

CAMRA Bromley Branch

e-Newsletter

November 2021



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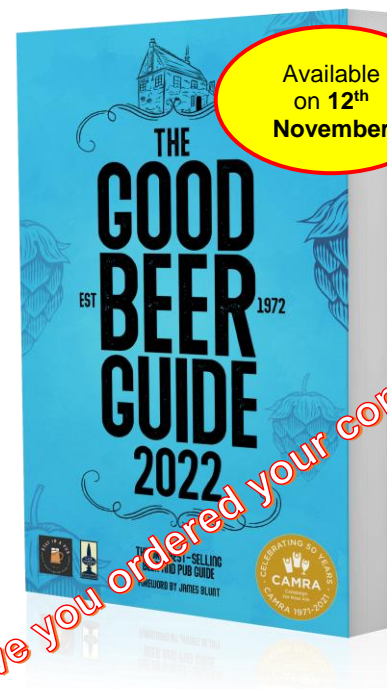
We look at the two pubs in Leaves Green, although one is currently closed.

[Pub & Club News](#)

A round-up of some local pub and club news.

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



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 get an email to notify them when the next issue is available to download from the Branch Website.

Bromley CAMRA Branch Diary, November 2021

Have you yet been on a branch social event this year? If not, why not try one of the events planned for November?

Hi everyone.

Please do have a look at our social diary and come along to our socials if you can.

Pubs, clubs and breweries have all been struggling throughout the past 18 months or so, and they really need our support to stay open and continue to provide us with the fine real ales, ciders and perry that we all love.

This month we will be visiting Hayes to enjoy the hospitality of the Royal British Legion Club, and one of our fantastic micropubs, the Real Ale Way; also some great pubs in Bromley and Beckenham. We will also have a return visit to Dartford to enjoy the fine range of beers available at both the Dartford Jug micropub and the Working Mens Club.

I look forward to seeing you at one of our socials.

Cheers!

Barry Phillips, Social Secretary

Saturday 6th. Hayes Social.

- 12:15, [Royal British Legion Club](#), 14 Station Hill. BR2 7DJ
- 14:15, [Real Ale Way](#), 55 Station Approach. BR2 7EB.

Wednesday 10th. Bromley High Street Social.

- 19:00, [Swan & Mitre](#), 260-262 High St. BR1 1PG
- 19:50, [Barrel & Horn](#), 204-206 High Street. BR1 1PW
- 20:40, [Artful Duke](#), 196-198 High Street. BR1 1HE
- 21:30, [Partridge](#), 194 High Street. BR1 1HE

Tuesday 16th. Beckenham Social.

- 19:00, [Three Hounds Beer Company](#), 57 Beckenham Road. BR3 4PR
- 20:15, [Bricklayers Arms](#), 237 High Street. BR3 1BN
- 21:45, [George Inn](#), 111 High Street. BR3 1AG

Saturday 20th. Dartford Social. *(For more details, see next page)*

- 12:00, [Dartford Jug](#), 8 Market Street, Dartford. DA1 1ET
- 13:30, [Dartford Working Men's Club](#), Essex Road, Dartford. DA1 2AU

Tuesday 30th. Committee meeting. (*)

- 19:30, [Crown Inn](#), School Road, Chislehurst. BR7 5PQ

Full details of all events, including suggested public transport options, can be viewed on the branch website: <https://bromley.camra.org.uk/calendar/>

(*) Members of Bromley CAMRA who are not on the committee are always welcome to attend committee meetings. Non-committee members planning to attend a meeting may request the Secretary secretary@bromley.camra.org.uk to prepare and print a pack of relevant committee papers to be made available for them at the meeting.

Bromley Branch Social in Dartford. Saturday 20th November

This month's 'out-of-area' social takes us just over the Kent border to Dartford.

In recent years Dartford has been well worth a visit for real ale enthusiasts, due to the wonderful range of beers available at the Dartford Working Men's Club from their 15 handpumps. The choice available in the town has now been further improved with a new and excellent micropub, the Dartford Jug.

Dartford Working Men's Club:

Winner of the CAMRA National Club of the Year award in 2006 and a finalist in 2017, this modern CIU club boasts a selection of up to 15 real ales on handpump, plus ciders on gravity. The ales come from various micro and regional breweries; (pre-Covid) over 500 different beers were served each year. CAMRA members are welcome to visit the club, please ensure that you bring your membership card.



Dartford Jug:

This is Dartford's first micropub, first opened in September 2018, but has been under new management since October 2020, and is a sister pub to The Malling Jug in West Malling. A pleasant front drinking space leads to an area with tall fixed tables and stools, in front of a serving bar counter. Beers and ciders (Turners) are dispensed by gravity from a cold room to the rear, the current ales being listed on a TV monitor near the bar. The beers are sourced from around the country (not just from Kent and London).



How to get there:

Both the club and micropub are a short walk from Dartford rail station, which has frequent services via various routes. How best to get to those trains will depend on where in Bromley you live.

- From Central Bromley, the quickest way to Dartford is probably by the 269 bus to Sidcup Station
- From stations on the Hayes and Chislehurst Lines, change at Lewisham for Dartford trains

To get to the Jug from Dartford station, cross the footbridge over the main road, then walk past the Aldi store, and follow signs to the bus station. The pub is just beyond the eastern end of the bus station.

Oyster Cards can be used for rail travel to Dartford (Zone 8), and despite it being in Kent, the London Freedom Pass can also be used to Dartford.

Timings:

- 12:00, [Dartford Jug](#), 8 Market Street, Dartford. DA1 1ET
- 13:30, [Dartford Working Men's Club](#), Essex Road, Dartford. DA1 2A

Some Good News In The Budget

Responding in full to last week's Budget announcements, CAMRA's National Chairman Nik Antona has said:



“The Chancellor has listened to thousands of CAMRA members who have long called for a change in the way alcohol is taxed. A new, lower rate of duty for draught beer and cider served in pubs and clubs establishes an important principle in the taxation system – that pubs are a force for good in our communities and should be supported to help them survive and compete with the likes of supermarkets.

“Our task before this new duty rate is implemented in 2023 is to make sure that the new, lower draught duty rate applies to beer and cider served in smaller containers too, so that as many pubs, breweries and consumers as possible can benefit. We will be using the Government's consultation on how this new system should operate in practice to make this case.

“In the meantime, measures like duty freezes and a 50% cut in business rates in England for another year will be welcomed. Our pubs and breweries are still recovering from the pandemic, face rising bills and costs and will continue to need as much support as they can get so they can rebuild their businesses and thrive in the years to come.

“Cutting tax for lower ABV drinks will incentivise lower strength alcoholic drinks, whilst new financial support for smaller producers – including cider producers – and continuing discussions around a 50% minimum juice content are encouraging news for both cider makers and consumers. These measures should help to improve quality and choice at the bar. CAMRA will continue to engage with the Government on the planned reforms to Small Brewers Relief and call for a solution that doesn't require some of the smallest breweries to have to pay more tax.”

However, there is always more campaigning to be done.

Nik also reminded members that there is still campaigning to be done in relation to the rate of duty beers:

“At the moment the new, lower draught duty rate is proposed to apply only to containers over 40 litres – which will exclude a lots of small brewery beers that are commonly sold in smaller casks and kegs. That's why we will be campaigning in the coming months to reduce the threshold to [#MakeIt20](#) litres when the details of how to implement this new, lower draught duty rate are decided – I hope you will join in too.”

Celebrating pubs,
clubs, brewers,
and cider makers
ahead of COP26



CAMRA has formed an Environmental Working Group, to look at which aspects of our campaigning are already environmentally friendly, as well as create and launch new campaigning with a green focus.

The Group will also encourage CAMRA as an organisation to become more environmentally responsible.

Watch out for more information about this in the coming weeks.

Good Beer Guide 2022

The latest edition of CAMRA's flagship pub and brewery guide will be published on 12th November.



This year, best-selling singer James Blunt has thrown his support behind the Great British pub and reflected on the industry's struggles during the coronavirus pandemic, in his foreword for CAMRA's Good Beer Guide 2022, due to be released on 12 November 2021.

Following 18 months of struggles for the industry in the face of restrictions and lockdowns, Blunt, who owns the 17th-century Fox & Pheasant pub in Chelsea, remarks that as both a musician and a publican, he has *"pretty much chosen the worst two jobs for a global pandemic"*.

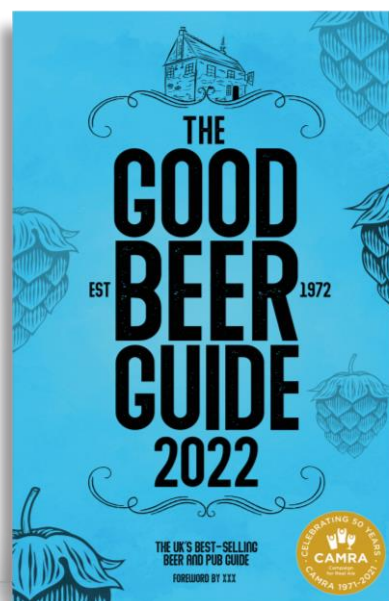
However, with his trademark optimism, he highlights the importance of pubs to communities and encourages Brits to get

back to the pub to support their locals.

He writes: *"Whilst, in recent years, there might have been a trend for people to drink cheap supermarket beer at home, those people have been locked away for the best part of a year, and now those people want out. They can taste real beer from the tap, and food cooked by a pro, and they can meet legally and joyfully."*

Now available for members to pre-order at the special price of £12.00 plus delivery from [CAMRA Books](#)

(Members will need to log in to claim the discount)



The November Quiz

Quizmaster Martin Gee has set this month's quiz on the subject of general knowledge. As usual, the answers are on the final page.

- 1) What might you do in East Africa if you had a "Kanzu"?
- 2) In which city was the mime artist Marcel Marceau born?
- 3) Which letter of the Greek alphabet is the equivalent of the letter "K"?
- 4) Which Texas town was established in 1849 to protect settlers from attacks by the Comanche tribe?
- 5) What is the correct form of spoken address to a pope?
- 6) From which country was the sixth Secretary General of the United Nations, Boutros Boutros-Ghali?
- 7) What is the meaning of the common abbreviation BAFTA?
- 8) What is the colour of the cross on the flag of Finland?
- 9) In which city is the headquarters of the UN agency, The International Labour Organisation?
- 10) Name the conspirators involved in the Gunpowder plot.

Greater London Regional Pub of the Year 2021

By the time you are reading this, it is probable that the name of the winner will have been announced for the 2021 Greater London Regional Pub of the Year award.

Bromley Branch's judging team have been busy over the last couple of months visiting the 13 pubs which are completing for the title of Greater London Regional Pub of the Year for 2021.

In the last issue of the e-Newsletter we brought photos taken whilst visiting six of the pubs, so this month here is a selection of photos taken during judging visits to the other seven pubs.



My judging visits took me to some places that I had to search for on the map. Here are some extra quiz questions for you to try:

- Where is Emerson Park Station?
- Is it possible to get there by public transport from Elmers End with less than four changes of train/bus/tube etc?
- How did I manage to find my way back home again after a very enjoyable afternoon session?

(more pub photos on next page...)



Clockwise from top left: Hope, Carshalton; Star & Garter, Bromley; Robin Hood & Little John, Bexley; Dog & Bell, Deptford



Judging for pub awards has been a great way to get out to visit several new places, and to be able to drink in some brilliant pubs.

All our judges said that they enjoyed themselves; most have already offered to do the same again next year.

Bob Keaveney, Beer Score Coordinator



This photo by Charles Tucker

Top: Harp, Covent Garden. Left & inset: Antwerp Arms, Tottenham. Right: Railway, Streatham Common.

Advance Notice

Bromley CAMRA Pub of the Year, 2022

The December e-Newsletter will carry information about the start of the selection process for the 2022 Bromley CAMRA Pub of the Year award.

We need your Beer Scores

Bromley CAMRA uses beer scoring to identify pubs/clubs for possible inclusion in the Good Beer Guide.

Beer scoring is quick and simple using

[WhatPub](#) or the [GBG App](#)

WHAT?PUB

National Beer Scoring System

[Please see the branch website for more information about Beer Scoring](#)

London's Best Beer, Pubs & Bars

The much-anticipated third edition of this excellent guide has now been published. The original plan had been to publish in June 2020, but, as we are all too aware, 2020 didn't quite go as planned....

Considerable research has gone into the preparation of the third edition of this popular guide, which lists 343 venues in Greater London; this includes 141 breweries and brewpubs. The original research was carried out during 2019 and early 2020, however the delay in publication meant that all the details needed to be checked. As a result, several entries sadly had to be deleted, however several more have now been added. One of these additions is Chislehurst's Cockpit micropub, which only opened in December of last year.

Bromley is well represented, with 10 pubs, micropubs, bars or taprooms with full listings, plus another three pubs listed as 'try also'. All five of Bromley's breweries are listed, and Bromley Pub Walks even get a mention.



London's Best Beer Pubs & Bars (3rd Edition)

by Des de Moor

- Fully updated to reflect the growth of London's beer scene
- Listings include traditional pubs, specialist beer bars, bottle shops & more
- Features colour photography and maps throughout
- Organised by area and borough for easy reference
- Over 300 venue listings complete with opening hours, public transport links and local landmarks

Available now from [CAMRA Books](#)

Members price only **£14.99** (plus delivery)



The Pubs of Leaves Green

In the first of what we plan to be a regular series, our Area Reps (now called 'Area Pub/Club Contacts') report on one of the localities within their area. To get us started, Kent Sadler reports on Leaves Green, the small hamlet alongside the A233 between Keston and Biggin Hill.

The Crown

After a period with no real ale, it is good to be able to report that it is now once again available at the [Crown](#).

The new proprietor at this now family-run pub, Elena, took over at just the wrong time, March 2020. Having spoken to her and her husband, with tins of paint in their hands, in Spring 2020, and their having survived the lockdowns, it is great to see this old Shepherd Neame pub now fully open for food and drink (Mondays excepted!)

The pub, once familiar with many a serving airman at Biggin Hill during and after the Second World War, has ample space for your visit, be it for a quick pint of Master Brew, lunchtime snack, evening meal or celebration!



Kent Sadler



The pop-up pub at Biggin Hill Fete

Kent Sadler

During this summer it was great to see the pub taking part in local events, running a pop-up pub at the 'Biggin Hill Fete on the Rec', allowing attendees a better choice than the usual dodgy supermarket tins from a bucket of ice in a beer tent! (No offence, but you know what I mean). Although, by necessity, it had to be keg not cask ale.

When I caught up with Elena the other week she was pleased to speak up for her pub and her family working behind the scenes. Given that this is now the only pub in the area, I do hope that success follows them. She hopes to have more cask ales, including guests, but of course is limited by demand.

I should add that the Master Brew was in excellent condition and a very reasonable £4.05, guest beers will be a little more. Main meals start from £11.25. Why not give them a try?

The Kings Arms



Kent Sadler

Of even greater history and closer to the famed former Biggin Hill Aerodrome (Okay, now London Airport, Biggin Hill), stands the currently closed [Kings Arms](#). This old weather boarded pub is a Grade II listed building dating back to the 16th century and, you would think, a great venue for a pint.

If you go on line you can see that it survived bomb damage in August 1940 with burnt out cars standing to the front and, I understand, after the war a Spitfire with engine troubles landed just a little too close.

Sadly, in recent years, the pub has not stood the test of time, with an apparent recent history of tenants 'handing

back the keys' to the PubCo, despite trying music, quiz and even 'psychic' nights. All to no avail – a clear example of 'use it or lose it'.

Following receipt of all planning permissions, work has now commenced on refurbishment to convert it into a 'Turkish Bar and Restaurant'. Whether it will serve any cask ale has yet to be seen, but even craft ales would be good. Whilst it is sad to see its demise as a proper 'olde worlde pub', at least it should be continuing as a licensed venue, not converted to apartments with the former garden full of houses with postage stamp yards. Perhaps what comes around goes around, and one day it will again be a pub with low beams, open fires and ploughman's lunches!

Kent Sadler, Pub/Club Contact for Biggin Hill, Downe, Cudham & Leaves Green ()*

() Possibly not the easiest of job titles to say after your second pint*

Pub and Club News

A round up of some news and photos from some of the pubs and clubs in our area.

West Wickham

As reported as a 'breaking news' item in the last issue, another [Real Ale Way](#) opened at the end of September. This is the second Real Ale Way to open in Bromley borough, and the third overall. It operates in a similar manner to its well-known GBG 2021 listed predecessor in Hayes, with up to seven cask ales dispensed by gravity from a cold-room. Almost all the beers are sourced from smaller breweries in Kent,

Adding a touch of individuality is the display of pictures by local artists around the walls, some of which are available for purchase. The large windows admit plenty of light, so the pub is rather brighter than the Hayes venue. The pub is dog friendly.

Our BR4 Area Pub & Club Contact was there for the opening, and writes:

"On a mild, sunny afternoon on 29th September, the new Real Ale Way micropub prepared to open its doors to the residents of West Wickham and the surrounding areas, whilst last minute preparations were still underway, including the signage outside being painted during a short, sharp shower. These were quickly completed and the first of many customers crossed the threshold into the Real Ale Way to be greeted by Karis and Greg.



Some of the members present at the branch social held at the pub on 16th October

"The new West Wickham Real Ale Way is bright and airy and situated in an excellent position. It was clearly very popular, with many coming in on the opening day to sample the excellent ales and wines. The only minor hiccup on the day was that most of the furniture was, stuck on the M25 in traffic.

"Bromley CAMRA held a social meeting at the pub on 16th October, and it was good to meet fellow CAMRA members and friends in the welcoming atmosphere."

Janet Freak, BR4 Area Pub & Club Contact

Orpington

[Orpington Liberal Club](#) held a beer festival in October. It is probable that, for the majority of the attendees, it was their first beer festival for at least 18 months.

I visited on the well-attended Thursday 'preview' evening and was able to choose from a selection of 21 festival ales, 14 of which were on gravity dispense from the stillage, the remainder by handpump on the bar. There was a strong local emphasis in the selection, with 12 being 'Locales'. There were also eight ciders available.

At a time when some venues are reportedly having difficulty obtaining cask ales, the club proved that it is still possible to source a very interesting selection, ranging from 'pales', though 'browns' to 'dark', plus some 'others'. Three of the beers were brewed with green hops.

Shortly after the end of the festival the Club issued the following message: *'Thanks to all who joined us for our recent beer festival - one of the most successful ever!'*

Bob Keaveney, e-Newsletter Editor



The stillage and bar at Orpington Liberal Club's recent beer festival.
Two of the beers were from Bromley breweries, Mutineers Black Flag and Marlix Video Nasty.



More Beer Festivals

The apparent success of this small non-CAMRA festival hopefully bodes well for the various CAMRA festivals which are now being planned.

The next CAMRA beer festival in London is [Pigs Ear](#) Festival, running from 30th November to 4th December, at Round Chapel, 1D Glenarm Road, E5 0PU.

[Follow this link](#) for listing of all forthcoming CAMRA Beer Festivals.



CAMRA News

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

Well, that's it – the clocks have gone back and we are now, it seems, in winter. Bring out the porters, stouts and old ales. Leave behind all those American hopped pales of the summer, ice cubes in your ('traditional') cider (ugh) and factor 50 on your nose, whilst sitting in the pub patio or indeed your own garden with that 4 pint takeout. (Please, no supermarket stuff here!). So, what has been happening on the CAMRA front over the last month, what can I let you know?

Well, firstly CAMRA has been busy lobbying Parliament in advance of the budget, promoting Cider and Perry and pressing for support of our pubs – even if you did go “*Sober for October*”. Other news includes:

Campaigner of the Year 2022 Award

Nominations are now open for CAMRA's annual Campaigner of the Year award.

Who can be nominated? Well, any individual or group of individuals can be nominated for this award. They do not necessarily need to be a CAMRA member or located within our branch boundaries. CAMRA wants to cast the net as wide as possible: people who have fought effective campaigns locally or nationally; people in the pub or brewing industries who promote our interests; celebrities or politicians who actively support real ale, cider, perry, pubs or clubs. Members may wish to consider nominating individuals who have gone above and beyond to champion real ale, cider, perry, pubs or clubs during the recovery from the Coronavirus crisis.

Who can nominate? Any CAMRA member can make a nomination. To be valid, a nomination must to be seconded by another CAMRA member. Members may make more than one nomination, and the nominee does not need to be from within your own branch area. Nominations close 7 February 2022. If you more information on this please [email me](#).

Nominations should be sent to: campaigns@camra.org.uk or % Campaigner of the Year, CAMRA, 230 Hatfield Road, St Albans, AL1 4LW.

Cider report

Last month I mentioned that October was our Cider and Perry month and with it a recommendation that you kept abreast of this on the Cider month page of the CAMRA website. Did you? If you did, you may have seen the new content published on the website including:

- Two October editions of CAMRA's podcast, **Pubs. Pints. People.** – a [Harvest Time Special](#), followed by a '[Halloween Horrors](#)' episode, discussing beer and cider faults
- Exclusive content from CAMRA's [Learn & Discover platform](#), including a video on cider flaws from Susannah Mansfield, and three pieces from Bill Bradshaw – 'The Story of Perry' with Gabe Cook, 'Bringing Cider to the Table' available, and 'Beyond Cider'
- The presentation of CAMRA's Pomona Award, which took place on 16 October, saw Susanna Forbes, cider expert and author and co-founder of Little Pomona Cider in Herefordshire, receive the Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA)'s Pomona Award for her long-time commitment to the industry, especially during the coronavirus pandemic. Named after the Roman Goddess of apples, the Pomona Award is presented to a person or organisation that has made an outstanding achievement, commitment, or contribution to the promotion of real cider or





perry. Susanna has a multitude of cider achievements under her belt: in 2018 she published the book *Cider Insider*, and she has also served as drinks editor of *Imbibe* magazine and as a member of the Guild of British Beer Writers. She and her husband, James Forbes, established Little Pomona in 2015, crafting a variety of cider and perries from their orchard near Bromyard and partner orchardists around the region, moving to their current site in 2019 and opened a Tasting Room and Cider Garden in 2020.

- The launch of the Cider Duty reform campaign with Gabe Cook, this seeks to see the introduction of a new tax scheme to help small cider producers grow; a reform of current rules that mean cider can be made with as little as 35% real juice, (that is not what I call cider!) and clearer ingredient labelling to support consumers in making informed choices about the products they buy.

If you did not – have a look!

Christmas present ideas

A bit of shameless marketing now – have you decided on what to get that special person in your life? Are you writing to Santa as I type this out? Well ideas could include:

- **The World Beer Guide**, a book by the renowned author and beer expert Roger Protz taking the reader on a journey around the world's best beers in this CAMRA publication. In this, his latest publication, he has poured decades of first-class beer knowledge onto the pages. The ultimate guide to beer around the world, the *World Beer Guide* is a book about beer – produced in every country on earth and enjoyed by millions of people. It is a guide written for those who enjoy beer and want to know more.
- **The Good Beer Guide**, the twenty second edition due out on 22 November and considered the definitive independent guidebook to good pubs that serve real ale across the UK.
- **London's Best Beer Pubs and Bars**, a comprehensive guide to London, laid out by area, making it simple to find the best London pubs and bars, serving the best British and World beers and to explore the growing number of London breweries offering tours, taprooms and direct sales. By Des de Moor. ([See Page 8](#))
- **Christmas Gift Membership** – Just a reminder that you can buy single or joint membership. For more on this follow [this link](#).



Closing

After a lifetime of working in tax, I am delighted that this will be the last time I have to sit down and listen to the Budget, only to then work out what has changed, what the impact will be on the 'man on the Clapham omnibus' and write out to various clients. From next Budget, it will be only for me to see if beer, cider, wine and spirit rates of tax have changed and, if so, for the better or, usually, the worse. (oh okay, yes, and utility bills, fuel and pensions...)

So, in closing, as you will be reading this after the budget, I do hope that it has been good news all round and looking forward to seeing you on those mid-week socials!

Kent Sadler, Branch Secretary



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 December 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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Quiz answers: 1) Wear it; 2) Strasbourg; 3) Kappa; 4) Fort Worth; 5) Your Holiness; 6) Egypt; 7) British Academy of Film and Television Arts; 8) Blue; 9) Geneva; 10) Robert Catesby, Thomas Winter, Thomas Percy, John Wright and Guy (or Guido) Fawkes