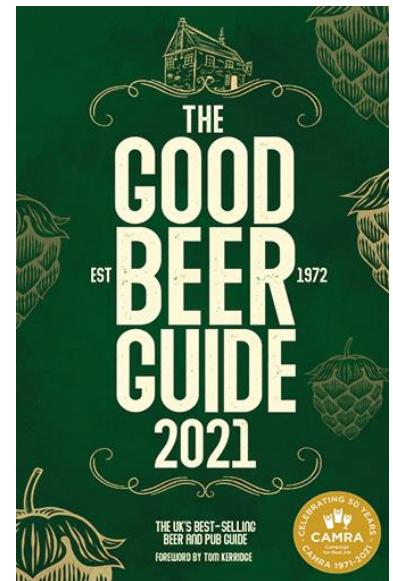
More podcasts are available to download on CAMRA's '*Pubs. Pints. People*' web page.

[The Quiz](#)

This month's quiz is on the theme of Science and Nature.

The Bromley Branch e-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.



Welcome to the November 2020 e-Newsletter,

Here is the November issue of your e-Newsletter, I hope that you find some items of interest to you.

The 2021 edition of the Good Beer Guide was published a few days ago. Normally the publication of the new edition is a time for CAMRA, and its members, to celebrate that we have such a wide selection of excellent pubs and clubs where we can enjoy quality cask beers, and what seemed to be an ever-increasing number of breweries producing a vast range of quality beers of various styles.

Sadly, thanks to Covid-19, things are very different this year. Pubs are experiencing a massive loss of income, consumer confidence has fallen and beer sales are down. In Bromley, we are not aware of any pubs which did not reopen following the end of the lockdown period. However, sadly the Fox in Keston did close at the end of July, citing the financial impact of Covid-19 for the decision to not renew the lease.

Inevitably, there are now concerns the potential impact the 'Tier 2' restrictions might have on the viability of many venues. The reduced footfall and consequential drop in beer sales has meant that some pubs have had to reduce the range of beers on offer. This in turn affects the breweries and their supply chains.

As consumers we may worry about the potential loss of our favourite pubs and the diminution of choice of beers available, but for our licensees, managers and their bar teams, this represents a real threat to their business, livelihoods and employment.

CAMRA has launched a campaign asking members to email their MPs, suggesting they take action to urge the Government to directly support pubs, clubs and breweries. More information about this is on [page 4](#).

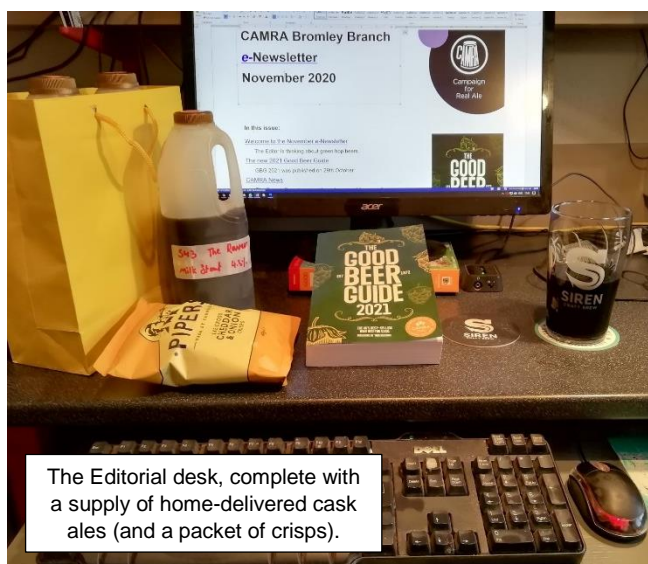
Prior to lockdown, I would regularly visit pubs throughout our area, meeting friends and other members of the branch, and enjoying the hospitality and range of beers on offer. I was very glad to be able to return to the pubs in July, but I must admit that my visits were less frequent than before lockdown.

However, compliance with the 'Tier 2' restrictions now makes the meeting of friends inside a pub almost impossible.

But we can still support our pubs and clubs whilst drinking at home. We don't have to drink beer from bottles or cans purchased at a supermarket, since many of our pubs and clubs are happy to sell us their beers to take away; some even offer a home delivery service.

Our local pubs and clubs need our support more than ever. If you are not going to the pub (or club) for a drink, I would urge you to continue to support them by buying some beers to take away, or to be delivered to your door.

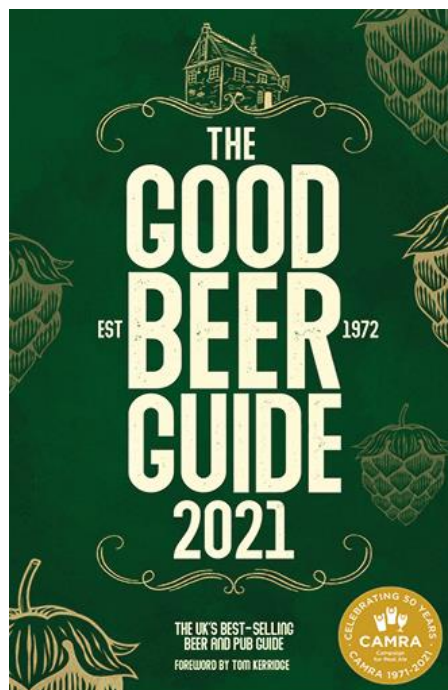
Bob Keaveney, Editor



The Editorial desk, complete with a supply of home-delivered cask ales (and a packet of crisps).

Good Beer Guide 2021

The new edition of the Good Beer Guide was published a few days ago.



On 29th October, the latest edition of the Good Beer Guide was published for 2021. An ambitious step given the current coronavirus crisis and the impact it is having on the pub and brewing industry as national brewery numbers decline for the first time in nearly two decades. Unfortunately, there are genuine concerns that the real impact of coronavirus has yet to be felt - but as Michelin-starred chef Tom Kerridge writes in the foreword "Stay strong and stay positive".

Now the good news. Once again Bromley has ten entries in the new guide, all carefully selected by CAMRA members from the more than 90 real ale pubs and clubs in Bromley (no easy feat!).

As a new regular feature in the Bromley CAMRA e-Newsletter, each month we will be focussing on one of the GBG entries. This month our BR6 Area Representative writes about the Five Bells in Chelsfield Village, which we are happy to welcome back into the 2021 edition of the guide after a brief absence. (see [pages 8 & 9](#)).

If you haven't yet ordered your copy, just follow [this link](#) to the CAMRA Bookshop... (yay, an easy Christmas present solution for friends and family)

Happy reading!

Nick White, GBG Coordinator

How does Bromley CAMRA select entries for the Good Beer Guide?

Throughout the year many CAMRA members submit **beer scores** every time they enjoy a pint (or a half etc) in a pub or club. Bromley CAMRA uses these beer scores as the starting point for shortlisting pubs/clubs for possible inclusion. During 2019 we received more than **4,743** beer scores.

The final decision about the entries is made by a secret ballot of members at the GBG-Selection meeting held in January each year.

We need your Beer Scores !

We will soon be starting to think about the entries for the 2022 Good Beer Guide.

The final deadline for submitting beer scores this year is midnight on **Christmas Eve**. So, if you are able to do so, do please try to get out to all those pubs and clubs that serve real ale within the London Borough of Bromley and send us your beer scores.

More information about how to score your beer, how to submit your scores and about how Bromley CAMRA uses beer scores can be found on the Bromley CAMRA website, [via this link](#).

*Nick White, GBG Coordinator
Bob Keaveney, Beer Score Coordinator*

The Impact of Covid-19 on Pubs, Clubs, Bars and Breweries

The 2021 Good Beer Guide has just been published, but how many pubs, clubs, bars and breweries will still be operating by the time the next edition is published?

There are ten entries for Bromley in the new edition of the Good Beer Guide, forming part of the 293 listings for Greater London. The guide also lists 133 breweries within Greater London, 64 of which regularly supplied cask beer. However there are serious concerns about the impact that Covid-19 is having on pubs, clubs and breweries.

In his foreword to the 2021 GBG, celebrity chef Tom Kerridge urges the country to 'stay strong and stay positive' despite the ongoing challenges. *"We are now facing a difficult year of lockdown restriction and social distancing measures and, while every sector across the UK has felt the burden of COVID-19, brewers and pubs have most certainly taken the brunt of the impact."*

He adds, *"The one thing that I think we have all missed during lockdown is human connection and social interaction which, above all else, is everything that the Great British Pub provides - a warm, happy and friendly place for people to drink and eat. It is imperative that we continue to support our breweries and pubs to preserve them for generations to come."*

This could be a make or break moment for British beer and pubs as we know them. Without financial support to help them cope with reduced trade, curfew and closures, we risk seeing thousands of pubs, clubs and breweries closing for good in the coming months.

Pubs across the country feel like they are a scapegoat for the pandemic, despite publicans and staff doing everything they can to make their premises COVID-secure. Restrictions such as the 10pm curfew, local lockdown measures and now complete closures in parts of the country are deeply damaging trade and turnover, and are knocking consumer confidence.



CAMRA members are being asked to contact their MPs to make the case for better financial support for pubs, and to ask them to support our campaign to save pubs and brewers across the country

Last week the Government announced greater financial help for pubs in areas of the country with Tier 2 restrictions. But we need to keep up the pressure and make sure the Government provides adequate, targeted and long-term financial support to save all viable pubs and breweries from extinction.

If you have not already done so, **please email your MP today**, to ask for their help to save our pubs so they can survive and thrive in the months and years ahead.

CAMRA has prepared a special template, which will probably take you less than 2 minutes to complete, and will then send your email direct to the MP for your constituency.

[**Please follow this link.**](#)

CAMRA News

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

What a year! It started full of enthusiasm, with ideas for socials and beer festivals, which all came to nothing by March. The pubs and clubs re-opened in July, only to then be restricted, and now with even tighter restrictions under Tier 2. My photographic record of pub bars (it helps with my beer scoring!) has a real big gap. So, let's all hope for a VERY mild November / December to allow us to enjoy pub gardens!

OK, so what has happened on the CAMRA news front over the last month?

CAMRA National Campaigning

In early October, CAMRA wrote to Matt Hancock, Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, asking for his Department to urgently publish the evidence behind the decision that, with effect from 22 September, pubs fell under a curfew. CAMRA considers that this thereby *"places further pressure on the sector by limiting the number of hours pubs can trade when they are already under strain"*. The letter also asked the Government to provide pubs with targeted financial support.

To see more on this, see the CAMRA [press release](#). Letters were also sent to the devolved governments and related press releases issued.

Changes to the Tax System

Now this is close to my heart, as for years I have been advocating (*this is my view and not necessarily representative etc etc...*) that draught beers and ciders should have a lower tax rate than that sold in tins and bottles.

A recent CAMRA statement included commentary that *"a preferential rate of duty on draught beer would be a real step towards supporting and encouraging drinking in the supervised, community setting of the local pub"*.

This follows a recent launch of a public consultation by HMRC and the Treasury on how best to change the system of taxation on alcohol in the UK. CAMRA has stated that it believes this is the ideal opportunity for the Government to take bold action to protect pubs from closure. For more information follow [this link](#).



Small Brewers Relief

CAMRA continues to campaign to reverse the planned changes to Small Brewers Relief. Have you signed the petition? The Treasury has announced changes to Small Brewers Relief (SBR) – the progressive tax system that has revolutionised UK brewing. These changes will reduce the 50% duty threshold from 5,000hl to 2,100hl: small breweries will have to pay more duty, whilst larger breweries could pay the same or less.

So, do you want to support this? If so have a look at: the [petition](#). At the time of writing, there were only 47,839 signatures – we need 100,000.

And onto Cider

I am thinking of making this a permanent entry, as there is always something going on in the world of the pressed apple, especially in October, which was Cider Month.

- It is with pleasure we confirm the first winner of CAMRA's Pomona Award is Elisabeth Pelger, developer of the social enterprise Local Fox Cider, a project that combines cider production with food waste reduction and volunteer upskilling. Now if mentioning food wastage in cider production makes you wonder, see [this link](#).
- So why has there been a noticeable interest in cider, away from the lager-type fizz that comes from a tap? Want to know more? Have a look at the [new video guide](#) by Ciderologist Gabe Cook, details the "renaissance of cider" how it is changing the face of the industry.
- And speaking of Gabe, I should add the launch of a kickstarter initiative to [crowdfund](#) his new title "Modern British Cider"
- Okay – why not a spot of DIY? *"I have lots of apples this year – can I have a go myself?"* Well if you want to, why not have a look at the [latest instalment](#) on CAMRA's Learn and Discover platform with (you guessed it) Gabe Cook.



Heineken – a £2M fine

Yes you did read the story correctly, the Pub Code Adjudicator has fined the UK pub arm of Heineken, Star, £2,000,000, yes two million pounds, for serious and repeated breaches of the Pub Code and on this CAMRA responded with a [press release](#).

Christmas is coming

How about giving your best friend, partner, spouse, distant relative etc. a gift membership this year? A good idea? See: <https://join.camra.org.uk/gift>

I hope that can stay safe and please try to support your local pub. Sad to say but, as I watch my local pubs adapting, I only wish I had shares in gazebo / marquee manufacturers.

Kent Sadler, Branch Secretary

Parish News

Many members will know **Beth Lewis**, who over recent years held various roles within Bromley branch, including Newsletter Editor and Volunteer Manager at Beckenham Beer festival. For most of the last four years she was the Assistant Curate at St Mark's Church in Bromley. Earlier this month she moved to take on the role of Team Vicar of St Oswald's and St Alban's in North Cheam.

We wish Beth well in her new parish, and also in her new CAMRA branch; we look forward to see her working at the next Croydon & Sutton Branch beer festival.

Pub and Club of the Year 2020

Lockdown, and the consequent closure of the pubs and clubs, meant that we couldn't hold the normal presentation events for the 2020 Bromley Pub and Club of the Year awards. All the winners and joint runners-up have now received their certificates.



As yet, there has been no decision made about how CAMRA branches are to manage the selection process for the 2021 awards. We will notify members as soon as a decision is announced.

Bob Keaveney, Beer Score Coordinator

Good Beer Guide 2021. Featured Pub of the Month

The 2021 Good Beer Guide includes 10 entries for Bromley. As a new feature in the e-Newsletter, each month we will be focussing on one of the entries. This month our BR6 Area Representative describes the Five Bells in Chelsfield village.

There can be few pubs in Greater London that can be truly described as an unspoilt village pub, but the **Five Bells** in Chelsfield must be very close to the top of that list.

This Grade II Listed pub is in the middle of picturesque Chelsfield Village, a Conservation Area, and home to a small primary school and the St. Martin of Tours church. The pub is in the heart of the village and gets its name from the bells at the parish church.



Photo by Norman Warner

Adrian ('Ade') and Kay Stone have been running the Five Bells since 2005. This year their pub has made a welcome return to the Good Beer Guide, however, it had previously been listed in every edition of the guide between 2007 and 2017. In 2010 it was selected as the *South East London CAMRA Branch Pub of the Year* (Bromley CAMRA did not exist at that time) and was runner-up for the Bromley award in 2013. The pub is recorded on the CAMRA Regional Inventory of Historic Pub Interiors as being a 'historic pub interior of some regional importance'. The Five Bells is very much part of the local community, used by numerous local groups, such as drama, darts and church bell ringers.

The pub was built in about 1680, being named after the bells of the nearby church. The story goes that the medieval church was famed for its bell ringing and won

many prizes. It originally had four bells, so when they decided to go bigger and better for the fifth bell, the pub was built and given the name. St. Martin's now has eight bells and still enters bell ringing competitions, but we understand that there are no plans to change the name of the pub.

The pub still has two bars. The Public Bar, which leads directly from the car park, is used mainly by drinkers, and has a large TV usually used to show sport. The separate Saloon Bar, whilst also welcoming drinkers, is the pub's restaurant area, with the capacity to seat 45-50 diners (in pre-Covid days). Up to 4 cask ales are available, normally the regular beer is Courage Best Bitter, which is typically joined by a selection of Butcombe, Otter, Tribute or Landlord. The pub offers bar and restaurant menus, with food cooked to order using locally-sourced ingredients. The walls of both bars have many framed old photographs of the village, including several featuring the pub.



Photo by Chris Crowther

Inevitably, there have had to be some changes made due to Covid; this includes a one-way system in both bars, extra hand washing facilities and the provision of a large heated marquee to increase the seating capacity. Sadly, the regular charity quiz nights, darts matches and live music events have had to be postponed for the time being, but will hopefully return once the pandemic is under control.



The Five Bells sits in large grounds and has a beer garden, open throughout the year, a patio area, a play area for children and seating outside at the front of the pub. In addition, there is also a separate large garden area used for special events, such as bonfire night, dog show, weddings etc.

Despite being in a rural village, the pub is easily accessed by the regular R7 bus from Orpington, which stops outside the door to the Saloon Bar. Chelsfield Village is however about a mile from Chelsfield Station. In good weather, it is a very pleasant walk up to the pub from the station, via a path along what

might have become the route of the 'Ringway 3' motorway! See [Route 28](#) on Bromley Pub Walks on the Bromley CAMRA website.

The **Five Bells**
Church Road,
Chelsfield. BR6 7RE

01689 821044

Read about the Five Bells on:

- [WhatPub](#)
- [Facebook](#)
- [Website](#)

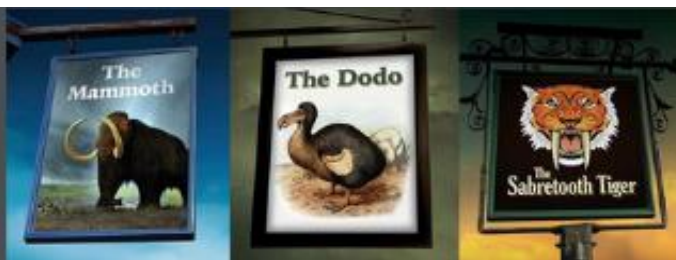


Pubs and beer-houses were always a feature of village life, but changing ways have led to the closure of many. Fortunately, the Five Bells in the village centre still flourishes, as does the [Bo Peep](#) in the nearby hamlet of that name, plus also the [Chelsfield](#) near the station.

Regrettably, the *Kent Hounds* and the *Rock & Fountain* at Well Hill have not survived (see the October e-Newsletter).

Norman Warner, Area Representative BR6

Save your local from extinction:
email your MP now
camra.org.uk/saveourpubs



Pub news

At a time when there is so much to worry about, we are pleased to be able to report some good news this month.

Mottingham

On Tuesday 20th October Bromley Council held a special meeting of the Planning Committee to discuss Lidl's application to demolish the former Porcupine pub in Mottingham to construct a new store.

A previous application had been rejected in 2014, as was the subsequent appeal. The current application has a long history and has been subject to several deferrals. Support to reject the application came from the Mottingham Residents Association, Sir Bob Neill MP, Bromley CAMRA and numerous individuals.



At the hearing there was an impassioned argument to reject the application from local Councillors David Cartwright and Will Rowlands. After a tense 90 minutes, with Lidl pushing hard for the council to accept the application, the councillors decided by 11 to 5 votes to reject the application, with one abstention. This is an excellent result, and a welcome reward to everyone who had worked hard to help get the application rejected. This means that there is now another opportunity to try and ensure that a pub remains on the site, either standalone or perhaps as part of a larger development.

This battle may be won, but the war is not necessarily yet over. Lidl will have the opportunity to appeal, but it could be a very lengthy process and appeals are currently suspended due to Covid restrictions. We will keep you up to date with all future developments.

Report by David Wilcock

Beckenham

It is possible that we may soon have **two** microbreweries with tap rooms on Beckenham Road in the Clock House / Kent House area of Beckenham.

As previously reported in the September e-Newsletter, **BR3wery** had applied for Planning Permission to convert a former shop at 253 Beckenham Road, not far from Kent House Station, into a tap room and brewery. Bromley Council have now **approved** the application, the Planning Officer's report noted that '*... a substantial level of support has been put forward from nearby local residents and the wider community in respect of the facility providing a desired community public house beneficial to the local community.*' An application has now been submitted for licensing approval.



Meanwhile in nearby Clock House, a few days ago, the **Three Hounds Beer Co** moved into new larger premises at 57 Beckenham Road, just a few doors along from their original bottle shop. Once fully in operation, it is intended that the new beer cafe & bottle shop will have 9 keg and 2 cask lines, plus a 100L Nano Brewery. We hope to be able to report more on this in the next issue of the e-Newsletter.

Brewing Beckenham Green Hop Beers

Our Branch Chairman and expert home brewer has now brewed three different styles of beers using hops grown in Beckenham. This month he describes the brewing of the Green Hop Special Bitter.

They say good things come in threes, and brewing is no exception. First, I was fortunate enough to be the beneficiary of Bob K's well-nurtured three varieties of green hops when they were harvested – Cascade, Fuggles, and Target. Secondly, the three varieties gave rise to three brewing batches – a Special Bitter, an English IPA, and a Dark Mild. And lastly, I was blessed to have three branch members help out at the brewing sessions as part of their prizes in the Bromley CAMRA Green Hop Brewing Competition announced in the September e-Newsletter. The two members who won with their recipe ideas were Stephen Osborn and Murray Mackay. Bob was also given a 'bye' into the finalists round as he provided the hops!



In the October e-Newsletter we reported how Bob's hops had been used in their freshly-picked 'green' state to make the "Green Hop" seasonal beers, and that this month one of the brewing sessions and its recipe would be described in detail. So, here is my brewing write-up covering the first of the three recipes – the **Green Hop Special Bitter** as suggested by Stephen.

In addition to details of the actual brewing, my write up also includes something about the history of using hops in brewing, and how we all came to enjoy a pint of traditional English Bitter in our pubs. It may surprise you to learn about the history of hops and that 'Bitter' as a beer is a fairly new innovation in the long history of civilisations and alcoholic beverages.

So pull yourself a pint of your favourite beer and sit back and enjoy the article [via this link](#).

Charles Tucker



CAMRA Podcasts & video guides



CAMRA has released a new season of the popular podcast “Pubs. Pints. People” which is available to download on Apple Podcast and Spotify.

See: <https://shows.acast.com/pubspintspeople/>

Season One had 20 episodes, on topics including Belgian beers, cooking with beers, American craft beer, beer heritage and many more...

The new Season Two currently has 3 episodes:

1. [Family Brewers](#)
2. [Non-alcoholic brews](#)
3. [Beer v Cider tasting!](#)

Also, a new video guide

When it comes to beer, we probably all know what we like (and don't like). We buy, we taste. We love or reject what we drink and build our own lists of our favourites. But most of us may not be able to easily describe exactly why like (or dislike) what we taste. In this new video guide, beer sommelier Jane Peyton sets out how we can begin to describe how our palate experiences beer in relation to the ingredients and processes that have gone into brewing it.

It can be found on CAMRA's Learn and Discover platform: [Get to Grips With Beer Tasting](#).

The November Quiz

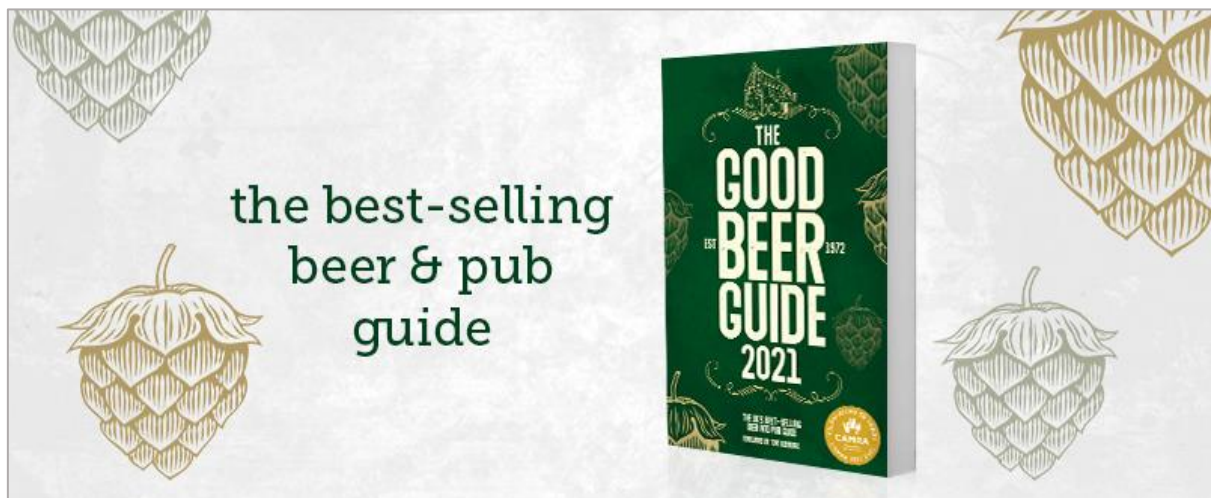
This month our Quizmaster has set us questions on the theme of Science and Nature.

- 1) By what name is the large American bird *Meleagris Gallopavo* more commonly known?
- 2) What type of creature is a Grampus?
- 3) What sort of creature is a Crait?
- 4) Which colour is produced by adding together yellow and cyan?
- 5) Which disease carried by Bark Beetles was first described in the Netherlands in 1919?
- 6) What was invented by Sir Frank Whittle in 1930?
- 7) What is the derived SI unit of electrical capacitance?
- 8) What was the former name for the temperature scale now called Celsius?
- 9) Triton and Nereid are satellites of which planet?
- 10) What is the middle colour of the visible spectrum?

The answers for the October Quiz:

1) Wagner; 2) Nicci French; 3) Salvador Dali; 4) Westerns; 5) James 1st; 6) Jeeves; 7) Ariel; 8) Titania; 9) R D Blackmore; 10) Robert Graves.

Martin Gee, Quizmaster



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 December Newsletter will be published on **1st December 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.

© 2020 Bromley CAMRA