

# CAMRA Bromley Branch

## e-Newsletter

### July 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.

## Welcome to the July e-Newsletter

I'm sure we are all disappointed, if not actually surprised, that the easing of Covid restrictions was delayed by four weeks. However, despite the continuing restrictions, there are still **more than 90**



**real ale pubs and clubs in Bromley** for us all to enjoy; many of these have gardens or outdoor areas (for when the sun is shining), and we are of course now allowed to drink inside the pub (especially when it's raining again).

During lockdown(s) I found that drinking takeaway or home-delivered cask beers, even when poured from a 'milk bottle', was infinitely preferable to most mass-produced bottled or canned beers. Therefore, post-lockdown, I now regularly take home some fresh cask beer as a 'carry-out' after enjoying a pint or two at the pub.

Enjoy your beers!

*Bob Keaveney, Editor*

## Pub News

Good news from West Wickham! We understand that builders have now started work to convert a former shop in Station Rd into a new **Real Ale Way** micropub, to add to those already operating in [Hayes](#) and [Westerham](#). Karis and Greg tell us that they are excited to be joining the West Wickham community and hope to be open for business by the end of July.

*(And, for the Editor, this new pub will be just a few stops away on the 194 bus...)*



75 Station Rd, BR4

## Bromley Pub Walks



**Bulls Head**  
Pratts Bottom

As reported in the June issue of the e-Newsletter, during 2021 new routes are being added to the list of Bromley Pub Walk guides. There are now six routes which 'cross the border' into Kent.

This includes [Route N° 51](#), a 1.5 mile rural stroll linking 'our' [Bulls Head](#) in Pratts Bottom to the nearby Kent village of Halstead, with its two pubs, the [Cock](#) and the [Rose & Crown](#).

Photos taken  
on  
1<sup>st</sup> June 2021



**Rose & Crown**  
Halstead

Routes **25**, **50** and **51** can be linked together to form a car-free 4.5 mile walk from Knockholt Station. The R5 / R10 bus also serves both villages.

For more information about Bromley Pub walks go to: <https://bromley.camra.org.uk/more/pub-walks/>

## We're going to miss you ..... yet again!

*In pre-Covid years, July was the month when Bromley CAMRA invited members and other beer enthusiasts to the Beckenham Beer and Cider festival.*

You will remember in the July 2020 Branch Newsletter I told you how sorry and disappointed we all were that the Beckenham Beer & Cider Festival had to be cancelled. At that time, I think we believed that the Covid-19 crisis would soon be over, and I wrote of how we were looking forward to a Festival again in July 2021.

As a nation, we are currently in the grips of yet another variant of Covid. In recent weeks the various Governments and Assemblies of the UK have announced how their roadmaps are progressing towards lifting of all Covid restrictions. We now know that 'Freedom Day' for England was pushed back four weeks to 19<sup>th</sup> July. This unfortunately means that we once again have had to cancel our beer festival.

However, do not despair! With the absence of our local event this year due to COVID restrictions, Bromley CAMRA plans to use our resources to encourage people still to enjoy a beer festival atmosphere. You will probably be aware that CAMRA's August '*Great British Beer Festival*' is also cancelled; Bromley Branch are planning to join in a national campaign to encourage pubs, clubs, breweries and cider makers to hold live beer (and cider) related events and activities in early August/late July at a local level.

At this stage, we can't make any promises, but your Committee is looking at encouraging licensees to hold events and activities celebrating live beer and real cider under the '**Great British Beer Festival at Your Local**' brand. We will be promoting these events locally to our branch members using our media channels – in particular our website and social media outlets. This will take place in early August/late July and we have set up a project team to look into the options. Keep checking our media links for updates. Meanwhile, we would like to hear of any ideas you may have to help the activities along.



We hope you will support this initiative so we can help get people back to the pub, and back enjoying our branch area's great pubs, beer and cider!

And as for 2022? Well, we DO plan to hold a beer and cider festival in July 2022. We will start the planning for this in December this year. So follow the e-Newsletter as next year approaches.

*Charles Tucker, Festival Coordinator*



Pubs, clubs, breweries and cider makers across the UK will be staging **Great British Beer Festival at Your Local** events and activities in early August.

Try a guest ale, a new real cider, or join in one of the special events on offer and support your local brewers and local pubs this August.

Join in the fun!



## Vacancies on Bromley CAMRA Committee

I am sure you will agree with me that the main strength of any volunteer organisation comes through the involvement of its members, especially those who are prepared to step-up and make that extra commitment of serving on a Branch Committee.

Inevitably, people's changing priorities in life means that vacancies on any Branch Committee will occur from time to time. And so it is with your Bromley CAMRA Branch, and we now find we have three vacancies that we would like to see our members volunteer to fill. The Committee vacancies are shown below with a short description and a link to further information.

### Branch Vice-Chair

The role involves: supporting and advising the Chair; deputising for the Chair in their absence at members' meetings and business meetings; deputising for or accompanying the Chair at regional meetings.

This is an ideal position for some who wants a development opportunity and to "learn on the job", with thoughts of perhaps standing for the Chair position in the future. [Click for role summary.](#)

### Young Members Contact

The role of the Young Members' Contact is to recruit young members and encourage participation by young members in CAMRA activities, arrange branch social activities for them and engage with local students to promote real ale and cider. The role is recommended for those that qualify as Young Members (18-30), but is open to anyone who feels they could be effective. [Click for role summary.](#)

### Learning & Discovery Co-ordinator

Do you love talking about beer, cider and perry and want to help other people to understand more about them? Would you like to learn more about the cider making and brewing processes, and share your knowledge with CAMRA members and non-members alike? It is entirely appropriate for more than one person to share the responsibilities of this role, if more than one person wants to volunteer for it. [Click for role summary.](#)

None of these roles are excessively time consuming and you would be working with a team of friendly and committed people. If you believe in CAMRA's wider aims, if you want to play a larger part in supporting Bromley area's great pubs, clubs, real ale and cider, please consider offering your services. This is a unique opportunity for you to bring your ideas along, have your say, and really help shape our branch future.

Please contact me [by email](#), if you want more information, or to arrange an informal chat about the roles.

*Charles Tucker, Branch Chair*

In addition, if you live in or near **Chislehurst** (BR7), we also have a vacancy for the [Pub Contact](#) for **BR7**.

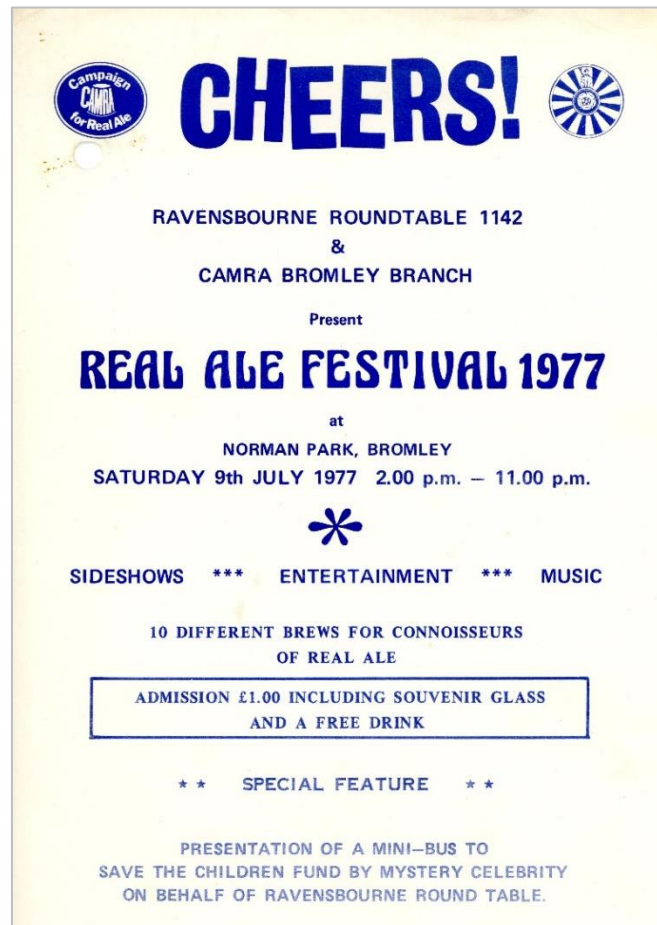
For more information about this role, please contact the Branch Chair by email (as above).

## From the Archive, 1977


*During 2021, CAMRA's 50th anniversary, we are publishing a number of features looking back at beer in Bromley during the last 50 years.*

In the February issue of the e-Newsletter we looked at Bromley CAMRA's 1977 *Guide to Real Ale in Bromley*. Here are a few more items from that year, this time relating to the 1977 beer festival held in Norman Park.

Once again, we have to thank Chris Crowther for supplying copies of the original documents.



The advice from the CAMRA to the festival organisers makes for interesting reading, and a few extracts are copied here.

		<b>internal correspondence</b>
from: Kevin Newson		to: Chris Crowther, Bromley Branch
date: May 8th '77	copies:	
Thanks for your letter of May 2nd and enclosures. My comments are :		

I) I think you are being too ambitious <sup>ones</sup> by ordering up to 15 brews for an outdoor event. Suggest you cut down on the Greenwood order if possible but lay more stress on local brews - Shepherd Neame, Ind Coope, Fullers come to mind. I usually reckon to make a profit of around 8p per pint and to do this and to sell at reasonable prices then you have to up the order where you can buy cheap. For example, for the forthcoming Acton Jubilee Beer Exhibition Ind Coope, Arkells, Fullers, Courage and Eldridge Pope are supplying one or more of their respective beers at 20p per pint or less.

(NB. The reference to 'Greenwood', relates to 'Alan Greenwood's Beer Agency', an early pioneer wholesaler of cask ales and also with several real ale off licences in London and nearby)

It's perhaps surprising to note that the advice was to 'have less than 15 brews', and to also focus on 'local brews', with Sheps, Ind Coope, Arkells, and Fullers being suggested, rather than beers from elsewhere in the UK supplied by Greenwoods.

Evidently, some things have not changed! Even in 1977, there was an awareness that volunteers should not have unlimited access to 'drink the profits' during the festival:

4) Good control of staff consumption is always necessary - suggest that three or four pint vouchers per session should be issued but that any consumed above that be paid for. The promise of a helpers party afterwards (i.e. some weeks after) ~~if~~ all goes well may make stricter control on the day acceptable.

Unfortunately, we can't confirm the full list of beers that were on offer at the festival, but the following is a transcription of a hand-written note (The accounts show that a further £204.48 of beer was sourced from Greenwood, and £25.94 direct from Ind Coope):

Brewery	Beer	Cost per kil (£p)	Cost per pint (p)	Total	Deposit	Balance
Arkells	BBB	28.55	20.5			
	JAB	24.91	17.9			
				106.93	40.00	66.93
Eldridge Pope	RO	30.95	22.1			
	IPA	28.04	20.0			
				87.03	15.00	72.03
Fuller	ESB	32.79	23.5			
	LP	26.11	18.7			
	Hock	22.10	15.8			
				107.11		107.11
Greene King	Abbot	33.44	23.9			
	IPA	27.37	19.6			
				149.00	75.00	74.00
Ridley	PA	28.92	20.7	115.68		115.68
Sam Smith		28.21	20.2	84.63		84.63
Shepherd Neame	Best	26.42	18.9			
	M Brew	24.65	17.6			
	Mild	22.05	15.8	99.54		99.54
				<b>£749.92</b>	<b>£130.00</b>	<b>£619.92</b>

The festival accounts show a total income of £3,020.81, with a surplus of £866.29, which was split 50/50 with the Round Table, who were the co-organisers of the event.

## CAMRA News

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

Last month I reported on the vagaries of the weather supporting the average pub goer, you know, April nice and sit outside, May, wet and sit inside. So what of June? Well, we can choose to sit in or out so that sums it up! One week drinking a fresh Pale Ale, factor 20, mopped brow et al and then the next week back on Mild, Porters and thermals. With this and the delay in the restriction of Covid rules, who would be a publican eh?

So what has CAMRA covered this month then?

### Delay to easing of restrictions

Last month we were looking forward to June 21st and being able to resume a near normal life in our chosen local once again and then Delta struck. Well, our National Chair, Nik Antona, commented to the press:

*"The delay to the June 21 easing of restriction is awful news for publicans and means that the Government must immediately announce an additional financial support package today".*

Going on, Nik noted that the British Institute of Innkeeping (BII) had released data showing that 1 in 10 pubs expect to fail if easing of restrictions was delayed – so roughly 4,000 pubs closed to their communities. Grim news for hard-working publicans across England who have been subjected to unfair and unevidenced restrictions from Government throughout the pandemic.

Nik closed by stressing *"Pubs matter to people and communities – that it would be devastating for Government to let them fall at the very last hurdle. The Government must announce top up grant funding, extend the furlough scheme and business rates holiday, and do something to fix the rent debt crisis immediately".*

### Volunteers Week

Well we could not let Volunteers Week pass without an acknowledgement to our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year and a big spotlight on the volunteers that have made CAMRA what it is over that half century. Follow [this link](#) for more on this.



### 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

CAMRA has shared a further ten more 'behind the scenes' glimpses into campaigning history to mark the anniversary. These covered many aspects including 'The beginnings of WhatPub', 'The hand pump – making sure that consumers are not mislead' (a good one this, some publicans were serving keg through the use of hand pumps) and "CAMRA's role in early licensing reforms". To read more about this, follow [this link](#).

Building on our anniversary theme, CAMRA has also advised that in marking this, we will be archiving 50 years of our publications as part of a project with the University of Warwick. The aim being to locate and bring together key records relating to CAMRA's formation and history, in order to ensure their long-term preservation and make them available to researchers both from within and outside the organisation. This will include the digitisation of 'What's Brewing' and 'BEER' magazine and, in the longer term, other records too. Best of luck to the students at the UoW. It must have a great student bar!

## Taxes

My own hobby 'oss this one. A further attack on the duty charged on draught beer served in pubs and a statement by CAMRA that the Government should cut this duty to help pubs and clubs compete with supermarket alcohol. I so agree! About time I wrote to my long-suffering MP and once again reminded him of this!

## Learn & Discover

An addition to the Learn and Discover platform is the marking of Pride month with a new three-part audio series exploring the centrality of pubs to LGBTQ+ lives.

The audio series, titled '*Passion, Pride & Protest*', has been curated and hosted by award-winning writer and audio maker Emma Inch. Emma has been speaking to key figures, including LGBTQ+ historians, activists and publicans, to tell their important stories. The series may be found via [this link](#).



## Beer Tasters required!

As we look forward expectantly to a time when pub visits are unrestricted, now is a good time for members to join a **CAMRA Tasting Panel** to be ready to help with the fun task of assessing the UK's real ales.



CAMRA is looking for new taste panel members across the UK to taste real ales individually or in groups and record their findings to help produce tasting notes for the Good Beer Guide and help to choose the next Champion Beer of Britain. Training is provided – this takes around half a day. Time commitment for tasting panel members is typically around 2 hours a month.

More information is available via [this link](#). To find out more and to apply, please contact our Regional Tasting Panel Coordinator, via email to [southeast.tprc@tasting.camra.org.uk](mailto:southeast.tprc@tasting.camra.org.uk).

## Cask Ale Week

The annual Cask Ale Week 2021 will be taking place later this year, from **23<sup>rd</sup> September to 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2021**. CAMRA is joining industry bodies (including Cask Marque, the British Beer & Pub Association, UK Hospitality and SIBA) in calling for support for pubs, bars, pubcos and breweries to mark the Week this year, as part of their comeback following the coronavirus pandemic.

CAMRA has long supported Cask Ale Week, an initiative which calls on pub-goers to choose cask– conditioned ale and aims to promote locally produced cask ale. The past year has been devastating for the industry and has been especially hard on the sales of hand pulled cask beer, so please make a diary note and watch out for more on this in future issues of the e-Newsletter.



## And what of Cider?

Well, nothing this month – sorry to my fans of crushed and fermented apples!

*Kent Sadler. Branch Secretary*



## Brewing and engineering – complementary skills?

*Our Branch Chair, Festival Coordinator and expert home brewer explains why the equipment needed for serious home brewing is more than a mash tun, fermenting vessel etc.*

Sometimes, there is more to advanced home brewing than just knowing how to mash grains and boil hops. Behind making the beer there is also the building and development of the brewing equipment itself. This is where a little knowledge of mechanical engineering can be very useful. In addition to their brewing expertise, brewers are often full of surprises when it comes to complementary skills, in everything from construction to science and engineering.

In my past home-brewing articles, you will have read that sometimes I use my *Speidel Braumeister* (BM) for my brewing, rather than my traditional 3-vessel system. With the BM the entire brewing process takes place in a single container and is controlled by a fully automatic Wi-Fi control. However, in spite of its compact size it does have its drawbacks. It is almost impossible to lift the malt tube after the mash process (so that boiling can start) without a lifting aid. The weight of the saturated grain, plus the suction effect, means you may have to lift the equivalent weight of perhaps 30 kg or more.

Without going to the extremes of hiring an industrial crane, heavy lifting gear, or even a forklift truck, have a look at my [Brewing blog](#) to see how I re-engineered this gearbox/engine stand into a functional piece of home brewing equipment.



*Charles Tucker*

**Next month:** Charles will be writing about brewing a 'clone' of Robinson's *Old Tom* strong ale (which apparently will have to wait until Christmas to be ready to drink). The new hoist will be seen in action for this brew.

### July Quiz

*Our Quizmaster Martin Gee has set this month's quiz on the theme of science and nature.*

- 1) What is the name given to an angle of less than 90 degrees?
- 2) What name is given to the vocal organ of birds?
- 3) What name is given to the offspring produced by the mating of two unrelated animals or plants?
- 4) Which big cat is also known as the panther?
- 5) What collective name is given to organisms such as moulds, mildews and mushrooms?
- 6) Most commonly used as a Christmas tree, by what name is the tree 'Picea abies' better known?
- 7) What is measured in pascals and millibars?
- 8) What name is given to a sharp or burning pain originating in a nerve?
- 9) In medicine, what does the acronym SARS stand for?
- 10) The parietal bone is in which part of the human body?

*The answers are on the next page*



Beerblefish, Pan Galactic Pale Ale, 4.6%  
At [Three Hounds Beer Co](#) on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2021

### 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 next issue of the Newsletter will be published on **1<sup>st</sup> August 2021**

You can contact the editor by email: [newsletter.editor@bromley.camra.org.uk](mailto:newsletter.editor@bromley.camra.org.uk).

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Answers to this month's quiz

1) Acute; 2) Syrinx; 3) Hybrid; 4) Leopard; 5) Fungi; 6) Norway Spruce; 7) Pressure;  
8) Neuralgia; 9) Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome; 10) The skull