

CAMRA Bromley Branch

e-Newsletter

January 2021



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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.



A new taproom opens in Beckenham, and a micropub in Chislehurst



Beer and a 'substantial meal'



Cask beer at home

Welcome to the January 2021 e-Newsletter

Happy New Year!

Hopefully 2021 will be the year when post-Covid recovery starts. December 2020 saw the tightening of restrictions. Following a very brief 'respite', whilst Bromley was 'only' in Tier 2, by mid-December we had moved to Tier 3, then only a few days later it then became Tier 4.

Yet, despite all the prevailing gloom, we do actually have some good news to report in Bromley, since, in December, a new micropub opened in Chislehurst, plus also a new bar/taproom in Kent House (Beckenham). For more information about these please see [page 5](#).

This year (i.e. 2021) is due to be one of celebration for CAMRA, it being 50 years ago since a small group of beer enthusiasts decided that it was time to stand up and try to stop traditional British cask-conditioned beers being replaced by the heavily-promoted mass-produced bland keg beers produced by 'the big six' breweries. As we all know, the rest is history...

Had I been writing this item 12 months ago, I would have been enthusing about the number of new breweries, the wide range of beer styles now available, and the flourishing pub scene. However, I would also have referred to the many threats to the pub, such as the outdated 'tied house' system, which restricts customers' choice and results in beers being sold at inflated prices; the competition from cheap beers sold in supermarkets; and also the threat of pubs closing due to redevelopment, where the pub is worth more as a redevelopment site than as a popular community local.

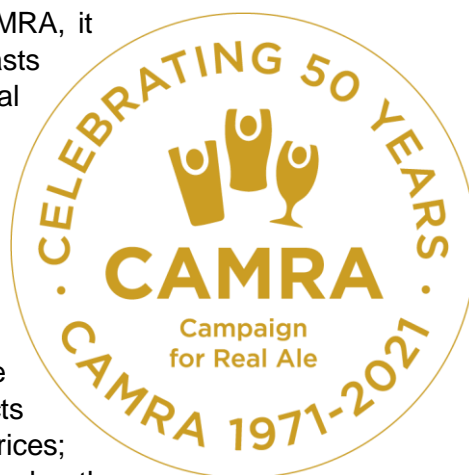
All those threats still exist, but we now have to add the impact of Covid-19 to that list. Hopefully, once the vaccine programme has started to impact on the spread of the virus, life will begin to start to return to normal, although this is more likely to be something of a 'new normal'. However, by that time, how many breweries will have ceased trading, and how many pubs will not reopen their doors? And, how many people will have got out of the habit of going to the pub?

In the meantime, **many pubs and clubs are still open**, with fresh cask beer available for us to take away; some even offer a delivery service. In addition, many pubs, clubs and bottle shops also stock a wide range of interesting beers in bottles and cans. These local businesses need our support; hopefully, if we support them now, they will still be there for us to visit once the restrictions are lifted.

Bob Keaveney, Editor

Once again, due to the Covid restrictions, some of the items intended for inclusion in this edition of the e-Newsletter have had to be put on hold.

These items will now not be published until the current restrictions are eased; this includes the next in our regular series 'Good Beer Guide Pub/Club of Month', plus the first in a new series looking at Bromley's breweries.



A festive delivery to the Editor

Breaking News...

Bromley now has a new nanobrewery. See page 10.

Good Beer Guide 2022

In previous years, January has been the month when we select the pubs and clubs for inclusion in the next edition of the Good Beer Guide. However, things are going to have to be done differently this year, as our GBG Coordinator Nick White now explains.

Oh dear. What a conundrum. Here we are, sitting around in the comfort and joy of our own homes with beers in hand, wondering on how to go about with the selection of pubs for the 2022 edition of the Good Beer Guide...

Up to now, the selection process had been very straightforward... Our Beer Score Coordinator processes all the beer scores submitted during the previous year and produces a shortlist of 25 pubs and clubs. We would then be having a meeting at the beginning of January, open to all branch members, in order to determine which were the top 10 pubs and clubs within Bromley to be our candidates for the next edition of the Good Beer Guide.

With pubs and clubs closed for the foreseeable future and the restrictions on us meeting face-to-face, the selection process for the 2022 guide inevitably now becomes more painful.

However, we are currently working on alternative plans, the details of which will be issued later in January. We need to consider whether having 'Zoom' meetings will work and how to go about implementing a secret ballot to ensure fair play.

It's time for another beer to assist working out the details...!



Nick White, GBG Coordinator

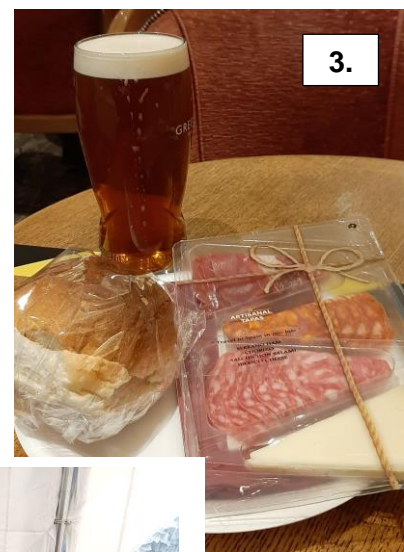
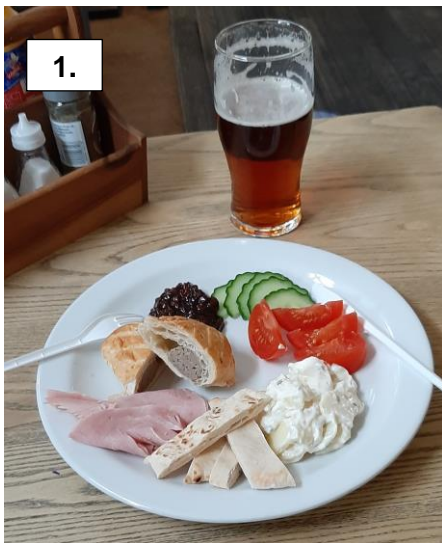


Two Weeks in Tier Two

Many pubs did a lot of work to enable them to welcome back customers in early December, however unfortunately everything then stopped on 16th December, when Bromley moved to Tier 3.

We are of course now all in Tier 4, however I am guessing that many of us are now wishing that we had made greater use of our brief opportunity to visit pubs during those two weeks after the second period of lockdown, before Bromley was moved into Tier 3.

Here are a few photos taken by members who did get to a pub or club for a pint and their 'substantial meal'.



"Pubs and Clubs deserve to be congratulated for the efforts made to enable them to welcome back their customers"



1. Cold Platter, Bricklayers Arms, Beckenham
2. Pizza and Chinese, Star & Garter, Bromley
3. Tapas, Royal British Legion Club, Hayes
4. Steak & Ale Pie, in a marquee at Queen's Head, Downe
5. Tapas (again), Real Ale Way, Hayes

With thanks to Charles Tucker, Maggie Hopgood and Kent Sadler for the photos

Pub and Brewery News

There is actually some good news to report this month!

With probably the worst possible timing, the taproom at BR3WERY opened on 15th December; this was just one day before the arrival of Tier 3 restrictions. Meanwhile in Chislehurst, the new Cockpit micropub opened for takeaway service on 29th December.

Our Branch Chairman was able to briefly visit both premises a few days before Christmas. We will be reporting in greater detail in future issues of the e-Newsletter, once they are both fully established and the Covid restrictions have been eased.



Photo: Charles Tucker

BR3WERY
253 Beckenham Road
Beckenham
BR3 4RP

Opening hours
16:00 to 21:00.
Closed Monday

<https://twitter.com/br3wery>



Photo: BR3WERY

Yet to be installed is the planned 4 barrel brewery, which we understand will be sited at the rear of the bar seating area. Beers on draught to take away were (as at 21st December) a selection of up to 10 beers from various London breweries.



Photo: Charles Tucker

Cockpit
4 Royal Parade
Chislehurst
BR7 6NR

Opening hours
(To be confirmed)

<facebook.com/CockpitChislehurst/>



Photo: Charles Tucker

Unusually, this new micropub is located within a florist's shop; you have to walk through the florists to get to the bar at the rear. The pub area has been fitted out with natural wood, mostly reclaimed timber. It will focus on real ale and will feature local breweries; the cool room has stillage for 18 casks. Also unusually for a micropub, it has a well-equipped kitchen and plans to offer a range of traditional hot pub food.

The pub opened with four cask beers available, all from breweries in South East London. Once the Covid restrictions have eased, they hope to serve up to six ales.



Photo: The Cockpit

One of the 3 cask ales on sale on the opening night of the new Cockpit micropub was Redacted from **Mutineers Brewery**.

Mutineers, based in Petts Wood, although currently brewing in premises in Bromley, have recently taken delivery of two new conical fermenters to increase their brewing capacity.



Photo: One Inn The Wood



Photo: Mutineers Brewery

Some other beers from our other local brewers:



With thanks to Southey Brewing, BR3WERY and Three Hounds Beer Company for the photos.



See also page 10. Bromley now has a new nanobrewery!



Pubco News

It is probable that most of us will have heard about the Pubs Code Adjudicator, and possibly also that the government was consulting on changes to the Pubs Code.

The British Pubs Confederation has sent a very detailed six-page submission to Alok Sharma, the Secretary of State in the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy listing their concerns.

I would recommend that you read their submission, which can be viewed [via this link](#), as it details everything that they feel is wrong with the Pubs Code as it is currently being operated, and expresses concern that the 'consultation' will fail to address the issues. This is a hard-hitting letter and makes a compelling read.



Social Media

Some members (including the Editor) say that they "don't do social media". However, you don't have to be signed up to either Twitter or Facebook to be able to look at the Bromley CAMRA social media sites.

Bromley Branch has an active Twitter (@CAMRABromley) and Facebook page (search for Bromley CAMRA), where you can find the latest information about what the branch is up to and national CAMRA campaigns.

It's also where you can find regular updates on the ever-changing Covid situation, including revised opening hours, pub and club takeaway offerings and more.

As it's "social" media we encourage anyone who has any news or updates they would like shared to either @ us on Twitter, message on Facebook or send an email to:

social.media@bromley.camra.org.uk

Cheers!

David Wilcock, Social Media Officer

If you are not signed up to Twitter or Facebook, you can still access the sites via your computer or smartphone:

<https://twitter.com/CAMRABromley/>

<https://www.facebook.com/bromleycamra/>



Lockdown Heroes 2020

In November 2020 Bromley CAMRA members nominated pubs and clubs which had risen to the challenge during and after the first period of lockdown.

The photo shows the framed certificate on display on the bar at the Bricklayer's Arms, Beckenham.

Photo by Charles Tucker, taken on 14 Dec 2020

CAMRA News

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

I hope you all had a good, if perhaps quiet, Christmas 2020. Did you get to support any of the pubs doing takeaway? Or even the brewers (where allowed under social distancing and driving restrictions of course)? Perhaps Zoom calls with friends or relations, or even your local church service?

No doubt a couple of decent bottled or draught beers in a takeaway bottle would have eased the tedium of the various repeats served up on TV...

Anyway – so what has been happening on the CAMRA front that you may have missed during December?.

Local Planning

Branches throughout England have received information about a series of newsletters that will be sent to all local Planning Departments in England by CAMRA. This, to be welcomed, action will highlight to planners how they can help to protect pubs and highlight some of the common claims made in these types of applications. These newsletters covered:

- The impact of Covid 19, stressing the need for pub premises to remain intact for recovery, perhaps under new licensees, not to merely accept that pubs might have been struggling before lockdown and may be allowed to permanently disappear. It goes on to ask planning authorities to stand firm and adhere closely to national and local policies that protect community facilities such as pubs.
- The CAMRA definition of a pub – as we have recently seen a number of planning applications which claim that a business is a restaurant rather than a pub, and therefore not entitled to the same level of protection in the planning system



In my local area, we currently have two pubs which are closed due to “lease issues”, including one with hundreds of years of history. We all need to monitor what is happening, watch for planning applications or even the bulldozer appearing ‘out of the blue’. If you have concerns about any pubs in your area, PLEASE DO get in touch with us – contact@bromley.camra.org.uk

Campaigning – “Pubs Matter”

A logo with the words "PUBS MATTER." in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters on a dark purple rectangular background.

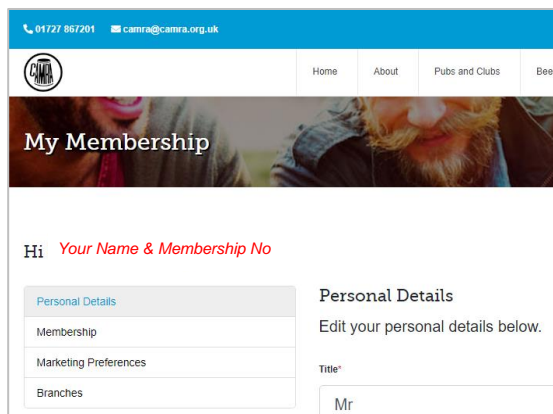
Following hot on the heels of this, a new campaign action ran from 13th to 17th December, building upon the view that restrictions were unfair, un-evidenced and the support package offered was woefully-inadequate.

In this respect, responding to the Prime Minister’s announcement in the House of Commons that pubs that don’t serve food will receive a £1,000 grant in December, comment was previously made by CAMRA National Chairman Nik Antona. (see [via this link](#))

This new campaign went on to stress the social and community value of pubs and clubs to society, and how much people will miss being able to socialise in a structured and responsible manner with family and friends over a pint this Christmas. Follow [this link](#) for more on this campaign.

New Membership System

The new CAMRA membership system has now launched. Please can we ask you to log on to the CAMRA National website and check your details and 'Marketing Preferences'?



01727 867201 | camra@camra.org.uk

Home | About | Pubs and Clubs | Beer at Home

My Membership

Hi **Your Name & Membership No**

Personal Details
Membership
Marketing Preferences
Branches

Personal Details
Edit your personal details below.

Title*
Mr

Tier 3 issues - CAMRA responses before Christmas

Responding to the announcement that London and parts of Essex and Hertfordshire went into 'Tier 3', [follow this link](#) to see the statement from CAMRA National Vice-Chair Abigail Newton.

Cider

Despite earlier my promises of a regular item – sadly nothing this month on cider. Sorry! (The branch does need a cider representative – have you got what it takes?)

Kent Sadler, Branch Secretary

Beer at Home

The introduction of Tier 3 restrictions, then Tier 4, means that we currently can't drink in pubs or clubs. Here are a selection of photos showing what some members have been drinking at home instead.



Photos: With thanks to Murray Mackay, Tim Lewis, John Middlemiss, Glyn Davies, Star & Garter

A New Year Quiz

Our Quizmaster Martin Gee has set this month's quiz questions on the theme of Entertainment.

- 1) Which US comedienne married Desi Arnaz in 1940?
- 2) Who played Cruella De Vil in the 1996 movie 101 Dalmations?
- 3) Who is the cartoon adversary of the Roadrunner?
- 4) Who played 'Blofeld' in the 1971 film Diamonds are Forever?
- 5) Who directed the 2001 film 'The Score' which starred Robert De Niro?
- 6) What name did pop singer Alvin Stardust use when he led the group 'The Fentones'?
- 7) What was the name of Bob Marley's backing group?
- 8) The song 'Nobody Does it Better' featured in which James Bond film?
- 9) In the Popeye cartoon series, who is Popeye's hamburger-loving friend who has an IQ of 326?
- 10) In the book 'Treasure Island' by Robert Louis Stevenson, what is the name of the ship?

The answers for the Christmas Quiz are on the next page.



Photo: Charles Tucker



Photo: One Inn The Wood

Breaking News:

New Local Nanobrewery Starts Production

As this edition of the e-Newsletter was being finalised, we heard that Bromley now has a new nanobrewery.

Marlix Brewery's Vanilla Milkshake Porter went on sale in the [One Inn the Wood](#) on 30th December.

We hope to be able to publish more information about this new brewery in a future issue of the e-Newsletter.

Answers for the bumper Christmas Quiz:

1) Jingle Bells; 2) Christmas decorating; 3) Dung; 4) Norway; 5) Tinsel; 6) Michael Caine; 7) Krampus; 8) Turkey; 9) Home Alone 2; 10) Seven swans-a-swimming; 11) LadBaby; 12) Eggnog; 13) An angel gets their wings; 14) Oogie boogie; 15) The OC; 16) George V; 17) Birth; 18) Saturn; 19) Odin; 20) Germany; 21) 120ft; 22) Poos gifts or chocolate; 23) Donald Duck; 24) Bohemian Rhapsody by Queen; 25) Jolly careful

Seen on Christmas Eve, somewhere in BR6



Photo by: S. Claus

At 7.4%, hopefully Santa didn't have too many of these

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 issue of the Newsletter will be published on **1st February 2021**

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

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