# CAMRA Bromley Branch e-Newsletter January 2022



## In this issue:

## Welcome to the January e-Newsletter

Happy New Year!

## **Branch Calendar**

A variety of social events are planned for January.

## Pub and Club of the Year 2022

The deadline is fast approaching for members to nominate pubs and clubs.

## Bromley CAMRA AGM, 2022

The date has been set for the branch AGM.

## GBG 2022. Featured Pub of the Month

Each month we plan to feature one of the ten Bromley entries in the 2022 good Beer Guide.

## **Beer Festival News**

Beckenham Beer and Cider festival returns in 2022, after a two-year break.

### Pub, Club & Brewery News

Some news from BR1 and BR5.

#### **CAMRA News**

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

## The Quiz

The first quiz of 2022 is on the theme of Art and Literature.







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 January 2022 e-Newsletter

Happy New Year!

This e-Newsletter was finalised during the 'Twixmas' period between Christmas and New Year. For many people these few days used to be something of a 'nothing' time, possibly a brief respite between the excess of Christmas and the resumption of the excess planned for New Year. Probably many of us used to lose track of what day of the week it was (although for me, that became the standard situation for weeks on end during the periods of lockdown).



During December 2021, as Christmas approached, the

news appeared to be getting ever gloomier, as the Omicron variant spread rapidly. There were concerns that further restrictions would be imposed after Christmas, however (as I write this) the Government has just announced there will be "no change before the New Year". But what might January 2022 have in store for us?

Even without formal restrictions, pubs and clubs have seen a dramatic reduction in custom, with bookings being cancelled, fewer groups going for 'after work drinks' and many customers opting to drink at home rather than go to the pub or club. I guess that most of us who did venture out found there were plenty of empty tables available in the pubs.

Bromley has been very fortunate that, as far as Bromley CAMRA is aware, our pubs and clubs have all survived the various Covid challenges so far; in fact several new venues actually opened during this period. I am sure we are all hoping that all our pubs and clubs will be able to survive the additional pressures resulting from the latest Covid variant.

In normal years, January is a very busy month for CAMRA, and we are planning for January 2022 to be no different. We start with the meeting to select our recommendations for the next Good Beer Guide, and then it is the deadline for members to nominate their favourite pub and/or club for the 2022 branch Pub & Club of the Year award. Have you submitted your nominations yet?

See you at the Good Beer Guide selection meeting!

Bob Keaveney, Editor & Beer Score Coordinator

# Important dates for your diary

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> January. Good Beer Guide Selection meeting

Tuesday 18th January closing date for Pub/Club of the Year nominations

Saturday 19th March Bromley CAMRA Annual General Meeting

Thursday 28th July to Saturday 30th July Beckenham Beer & Cider Festival

# **Branch Calendar, January 2022**

## Monday 10<sup>th</sup>. Green Street Green Social

- 19.30, Rose & Crown, Farnborough Way. BR6 6BT
- 20.30, Royal Oak, High St. BR6 6BJ
- 21.30, Queen's Head, 73 High St. BR6 6BQ

## Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup>. Good Beer Guide Selection Meeting

- (From 19:00, for a prompt 19:30 start), <u>Crown and Anchor</u>, 19 Park Road. BR1 3HJ
- All members of Bromley CAMRA are encouraged to attend. Please bring your current membership card. For more information, see page 5

## Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup>. **A Visit to Selsdon.**

- 19:00, Sir Julian Huxley, 152-154 Addington Road. CR2 8LB
- 20:00, Golden Ark, 186 Addington Road. CR2 8LB
- The Golden Ark is one of Croydon & Sutton CAMRA branch's 2021 Pubs of the Year

## Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup>. **Orpington Crawl.**

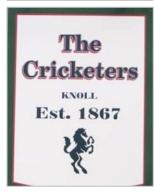
- 14:00, Beech Tree, 75 Wellington Rd, St.Mary Cray BR5 4AG
- 15:00, Cricketer's Knoll, 93 Chislehurst Rd, BR6 0DQ
- 16:00, Harvest Moon, 141-143 High St. BR6 0LQ
- 17:00, Orpington GPO, 214, High Street BR6 0LS
- 18:30, Orpington Liberal Club, 7 Station Rd, BR6 0RZ

## Monday 24<sup>th</sup>. **Committee Meeting.** (\*)

- 19:30, <u>Beckenham Rugby Football Club</u>, Balmoral Avenue, BR3 3RD
- This is a club, please bring your CAMRA membership card









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

(\*) 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 <a href="mailto:secretary@bromley.camra.org.uk">secretary@bromley.camra.org.uk</a> to prepare and print a pack of relevant committee papers to be made available for them at the meeting.

# Pub and Club of the Year 2022

Have you yet nominated your favourite pub or club?

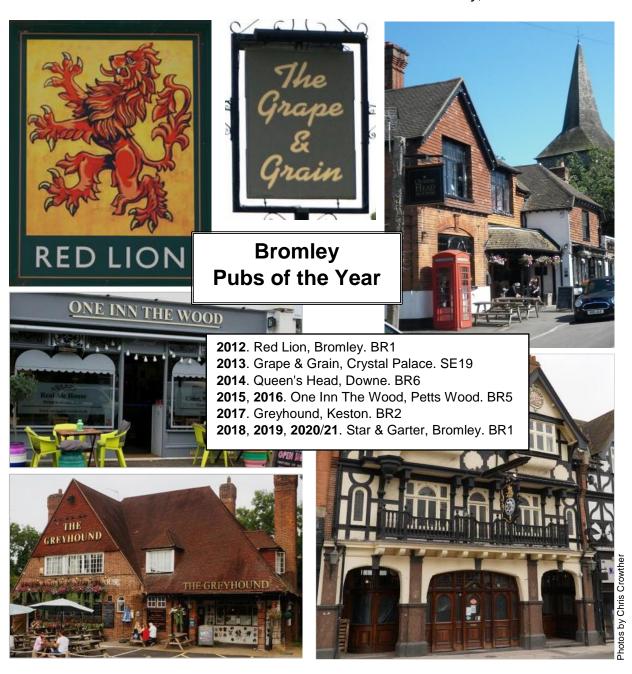
The process has started to select the Bromley CAMRA Pub and Club of the Year for 2022.

If you have not yet nominated your favourite pub and/or club, there is still time to do so. You can also still volunteer to join the judging panel.

Please note that the deadline for nominations, and to volunteer to judge, is 18th January 2022.

Follow this link to the on-line nomination form.

Bob Keaveney, Beer Score Coordinator



Club of the Year 2013 - 2020/21. Orpington Liberal Club. BR6

# **Bromley CAMRA Branch AGM**

This is notice that the Branch Annual General Meeting will take place at the <u>Orpington Liberal Club</u> on **Saturday 19**<sup>th</sup> **March 2022**. Members are asked to arrive by 2.45 pm, for a prompt 3.00 pm start.

This is an important date in our diary, as we review what has happened over the last Committee year and set about electing a new Branch Committee to take us through the forthcoming twelve months.

Our normal Branch Committee posts include: Chair; Vice Chair; Treasurer; Branch Secretary; Branch Contact; Web Master; Pub Database Festival Coordinator; Membership Secretary; Social Secretary; Social Media Coordinator; Pub Protection Officer; Beer Scores Coordinator; Good Beer Guide Coordinator; Newsletter Editor; Young Members contact; Contact; Public Affairs London Drinker Coordinator; LocAle Coordinator; Learning & Discovery Coordinator.



Sitting on the Committee, we also have our Pub/Club Contacts that cover our Branch pubs and clubs and who are our 'eyes & ears' on the ground. These positions are sorted by post code and include BR1; BR2; BR3; BR4; BR5; BR6; BR7; SE19/SE20; and, as a single group, Biggin Hill, Downe & Cudham.

Some of the above positions are currently vacant, or will possibly be vacant in the next Committee year of 2022-2023. More details of the vacancies will be emailed to branch members in early January and the email will also contain a web link to the nomination form. Meanwhile, please do consider enquiring more about the posts if you believe you have the necessary skill sets.

Further details on the AGM, including attendance procedures, administration processes, likely vacancies, and how to submit nomination forms for the Committee posts, will be given over the coming weeks leading up to the AGM date. These details will be communicated to you via the monthly e-Newsletters, on the <u>Branch website</u>, on our social media platforms, and also by direct branch member emails.

In the meantime, please put the date in your diary and watch out for future AGM communications on the channels indicated above.

Charles Tucker, Branch Chair

# **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

# Good Beer Guide 2022. Featured Pub of the Month

In November 2020, we started what had been intended to be a regular monthly feature looking at the ten Bromley venues listed in the 2021 Good Beer Guide. Unfortunately, events were overtaken by the reintroduction of lockdown and then later by other Covid restrictions. Hopefully, this time we will be able to feature all the venues in the 2022 edition...

The one pub which we were able to feature in 2020 was the Five Bells in Chelsfield. Follow this link to read about the Five Bells in the November 2020 edition of the e-Newsletter.

Our BR6 Pub & Club Contact, Norman Warner writes:

"Chelsfield's Village pub the Five Bells, is once again listed as one of Bromley's ten Good Beer Guide venues in the 2022 edition. Publicans Kay and Ade, are justifiably proud to be in the latest guide.

"Shortly after the publication of the 2021 Guide, Covid restrictions scuppered any plans to welcome their return to CAMRA's flagship publication.

"However 2022 should see opportunities for them to enjoy their moments in the spotlight. So, after an 'annus horibilis and a half', we hope that the celebrations can begin. Three CHEERS to the Five Bells"



#### Good Beer Guide 2021. Featured Pub of the Month

unspoilt village pub, but the Five Bells in Cheisfield must be very close to the top of that list.

This Grade II Listed pub is in the middle of picture Conservation Area, and home to a small primary school and the St. Martin of Tours church. The pub is in the heart of the village and gets its name from the bells at the parish church.



The November 2020 e-Newsletter It originally had four b bell, the pub was built and or ringing competitions. It

50 diners (in pre-Covid days). Up to 4 cas Landlord. The pub offers bar and restaurant menus, with food cooked to order using locally-sourced ingredients. The valls of both bars have many framed old photographs of the village, including several featuring the pub

Inevitably, there have had to be some changes made due to Covid; this includes a one-way system in both bars, extra hand washing facilities and the provision of a large heated marquee to increase the seating capacity. Saddy, the regular chartly quit nights, dark matches and live music events have had to be postponed for the time being, but will hopefully return once the pandemic is under control

#### Five Bells

Church Road. Chelsfield. BR6 7RE 01689 821044

Read more about the Five Bells:

- WhatPub
- **Facebook**
- Website



Another of Bromley's Good Beer Guide pubs will be featured in the February edition of the e-Newsletter.

# **Bromley CAMRA Beckenham Beer & Cider Festival 2022**

Covid restrictions have meant two years without our festival, but we are planning to be back this vear.

Our much missed and loved Beckenham Beer & Cider Festival is back! Don't panic over what you have recently heard and read about the 'Omicron' variant of the Coronavirus disease. Attendance at our beer festival has always been well under the 500 per day mark, so not withstanding any unforeseen future restrictions by the government, you won't need a Covid passport or any testing to attend. CAMRA and local branches are also introducing new processes to make sure festivals are Covid secure. You will be able to safely experience the sheer joy of being at a beer festival once more. I am sure we have all missed the social benefits of a festival drink with family and friends.

The Festival will be taking place in July 2022 at the Beckenham Rugby Club, Balmoral Avenue, BR3 3RD. The dates to put in your diaries are Thurs 28<sup>th</sup> July to Sat 30<sup>th</sup> July 2022.

Planning for our beer festival is already well underway. The venue and the marquee are booked and the Festival Planning Team has been looking at the beer selection and the catering vendors we will need. Some early important organising roles have been assigned



and, in response to the November branch email to members, we have had 18 people offer to be volunteers. Thanks to everyone who has volunteered so far, BUT MORE VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED.

In particular, we need people who have an 'Emergency First Aid at Work' qualification, or equivalent, to be on site during the 5 festival days (that's one day set-up, three public days, and one day takedown). We need a minimum of two such qualified people each day to cover our legal Health & Safety responsibilities, but we can be flexible over the hours and days that you can commit. I am sure that some of our branch members already have this qualification courtesy of their employer, so please step forward and volunteer to work at your festival. These are vital roles to cover — if we cannot get First Aiders, we cannot have a festival.



Of course, other volunteers are still needed to act as stewards, bar staff, on the membership stall, on the entrance counter, and other areas. You will be able to choose what hours and days you work and during your working shifts food and drinks benefits will also be available to you. As well as a lot of fun, you will be working with a dynamic team dedicated to giving our festival visitors a great time with their family and friends. If you've not done this kind of thing before, don't worry as training and support will be given.

If you want to volunteer please complete the form at the link <a href="here">here</a>. If you want a hard copy of the form, or have any questions or queries, contact the Festival Coordinator at: <a href="mailto:festival.coordinator@bromley.camra.org.uk">festival.coordinator@bromley.camra.org.uk</a> or phone 07906 053571.

Meanwhile, keep watching the <u>branch web page</u> and the monthly <u>e-Newsletters</u> for updates as the festival planning progresses.

Charles Tucker, Festival Coordinator

# **Pub, Club, Brewery News**

A round-up of news from Bromley Branch's Area Pub/Club Contacts and Brewery Liaison Officers.

## **Bromley North**

On Monday 6 December the Red Lion received a CAMRA Special Award to mark its 25<sup>th</sup> consecutive year in CAMRA's Good Beer Guide (GBG). Run by licensees Chris and Siobhan Humphrey since 1993, it is the only pub in Bromley to have featured in every edition of the GBG from 1998 to 2022. In expectance of the special occasion, the pub was bustling with regulars and Branch members, including our Honorary President Bob Gray. The Award Certificate was presented by Charles Tucker, Chair of Bromley CAMRA.



Charles (L) with Siobhan & Chris, and Bromley Branch Honorary President, Bob Gray.

In making the presentation speech, Charles said that very few pubs accomplish the 25 year GBG accolade and that it was actually their second 'Silver' anniversary, explaining they had commemorated 25 years of successfully running the pub in 2018. Charles remarked that a good pub management record like this was also rare. Calling for everyone to raise their glasses in a celebratory toast, Charles said he hoped Siobhan and Chris would be running the Red Lion for many years to come, and praised them for their support for CAMRA over the years.

Siobhan and Chris replied they were proud to be in the GBG for 25 years and very honoured to receive the award, adding they were grateful that CAMRA had recognised their efforts to maintain top-quality beers in a traditional pub atmosphere.

As a boost to the celebratory theme, Siobhan and Chris then brought out magnificent platters of sandwiches with savouries and invited everyone to dive-in. This was accompanied by the serving at our tables of a free pint! Their hospitality was most unexpected and appreciated by all, and a reminder of what exceptional licensees they are. It was great CAMRA night out and Siobhan and Chris showed that they were very worthy winners of the Special Award.

#### **Petts Wood**

I've been a member of CAMRA for many years now and have done many beer related outings, from attending the AGM, working at beer festivals and going on many brewery tours, but there is one thing missing - a book signing/beer tasting evening. That all changed when I heard that One Inn The Wood in Petts Wood had organised one in early December. Des De Moor, author of the *London's Best Beer Pubs and Bars* book, now in its 3rd edition, was the guest and also Paul Anspach, one of the founders of Anspach and Hobday.

Tickets sold out very quickly and I only just managed to get one. Due to the size of One Inn The Wood, numbers had to be limited to 31. The evening got off to a good start with Des saying how keen he was to visit One Inn The Wood, as it was one of his featured top recommended places to go in his book.



His book is packed full of knowledge and detail, and during the evening Des's love of all things beer-related shone through; the history of types of beer, malts/yeast used, and pubs in general. Des gave a brief chat on how the evening would be structured and the types and style of beer we would be tasting and finally that he would sell and sign books at the end of the evening. The lovely Anspach and Hobday tasting glasses and beer started to be handed out.

Paul Anspach then introduced himself and gave us a quick run through on the history of Anspach and Hobday. Paul Anspach and Jack Hobday were school friends who shared a flat at university and started home brewing. Once they left university they wanted to do something different, hence

Anspach and Hobday being born. At first they rented an arch in Druid Street, part of the Bermondsey beer mile, with Bullfinch brewery (now in Herne Hill) but as things boomed they moved the majority of their production to Croydon. This has tripled capacity. During lockdown Anspach and Hobday moved more into cans as most of their beer went to pubs. This considerably helped the business weather the storm of Covid-19.



We then moved on to the beers we were trying that evening – The Lager (4.7%) and inspired by a German Helles lager, The Pale Ale (4.4%) with Citra, Mosaic and Simcoe hops, The London ESB (5.5%), originally based on a collaboration with Fullers and The Porter (6.7%), the first beer they brewed and their flagship beer.



Each beer was tasted and discussed, with many questions asked and answered fully by Des and Paul. A question which I particular found interesting related to the artwork that features on the cans. Paul said that their branding always had one foot in the past hence the dual people on each can from different eras.

As the evening drew to a close, a special beer was produced – *The Brother Sean* (8.3%), a 2017 bottle-aged Belgian stout, which was a fantastic beer to end the evening on.

Many thanks to One Inn The Wood for organising such an interesting and informative evening and Paul and Des for giving up their time so readily and answering a barrage of questions. I'm looking forward to the next one.

Wendy Reynolds. Pub/Club Contact BR5

Des also hosted an evening at the Star & Garter on 15<sup>th</sup> December, with a tutored tasting of five draught beers, both cask and keg.

We understand that further tasting sessions are being planned for 2022.



## **CAMRA News**

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

I am writing this to meet a pre-festive season deadline, so I do hope that everyone had an enjoyable Christmas and New Year. With the uncertainty relating to hospitality, did you get a chance to pop in at your local? At least I was able to get to the Pigs Ear festival earlier in December. Although appearing quieter than in past years it was, I understand, a success. Let's hope that we are similarly able to enjoy beer festivals in 2022; planning continues for ours although it is with regret that the Great British Beer Festival (Winter) was cancelled.

But back to CAMRA and issues arising in December.

#### **Covid related**

Many of us were concerned with the Government's issue of a warning for consumers to stay away from pubs. To see the state of pubs in the city is to ring alarm bells about the sustainability of many of our favourite haunts. As an example, annually a group of my (former) colleagues have a Christmas crawl and curry and this year's crawl really highlighted the problems pubs are having. The <u>Jerusalem Tavern</u>, a lovely little pub near Farringdon is one of our regular visits and in previous years, we have stood outside and 'volunteered' someone to get to the bar. This year we went in and sat beside the open fire, on a FRIDAY!



noto by Jerusalem Tavern

Of course, worry about our health is a sensible approach, but CAMRA has expressed concern with the Government's present approach. That there needs to be an understanding of the severity of the situation for pubs, social clubs, brewers and cider makers and that it is imperative Governments across the UK exercise extreme caution and understand the impact of any statements that they make about cancelling social plans.

Following this statement, CAMRA has now demanded an immediate support package to compensate for loss of trade, highlighting that we are now back in the same and wholly unacceptable situation of March 2020 where pubs were put in lockdown by proxy as public were warned to stay away. That there must be an urgent delivery of a new package of support. Fingers crossed!

Editor's note: The Government announcement of a support package was made on 21<sup>st</sup> December, after Kent had written his report. Read the CAMRA Chairman's response to the announcement <u>via this link</u>.

#### **Learn and Discover**

CAMRA has added two more features to its extensive library.



These include an update to the *'Pubs of the Future'* series written by Katie Mather, all three parts are now available. Part 3 can be viewed via this link.

The second feature is an updated and extended edition of Alison Taff's *'Journey of a Cask'* video guide. In this, Alison guides you through an introduction to cask ale on its journey from the brewer to the glass at the bar. Link.

Alison Taffs is a drinks educator with 20 years working across the food and drinks sectors. She is also co-owner

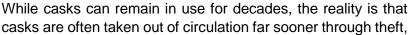
& landlady of <u>The Hop Inn</u> micropub in Hornchurch, recently announced as the Greater London Regional Pub of the Year.

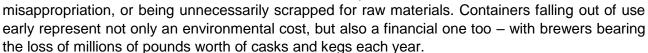
#### **Drink Green**

And by this title, I am not referring to the annual *Green Hop Festival* but to the need for conservation and what better to look for but the longest serving beer cask!

Accordingly, CAMRA is now on the lookout for four champions of the cask world:

- The oldest cask in circulation;
- The cask with the highest number of reuses
- The cask with the highest number of refills in a year
- The cask with the lowest number of "beer miles" for each refill.





As CAMRA go on to point out, "Cask beer is the ultimate no-waste option, and we hope brewers will take this opportunity to not only celebrate this, but also help CAMRA highlight just how much potential there is for consumers to 'Drink Greener'!"

Now I do not know how this is to be monitored, but I look forward to seeing the results!

## Small Brewers' relief

There is not enough to space allow to me to go into depth on this, but a quick online search will probably provide as much detail as you need. However, following the announcement by the Government on 30<sup>th</sup> November, our CAMRA National Chair commented that small brewers had been waiting months for the statement; that although there are bold changes, there is more detail to be worked upon; acknowledgement of a concession on the 50% relief threshold and, whilst the changes will protect around 70% of the smallest brewers from increased tax bills, there will still be increased bills for brewers producing between 2,500 and 5,000 HL per year.

In closing, Nik Antona added that "CAMRA will continue to campaign across a range of issues affecting small and independent brewers, as they are vital to maintaining consumer choice in the UK beer market, which is increasingly dominated by the interests of a small number of global brewing companies."

## **Punch Pubs**

With the news that the Punch pubs business has been sold to an investment group, Fortress Investment. CAMRA have issued a statement confirming our concern about an investment company taking over a business which runs so many pubs up and down the country. Punch was already owned by a global business, however CAMRA continues to be concerned by the dominance of global companies and brewers in the UK beer and pub market.

Our National Chair added that whilst one company controlling a large share of the market rarely brings benefits for licensees or consumers, CAMRA hopes that the new owners will commit to retaining the pub portfolio.

So, my comment, will they, or will there be an asset-stripping exercise? Only time can tell.

And, on that note, I sign off wishing you all a good and healthy 2022.

Kent Sadler, Branch Secretary



# The January Quiz

This month's quiz starts the New Year on the theme of Art and Literature.

- 1) Which British born conductor headed the Philadelphia Orchestra from 1912 to 1938 and appeared in Disney's 'Fantasia'?
- 2) Which spectacular cave on the Hebridean island of Staffa inspired the 'Hebrides Overture' by Mendelssohn?
- 3) What nationality was the painter and etcher Paul Klee?
- 4) Which English author and lexicographer was famous for his Dictionary, first published in 1755?
- 5) Who wrote the music to the operas 'The Marriage of Figaro' and 'Don Giovani'?
- 6) Which US novelist wrote 'Slaughterhouse Five' and 'Breakfast of Champions'?
- 7) Which French composer wrote 'Bolero' and the ballet 'Daphnis and Chloe'?
- 8) Who wrote the autobiographical work 'Goodbye to All That'?
- 9) Who wrote the detective novels 'Murder on the Orient Express' and 'Death on the Nile'?
- 10) Which Shakespeare play features the character 'Shylock'?

Martin Gee, Quizmaster

The answers to the quiz are at the foot of this page

## **Contacting Bromley CAMRA**

Website: bromley.camra.org.uk/

Twitter: <a href="twitter.com/CAMRAbromley/">twitter.com/CAMRAbromley/</a>
 Facebook: <a href="facebook.com/bromleycamra/">facebook.com/bromleycamra/</a>

General enquiries about the branch should be sent to: <a href="mailto:branch.contact@bromley.camra.org.uk">branch.contact@bromley.camra.org.uk</a>

All officers of the branch can be contacted direct by email, full details can be found on the branch website: <a href="https://bromley.camra.org.uk/about-us/contact-us/">https://bromley.camra.org.uk/about-us/contact-us/</a>

The February Newsletter will be published on 1st February 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) Leopold Stokowski; 2) Fingal's Cave; 3) Swiss; 4) Samuel Johnson; 5) Mozart; 6) Kurt Vonnegut; 7) Maurice Ravel; 8) Robert Graves; 9) Agatha Christie; 10) The Merchant of Venice