## CAMRA Bromley Branch e-Newsletter January 2023

# Campaign for Real Ale

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A variety of social events and meetings are planned for January.

### Good Beer Guide Selection Meeting

This month sees the meeting to select the Bromley listings for the next Good Beer Guide.

#### Branch AGM & Committee Vacancies

Further news about the Branch AGM and possible vacancies on the Committee.

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There is still time for you to nominate your favourite pub and club.

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This month's quiz is about New Year.

#### **Beer Festival Update**

Planning has begun for the 2023 Beckenham Beer & Cider Festival

### The 358 Bus Pub Crawl, Part 3

This month we travel from Bromley Common to Orpington.

#### Gone But Not Forgotten.

We look at 3 former pubs on Bromley Common & Hastings Rd.

#### A (Free) Trip to Reading

If you have a Freedom Pass, you can now travel all the way to Reading (which has some excellent pubs).

### Local Pub, Club & Brewery news

News from BR6, and the annual Twixmas crawl in BR1.

#### **CAMRA News**

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

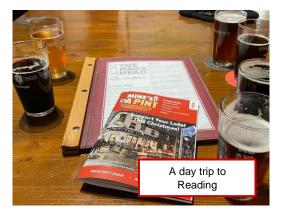
The Bromley Branch *e*-Newsletter is published every month, on approx. the first day of the month.

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





Nominations are open for the 2023 Bromley Pub & Club of the Year.



### Branch Calendar, January 2022 2023

Happy New Year!

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

### Mon 9<sup>th</sup>. Good Beer Guide Selection Meeting.

- 20:00. <u>Chancery</u>, 90 Bromley Rd, Beckenham. BR3 5NP.
- Please arrive in time to allow for a prompt start.
- Please bring your Membership Card.
- Please note the change of time for this meeting

### Thu 12<sup>th</sup>. Bromley Common Social.

- 19:20. Two Doves, 37 Oakley Rd, BR2 HD
- 20:40. <u>Hit or Miss</u>, 6 Chatterton Rd, BR2 9QN;
- 22:00. Bitter End Bar, 139 Masons Hill, BR2 9HY.

### **Wed 18<sup>th</sup>. Out of area social in Blackfen and Sidcup** (aka '51 bus social').

- 18:30. Broken Drum, 308 Westwood Ln, Blackfen, DA15 9PT.
- 19:40. Hangar, 37 The Oval, Sidcup, DA15 9ER.
- 21:00. <u>Hackney Carriage</u>, 165 Station Rd, Sidcup, DA15 7AA.

### Mon 23<sup>rd</sup>. Hayes Social.

- 19:30. Royal British Legion Club, 14 Station Hill, BR2 7DJ.
- 20:30. Real Ale Way, 55 Station Approach, BR2 7EB.

### Tue 31<sup>st</sup>. Committee Meeting. (\*)

• 19:30. Lord Holmesdale, 184 Homesdale Rd, BR1 2QZ.

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

Cover Photos: Thanks to Norman Warner (358) & Glyn Davies (Reading)



### Good Beer Guide Selection Meeting

This month we have the meeting where we select the Bromley entries for the next issue of the Good Beer Guide.

Almost at the stroke of midnight on Christmas Eve (well, 11.59 pm to be precise), the 2022 beer scoring year ended. And all those beer scores kindly submitted by yourselves are then processed and churned to produce the data we need to decide which 20 candidates will make it onto the shortlist, from the nearly 100 pubs and clubs that serve cask ale within the Bromley CAMRA area.

To make it onto the shortlist, we use the top 20 pub and clubs with the highest total average beer scores calculated from the data. To qualify, they must have a minimum of:

- 10 beer scores.
- from a minimum of 5 members.
- over 4 calendar months within 2022.

And then we have a jolly good meeting with some beer ...

The Good Beer Guide Selection Meeting is open to all Bromley CAMRA members and will be held on Monday 9th January, now starting at the later time of 8 pm (ahem, a slight overlap with a Pilates class being avoided !) in the upstairs meeting room at the Chancery, 90 Bromley Road, Beckenham, BR3 5NP. Please bring your membership card.

I will be hosting this meeting, whereby we have a (very) brief discussion on the relative merits of each of the 20 candidates before having a vote on the 10 entries to be put forward for the Good Beer Guide 2024 edition. We will also be selecting two reserves just in case any of the 10 successful entries have to be rejected for any reason, such as change in management, cask ale no longer being served or, worse still, pub closure.

Keep scoring!

Nick White, Good Beer Guide Submissions Coordinator gbg@bromley.camra.org.uk



### We need your Beer Scores in 2023

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

Beer scoring is quick and simple using WhatPub or the GBG App



Please see the branch website for more information about Beer Scoring

### Happy New Beer Score!

Beer Scoring for 2023 has now started, all scores submitted for any beers consumed since 25th December 2022 will be included as part of the 2023 scoring year.

### **Branch AGM and Committee Vacancies**

The 2023 Bromley CAMRA AGM will be held in March.

This is notice that the Branch Annual General Meeting will take place at the <u>Orpington Liberal Club</u> on **Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2023**. Attendees should aim to arrive before 2.45pm, for a prompt 3pm 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.

In addition to the standard committee roles, we also have nine Pub/Club Contacts that cover our Branch pubs and clubs, and who are our 'ears' on the ground.

Some of the positions are currently vacant or will likely be vacant in the next Committee year of 2023-2024. Details of the vacancies were notified to branch members in November and December. If you missed the notification here is a link to the <u>content</u>. Meanwhile if you wish to stand for any of the above positions here is a <u>web link to the nomination form</u>. 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 Branch website, 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 (until March 2023)



### **Committee Posts**

- Chair;
- Vice Chair;
- Treasurer;
- Branch Secretary
- Membership Secretary;
- Beer Scores Coordinator;
- Branch Contact;
- Festival Coordinator;
- GBG Coordinator
- Learning & Discovery Coordinator.
- LocAle Coordinator;
- London Drinker Coordinator;
- Newsletter Editor;
- Pub Database Officer;
- Pub Promotions & Awards Coordinator
- Pub Protection Officer;
- Public Affairs Contact;
- Social Media Coordinator;
- Social Secretary;
- Web Master;
- Young Members contact;

### Plus the nine Area Pub/Club Contacts:

- BR1 to BR7
- SE19/SE20
- Biggin Hill, Downe & Cudham

Note: Many of the existing postholders have expressed their willingness to continue in their roles for a further year from March 2023. However, all members of Bromley Branch are entitled to apply for any of the above posts, providing they have a Nominator and a Seconder.

### Bromley Pub & Club of the Year, 2023

The selection process for the 2023 Bromley Pub & Club of the Year has now started.



This is reminder that that all members of Bromley CAMRA are invited to nominate their favourite pub for the title of Bromley CAMRA Pub of the Year 2023, and also to nominate a club for the club award.

We also need members to volunteer to join the judging panel.

Thank you to all those members who have already submitted their nominations, and/or offered to be judges, however more volunteers for judging would be very welcome.

However, there is not very much time left, as nominations need to be submitted no later than **15<sup>th</sup> January**. Please follow <u>this link</u> to the online nomination form.

Bob Keaveney, Acting PotY/CotY Coordinator

More information about how we select our pubs and clubs for the award can be found on the <u>branch website</u>.

The site also contains a list of previous winners and runners-up of the awards.

### The January Quiz

Happy New Year! This month's quiz is about New Year.

- 1) New York City is host to one of the world's biggest New Year Celebrations. Where Exactly?
- 2) Chinese New Year is celebrated as the festival of which season?
- 3) In which decade did Sydney Harbour Bridge first host their annual New Year's firework display?
- 4) Which song do we most associate with New Year in the Western World?
- 5) In which year did the threat of the Y2K computer virus occur?
- 6) Upon which day will New Year's Day fall in 2023?
- 7) What calendar does the Chinese New Year follow?
- 8) By what name is New Year's Eve known in Scotland?
- 9) What name is given to the Jewish New Year?
- 10) What currency was introduced on 1<sup>st</sup> January 1999?

Martin Gee, Quizmaster

This month the answers to the quiz are at the foot of page 12.

### **Beer Festival News**

Work has already started on planning for the 2023 Beckenham Beer & Cider Festival.



If you didn't already know, there's a new team in town running the 2023 Bromley CAMRA Beer & Cider Festival, comprised of veterans and novices with a new Festival Coordinator (that's me!).

The new team has held our first meeting to identify any issues that arose from last year's excellent festival, including the beer running out. A plan is in place to stop that from happening this year. We've got lots of ideas (too many for one beer festival) that we hope you'll approve of, and I'll be able to give more information once things are confirmed.

We visited the Beckenham Rugby Club in November - a big thank you to Brian for accommodating us for another year. A preliminary site assessment gave us lots of ideas, and I am in the process of seeing what equipment is available for our festival.



The 2022 Bromley CAMRA Festival was the most successful to date and we want to expand on its success.

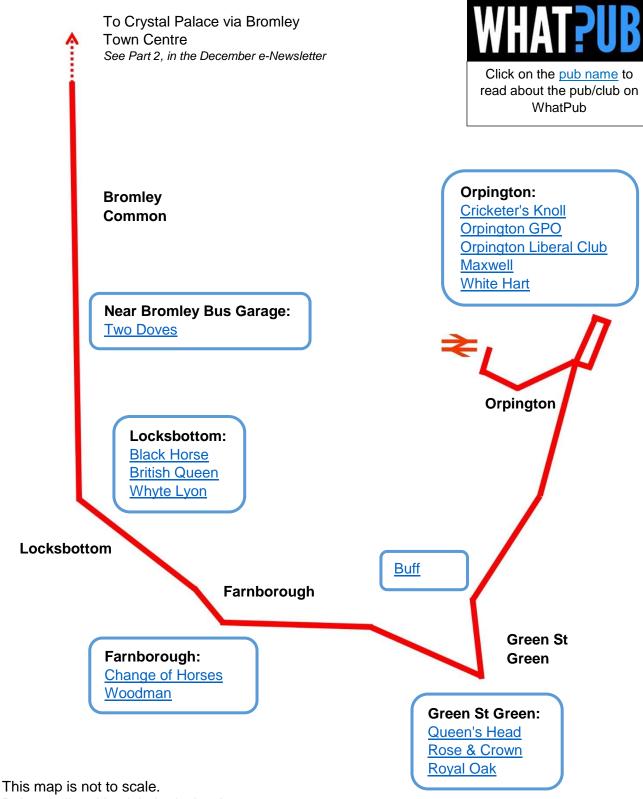
No festival could go ahead without the strength of the volunteers, and I know it can be daunting for anyone to offer, but if anyone wants to help, even a little bit, at the 2023 Bromley Beer Festival, I would love to hear from you.

If you want to volunteer, or have any questions or queries, please contact me.

Anne Claridge, Festival Coordinator festival.coordinator@bromley.camra.org.uk

### The 358 Bus / Pub Crawl, Part 3

This month, in the final part of our bus trip, we follow the route of the 358 from Bromley Common, through Locksbottom, Farnborough and Green Street Green to its terminus at Orpington Station.



Pubs are listed in alphabetical order

The third (and final) section of the 358 route takes us past, or very close to a total of **14** pubs, plus one club, all serving cask ales.

Resuming our journey on the edge of Bromley Town Centre, the bus continues heading south along the A21. Alight at the *Bromley Bus Garage* stop for the <u>Two Doves</u>; this pub is on Oakley Rd, and can be reached by walking along Gravel Hill, opposite the bus garage

Another three stops takes us to Locksbottom and the PRU Hospital. There are three pubs in Locksbottom: the <u>Black Horse</u>; <u>British</u> <u>Queen</u>; and <u>Whyte Lyon</u>.

Next comes Farnborough Village, with its two pubs, the <u>Change of</u> <u>Horses</u>, and the <u>Woodman</u>. There was a feature on Farnborough in the September issue of the <u>e-Newsletter</u>.

Alight at the *Farnborough Hill / Bus Garage* stop for the three pubs in Green St Green. The 358 buses are operated from this garage, and therefore it is not unusual for a crew change to take place here. Walk along High St. to get to the pubs. The first pub is the <u>Queen's Head</u>, an Ember Inn. The other two pubs are both adjacent to the roundabout on the A21, the <u>Royal Oak</u> and <u>Rose & Crown</u>.

Back on the bus, the route now takes a sharp turn left after the bus garage and heads towards the centre of Orpington, passing the <u>Buff</u> at Crescent Way.

Once in Orpington town centre, the route does an 'out and back' along the high street to the Walnuts Centre, before it returns to the War Memorial roundabout to complete its route at Orpington Station. In this area, you have the choice of four pubs, plus the multiple award winning Orpington Liberal Club.

### Which bus stop in Orpington?

War Memorial:			
<b>—</b> .			

Orpington GPO Orpington Liberal Club White Hart Cricketer's Knoll

Tubbenden Lane:

### Some statistics:

Based on data available as at 1<sup>st</sup> November, there were a total of **98** pubs and eligible<sup>1</sup> clubs in Bromley, which normally served at least one real ale. Half of these venues are either directly on, or within approx. 10 minutes walk of the 358 bus route. A further six pubs are a few minutes of further walking.

Maxwell

- Directly on the route:
- 22 pubs/clubs
- Within approx. 10 mins walk: 27 pubs/clubs



Pub photos, from top: Two Doves, Woodman, Queens Head, Orpington Liberal Club, Maxwell.

All the pub photos are by Chris Crowther, bus stop by Norman Warner

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> To be eligible, a club must allow access to card-carrying members of CAMRA

### History of the 358 route

The 358 is now a high frequency trunk route in southeast London, however, when it began it was very different.

The route was started by small independent bus company, Metrobus, in 1989, with just two return journeys a day, Monday to Friday only. Initially, it was operated as a commercial service and London Transport passes were not accepted; it being cash fares only. It was operated with double deck buses, running via Westmoreland Road Bromley and did not serve central Bromley.

In 1991 it became an hourly every day service, and was diverted via central Bromley, using single deck buses, due to the railway bridge at Shortlands. In 2002 it was taken over as a TFL route, with Metrobus running the service under contract.

At 15 miles long, it is one of London's longest routes. It has always been operated by Metrobus (now part of the Go Ahead Group) from their garage at Green Street Green.

Richard Martin

### Gone, But Not Forgotten

The Editor looks at three of the lost pubs along Bromley Common / Hastings Rd.

There used to be more pubs along this part of the 358 route, including some which actually appeared in the Good Beer Guide (GBG).

Two of these pubs have now been converted to new uses, whilst a third has been demolished and the site redeveloped. However, in a nod to their previous uses, all three have pub-styled signage on posts.

Following the route of the 358 towards Orpington, the first of these former pubs was the <u>Five Bells</u>, where a tile retailer now occupies the site. Once a Charrington house, this pub appeared in the GBG in 1976 and 1977. The



1977 edition described it as a *'busy, popular and friendly local'*. Some old photos of this pub can be viewed via <u>this link</u>.

Next, adjacent to Bromley Bus Garage, and now converted into a McDonalds was the <u>Sawyer's Arms</u>. This pub appeared in no less than five editions of the GBG, listed as serving Shepherd Neame beers. The final appearance was in 1981, which noted *'The only draught mild in the area'*. Some old photos of the pub can be viewed via <u>this link</u>.

The final former pub, now converted into a Majestic Wine, was the <u>Plough</u>. Bromley CAMRA have no knowledge about this former pub, however a 1986 photo shows Whitbread signage. More photos can be viewed via <u>this link</u>.

<u>Credits</u>: The photos of the modern signs are all by Bromley CAMRA's 'unofficial branch photographer', Chris Crowther. The above links to the old photographs are all to the *'Dover Kent Archives'* website, which contains old photos of a remarkable number of Bromley's pubs. Follow <u>this link</u> to see their index for Bromley.







### A Free<sup>(\*)</sup> Day Trip to Reading

The Editor has been to a couple of the Good Beer Guide pubs in Reading.

(\*) Excluding the cost of the beer...

Do you have a London Freedom Pass? If so, did you know that you can now use it to go all the way to Reading?

Early last month, we discovered that the Freedom Pass now appeared to allow *'those of a certain age'* to travel all the way to Reading, and to the intermediate stations, but only if you travel on the Elizabeth Line service. This seemed too good to be true, so we decided to give it a try...

The 2023 Good Beer Guide lists **five** pubs in Reading, however we limited ourselves to just two of them. In fact, it was a struggle to drag ourselves away from the first pub, as it had twelve handpumps, ten of which were with Thornbridge beers, for a tap takeover.



im Lewis

The <u>Nags Head</u>, is a bit of a hike from the station, but is certainly worth making the effort to get there, and not just for the twelve handpumps. (Please see the WhatPub description for full details).

Our second pub was the <u>Greyfriar</u>, very convenient for the station, with five ale handpumps in use on the day of our visit. It was interesting to note that <u>two</u> of their five pumps had dark beers (Five Points, Railway Porter & Wantsum, Black Prince).

#### **Greyfriar**

WhatPub describes it as: 'Traditional yet modern pub with eight handpumps and 14 keg lines, offering a good choice of beers from local, independent breweries. Bottled and canned beers also come from countrywide and foreign brewers...'



Nags Head

5 Russell St. RG1 7XD

On the day of our visit there were ten Thornbridge beers, plus one each from Tiny Rebel and Siren.

Also numerous ciders and craft kegs.

### The small print

- The London Freedom Pass will get you all the way to Reading, or to any of the intermediate stops, however the 60+ Oyster is NOT valid beyond the London boundary;
- Applies only to Elizabeth Line trains. NOT on services by other operators;
- Journey time between Reading and Paddington is approx. one hour (and there are no toilets on the trains!);
- The Freedom Pass does not work on the barriers at Reading, so you will need to show your pass to the member of staff on the gate.

### Local Pub, Club & Brewery News

Our BR6 Area Pub and Club Contact looks back at some changes during 2022, and we have a photo form the branch's final social event in 2022.

### **BR6**, Orpington

During 2022, we saw a net increase of real ale outlets in Orpington, albeit only by one. The new addition was that of <u>Chelsfield Lakes Golf Centre</u>, which has now been reliably serving a cask ale for more than six months. In the last 3 or 4 months, *Tonbridge Traditional* has been available and in very good condition, whenever I've tried it.

This is not a private club, so with the venue open to the public seven days a week, this is a welcome addition to the area. There is good access on foot from both Knockholt or Chelsfield stations,



via 20 to 30 minutes of walking along mostly rural footpaths. Alternatively, the R7 bus stop is about 10 minutes walk away along Court Road, which although busy, has a continuous footway. If you can find a designated driver, the Golf Centre has by far the largest pub car park anywhere in Bromley borough!

Sadly, during the year we said goodbye to the former Wetherspoons, the Harvest Moon. We understand that the closure was due to the lease not being renewed.

The loss of the Wetherspoons was balanced out by the reopening of the nearby <u>White Hart</u>, after a closure of more than a year due to a fire.

Members will probably recall that long-standing licensees Ade & Kay left the <u>Five Bells</u> in Chelsfield in June, with the former chef, Sam, taking over. The public bar has now been redecorated, with the adjacent toilets refurbished. There is live music on Wednesdays and a quiz night every Tuesday, with Ade returning as quizmaster. Opening times have returned to the 'pre-Covid' hours of Mon to Sat 12 to 11 & Sun 12 to 10. When I was there during the Christmas period, there were three ales on: Wainwright Amber Ale; Whitstable Bay; and Doom Bar.

Norman Warner, BR6 Area Pub and Club Contact

### The Twixmas Social

The now traditional annual *Bromley CAMRA Twixmas Social* took place on 29<sup>th</sup> December. The 'official' itinerary was three pubs, however several additional pubs were also visited by some members of the group. The pubs included Crown & Anchor, Anglesey Arms, White Horse, Red Lion, Lock & Barrel and Star & Garter.



Photos: Some of our group in the Red Lion, the Red Lion's collection of Good Beer Guides, two of the beers on in the Star & Garter. (Plus a couple of pics of pub signs.)

### **CAMRA News**

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

Well, I hope that Christmas was a happy one for you, and that the New Year brings you good luck and fortune.

Certainly, having reviewed the latest lists of brewery closures, we all need the good fortune (as could the England football team)!

Hopefully you received and read our CAMRA Chairman's Christmas message issued on 19<sup>th</sup> December providing a synopsis of the year, and what CAMRA has been working on.

On a more detailed note, let me sum up what CAMRA was doing during December 2022.

#### Brewery closures and the £20 pint!

Well, I mentioned above the plight of our breweries, as every day seems to see another closed. With some it may be that their business model was wrong, but many others have closed due to unsustainable costs. Wherever this occurs, someone will be now missing their favourite pint.

CAMRA has made a plea to the Chancellor to confirm that breweries, pubs, and hospitality businesses will receive support, especially given that the current scheme runs out in April 2023. Read more about this <u>here</u>. Fingers crossed for the New Year!

Follow <u>this link</u> to see more on the research behind the conclusion that more pubs and breweries will be forced to close.

Thankfully, there has been a degree of support, as the Government has frozen the alcohol duty in the New Year, until August which. Our Chair, Nik Antona comments "CAMRA now looks forward to the new, lower rate of duty on draught beer and cider served in pubs and clubs coming into force in August 2023, to really help our locals compete with the likes of supermarket alcohol". Read more about this <u>here</u>.

#### The story of the vicar and the pub...

With this being the holiday season and, importantly, Christmas, let us feel a little sorry for our ancestors who were once banned from celebrating Christmas through a holiday or indeed even singing!

Thankfully, such views are no longer generally held and it warms the cockles of my heart to see the news relating to the <u>Brewers Arms</u> in West Malvern. Following closure in June with its future uncertain, the local community raised sufficient funds to buy and run the pub themselves.

However, those volunteers were unable to source a landlord/lady and it was not looking



Click on the photo for the link to read more about this story.

good. In steps a new team of volunteers, including the vicar, the Reverend Rebecca Elliott, who will each be filling the breach and carrying out shifts behind the bar. I wonder what her sermons will be like!

News continues on next page...

Quiz answers: 1) Time Square; 2) Spring; 3) 1970; 4) Auld Lang Syne; 5) 2000; 6) Sunday; 7) Lunar; 8) Hogmanay; 9) Rosh Hashanah; 10) The Euro

### CAMRA Podcasts

Just a reminder to keep an eye out on CAMRA on line to see what podcasts are available. The first episode of the new season was on 7<sup>th</sup> December entitled "Tis the season for … food and drink" and this highlighted some exceptional beer and cider pairings to be enjoyed with your Christmas Dinner. Did you catch it?

Going forwards, the schedule reopens in the New Year on 11<sup>th</sup> January with "New beer resolutions" "How to drink beer and NOT gain weight" – Mmm I must tune in!

Follow <u>this link</u> for more on this, and also other scheduled podcasts through to 7th June.



### A CAMRA roadmap

No, not one guiding you to the best beer in the world or best taproom etc. but CAMRA setting out its digital future!

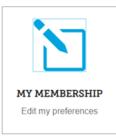
So, what does this entail? Well, (to quote) 'CAMRA is putting together a roadmap to strengthen its digital future by developing one centralised digital experience that promotes all facets of the campaign, whether that's featuring beer and pub experiences or CAMRA's range of beer festivals and events.'<sup>2</sup>

Exactly what that eventually looks like will be determined over the next two months as CAMRA consults and engages with its volunteers, members, and the wider public.

The development of the final digital experience is expected to take place in the second half of 2023,

CAMRA Digital Futures will be issuing a survey to members over the coming weeks to determine how best to meet the needs of its users with design and development planned throughout 2023. So watch this space (or your inbox!). To find out more, please follow <u>this link</u>

This survey includes the million dollar question 'What about those of us who don't like (or are unable) to use computers or mobile phones to connect with the campaign?' Although the cynic in me wants



to ask how those members will answer that question, if they are unable to use their computers etc. [personal view!].

However, one thing it does do is bring home the need for all members to check our *'personal preferences'* on the online <u>CAMRA Membership</u> pages, to ensure we all receive such online information. Similarly, do please check out with your CAMRA member friends and colleagues, to ask if that they have checked their preferences lately. You know it makes sense!

### And finally

Well, that's it. Bye bye 2022, hello 2023. I hope to see and meet more of you at our various socials throughout the year – just visit our diary for more information.

Kent Sadler, Branch Secretary

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> [What's wrong with using plain English? – Editor]



A proposed new poster from CAMRA to promote Beer Scoring

### **Contacting Bromley CAMRA**

- Website:
- bromley.camra.org.uk/
- Twitter:
- twitter.com/CAMRAbromley/
- Facebook: facebook.com/bromlevcamra/

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: <u>https://bromley.camra.org.uk/about-us/contact-us/</u>

The February e-Newsletter will be published on 1st February 2023

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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