# CAMRA Bromley Branch e-Newsletter August 2022







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#### **Branch Calendar**

A variety of social events and meetings have been arranged for August, although there has been a late change due to a planned rail strike.

#### Beckenham Beer Festival

We have some photos of Beckenham Beer & Cider festival.

#### The August Bromley Pub Walk

This month's walking is around the village of Cudham.

#### Cudham

Having walked to Cudham you will probably deserve a drink! Our Area Pub Contact writes about the Blacksmiths Arms

#### Good Beer Guide Pub of the Month

We look at the Star & Garter in Bromley High St.

#### Greater London Regional Pub of the Year

The winner has now been announced...

#### Pub, Club & Brewery News

News from Keston and Orpington.

#### **CAMRA News**

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

#### The August Quiz

This month's quiz is on the theme of Geography.







The Bromley Branch e-Newsletter is published every month, on approx. the first day of the month.

The e-Newsletter is designed to be read online, so that you can click on links to view all of the many linked documents.

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.



# **Branch Calendar, August 2022**





#### Thu 11th. Penge Social

- 18:30. Crooked Billet, 99 High Street. SE20 DT
- 19:30. Southey Brewery Tap Room, 21 Southey St. SE20 7JD
- 20:40. Moon & Stars, 164-166 High St. SE20 7QS;

#### Sat 20th. Day Trip to Folkestone. POSTPONED

- This trip has been postponed, due to the planned rail strike
- It is hoped that an alternative date can be arranged later in the year
- Please note that some publications may still be listing this event, as the strike was announced after they had already gone to press

#### Sat 20th. Downe Village Social

- This has been arranged to replace the planned Folkestone visit
- 12:30. George & Dragon, 26 High Street, Downe. BR6 7UT;
- 13:30. Queen's Head, 23 High Street, Downe. BR6 7US.

#### Fri 26th. Cider Festival Social

19:30. Orpington Liberal Club, 7 Station Road, Orpington BR6 0RZ

#### Tue 30th. Committee Meeting. (\*)

- 19:30. Bickley Arms, Chislehurst Rd, BR7 5NP
- Very close to Chislehurst Station

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 <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.



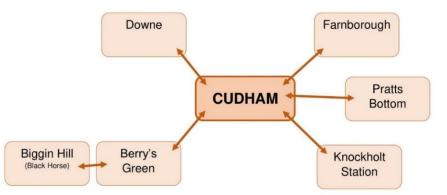
# The August Bromley Pub Walk, Cudham

Each month during spring and summer, as part of CAMRA's celebration of **Summer of Pub**, we are featuring one or more of the Bromley Pub Walk routes. This month we look at a choice of routes to walk to or from the village of Cudham.

Cudham sits on the edge of a deep steep-sided chalk 'dry valley'. Many walkers crossing the valley from the direction of Berry's Green, will probably decide that they deserve a pint following their

climbing the approx. 40m up to reach the Blacksmiths Arms.

Cudham is very much at the heart of the Bromley Pub Walk network, with a choice of five routes, all of which can easily be linked together with other walking routes to make a longer circular or one-way walk.



#### The routes to/from Cudham village are:

- Route 09 from Farnborough, 4.25 miles<sup>(\*)</sup>
- > Route 13 from Downe, 1.75 miles
- Route 18 from Berry's Green [Old Jail], 1.5 miles
- Route 19 from Pratts Bottom, 2.8 miles
- Route 32 from Knockholt Station, 4.6 miles
- Also Route 16, which is a useful short connection to bus routes in Biggin Hill, 1.8 miles

(\*) All the distances listed above are approximate.

You can read more about the <u>Blacksmiths Arms</u> in Cudham on the next page.



only photo I have of the Church. Editor

Bromley Pub Walk routes featured in the next issue of the e-Newsletter.

All the Bromley Pub Walk routes can be viewed on the Bromley CAMRA branch website.

There will be other

#### A visit to Cudham

The featured walks this month take us to Cudham. No visit to Cudham would be complete without going to the **Blacksmith's Arms**. Our Area Pub Contact has been there.

Bromley, as a CAMRA branch, covers an extensive area, from the built-up suburbs of South London through to the semi-rural outlying areas of the South East. However only one pub has a postal address of Sevenoaks.

The <u>Blacksmiths Arms</u> in Cudham, the only pub in that village, is that pub. It has wide open views from the front terrace, wonderful gardens, good beer, extensive food menu and, if you are that way inclined, what I consider to be the best smoking area of any pub!



This pub is not quite one of the oldest in Bromley,

but parts of the building goes back to Charles I, dating as it does from 1628, albeit as 'a farm dwelling with stables' at that stage, apparently standing in grounds of some 4 acres.

The first known occupant dates from a few years later, 1638, Nathaniel Mynecote, who was both farmer and blacksmith and it does seem that the building, or part of it, was a smithy for a good number of years, being inherited by Naomi Lockyer (nee Ward) in 1703 and described as 'blacksmith's forge and dwelling'.

However, at this stage there was no mention of ale! That was to follow with the purchase by Marcus Ward, a' blacksmith and beer retailer', with an ale and cider licence being granted to him in 1729 with the sign 'The Blacksmiths' Arms' being hung on the door in 1730 – nearly 300 years ago (that promises to be a good party!)

The pub was then owned by the Ward or Wilson family through to 1865 when, with the sale to Richard Relph, the pub began another 'stage' of its life, immortalised in the pub itself by a set of shoes, yes shoes! The shoes belong to one of Richard's 15 children, Harry Relph. Harry was born at the pub in 1867, and went on to become the famous music hall star known as 'Little Titch'.





Harry first appeared on stage in Gravesend, aged 12, earning the nickname Titch due to his diminutive height of just 4 foot 6 inch. But why the shoes? Although becoming internationally known for his characters including various Dames, a Spanish Senora and The Tax Collector, his adoption of 28 inch shoes for the 'Big Boot Dance' led to Jacques Tati describing him as "a foundation for everything that has been realised in comedy on the screen". In fact, if you look carefully as the picture in the pub you might just get a certain similarity to a later English born comedian, the immortal Charles Chaplin! Oh, for the sake of just 20 or so years! Harry sadly died in Hendon in 1928, after a long career both here and in France.

By 1878, Richard Relph then sold the pub onto Charles Watson, a crier and postmaster of the village, with the building being the used as a distribution hub for village post.

Unsurprisingly, the pub was a favourite of RAF and other military personal during WW2, being only a short drive from the famous Battle of Britain aerodrome of Biggin Hill. However, having driven there many times, the thought of batting along those lanes, in a 1930's British sports car with blacked out headlights, would fill me with fear. Those lads were brave in the air and also brave on the road!

Coming through to the present day, the pub for many years was the domain of Joyce and George Cole who took over the pub in 2003. Joyce spent many summers creating what was possibly the number one pub garden in the South East, so good in fact, that in 2015 it was the only pub in the *National Open Gardens Scheme Yellow Book*. The garden won many awards including from Bromley in Bloom. Woe betide any kiddies playing football whilst having a soft drink and crisps!



After many years running the pub, Joyce retired a few years back but, living locally, can still often be seen and her influence with the garden seems to remain!



The pub is now under the guiding hand of **Anthony and Nadine Chipps**, with their son Henry, and the team. They continue to maintain the pub and gardens to a high standard, this pub is popular with those seeking a good country pub meal, a decent choice of beers, wines and spirits, walkers and families alike (dogs welcome in the bar area).

It has ready access to a playground and sports fields and is just a short walk from the Norman

parish church, with ancient yew trees and this year the pub once again plays host to the <u>Cudham Craic</u> (a charity organisation) 'Summer Shindig' on 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> August.

I was served a nice pint of Courage Best on my recent visit, with Harvey's Sussex Best Bitter and Doom Bar in support!

Kent Sadler, Pub Contact for Biggin, Downe and Cudham

#### **Blacksmith's Arms**

Cudham Lane South TN14 7QB 01959 572678 Pub Website Pub Facebook WhatPub





unless otherwise stated

#### **Good Beer Guide Pub of the Month**

Continuing our series looking at the ten Bromley venues listed in the 2022 Good Beer Guide, this month we look at the Star & Garter on Bromley High Street.

The Star & Garter Hotel was constructed in 1898 and replaced an ancient inn of the same name. It was designed by Berney and Sons for Nalder and Collyer, a local Croydon brewer. It is an example of 'Old English' style, and has been eulogised as a fantasy of the Arts and Crafts movement. The large sign hanging over the High Street has become a local landmark. The building is Grade II Listed; full details of the Listing can be read <a href="https://example.com/hetel/english/">hetel/english/</a> to the Listing can be read <a href="https://english/">hetel/english/</a> to the Listing can be read <a href="https://english/">hetel/english/<a href="https://engl

The name 'Star and Garter' originates from an abbreviation of the name of the insignia belonging to Order of the Garter. The Star is eight pointed and of chipped silver. The Order of the Garter is an order of chivalry founded by King Edward III in 1348.





The pub was once known as a LGBT venue, and did not serve real ale at that time. However, it finally closed in that format in 2010, and then remained shut for several years.

In November 2016, after some refurbishment, the pub reopened under the management of Maura and her team, focusing on serving cask beers, mostly from new / microbreweries and quality keg beers.

The pub now serves some 18 keg beers from unusual suppliers and with some high gravities, as well as 7 excellently kept real ales and ciders; it reminds me of entering an old fashioned sweet shop, as there is so much choice!!

The quality of the beers, and the high standards of service, led to the pub being both listed in the Good Beer Guide (since 2018) and selected as Bromley CAMRA's Pub of the Year in 2018, 2019 & 2020-21. It is the current (2022) runner-up.

Despite the ornate frontage, the interior of the pub of the pub was extensively altered some years ago, although some of the original features do remain. The internal layout is 'U-shaped', around a

central bar. There are outside drinking areas in the rear courtyard, and at the front, under the arches of the former side entrances (as in the photo above). No food is available, but customers are welcome to bring, or order in, their own food.

#### Star & Garter

227 High St Bromley BR1 1NZ

- WhatPub
- Twitter
- <u>Listed Building details</u>

#### **Awards and GBG**

Bromley CAMRA Pub of the Year 2018, 2019, 2020-21 Runner-up 2022

**CAMRA Good Beer Guide** 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022

Bromley CAMRA Lockdown Hero 2020



The periods of lockdowns in 2020 and 2021, plus the various restrictions when pubs could reopen, meant that the Star & Garter had to quickly adapt to the (regularly changing) new regulations. The pub initially reopened serving bottles, cans and takeaway draught beers (both cask and keg), with 'click & collect' and then offered a home delivery service to a large part of our area. The 'bottle shop' now remains as a permanent feature within the pub.

The pub's valiant efforts in providing a service to customers during the pandemic were reflected in the award of a Bromley CAMRA *Lockdown Hero* award.

Martin Gee, Pub & Club Contact for BR1

#### **Cask Ales**

Below is a just a selection of the numerous brewers whose beers have been available in the pub during 2022:

Brass Castle; Brew York; Bristol
Beer Factory; Burning Sky: Buxton;
Cloudwater; Dark Arts; Fallen
Acorn; Fyne Ales; Good Chemistry;
J W Lees; Kirkstall; Left Handed
Giant; London Beer Lab; Magic
Rock; Mallinson; Manchester
Brewing; Marble; New Barn;
Pomona; Redemption; Rooster;
Salopian; Saltaire; Signature; Siren;
Thornbridge; Titanic; Twisted Oak;
Verdant; Vocation; Wild Beer

(plus many more!)

(Note: The above list has been taken from Beer Scoring data submitted by CAMRA members)



Flashback to 2021.

The Editor survived the lockdowns in 2020 and 2021 with the assistance of regular home deliveries from the Star & Garter.



Another of Bromley's Good Beer Guide pubs will be featured in the next issue of the *e*-Newsletter.

# **Greater London Regional Pub of the Year**

The 13 CAMRA branches in Greater London all selected a Branch Pub of the Year for 2022. Judging has taken place for the Regional Award, and the winner has been announced.

The Greater London Regional Pub of the Year is once again the excellent **Hop Inn Micropub** in Hornchurch. The pub will now go forward as London's entry in the next round of the national competition.

WhatPub describes it as: 'Havering's third micropub opened on 21<sup>st</sup> December 2019. Up to five cask-conditioned real ales are served direct from the cooled cabinets behind the bar, together with four KeyKeg beers, plus Real Ciders and Perry. These are all available in Pint, Half Pint and Third of a Pint (Nip) measures.'

It's possibly not the easiest place to get to from Bromley, however I think that it's well worth making the effort. The pub is located very close to Emerson Park Station, which, for any rail enthusiasts, will give you a chance to travel on that single-track line running between Romford and Upminster.

Bob Keaveney, Editor (& Bromley Lead Judge for GL-PotY 2022)





The cask ales available on 28th June 2022.



Tough work, but somebody has to do it...
The Editor during his judging visit to the Hop Inn.

#### **Hop Inn Micropub**

122 North Street Hornchurch RM11 1SU

Website Facebook WhatPub

#### The 2022 London Branch Pubs of the Year:

Bexley. Long Haul

Bromley. One Inn The Wood,

Croydon & Sutton. Hope,

East London & City. Ye Olde Rose & Crown,

Enfield & Barnet. <u>Little Green Dragon</u>

Kingston & Leatherhead. Wych Elm

North London. Queen's Head

Richmond & Hounslow. Jolly Coopers,

South East London. River Ale House

South West Essex. Hop Inn Micropub

South West London. Eagle Ale House

West London. Carlton Tavern

West Middlesex. The Owl and The Pussycat

(NB, the pubs are listed in alphabetical order, by branch name)

# **Pub, Club & Brewery News**

News from some of Bromley's pubs, clubs and breweries

#### Keston, BR2

Last month the featured Pub of the month was the Greyhound in Keston.

Licensees Dave and Toni were evidently pleased with what was written about the pub, since a large framed print of the newsletter piece has now been put on display in the bar.

Thank you to the Greyhound for supplying the photograph.



#### Orpington, BR6

Orpington Liberal Club will be holding a **Summer Cider Festival** over the August Bank Holiday Weekend. They plan to have 16 different still ciders available, bottles of sparkling cider and of course their usual selection of draught real ales and other drinks.

- Friday 26<sup>th</sup> Aug 17:30 22:30
- Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> Aug 12:30 22:00
- Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> Aug 12:30 17:00
- Monday 29<sup>th</sup> Aug 12:30 22:00

Bromley CAMRA

Bromley Social
branch social
branch son Friday,
at the festival on Friday,
from 19:30.

It will be **free entry for OLC & CAMRA members** (no advance booking required, just show your card at the door); however non-members must buy an entry ticket in advance. These cost £1.00 and are valid for the whole weekend, and may be bought from the bar or online, via this link.



#### Chelsfield, BR6

Unfortunately, recent changes to the R7 bus route means that the <u>Bo Peep</u> pub no longer has a bus service.

It is possible to walk to the pub using <u>Bromley Pub Walk</u> route No 26 from Knockholt Stn. (approx. 1.1 miles), or No 27 from Chelsfield village (approx. <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> mile)

# Is there no news about your local pub or favourite Bromley club or brewery?

Bromley CAMRA is happy to promote events at local pubs/clubs/taprooms. The best way to do this at short notice is using social media. Contact social.media@bromley.camra.org.uk

Major news items about pubs/clubs/breweries can be featured in the e-Newsletter.

Contact the Editor by email: newsletter.editor@bromley.camra.org.uk

#### **CAMRA News**

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

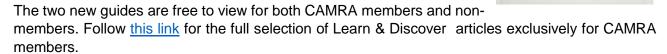
Well, that was a hot one the other weekend. I hope that you enjoyed the weather, albeit from under a sunshade in a pub garden. I have to admit that the hot spell was all my fault since my being away, outside the UK normally guarantees good weather here. And, all that I had available was fizzy bottled lager beer. Now they are suggesting the same for August - possibly not so - as I am not going away! But enough of the weather, what has happened with CAMRA this month?

#### 1. Learn & Discover

Two new articles published in July covering 'What was the colour bar?' and 'Pub snack pairing for beer and cider'

The first of these freely-available articles covers the unsavoury history of racial segregation with the British pub (Did you know that the US civil rights leader Malcolm X was declined service in a London pub?).

The second deals with the question of what to eat alongside your pint and is presented by award winning beer writer Hollie Stephens.



#### 2. Podcasts

The latest CAMRA podcast '<u>Pubs. Pints. People</u>.' shines a light on diversity and inclusion in its latest episode 'Beer is for everyone' hosted by the South Devon branch.



This covers the highly popular Pub Pride event which took place on 27<sup>th</sup> May with the founder of the Burum Collective, Helen Smith, discussing with the founder of 'Ask for Clive', Danny Clare, his work to try and ensure pubs and beer festivals are inclusive spaces where everyone feels welcomed. Read more about this via this link.

CAMRA is rolling out the 'Ask for Clive' campaign at this year's GBBF, which as I am sure you are aware, is on 2<sup>nd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> August.

#### 3. Book plug time

Short of Summer reading? Well on 1<sup>st</sup> August, a book entitled 'World's Greatest Beers' is being published. This represents a collection of personally selected beers from across the globe that, it is hoped, will excite, interest and intrigue you. Written by Pete Brown, Emma Inch, Roger Protz and other award-winning authors, influencers and experts, this covers some 250 different beers. Follow this link for more on this. And see here to order from the CAMRA shop at the members' price of £13.99.



#### 4. Taxation on your pint

Regular readers will be aware that CAMRA has been pressing for a new system of alcohol taxation designed to give pubs, clubs and taprooms support. However, the Treasury announced on 20 July that any such decision will now be deferred to the Autumn. In response, CAMRA Chief Executive Tom Stainer, commented: "CAMRA welcomed the Government's commitment to this new way of taxing beer and cider but we are now calling on the Treasury to bring forward firm plans on how this will work in practice and announce when it will be introduced as quickly as possible to give our pubs the helping hand they desperately need.

"In the meantime, through our Summer of Pub campaign, we are continuing to urge people to support their locals as much as possible, as well as calling on the Government for extra support for pubs and breweries through a VAT cut for food and drink served in pubs, extending business rates relief and offering businesses help with rising energy costs".

For more on this follow this link.

#### 5. Right to Buy

The front cover of this issue features the recently demolished <u>Porcupine</u> in Mottingham. This community asset now permanently lost to development, despite a vociferous campaign led by the local community, with CAMRA's support. Sadly, several other community pubs in Bromley have also been lost during the past ten years, including the former <u>Rising Sun</u> in Eden Park, the <u>Paxton Arms</u> in Crystal Palace, plus the <u>Farwig</u> and <u>Hop & Rye</u>, both in Farwig Lane, BR1.

Responding to a speech by the Shadow Levelling Up Secretary Lisa Nandy's speech in Darlington on 19<sup>th</sup> July, in which she announced that a future Labour Government would introduce a 'community right to buy' for local community assets in England, Chairman of CAMRA Nik Antona said:

"Giving communities in England a right in law to have first refusal on buying privately-owned community assets would be a game-changer for people who want to save and take over the running of their local.



"Pubs are more than just businesses – they play a crucial role in building and maintaining cohesive communities. Where they are under threat of closure, conversion or demolition it is right that people are given first refusal on buying it so they have a fighting chance to save their local as a community-owned pub.

"Until the law is changed to provide for a community right to buy assets of value, a dedicated pubsaving fund and support scheme is needed from the Government to make sure local people are fully supported to save their pub if is under threat."

This problem is not restricted to London and other big cities; many rural communities are particularly hard hit when their pub closes down.

Now my personal comment here is that the Right to Buy is only as good as the support such pubs get from their communities. I am aware of pubs in more rural areas being unable to survive as the support for the 'local' fades away. Firstly, the car park and garden shrinks with a couple of houses being built 'to raise funds', then the pub quietly fades away. If you do know of a community pub, albeit from visiting friends or holidays away, make sure you give them your trade; 'use it or lose it'.

#### 6. Tipping – does that good service get the tip?

CAMRA has lent its support to efforts to change the law so that all bar staff, and other hospitality workers, always receive the full amount left to them in tips from customers.



The House of Commons voted unanimously in favour of the *Employment (Allocation of Tips) Bill* on 15<sup>th</sup> July. The Bill will change the law so employers are always required to pass on the full amount left as a tip to workers. The legislation, put forward by Watford MP Dean Russell, will now go on to further stages of debate and votes, and with Government backing it is likely to become law.

Speaking after the debate in the House of Commons, CAMRA Chairman Nik Antona said:

"Outstanding service from bar staff is one of the things that really makes a great pub or social club. Pub goers up and down the country rightly want to know that if they leave a tip in recognition of great service, that the money will be going to the staff who deserve it.

"It is absolutely right that the law should be changed to stop some businesses failing to pass on tips and service charges to staff, guaranteeing that hard working bar tenders receive the entire amount that is left to them in tips.

"We hope that this new Bill will continue to receive support from all parties and from the Government so that it can become law as quickly as possible and offer the amazing people who work in pubs, social clubs and taprooms up and down country a guarantee that they won't have tips withheld from them."

#### 7. Brewer for the Day - GBBF Auction

Do you fancy being a 'Brewer for the Day'? Well Attendees at this year's Great British Beer Festival, at Olympia London, will have a unique opportunity to win a 'Brewer for the Day' experience at the esteemed Five Points Brewery in Hackney.

The prize will be offered at the Thursday night auction at the festival (4<sup>th</sup> August), and the lucky winner and a friend will get to spend a great day with the Brewing Director and Head Brewer. They'll have the chance to assist with the day's brew and will head home with their very own selection of Five Points' favourite brews to enjoy at home.



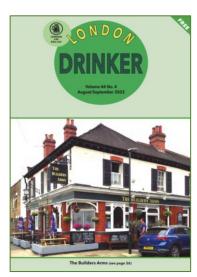
So, are you going? Have you got your tickets? See you there!

If not, you could submit a bid by email. If so, contact <u>Bill Austin</u>. (See <u>here</u> for more information)

#### And finally...

In closing, Hope to see you at the Great British Beer Festival – your support is important and the beer choice great!

Kent Sadler, Branch Secretary.



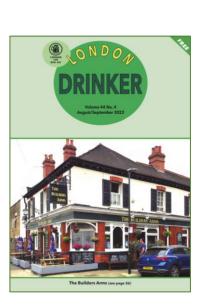
### **London Drinker**

The August / September issue of London Drinker is now available online to view or download.

Online version

PDF of the printed version

Printed copies will start to appear shortly in the usual pubs & clubs.



## The August Quiz

At the time of writing, we were experiencing record-breaking summer temperatures so, with that in mind, this month's quiz is on the subject of Geography.

- 1) Which river flows through the Sea of Galilee?
- 2) In which country is Mount Sir Sandford in the Selkirk Mountains?
- 3) In which Far Eastern country is the port of Pusan?
- 4) Which European city is furthest North: Moscow or Newcastle?
- 5) In which European country is the ski resort of Cervinia?
- 6) Approximately how many islands constitute the Cyclades group in the Aegean Sea? Is it 220, 320 or 420
- 7) In which European country is the town of Gouda?
- 8) Which body of water in Scotland does the Kincardine Bridge span?
- 9) What is the state capital of Utah?
- 10) Which country is known as Suomi in its native language?

Martin Gee, Quizmaster

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

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#### **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: <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: https://bromley.camra.org.uk/about-us/contact-us/

The September Newsletter will be published on 1st September 2022

You can contact the editor by email: <a href="mailto:newsletter.editor@bromley.camra.org.uk">newsletter.editor@bromley.camra.org.uk</a>.

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) River Jordan; 2) Canada; 3) South Korea; 4) Moscow; 5) Italy; 6) 220; 7) The Netherlands; 8) Firth of Forth; 9) Salt Lake City; 10) Finland





**Click here** for more information, including the beer and cider/perry lists