CAMRA Bromley Branch e-Newsletter December 2021



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A December Message from the Committee

Members of the Committee share their thoughts as we enter the final month of 2021.

Branch Social Diary

We have several social events, including the annual '*Twixmas*' crawl in Bromley North.

25 Years in the Good Beer Guide

The Red Lion reaches a significant milestone.

The Pubs of Bromley North

We look at four other pubs in the backstreets near the Red Lion.

Bromley CAMRA Pub & Club of the Year, 2022

It's time for members to nominate pubs and clubs for the 2022 awards.

Good Beer Guide 2023

The meeting to select the Bromley pubs & clubs for the 2023 GBG will be held in January.

Greater London Regional Pub of the Year

A micropub in Hornchurch wins the coveted title for 2022.

Pub and Brewery News

A round-up of news from some of our local pubs and breweries.

CAMRA News

The Branch Secretary runs through some of the news from CAMRA

The Quiz

The December Quiz is all about lions.

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.







A Festive Message from the Branch Committee

In recent years, it has become a tradition in Bromley CAMRA that the Branch Chair writes a 'Christmas Message' to members, which is then published in the December newsletter. With yet another strange year due to the pandemic, we thought that this Christmas our message would take a different form.

The Festive Message this year is a joint one from all the Committee. It consists of individual reflections from Committee Members on the theme of *'CAMRA, Christmas and our members'*. All the messages have been correlated together and placed in a file you can read and/or download from the <u>Bromley CAMRA website</u>.



The outcome of their literary exercise is as diverse as the Committee members themselves. It ranges from a few simple words extolling the joys of Christmas, through to a sonnet that Shakespeare would have been proud to compose. You could almost hear their brain wheels clanking as they sat down in a dark room with their favourite pint to compose their cerebral missives!

I hope you enjoy the cornucopia of their warm expressions and perhaps you may be able to reflect yourself on what Christmas means to you.

Charles Tucker. Branch Chair

The January issue of the Bromley CAMRA e-Newsletter will be published, as normal, on 1st January 2022

However, due to the festive season (and the need for the Editor to be working on the Beer Scores Report for the Good Beer Guide selection meeting) the deadline for submitting news, articles and photos for the January issue of the e-Newsletter will be 19th December



Pig's Ear Beer & Cider Festival

Tuesday 30th November to Saturday 4th December.

Noon to 10-30pm [11pm Fri/Sat].

£3 for members, £5 for non-members.

Round Chapel, 1D Glenarm Road, Hackney. E5 0PU

More information is available <u>here</u>, including a beer and cider list.

Bromley Branch Social Calendar, December 2021

Monday 6th. Special Good Beer Guide Celebration event

- From 19:00. Red Lion, 10 North Rd. BR1 3LG
- Bromley CAMRA will be presenting a certificate to Chris and Siobhan in honour of the Red Lion achieving 25 consecutive years in CAMRA's Good Beer Guide
- You can read more about the Red Lion on the next pages



Thursday 9th. A 320 bus route special

- 19:30. <u>Black Horse</u>, 123 Main Road, Biggin Hill. TN16 3DX
- 21:00. <u>Two Doves</u>, 37 Oakley Road Kent, Bromley Common. BR2
 8HD

Black Horse

Thursday 16th. Winter Ales social

- 19:00. Orpington Liberal Club, 7 Station Road, Orpington. BR6 0RZ
- Follow <u>this link</u> for more information

Wednesday 29th. Twixmas Social in Bromley (*)

- 13.00. Crown & Anchor, 19 Park Rd. BR1 3HJ
- 14.15. Anglesey Arms, 90 Palace Road. BR1 3JX
- 15:00. Red Lion, 10 North Rd. BR1 3LG



(*) Please note that the timings for the Twixmas social are different from those previously listed in London Drinker, however revisions were necessary to take account of pub



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

opening times.

25 Years in the Good Beer Guide

The forty-ninth issue of the Good Beer Guide was published last month and saw the Red Lion achieving its twenty-fifth consecutive listing.

Many visitors to Bromley, and probably residents too, never get to visit the maze of narrow residential backstreets, just behind Bromley North Station. However those who do venture there will find not just one, but <u>five</u> flourishing backstreet 'local' pubs, all grouped together within a few hundred metres.

In November of this year one of those pubs, The Red Lion, reached the milestone of having 25 consecutive entries in the Good Beer Guide. 1998 to 2022.

Licensees Chris and Siobhan Humphrey first arrived at the pub in 1993, when it was a Whitbread managed house; Siobhan said "we came here in March 1993 to provide approximately 6 weeks cover, and are still here 28 years later".





In 1997, Beards of Sussex acquired the pub and carried out refurbishment and redecoration, removing fixed seating and creating more of a traditional real ale pub, increasing from two to five handpumps.

However, in 1998 Beards sold their entire estate to Greene King, at which point it became a tenancy, as part of Greene King Pub Partners.

Siobhan said "We are proud to have been included for 25 successive years in the Good Beer Guide. This achievement is only possible with the support of our customers our friends, without their support we wouldn't be the community we are. This achievement is as much theirs as it is ours."

Serving quality ale has always been a high priority for Chris and Siobhan. Currently the regular beers are Greene King IPA and Abbott, plus Harvey's Sussex Best Bitter, in addition to two rotating guest ales.

An array of various pump clips are displayed above the bar, just a small selection of the many guest ales served over the years.



harles T

mage supplied by Red Lion

Red Lion

10 North Road **(0181)** 460 2691 11-11; 12-10.30 Sun

Adnams Broadside; Beards Best Bitter; Harveys BB; guest beers H

Recently bought by Beards of Sussex, this pub, away from Bromley centre, has been sympathetically refurbished: note the clock, and the stunning tiling uncovered during the refit. Meals served 12–7, Mon–Sat.

△ Q **②** □ **→** (North)

The first listing for the Red Lion, in the 1988 Good Beer Guide.

The forced closure during the various periods of lockdown was used to carry out maintenance & painting works whilst also installing a new kitchen to suit the new pizza menu venture and opening of the rear garden as an outdoor drinking area.

The Red Lion retains a traditional backstreet atmosphere and has a strong community feel with a loyal following of regular customers,



The pub still boasts the original dado tiling in the entrance and bar, and has a real open fire in winter months. Numerous bookshelves are filled with real books to browse, rather than just as decoration. The books include an almost complete set of CAMRA Good Beer Guides since 1998.



some of which the pub has seen grow up and have children of their own. The Red Lion has a broad appeal across the generations, attracting regulars who travel from outside of the area to enjoy the pub and its beers. Enhancing the community atmosphere are the well-supported men's and women's dart teams, both of which compete in local leagues.



Chair of Bromley CAMRA Charles Tucker said "The Red Lion is a small community pub, swimming against a tide of major industry change for three decades, as well as battling during the last two years the Covid restrictions. This award not only reflects 25 years of hard work by its licensees, but also recognises the efforts they have made to maintain top quality beers in a traditional pub atmosphere. Bromley Branch is privileged to have such an outstanding pub in our area, and we thank Siobhan and Chris for supporting CAMRA aims and principles over this period of time."

Charles Tucker / Bob Keaveney

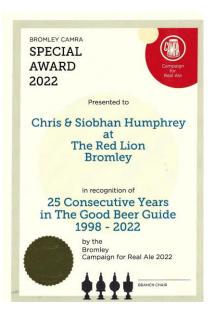
Red Lion 10 North Road Bromley BR1 3LG Mon - Tues 15:00 – 22:00 Wed - Sat 15:00 – 23:00 Sunday Noon – 22:00

Monday 6th December

From 19:00

Bromley CAMRA will be making a special presentation to Siobhan and Chris to mark the 25th consecutive listing in the Good Beer Guide

All members are invited

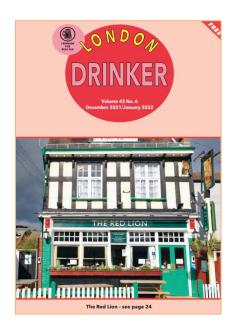


London Drinker is back!

After an absence of more than 18 months due to Covid-19, London Drinker has now returned in printed format, and the first copies should have started to appear in pubs and clubs by the time you are reading this.

Bromley CAMRA hope that the magazine will be back in all of the regular outlets in our area, however some places may have fewer copies available for the time being.

The cover story of the new December/January issue is Bromley's Red Lion, and there is also a feature about football and drinking in Bromley.



The online version of London Drinker is available at:

https://londondrinker.camra.org.uk/wordpress/

It is also available in PDF format via this link.

Not far from the Red Lion...

The Red Lion is one of five pubs, all in very close proximity, in the narrow backstreets behind Bromley North Station.

Sadly, throughout the country there are now a diminishing number of 'traditional backstreet local pubs'. Bromley is therefore very fortunate to have not just one, but **five** such pubs, all in the narrow residential streets behind Bromley North Station.

Each pub is very different in character, and they each have their own following of loyal customers. As with most pubs, they have had to make changes to suit the 'new normal' following the various Covid lockdowns and restrictions. In many cases, this has meant reduced opening hours and a smaller range of cask ales, however four of the five pubs do still serve real ale.

On the previous pages we have been focussing on the Red Lion, so here are the other four pubs, more details about each pub can be found on WhatPub, via the links below.



Crown & Anchor. 19 Park Road. BR1 3HJ

Opening hours

Daily Noon – 23:00

Regular beer(s)

Bexley, BOB

The dining area was extensively refurbished during lockdown, with glass sliding doors opening onto the garden.

Anglesey Arms, 90 Palace Road. BR1 3JX

Opening hours

Mon
 Tue to Sat
 Sun
 15:00 – 23:00
 14:00 – 23:00
 Noon – 23:00

Regular beer(s)

- Shepherd Neame, Spitfire
- Shepherd Neame, Whitstable Bay





White Horse, 64 Palace Road. BR1 3JX

Opening hours

- Mon to Fri 15:00 - 23:00 - Sat 13:00 - 23:00 - Sun Noon - 22:30

Regular beer(s)

- Currently no real ale

Freelands Tavern, 31 Freelands Road. BR1 3HZ

Opening hours

Mon to Fri
 Sat
 Sun
 14:00 – 22.00
 14:00 – 23.00
 Noon – 22.00

Regular beer(s)

- Greene King, IPA



As our Area Pub Contact, Martin Gee, discovered during his recent visits, most of these pubs now no longer open at lunchtimes on weekdays, so members do need to take that into account when planning to visit the area.

Martin writes: "All five pubs have suffered, as have so many others, from the Covid pandemic however, since footfall matters, being away from Bromley town centre means that there is not a lot of passing trade. These are all excellent pubs, albeit some currently having a restricted choice of real ale, but they deserve our support; the more real ale drinkers who visit, the more chance of them being able to continue to serve cask beers, and may also potentially increase their beer ranges.

"So, if you are in the area, why not make the effort for a late afternoon tour and perhaps, if you only find one beer available, ask and keep asking and going back; without demand there will be no supply!"

The traditional Bromley CAMRA *Twixmas* Crawl on Wednesday 29th December will be visiting three of these pubs. See you there?

NB. Not mentioned in this feature is the <u>Railway Tavern</u>, on East St, directly opposite Bromley North Station.



The new 3rd edition of London's Best Beer Pubs & Bars features a total of ten entries for Bromley.

But, on page 72, the author lists his 'top 30' recommendations.

The **Star & Garter** is one of ten pubs listed, with **One In The Wood** being one of the five micropubs.

We understand that Des de Moor will be at an event at the Star & Garter on Wednesday 15th December.

No further details are currently available. We therfore suggest that you check at the pub, or on https://twitter.com/StarGarterBR1 nearer the time.

Bromley Pub and Club of the Year, 2022

Covid restrictions meant that there was no Pub or Club of the Year selection by CAMRA branches for 2021, but the selection process for the 2022 award has now started.

Every year, most CAMRA branches select a pub to be their branch Pub of the Year. Those branches with any eligible clubs can also select a club to be their branch Club of the Year. Winners of the branch awards then progress to be judged in the relevant regional competitions and potentially ultimately for the national awards.



There is more information about the Bromley CAMRA Pub & Club of the Year awards on the <u>branch</u> <u>website</u>.

Nominate your favourite Pub and/or Club

All members are invited to **nominate a pub and/or a club** for the 2022 awards.

Members are also being asked to volunteer to be on the judging panel.

Follow this link to the on-line form.

The final date for receipt of nominations is 18th January 2022.

Good Beer Guide, 2023

The 2022 GBG is now in the bookshops, so it's time to start to think about the next edition...

Bromley CAMRA uses Beer Scoring to identify pubs and clubs for possible inclusion in the Good Beer Guide.

Only those pubs and clubs which have received sufficient scores from members throughout the year are eligible for consideration. The final deadline to submit your 2021 beer scores is **24**th **December 2021**. Follow this link for more information about Beer Scoring.

Good Beer Guide Selection Meeting

19:30 on Tuesday 11th January 2022

Crown and Anchor, 19 Park Road, Bromley BR1 3HJ

All members of Bromley CAMRA are encouraged to attend and vote. Please bring your current membership card.

Please aim to arrive early, to enable the meeting to start promptly at 19:30

For more information please email gbg@bromley.camra.org.uk

A new Greater London Regional Pub of the Year

Delayed due to Covid restrictions, the Regional judging has now been completed.

It has just been announced that the winner of the 2021 Greater London Regional Pub of the Year competition is the <u>Hop Inn</u> in Hornchurch. The micropub also recently won the award for Regional Cider Pub of the Year. This is a remarkable achievement for a micropub that only opened for business in December 2019, and has therefore been subject to various Covid restrictions for much of the time since then.



This was of course one of the 13 pubs that was judged for the Regional competition. You can read more about this in the October and November e-Newsletters.





I did my judging visit to the Hop Inn during early September, in the company of three others, one of whom was also judging. The range and quality of the beers on offer, and the friendliness of the owners, meant that our planned 'moving on' to one of the other micropubs in the area never happened...

I'll certainly be visiting there again in the near future.

It's not the most straightforward place to get to from Bromley, but I would suggest that it is well worth the effort. Maybe our Social Secretary might plan an 'out of area' social visit?

Bob Keaveney

Hop Inn Micropub

122 North Street Hornchurch RM11 1SU

Nearest station is Emerson Park

Pub and Brewery News

A round up of some news about some of the pubs in our area.

Chislehurst

Mutineers brewery have teamed up with the Cockpit Micropub in Chislehurst, for an 'Adopt a Beer' scheme, which will produce a fruity cask pale ale, using Simcoe and Mosaic hops, which participants will be invited to drink at the Cockpit. The beer is to be brewed on 27th December, with pints ready at the end of January.

"As part of the adoption process you will be given a limited edition Mutineers stainless steel pint cup, beer mats, and be provided with regular updates about the beer that you have adopted, taking you through all the stages from grain to glass!



"You will learn about Mutineers Brewery, which is based in Bromley, the brewing process from beginning to end, receive a copy of the recipe if you want to make your own at home, and once the beer is ready to be poured, you will be given a voucher for two pints of the pale ale which will be on cask at The Cockpit."

More information is available at the <u>Cockpit</u>, Royal Parade, Chislehurst BR7 6NR, where you can buy the *Adopt a Beer* box for £25, which apparently contains the cup, beer mats, and "all the information you need to start getting updates about the adoption". https://mutineers.beer/adopt-a-beer/a

Petts Wood

The One Inn the Wood micropub in Petts Wood has always had strong community links. Over the years, they have supported many local charities by running raffles, providing the beer at the very successful Petts Wood 10K run, supplying prizes for events and recently organising the donation of laptops and tablets to local schools to keep children connected during lockdown.

Their latest fund-raiser was something new – a quiz held on 15th November. Due to the size of the venue and the popularity of the idea, all the tables were quickly taken. It was teams of six and the pub was as full as it could safely be. We had six rounds, plus a catchphrase sheet. The music round was the most unusual round I've come across. It involved a mobile phone stop watch, the intro to a song and then you had to guess the time for when the lyrics started!



Unfortunately my team started well but then fell away. The winning team was allowed to choose the charity to which to donate all the entry money; St Christopher's were chosen. It was a really enjoyable fun evening, and I'm certainly looking forward to the next one.

Wendy Reynolds, BR5 Area Contact.

Beckenham

Beckenham Rugby Football Club, home of the Bromley CAMRA Beer & Cider Festival, now welcomes CAMRA members to visit and drink in their bar. Members will be asked to sign in and show their CAMRA card.

More information is available on WhatPub.



CAMRA News

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

Where has the year gone? As I type this, the weather is now apparently settling into a need for an inglenook fireplace and a glass of a Winter Warmer. I think I will give the ploughman's lunch a miss, steak 'n' ale pie and chips is calling!

So, what has CAMRA covered this month then?

Beer Festivals

Hopefully, you will have seen the recent email from our Chair, Charles, regarding our running of our Beer Festival next July and the request for volunteers.



Unfortunately the decision has had to be taken to cancel the Great British Beer Festival - Winter, which was due to take place on 9th to 12th February 2022 in Birmingham. The following announcement has been made: 'We were really excited to be bringing everyone back together to Birmingham in February for a physical Great British Beer Festival Winter. However, following consultation and concerns from volunteers and festival goers alike, we have come to the difficult decision that this physical single-site event will no longer be taking place in 2022.'

More information is available via this link.

However, there is better news about **Pig's Ear Beer & Cider Festival**, which is taking place in Hackney from Tuesday 30th November to Saturday 4th December. For more information, please see page 2 of this e-Newsletter.

Are you going to Pig's Ear? Will you offer to assist at Beckenham Beer & Cider Festival In July 2022? The volunteer form is here.

A full list of all forthcoming CAMRA festivals can be found via this link.

Save our Locals!

Bristol and District CAMRA renewed its support for communities trying to save their local pubs by writing to Bristol City councillors and planning authorities and being represented at planning hearings.

Following a recent meeting with groups representing several pubs under threat in Bristol, the local CAMRA branch, led by its Pubs Group committee, has reiterated its support in attempts to save much loved community hostelries. Personalised letters have been sent to all Bristol city councillors calling for support for the city's pubs.



Bristol CAMRA held a local media event in early November for individuals who are trying to save their local pubs.

But that is in Bristol! What of us?

Well, I can confirm that we, as a Branch, monitor the planning applications in our Bromley area, looking out for those which involve licensed properties. Whilst many just involve something innocuous such as installing a pergola in the pub garden, we do keep our eyes open for a change of use or re-development of a pub.

So, what can you do? Well, we should all be keeping an eye out for changes at our local(s), from the arrival of a new unfriendly licensee, seemingly intent on driving drinkers away (and some of us will have tales of that one!) to the physical closure of a pub or even the arrival of a demolition squad. Just drop our Branch Contact an email and we will investigate what is going on! branch.contact@bromley.camra.org.uk

The CAMRA Conference 2022

Well, this is slowly creeping up on us! More information about the CAMRA Members' Weekend, AGM & Conference is available here.

Out, during November, was advice with regard to the submission of motions for consideration by members, branches and Committees. The deadline for receipt of motions is 3pm on Friday 4th February 2022. The motions submission form may be found here.



Closing

Well, that is about it for this month. It just leaves me to reiterate our Branch's hopes that you all have a happy Christmas and New Year. I have already got my beer in (from breweries in Cornwall through to Essex and Yorkshire) to cover me when the pub is not available!

Kent Sadler. Branch Secretary

Late News

The following news was announced after Kent had completed his report.

Government's proposed changes to the Pubs Code

Responding to the Government's announcement on changes to the Pubs Code, CAMRA Chairman Nik Antona said:

"It is good to see that the Government is taking forward some changes to the Pubs Code that will bring tenants in England and Wales into the scope of the Code protections more swiftly and make the Market Rent Only process faster. However, the Government has missed an opportunity in not taking up Parallel Rent Assessments for prospective tied tenants.

"Sadly, the Pubs Code is not working as intended and for as long as this is allowed to continue, licensees will suffer, and consumers will suffer detriment through further price inflation and neglected pub stock. The changes that the Government is taking forward are not far reaching enough to fix this.

"With the second statutory review of the Code commencing next year, we will be pressing the Government to make fundamental reforms that will actually balance the relationship between tenants and their pub companies, as the legislation was intended to do."

A Beer Life Outside of CAMRA

Our Branch Chair, and home brewing expert, Charles Tucker has been to a brewing convention in East London.

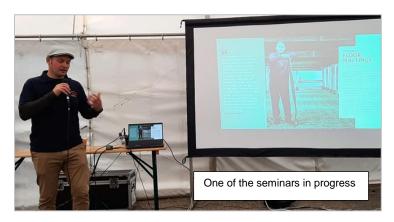
In early November, I went to the BrewCon '21, the UK home brewing Convention, which was held on the adjacent brewery sites of Wild Card Brewery and Hackney Brewery, who were cohosting this year's event. The two breweries are located on a rather unglamorous industrial estate adjacent to the River Lee in Walthamstow, East London. In spite of the industrial nature of the area, it has several 'craft' breweries and is well known to beer



lovers as the <u>'Walthamstow Beer Mile'</u> or <u>'Blackhorse Beer Mile'</u>. No less than seven craft breweries can be visited in a day. With easy access to tube links to central London, it's an ideal place to enjoy good beers and not worry about the journey home afterwards.

BrewCon was first started 5 years ago, but the pandemic meant that there was no event in 2019 and 2020. Although in the UK there are a large number of regional homebrew clubs, several great local competitions, and a strong online community, there is no national homebrew association similar to the American Homebrewers Association (AHA) and, until BrewCon came along, no national homebrew conference. Now BrewCon is the largest gathering of amateur brewers in the UK and over 500 people attended on both days this year.

As well as a large number of amateur and pro brewers, there were industry experts, retailers, distributors and manufacturers of brewing gear and ingredients. It was therefore an eclectic mix of what's happening outside of the big brewing giants and the large pub chains – and also outside of CAMRA!



In between availing one's self of the hosts' taprooms, the main events of the two days were the BrewTalk seminars from leading brewing industry experts. The wide-ranging talks covered such diverse subjects as 'Sustainable compounds in hops'; 'Norway Kviek high-temperature fermentation'; 'Fine tuning recipes'; through to the more mundane 'Exploration of step mashing'. All were very interesting, and I learnt something new at every session.

Besides the talks there were the BrewExpo trade exhibition stands. These were displaying the latest brewing ingredients as well as plenty of nice shiny brewing equipment. I had to fight hard to keep my wallet in my pocket and not lash out on the beautiful brewing paraphernalia in front of me.

On Saturday evening there was 'Club Night'. This was a chance for homebrewers to serve each other their own beers. The evening was very informally organised but worked out well, with clubs from all over the UK bringing their beers and small pop-up bars – and best of all, not only was the beer very good, it was free!

Alongside Brew Con London, there was also the accompanying home brew competition, the <u>BrewCon World Series IV</u>. This saw hundreds of amateur brewers battle for the chance to win fame and prizes for their entered beers. The judging is done under <u>Beer Judge Certification Program</u> (BJCP) guidelines using their beer style categories.



Each beer is judged under five attributes: Aroma, Appearance, Flavour, Mouthfeel, and Overall Impression. Here is a <u>sample scoresheet</u>. In this particular beer competition, there were 18 entry categories, and I submitted four different beers. Any score over 30 is considered *'Very Good'* and I'm pleased to say all four of mine scored well. However, my St George Strong Bitter scored particularly high and I actually won first Prize – Gold – in the UK Ales category.

For more on BrewCon and the World Series IV competition, and details of the beers I entered, visit my Beer Blog on this link.

Charles Tucker

The Red Lion Quiz

Quizmaster Martin Gee has set this month's quiz on the subject of lions (and lionesses).

- 1) How many pubs approximately have "Red Lion" in their title in the UK?
- 2) In heraldic terms, how is a lion standing on two legs described?
- 3) What animals are really the lions on the royal coat of arms?
- 4) Which king first used three lions as a heraldic symbol?
- 5) Who is the author of the book the *Red Lioness*?
- 6) What is the collective noun for a group of lions?
- 7) Who is the manager of the England women's football team The Lionesses?
- 8) What was the name of the cross-eyed lion in the TV series Daktari?
- 9) What is the name of the stellar constellation named after the Latin for lion?



RED LION

The answers are on the next page



One of the ten Bromley venues listed in the new 2022 Good Beer Guide was Orpington Liberal Club.

Contacting Bromley CAMRA

Website: <u>bromley.camra.org.uk/</u>
 Twitter: <u>twitter.com/CAMRAbromley/</u>

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 January 2022

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) 650+; 2) Rampant; 3) Leopards; 4) Henry II; 5) Cathy Price; 6) Pride; 7) Sarina Wiegman; 8) Clarence; 9) Leo; 10) Festival of Britain