

CAMRA Bromley Branch

e-Newsletter

March 2021



In this issue:

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

The Editor is looking forward to when it will once again be possible to report on visits to our pubs and clubs.

[Committee News](#)

The Branch Committee continues to meet, although it now has to be via Zoom.

[Branch Website](#)

Our Webmaster reminds us that there is plenty of interesting stuff on the Branch website.

[CAMRA News](#)

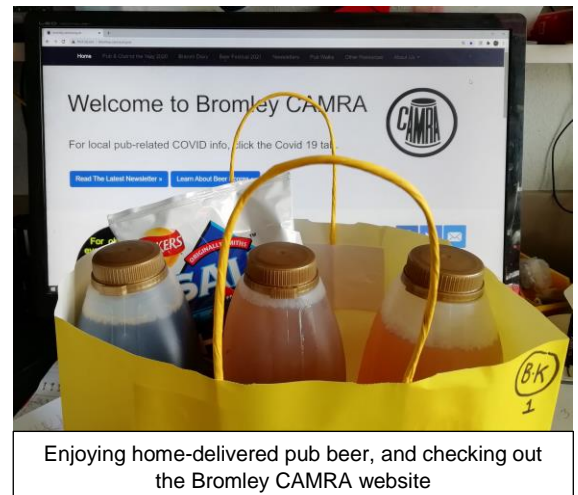
The Branch Secretary runs through some of the news from CAMRA.

[CAMRA Learn & Discover](#)

Information about CAMRA's '*on line learning platform*'.

[The Quiz](#)

The March Quiz is on the subject of history.



Enjoying home-delivered pub beer, and checking out the Bromley CAMRA website



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 March e-Newsletter

This e-Newsletter was being prepared as the Prime Minister announced his 'roadmap' for the easing of restrictions. We were probably all disappointed, if not surprised, to hear that the earliest date when pubs and clubs might open in any form is 12th April, for outdoor areas and takeaways only, and then possibly 17th May for indoors.

So, it is with apologies that I bring you this slightly thinner than normal edition of the e-Newsletter. We do have a number of features planned about Bromley's pubs, clubs and breweries; however these have all been put on hold (*just like our lives...?*) until we are once again allowed to enjoy a pint or two in one of the many excellent pubs/clubs in our area.

At a national level CAMRA has continued to campaign, urging the government to provide ongoing financial support for pubs until they can fully reopen and once again trade at full capacity. Whilst we might be looking forward to the easing of restrictions in April/May, there is growing concern about how many pubs/clubs will be able to viably operate in the very restricted manner that is currently anticipated to be allowed.

The Budget is due to take place just a couple of days after the publication of this edition of the e-Newsletter. CAMRA has been urging the Chancellor to include the following measures:

- A lower rate of duty on draught beer, to encourage people back into pubs when they reopen
- An extension to the VAT cut, and for it to apply to alcohol sales as well as food
- Cancellation of business rates for another year
- Furlough extended until every pub is properly open again

If you are reading this after 3rd March, you will already know whether any further financial support is to be offered to pubs...

Bob Keaveney, Editor



Local beer.
A Green Hop IPA, brewed by the Branch
Chairman, using hops grown by the Editor.

Bromley CAMRA AGM 2021

The Annual General Meeting of the Branch will be held on

Saturday April 10th at 15:00

This will be a 'virtual' meeting due to the continuing Covid restrictions

Full details on how to join the meeting will be sent to members by email in mid-March

Committee and AGM News

In a normal year the Bromley Branch AGM would be held in March, however, as with much else at the moment, things are going to have to be done a bit differently this year.

Your branch Committee has continued to meet during lockdown, although we now use Zoom, rather than the traditional meetings held upstairs, or in a back room, at a pub somewhere in Bromley. Even with the pubs and clubs shut, there has still been a lot of business for the Committee to discuss.

Zoom, despite the almost-inevitable occasional problems with connectivity issues, muting etc, has proved to be a very efficient means to conduct essential business, although sadly the once-normal pre- / post-meeting chatting in the bar over a beer or two can no longer happen. A cat (Bella) and baby (Robert, just turned one) were both briefly attendees at the recent meeting.



Some of the attendees at the February meeting

The Committee generally meets monthly, the most recent meeting being on 23rd February, where one of the topics being discussed was the arrangements for the 2021 branch AGM. In recent years the Bromley Branch AGM has been held in March; in 2020 we managed to have the meeting just a matter of days before the pubs and clubs were forced to shut and the start of the first lockdown.

The announcement of the 'Roadmap' on 22nd February confirmed that it will not be possible for us to have a face-to-face AGM this year, therefore arrangements are now being made for the meeting to be held via Zoom, or equivalent.

The meeting will now be held on **Saturday 10th April at 3pm**. Full details on how to join this virtual meeting will be sent to members by email in mid-March.

Brewery News



During February, the new brewing kit was installed at BR3WERY in Kent House, although (*as at late February*) the first beer had yet to be brewed using the new kit.

In the meantime, the taproom is offering takeaway service, featuring brews from various London microbreweries.

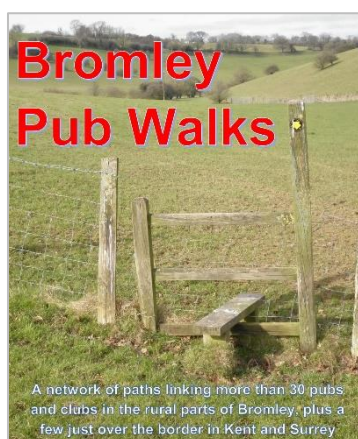
In future issues of the e-Newsletter (*once the pubs & clubs have reopened*) we are planning to publish features on each of Bromley's breweries, including interviews with the brewers.

The Bromley CAMRA Website

The Branch Webmaster reminds us that there is a lot of interesting information available for members on the Bromley CAMRA website.

The purpose of the website is to provide a place where important information concerning the branch can be readily accessible when needed.




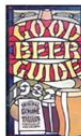
In normal circumstances, one of the most important sections of the website is the diary, which lists all our forthcoming events, particularly our social events. Normally we have several such events each month, but for obvious reasons we have had to suspend our activities in this area for the time being. As soon as we are able to start having social events again, the diary page will reappear.



Nevertheless, there are still several pages on the website that may be of interest during lockdown. One of these is our [“Bromley Pub Walks”](#) page which currently lists around 30 walks, mainly through the leafier parts of the borough with occasional forays into parts of Kent and Surrey that border on our branch area. All of the walks include opportunities for the real ale drinker to enjoy a pint or two, and include detailed route descriptions. More walks are to be added soon.

If you ever need to contact the branch, then take a look at the [“contact us”](#) page. This includes email addresses for all of our committee positions as well as a form for sending general queries to the branch. If you don't know who to send your message to, just use the form and it will get to the right person.

Readers interested in the history of real ale in our borough during the lifetime of CAMRA may enjoy a look at our [history of Good Beer Guide](#) entries in Bromley. This lists every pub, club or off-licence that has ever featured in the Good Beer Guide starting from the 1970's when CAMRA was formed. Sadly this includes many premises that are no longer with us.

1979	1980
 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Freelands Tavern, Bromley BR1George & Dragon, Downe, BR6Golden Lion, Penge, SE20 (*)Imperial Arms, Chislehurst, BR7Jolly Woodman, Beckenham, BR3London Tavern, Penge, SE20 (*)Rising Sun, St Mary Cray, BR5 (*)Sawyers Arms, Bromley Common, BR2 (*)Shortlands Tavern, Shortlands, BR2 (*) Now closed	 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Crown, Chislehurst, BR7George & Dragon, Downe, BR6Golden Lion, Penge, SE20 (*)Jolly Woodman, Beckenham, BR3London Tavern, Penge, SE20 (*)Rising Sun, St Mary Cray, BR5 (*)Shortlands Tavern, Shortlands, BR2White Horse, Bromley, BR1 (*) Now closed
1981	1982
 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Bricklayers Arms, Bromley, BR2Bull's Head, Chislehurst, BR7George & Dragon, Downe, BR6Golden Lion, Penge, SE20 (*)Greyhound, Beckenham, BR3 (#)Jolly Woodman, Beckenham, BR3London Tavern, Penge, SE20 (*)Prince Frederick, Sundridge Park, BR1Sawyers Arms, Bromley Common, BR2 (*) (#) Now the Kelsey House (ex Beckenham) (*) Now closed	 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Bitter End, Bromley, BR2Bricklayers Arms, Bromley, BR2Bull's Head, Chislehurst, BR7George Inn, Beckenham, BR3Golden Lion, Penge, SE20 (*)Jolly Woodman, Beckenham, BR3London Tavern, Penge, SE20 (*)Prince Frederick, Sundridge Park, BR1Red Lion, Bromley, BR1 (*) Now closed

Any members interested in the more recent history of the branch should head for the [newsletter](#) page, which always contains links both to the current newsletter and also to previous newsletters that the branch has produced over the last few years.

This is just a few examples of the many pages available on the website. And don't forget we also have active [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) pages, which are the best places to keep up-to-date with the latest news that we have.

If anyone has any suggestions for additions to the website, please [write to me](#).

Tim Wilding, Webmaster.

CAMRA News

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

Drafting this, on the hottest day of the year (okay it is not quite 16°C but anything is warmer than the last few weeks) I am minded that pub gardens are nice places to while away a peaceful afternoon, the buzzing of flies, the scents from the garden (try the Blacksmiths in Cudham), the soulful face of a friend's dog on scrounge duty – aah let's hope for a good Summer, good beer good friends, oh, and a portion of cheesy chips!

Okay – so dream over – what has happened this month on the CAMRA front?

CAMRA 50th Anniversary

Let's start on a positive note – CAMRA is 50 years old this year. Yup, our Campaign movement celebrates its Golden anniversary in 2021. Let's celebrate – mine's a pint of Best please!

And to celebrate this, (apart from my pint – yes that will do nicely thanks) CAMRA have issued a new biography – promising to reveal its history “warts and all”. For more on this please follow [this link](#).



What's Brewing



Sad news for those who like hard copy. Hard on the heels of the demise of Keg Buster (like it or not, I have followed Bill Tidy since the days of the Fosdyke Saga in the Daily Mirror), comes the news that What's Brewing is being relaunched as a “dynamic news website” in May 2021. Mmm, I will be positive here and say I look forward to the launch but I do wonder, as you read this on your

tablet, phone or whatever, will all members appreciate this? Let's give it a go. After all, if just year ago you would have been told the City (of London) offices would be empty and rush hour trains running with only 20 or so passengers – would we have believed the changes on the horizon? For more information about the changes to What's Brewing, please follow [this link](#).

Brew2You

I know I have mentioned this before (many times) but it seems that beer lovers have now spent over £150,000 on local businesses using the beer delivery app. Now I cannot help but think that whilst this is cause to celebrate, it is not that much? Have you tried it yet? Just [log on](#) and see what is available in your area.



Social Interaction and the 'Open Arms: The Role of Pubs in Tackling Loneliness'

What are your early pub memories? Some of mine are of a Ruskin 5th form day out in Brighton with James arguing that he “was nearly 18”, of my girlfriend and her sister singing together in the

Catherine Wheel in Croydon, and our Friday nights in the Shirley Inn, later the Swan (the fish man with trays of prawns and what happened to Lesley the barmaid I wonder?).

Well, whatever your memories, the experts are reminding us that action is needed NOW to save pubs with a report that they are vital for social interaction. A new report about the role of pubs in communities, '*Open Arms: The Role of Pubs in Tackling Loneliness*', has found that they do have a key role to play in tackling loneliness and offer a social value above and beyond the contribution they make to the economy. Follow [this link](#) for more on this.

CAMRA National Chair, Nick Antona, has welcomed this report on behalf of CAMRA, going on to say that the Chancellor's upcoming budget is the perfect opportunity to commit to a long-term financial support package for pubs and breweries to see them through the long months ahead.

Pubs Matter



**PUBS
MATTER.**

The forthcoming budget is scheduled for 3 March. You may well be reading this item after the Chancellor's statement – let's hope it is good news? But over the preceding weekend CAMRA will have been taking part in another push of the Pubs Matter social media campaign – the aim being very simple, encouraging you to flood Twitter with messages about why pubs (and clubs) matter previous to them and to Tweet it to the Chancellor. Did you see it / take part?

Cider update

I have previously mentioned Gabe Cook, the Ciderologist, who has contributed a number of items about cider on the CAMRA [Learn & Discover](#) pages, and also a [Cider timeline](#). There is more about CAMRA's Learn & Discover on the next page of this e-Newsletter.

Did you know there is a *pulling together* initiative for cider, which can be found via [this link](#). Here you will find a map with all the cider and perry makers and bottle shops who sell direct to the public; very handy if you are missing decent cider! If you do notice something is missing, please email: cider@camra.org.uk.



For more updates on cider see: https://twitter.com/CAMRA_APPLE

Lastly, on cider, several Cider and Perry Makers have banded together to self-promote under the banner Discover Cider, and the events they have put on have, I am assured, been excellent: <https://discovercider.com/>

And Finally

One from North of the border. The Scottish Government has advised that hospitality businesses will not pay Business Rates for the full 2021/22 financial year after new funding was made available. In noting this, Joe Crawford, the CAMRA Scotland Director, perhaps echoing the CAMRA National Chair's comments, added that CAMRA is urging the Chancellor to use the Budget to help pubs thrive – continue the VAT reduction, extend it to alcohol, to benefit traditional locals that do not serve food and to see a lower rate of duty on beer served on tap in pubs and clubs.

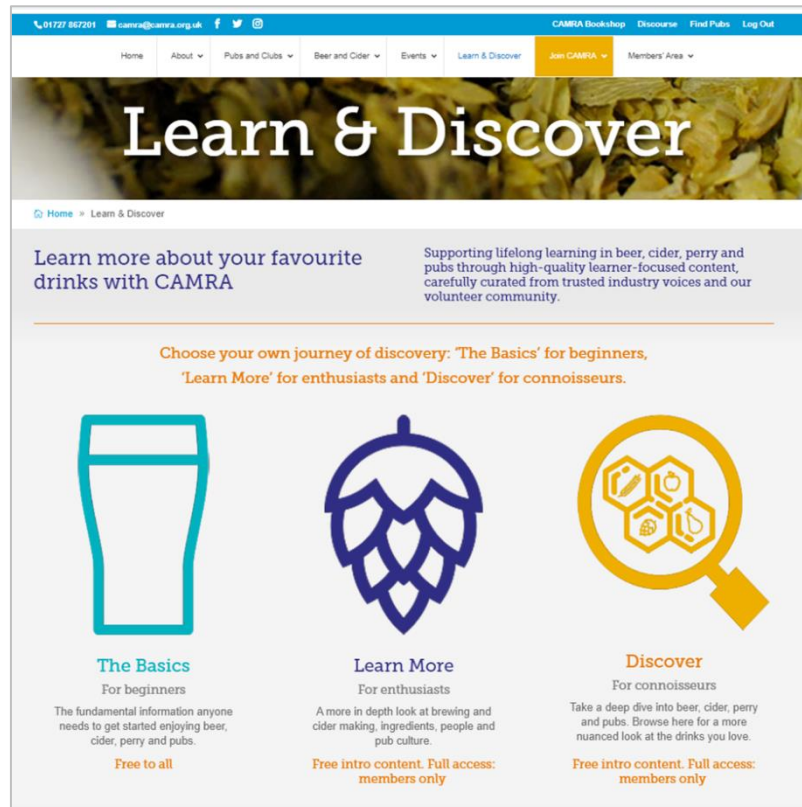
Now I wrote this before the budget; you will be probably be reading it after the budget, was there (any) good news?.....

Kent Sadler. Branch Secretary

Learn & Discover

More content has recently been added to CAMRA's 'on-line learning platform'.

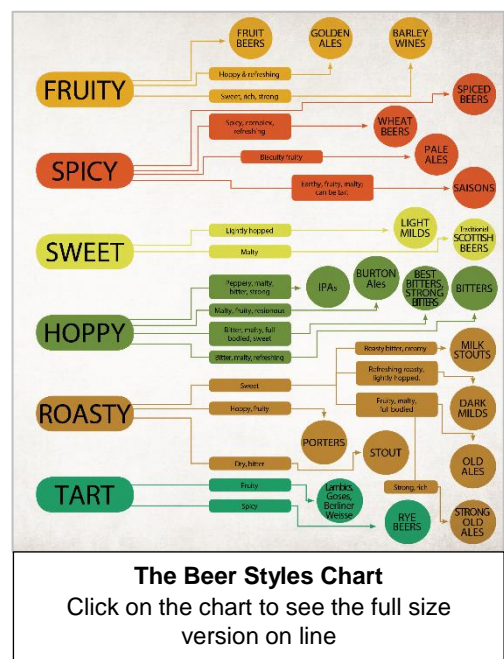
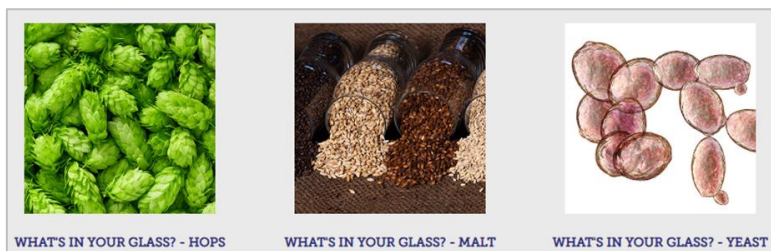
Have you yet looked at [Learn & Discover](#) on the CAMRA national website? If not, you are missing out on a vast amount of well-presented information about beer and ciders, brewing and cider making.



Some of the content is in the form of audio guides, whilst others are in written format, supported with many photographs.

More content is being regularly added. Currently there are 12 guides related to [beer](#), some of the beer topics covered include:

- What's in your glass? Hops
- What's in your glass? Malt
- What's in your glass? Yeast
- Beer Drinkers' dictionary
- The North/South divide
- Dark beer for autumn & winter
- Beer styles chart
- Beer & food pairing
- Beer tasting



There are also 12 guides on the subject of [cider and perry](#), including:

- Cider making process
- Cider styles
- Cider for health
- Cider terminology
- Cider apples
- Perry pears
- Cider & food pairing



The 'Discover' section covers various topics in greater depth, for example **India Pale Ale, a history**. This guide attempts to find the truth about the world's possibly most contentious beer style IPA, India Pale Ale.



"The famed and ubiquitous beer style has evolved over time to mean many things to many people. A range of sub-styles have emerged alongside a riot of misconceptions and received wisdom. Through this review of the origins of India Pale Ale Pete Brown aims to cut through the conjecture, bust myths and provide you with an authoritative account of one of the most profitable and popular beer styles of all time."

Other topics in the '[Discover](#)' series include:

- A brief history of lager
- Cider timeline
- Barrel-aging and conditioning

All of the CAMRA *Learn & Discover* guides can be found on <https://camra.org.uk/learn-discover/>

Podcasts

Don't forget that a series of CAMRA podcasts are also available, in the series called Pubs. Pints. People.

There are currently 26 episodes available to download, the subjects covered include:

- Craft beer
- Beer heritage
- Women in brewing
- Home brewing
- Cooking with beer
- Belgian beers
- Family brewers
- Our pubs make us happier



All episodes can be found at: <https://camra.org.uk/podcast/>

From CAMRA Books

Beer by Design

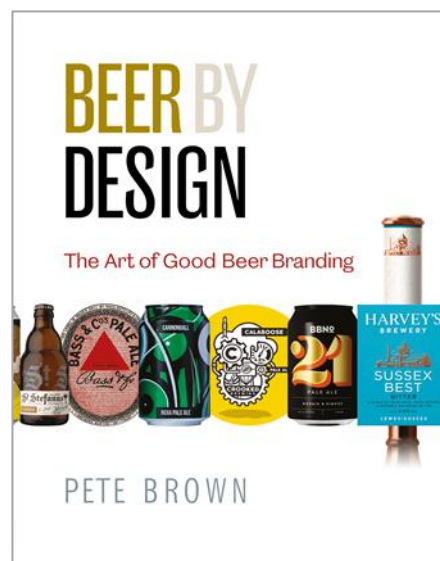
Today in Britain there are over 2,500 breweries, most of whom brew an ever-changing range of different beers. On the bar of any decent pub, or shelves of a good bottle shop or supermarket beer aisle, the choice can be overwhelming.

Many people make snap decisions so quickly that they don't even notice. Therefore, the design of a beer label, pump clip, bottle or can has to do a lot of work to stand out, get noticed, and suggest to the thirsty punter that here is a beer they will enjoy.

This is a lavishly illustrated book, tracing the history of beer label design back to the UK's first-ever trade mark and beyond.

It also explores the conventions of successful beer design and presents the most beautiful, iconic and successful beer design available in the UK.

Members price **£13.99** from [CAMRA Books](#)



On Radio 4

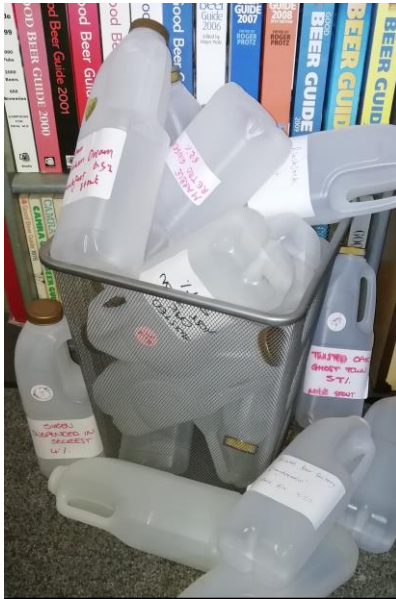
Did you hear the recent excellent short verbal essay by Tom Shakespeare on the value of pubs? If not, it is available on BBC Sounds <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m000skfb>

The March Quiz

Quizmaster Martin Gee has set this month's quiz all about history.

- 1) In which African country did the Mau Mau operate in the 1950's?
- 2) Which famous first class train was inaugurated in 1883 running from Paris to the Black Sea?
- 3) In which decisive naval battle did Octavian defeat Mark Antony in 31BC?
- 4) Which British liner was sunk by a German submarine on 7th May 1915?
- 5) Which Communist government ruled Cambodia from 1975 to 1979?
- 6) On 6th December 1917 several munitions ships exploded in the harbour of which Canadian port, killing over 1500 and making 20,000 people homeless?
- 7) Name the German architect who was the Director of the Bauhaus School of Design from 1919 to 1928?
- 8) What name is given to the three wars fought between Rome and Carthage?
- 9) Which English monarch was known as The Virgin Queen?
- 10) What was the name of the ship in which Captain Cook discovered Australia?

The answers to the quiz are on the final page.



The Editor has finished work
on another e-Newsletter

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 April 2021**

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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Answers to this month's quiz

1) Kenya; 2) The Orient Express; 3) The Battle of Actium; 4) Lusitania; 5) Khmer Rouge;
6) Halifax; 7) Walter Gropius; 8) The Punic Wars; 9) Elizabeth I; 10) Endeavour