CAMRA Bromley Branch e-Newsletter December 2022



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Bromley CAMRA needs more members to volunteer to join the Branch Committee.

Please see page 6.

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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.



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CAMRA Bromley Branch e-Newsletter

December 2022



In this issue:

Branch Calendar

A variety of social events are planned for December.

A Seasonal Message from the Branch Chair

Our Branch Chair looks back at the last twelve months.

Committee Vacancies

A reminder that several posts on the Committee are likely to become vacant at the next AGM.

The 358 Bus / Pub Crawl (Part 2)

This month's instalment takes in 17 pubs, mostly in Bromley town centre.

Selection of pubs/clubs for the 2024 Good Beer Guide

Advance notice of the GBG Selection meeting.

Pub and Club of the Year; The National Finalists

CAMRA has announced the finalists for the Pub and Club of the Year Awards

Local Pub, Club & Brewery news

We look at the live music venues in BR3.

CAMRA News

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.

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Branch Calendar, December 2022

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

Wed 7th. Chislehurst Social.

- 19:00. Gordon Arms, 47 Park Road, BR7 5AY
- 20:00. Queens Head, 2 High Street, BR7 5AN
- 21:00. Cockpit, 4 Royal Parade, BR7 6NR.

Tue 13th. West Wickham Social.

- 19:30. Wheatsheaf, 135 High Street BR4 0LU
- 20:40. Real Ale Way, 75 Station Road BR4 0PX.

Thu 29th. Annual 'Twixmas' Social in Bromley

- 13:30. Crown & Anchor, 19 Park Rd, BR1 3HJ
- 14:20. Anglesey Arms, 90 Palace Road, BR1 3JX
- 15:10. Red Lion, 10 North Rd, BR1 3LG.
- Please note that the timings for the Twixmas event may have to be different than those shown, since pub opening times can change at short notice during the festive period

As usual, there will be no meeting of the Committee in December.

 The next Committee meeting will be on Tuesday 31st January 2023.

Plus, a very important date for your 2023 diaries:

Good Beer Guide Selection Meeting.

Monday 9th January 2023 at 19:00.

At the Chancery,

90 Bromley Rd, Beckenham. BR3 5NP.









All photos this page by Chris Crowther. Festive photo on front page by Norman Warner

Chair's Christmas Message 2022

Branch Chair, Charles Tucker, looks back at the last twelve months.

As we welcome the new year, and despite ending this year in a current 'cost of living' anxiety, there have been many positive aspects from a CAMRA and branch perspective. Most importantly, it was the first full year of branch and CAMRA activities, and this is the first Christmas in three years, without the shadow of Covid hanging over us.

Thinking back over the past 12 months, there have been many branch achievements that we should be proud of. It was great to see that the number of real ale outlets continues to increase. There are now 94 pubs and (eligible)¹ clubs in Bromley serving cask ale, and there has been no net loss of real ale outlets during this time.



Indeed, we now have new ones, with the recent opening of the <u>Hit or Miss</u> micropub in Chatterton Road - a great addition to the local area! Rumour has it that one or two new micropubs will be opening in 2023, so that is something to look forward to. And let's also celebrate that we still have five local micro-breweries going strong, and indeed in some cases expanding their output.

The main event of 2022 was of course our July Beckenham Beer & Cider Festival. Due to Covid lockdowns, this was our first festival in three years, and we started the planning with grave reservations about its viability. But, what a great success it was! Records were broken on attendance, beer sales, and new member recruitment. In addition, our charity donations and the surplus returned to CAMRA campaign funds were higher than ever before.



October saw the publishing of the 50th anniversary edition of the Good Beer Guide (GBG) and we gratifyingly retained our ten entries, which included the <u>Cockpit</u> micropub for the first time. In a similar vein, once again we had a magnificent range of venues to consider for our 'Pub and Club of the Year' awards. Congratulations to the <u>One Inn the Wood</u> and the <u>Orpington Liberal Club</u> for being the branch's pub and club of the year.

The social activities of the branch during the last 12 months are something else we should justifiably be pleased about. Starting last Christmas celebrating the Red Lion's 25 years in the GBG, we have

enjoyed country pub walks, visits to local

village and town pubs, the local <u>Brewery Loop</u>, as well as journeys beyond our branch boundaries to some of the finest pubs in Greater London and deepest Kent.

Your branch committee has been active and working hard over the year on campaigning aims. New 'blood' is always needed, and I'm pleased to say we have seen two changes this year with a new Pub Protection Officer and a new Area Pub Contact joining the Committee. However,



The 25th year in the GBG. (Now 26 years!)

¹ 'Eligible' clubs are those which allow access to CAMRA members. There are currently four eligible clubs in Bromley.

other committee vacancies are likely following the AGM in March 2023, so do please read more about this on the next page.

What we do on the Branch committee is more than just about supporting CAMRA aims and supporting branch members. Our support of local communities and their pubs and clubs are core to much of what we do.

And of course Christmas is a time for community. A time for reflection. A time to look back on the past year. A time for sadness and joy. A time for family and friends to be reunited. A time for happiness to be shared. A time for grievances to be lost and forgotten. A time for helping others. A time for celebration despite today's challenges. A time to keep smiling because we just must.

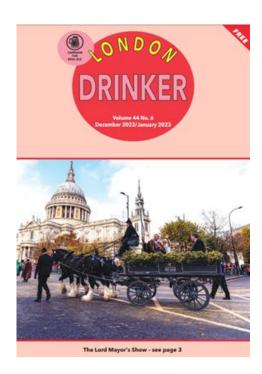
So, let's celebrate Christmas as a time for our communities. Over this past year, we've had a successful beer festival, bringing out the local community around Beckenham and further afield. A new micropub opening in Bromley, serving its local community. Micropubs that opened just over a year ago, in Chislehurst and West Wickham, making their mark within their local communities. Pubs and clubs within the Bromley Borough still playing their role as community hubs.

Community is strong. Community is even stronger at Christmas. Let's be strong and we will get through this together and we will make 2023 an even better year for us all.



Thank you for being a CAMRA member and for being part of our branch community. A Merry Christmas to you all!

Charles Tucker, Chair, Bromley CAMRA With thanks to the committee members who contributed ideas.



The December/January issue of London Drinker is now available.

Online version

PDF of the printed version

Committee Vacancies, an Urgent Appeal

The future of Bromley CAMRA is at risk if some members do not volunteer to join the Committee at the next AGM.

We are in urgent need of volunteers to step forward to fill vacancies on the Bromley Branch Committee that will arise after the AGM on 18th March 2023.

The urgency, and the nature, of the vacancies were notified to branch members by a special mailing on 9th November. Please click this link to see that email, which contains further links to more detailed information about the roles. The email went to 1,296 of our 1,480 branch members. However, I regret to say that, so far, no one has indicated any interest in filling any of the roles.

There are three 'Essential' positions, which must be filled:

- Chair
- Membership Secretary
- Treasurer

In addition, three other roles will become vacant - the monthly Newsletter Editor, the Website Coordinator, and the Vice Chair. Due to various personal and practical reasons, in March 2023 all the incumbent holders of these six positions will be stepping down. Unfortunately, the Bromley branch committee will have no spare capacity to fill these roles, and the lack of any volunteers coming forward will put the future of Bromley CAMRA branch in a perilous position after the March 2023 AGM.

It is important to emphasise that three of the vacancies are classified by CAMRA as 'Essential' roles. With no Chair, no Membership Secretary, and no Treasurer, the Branch will have to close if they remain vacant after the AGM. If Bromley branch closes there will be an annexation of our branch area and existing branch members will be migrated to another CAMRA branch.

I reiterate that this is an urgent appeal for anyone who is interested in these forthcoming vacant committee roles to step forward. Anyone taking up these roles will be fully supported by the current committee and the CAMRA volunteer office. Review this link for detailed information on the roles and responsibilities. Please contact the current Branch Chair, Charles Tucker, if you are interested in the above vacant roles, or want more information, or to arrange an informal chat.

I'm afraid that if nobody steps up in time for the branch AGM in March then CAMRA will have no option but to close the branch down.

Charles Tucker, Chair



The 358 Bus / Pub Crawl, Part 2

Last month, we started a three-part series looking at the various pubs and clubs along the route of the 358 bus, which serves a 16 mile route between Crystal Palace and Orpington Station. This month we resume the journey at Eden Park, and continue to Bromley Common.

Last month, we got as far as Eden Park, so it is there that we return to the route. From Eden Park, it's actually quite a while before the next pub, on a route taking us past the Grade II Listed 'Chinese Garage'. It was built in 1928, in a 'Japanese pagoda style' by architect Edmund B. Clarke. Apparently, in 2001, it was voted as 'the most unusual garage in England' (however I'm not sure by whom). It's now no longer used as a garage, having been converted to a Majestic Wine and Tesco Express a few years ago.







The six pubs in the High St and London Rd.

Our first pub is the <u>Shortlands Tavern</u>, at the side of Shortlands Station. The bus then climbs the steep hill up to the start of Bromley town centre, where, unsurprisingly, there is a large concentration of pubs. Alight at the 'Market Square' stop for the <u>Barrel & Horn</u>, <u>Greyhound</u>, <u>Lock & Barrel</u>, <u>Partridge</u>, <u>Star & Garter</u>, and <u>Swan & Mitre</u>.

One stop further is the 'Bromley Town Hall' stop, for the Anglesey Arms, Crown & Anchor, Freelands Tavern, Red Lion and the White Horse². These pubs are all in the narrow streets behind Bromley North Station. It is perhaps worth reminding members of this remarkable area, with no less than five 'back-street locals' to be visited. (You can read about this area in the December 2021 e-Newsletter.)

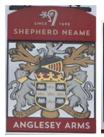
Also served by the *'Bromley Town Hall'* stop is the <u>Railway Tavern</u>, which is opposite Bromley North station.

A few more stops gets us to Bromley South Station, with the Richmal Crompton, the large Wetherspoons, in what was once a Safeway supermarket.

Shortly after the station, the bus passes the site of the much-missed Bromley Labour Club; a regular Good Beer Guide entry for many years. It was also former home to several Bromley CAMRA's cider and perry festivals. A high-rise residential development now occupies the site.

The bus now follows the A21. On Masons Hill, use the 'Bertha James Day Centre' stop for both the Bitter End Bar and the Bricklayers Arms.

The final pub in this section of the route is Bromley's newest real ale outlet, the <u>Hit Or Miss</u> on Chatterton Rd. For this micropub, use the *'Southlands Rd'* stop and walk down Addison Rd.







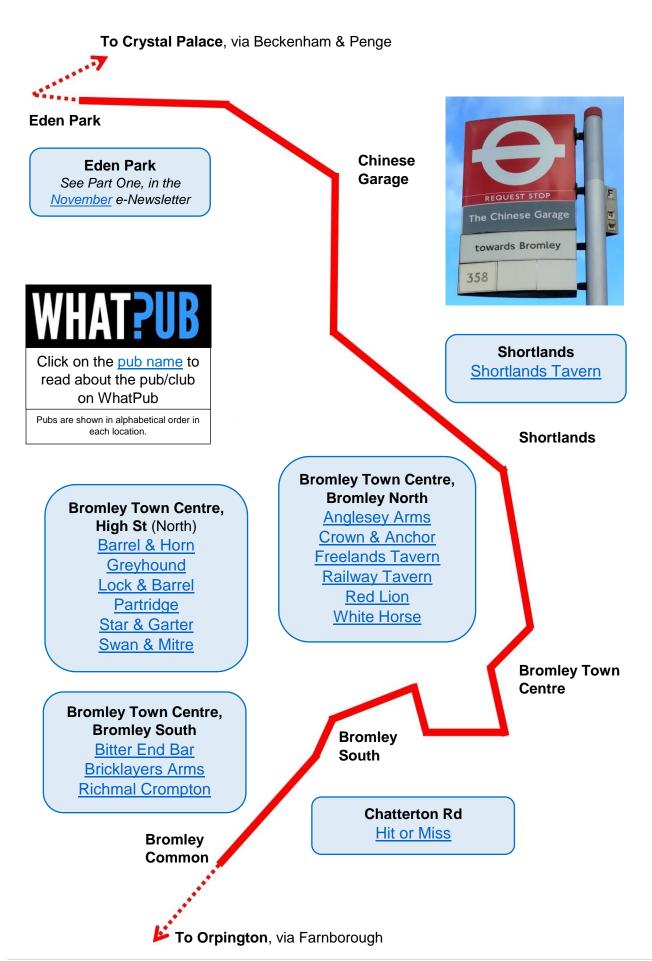




The five pubs in the backstreets behind Bromley North Station.

Next month, in the final part of this series, we follow the route of the 358 through Farnborough Village and Green Street Green into Orpington, to the terminus at Orpington Station.

² The White Horse has recently resumed selling real ale, after a period without.



Selecting Pubs/Clubs for the 2024 Good Beer Guide

Our Branch Good Beer Guide Coordinator looks ahead to the selection process for the next edition of the Good Beer Guide.

With the Good Beer Guide 2023 edition now published and waiting to be given to some lucky drinker as the ideal Christmas present, our attention is now focussed on starting the process for selecting entries for the Good Beer Guide 2024 edition. The Good Beer Guide wheel never stops slowly turning...

As part of the selection process, we are having a Good Beer Guide Selection Meeting open to all CAMRA members.

Monday 9th January

at 7.00 pm (prompt)

in the upstairs meeting room at the **Chancery**

90 Bromley Road, Beckenham, BR3 5NP

This will be a good-natured meeting with cask ales available from the bar to help with the proceedings.

We will be selecting 10 entries, from a shortlist of 20 pubs and clubs. The 20 candidates will have already been selected beforehand from the total of almost 100 pubs, micropubs, bars and eligible clubs that serve cask ale within the Bromley CAMRA area.

To make it onto the shortlist, candidate pub/clubs must have received a sufficient quantity of beer scores during 2022, from enough members, over sufficient months. We also have to reject any potential candidates that do not overall have sufficiently high beer scores to warrant being considered.

We will also be selecting two 'reserves', just in case any of the 10 successful entries have to be withdrawn for any reason, such as a change in management, cask ale no longer being served or, worse still, pub closure.

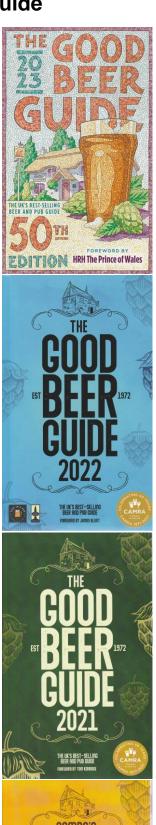
You still have until 23:59 on Christmas Eve to get those beer scores in! Any scores submitted for drinks consumed after the deadline will go forward into the '2023 beer scoring year', for the eventual Good Beer Guide 2025. As I said, the Good Beer Guide wheel never stops slowly turning!

Nick White, Good Beer Guide Coordinator



Beer Scoring closes

23:59 on 24th December 2022



Pub and Club of the Year; The National Finalists

CAMRA has announced the finalists for the Pub and Club of the Year Awards.

After a two-year gap due to Covid restrictions, we now know the latest four best pubs in the country (according to CAMRA – you may have your own views of course!).

So, our congratulations go to:

- Station House, in Durham (opened in 2015 by CAMRA members).
- Horse and Jockey, in Stapleford with a list of 13 real ales including, (Bromley pubs please note this) at least one dark beer, as well as five LocAle.
- Kings Head, in Norwich, serving up to a dozen beers commonly from Norfolk breweries.
- Tamworth Tap, in Tamworth, 16th century and serving up to eight real ales.

So that's the pubs – but what of the clubs? Well luckily enough one of them is near enough to us to warrant a trip out!

- Cheltenham Motor Club, a previous three times winner!
- Marden Village Club, in Kent, with six real ales, and interestingly, generally from local microbreweries.
- Dobcross Band Social Club, in Greater Manchester, with views over Saddleworth Moors
- Barnton Cricket Club, described as a 'Beacon for real ale in a relative desert'



Good luck to all finalists (and especially Marden [writers view]) and we await the decision of Pub / Club of the Year in January 2023. For more about this, follow these links: Pubs and Clubs

As a reminder, it is your BEER SCORES which enable Bromley CAMRA to select our best local pubs and clubs; this is the starting point for the process of Pub/Club of the Year. No scores, means no chance of making it, no matter how good you think your local is. So, what are you waiting for – get beer scoring!

Kent Sadler, Branch Secretary

Bromley Pub & Club of the Year 2023

The selection process starts this month, so please watch out for the announcement soon.



Local Pub, Club & Brewery News

This month we focus on Beckenham, once the home of David Bowie, and look at the pubs with live entertainment.

In the BR3 area of Bromley we are fortunate to have a regular and varied selection of events at our bars and pubs for you to enjoy. Some of those so far advertised for December are:

Chancery (Bromley Rd.):

- 5th Quiz night
- 11th Band Beggars (Irish traditional and contemporary acoustic music)
- Check pub website for subsequent events.

Elm Tree (Elmers End):

- Live music each Friday and Saturday evenings.
- Also, regular quiz nights and open mic. events.
- Check <u>pub website</u> for details.

Three Hounds (Clockhouse):

Awaiting December schedule but check pub website and social media for such events as:

- Poetry At The Beer Café
- Comedy Club
- Meet the Brewer
- Beers & Board games
- Check pub Facebook, Twitter

George Inn (High St.):

Live music:

- 2nd and 9th Brace Mitchell ('Soul, Funk and all things lively!')
- 3rd Cher Tribute Show
- 10th Elton John Tribute Night
- 16th Robbie Williams
- 23rd Early Christmas Eve Karaoke
- 24th 'Fabbalicious' Christmas Eve Show
- 29th Gertcha (Rockney Chas 'n' Dave Tribute)
- 30th Amy Winehouse Tribute
- Check <u>pub website</u>

Coach & Horses (off High St.)

Weekly live music:

- 3rd Burning Chrome (hard rock)
- 10th G Force (rock covers)
- 17th The Johns (60's/70s rock'n'roll)
- 24th Amber Jade
- 31st NYE party with Jez
- Check Pub website

Bricklayers Arms (High St.)

 Look out for the regular 'Jam Night', usually each Thursday evening.









Graham Oglethorpe, BR3 Area Pub/Club Contact

CAMRA News

The Branch Secretary, now returned from his holiday, runs through some of the national and regional news from CAMRA.

Well, I am back again following last month's hiatus (on holiday duties thank heavens) and I cannot believe that we are now in the run down to Christmas – must start testing last year's lighting!

So, what has CAMRA been up to over the last month then?

The British Guild of Beer Writers Awards Dinner

At the recent dinner, CAMRA was a finalist for the 'Corporate Beer Communication' Award, the other finalists being Siren Brew and Untold Agency.

This recognises CAMRA for its diverse range of member communications, which include its award-winning quarterly print magazine *BEER*, its newly digitised *What's Brewing* 'news platform', the popular podcast *Pubs. Pints. People.* and the wealth of information available across its *Learn & Discover* platform, which are all aimed to help people learn more about their favourite drink.



Sadly, CAMRA was not successful on the night, so our congratulations must go to the Untold Agency for the *'Republic of Beer'* campaign for Budweiser Budvar UK. (okay, if you like fizz!)

Learn & Discover

And on this subject, I am pleased to advise of the two new videos being added to the Learn and Discover platform being:

- An Intro to Belgium Beer. In this, Tim Webb, author of Beer Breaks and eight editions of CAMRA's Good Beer Guide Belgium, introduces the country's complex beer culture by sampling eight classic beer types and a couple of local bar snacks at the Dr Beer café and beer shop in Antwerp. Follow this link.
- World's Greatest Beers. A film counterpart to a recent CAMRA title, which asks the question, what
 makes a great beer? The video features insights from some of the brightest voices in beer on their choices
 for the best beers in the world that are available to buy here in the UK. Follow this link.

Additionally the <u>CAMRA podcasts have returned</u> just in time for Christmas featuring beer and food tastings for the Festive Season

The sale of the Eagle Brewery (and, for that matter, the demise of a number of others, including Dark Star).

Yup, Carlsburg-Marstons, are at it this time with the sale of the Eagle Brewery to Estrella Damm, the latest in a number of sales and closures in a beer market dominated by international brewing businesses. London-based Fullers having recently passed into the ownership of Asahi and many other, smaller, independent breweries having been swallowed up by global giants. Carlsberg-Marstons have just closed the Jennings brewery site in Cumbria and Asahi now closing the award-winning Dark Star brewery site in West Sussex.

As the CAMRA Chair, Nik Antona has said, "This latest news highlights a global brewing market which is massively unbalanced, grants too much power to the international brewing giants and increasingly makes it impossible for independent, British brewers to compete. We believe that the UK beer market, and particularly the on-trade, needs constant monitoring by Competition Authorities, as a result of the continual consolidations that have taken place in the last five or so years".

You can read more about this via these links: Eagle Brewery, Dark Star Brewery

The Autumn Statement

Yes I know, this has been done to death etc. but with over 8,000 beer and pub lovers writing to their MP asking for support for hospitality business from the Chancellor, CAMRA wrote to James Cartlidge MP, the new Exchequer Secretary for the Treasury, echoing the concerns

of those members with regard to the Autumn Statement.

The letter highlighted devastating figures from the Office for National Statistics, which show that food and drink businesses are most likely to cut trading by at least two days a week to reduce energy costs.

The Campaign consequently asked the Government to:

- Cancel inflationary rises for beer and cider duties, to keep price rises down for consumers.
- Extend the energy support for hospitality businesses beyond April.
- Cut VAT for on-trade food and alcohol to help tackle inflationary price rises.
- Properly reform the business rates system, to tackle the unfair burden on pubs and social clubs.

Mmm... so what happened, and what has been CAMRA's response?

Well, I will leave it to you to read the CAMRA press release, the title of which gives it away, 'No comfort for pubs and brewers facing a long winter'. However, our Chief Executive, Tom Stainer, has said: "The lack of clarity on whether or not the hospitality sector will get help with energy costs beyond April 2023 makes it impossible for licensees to plan, and risks more of our beloved locals calling 'last orders' for good, as they struggle to cope with rising costs and customers tightening their belts".



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He also noted that the Chancellor didn't announce any extra help to keep pub going affordable, such as re-introducing the freeze in alcohol duties or bringing forward plans for a new, lower rate of duty for draught beers. He closed by saying: "CAMRA will continue to campaign for extra support and a fair deal for the nation's pubs, clubs, breweries and cider producers."

And finally - the World Cup

There have been reports that pubs may face serious shortfalls in visitors during the World Cup compared with the Euros last year. Well apart from the shenanigans concerning the availability of alcohol in the grounds, what can we do?

Well, with our pubs being a vital part of the social fabric of our communities, and with the budget offering little comfort for the licensees, we should make that effort to convene 'down the local' and

support these businesses. Yes, I do appreciate that your local supermarket might be doing a wonderful offer on a pack of 'fizzy dishwater' with crisps and a T shirt. So, if you want to feel bloated after indulging on two cheap tins, feel free, however I would rather enjoy a few pints of decent beer in the atmosphere of a good pub, along with scampi fries, prawn cocktail crisps and a pickled egg!

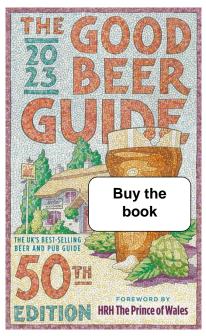


Of course the CAMRA official view may not support my choice of nibbles, but can be found via <u>this link</u>.

(And, for atmosphere, a decent pub may have a smattering of Welsh, Polish, Dutch etc. supporters to make it all the more competitive).

So, in signing off, good luck England!

Kent Sadler, Branch Secretary



Member price £14.99

Order here from CAMRA Books



12 months for only £4.99

More information here

Contacting Bromley CAMRA

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

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 January e-Newsletter will be published on 1st January 2023

The deadline for submission of any content for the next issue is 18th December. (*Please note this is an earlier than normal date, due to Christmas*)

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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Sorry, we have not been able to bring you a quiz this month.