CAMRA Bromley Branch e-Newsletter March 2023



In this issue:

Branch Calendar

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

Branch AGM

The AGM is on 18th March.

Pub Protection Officer

The Bromley Branch needs a volunteer to fill this vital role.

Bromley CAMRA Pub and Club of the Year

The winners have been announced.

Beer Festival Update

The volunteer form is now available online.

Branch Social in Bellingham

A visit to the Grade II Listed Fellowship Inn .

Fifty Years of the GBG

A brief look back at some previous listings.

Change of Editor

Bromley CAMRA will have a new editor after the AGM.

Beer Photos

In a new feature for 2023, we are asking members to submit photos of what they have been drinking.

Local Pub, Club & Brewery news

News from around the branch area.

CAMRA News

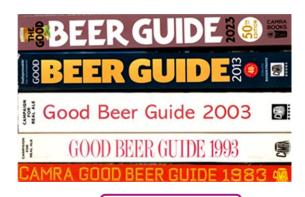
The Branch Secretary runs through some of the news from CAMRA.







Bromley Pub & Club of the Year



50 Years of the GBG

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.

Branch Calendar, March 2023

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

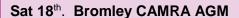
Thu 9th. Sundridge Park Social.

- 19:30. <u>Crown in Sundridge</u> (formerly Crown Hotel), 46 Plaistow Ln. BR1 3PA.
- 20:20. Prince Frederick, 31 Nichol Ln. BR1 4DE.



Mon 13th. Downe Social.

- 19:30. George & Dragon, 26 High St. BR6 7UT.
- 20:30. Queen's Head, 25 High St.BR6 7US.



- 14:45 for a prompt start at 15:00.
- Orpington Liberal Club, 7 Station Road, Orpington. BR6 0RZ.
- The club bar is open from 12:30

Wed 22nd. Bellingham & Shortlands Social

- 19:00. Fellowship Inn, Randlesdown Rd, Bellingham. SE6 3BT
- A chance to visit this recently reopened Grade II Listed pub. Read more about this on page <u>7</u>.
- 20:13. Train from Bellingham to Shortlands.
- 20:30. Shortlands Tavern, Station Rd, BR2 0EY.

Tue 28th. Committee Meeting. (*)

19:30. Imperial Arms, Old Hill, Chislehurst. BR7 5LZ

Thu 30th. Beer Festival Social.

Additional event, not listed in What's Brewing

- From 19:00. Orpington Liberal Club, 7 Station Road, Orpington BR6 0RZ.
- This is a preview night for club members and card carrying CAMRA members. You may be asked to show your CAMRA membership card on entry. More information is here.

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











Branch AGM and Committee Vacancies

The 2023 Bromlev CAMRA AGM is on 18th March.

This will be the last e-Newsletter reminder that the Branch **Annual General Meeting** will take place at the Orpington Liberal Club on Saturday 18th March 2023. Members are asked to arrive by 2.45 pm, for a prompt 3.00 pm start. As well as reviewing the branch's activities over the past year and looking at the future, a major event at the AGM will be the election of a new Branch Committee for the 2023/24 year.

I mentioned in the January and February e-Newsletters that we were looking for volunteers to join the incoming committee. I also said how important it was to have new branch members join the committee from time to time as renewal and regeneration leads to a much stronger body. I am pleased to say that we have now found candidates for all the 'essential' vacant roles bar one – the **Pub Protection Officer**, (please see <u>page 4</u>). Meeting the new people standing as candidates, I am pleased to be able to say that we have a wealth of knowledge and experience waiting to join the Branch Committee. The year ahead, both for the committee and the Branch itself, is now looking very positive.

Of course, as a branch member reading this, you are still entitled to put your name forward for any committee role providing you have a 'Proposer' and 'Seconder'. You will find a link to the Nomination Form and a list of committee posts on the AGM page of our <u>Branch website</u>. Also, within the next week or so on this same web page you will find links to the AGM Agenda and the 2022 AGM Minutes.

For the time being, the Chair position will remain vacant, however, as I previously related, and AGM elections pending, we plan to elect a former Chair of the Branch as 'Acting Chair' for the next six months.

And finally

As I have previously indicated, I am standing down as the Bromley Branch Chair at the March AGM, so this will be my final e-Newsletter article as the Chair. Although a CAMRA member since 1986, I only joined the Bromley Committee in the summer of 2019. I also became the Festival Coordinator that autumn, and was first elected as Branch Chair at the AGM in March 2020.

The last three-and-a-half years on the Committee have certainly been eventful, and not just because of the Covid lockdowns! In many ways, my time as Chair has been extremely fulfilling and I feel privileged to have had the opportunity of serving our branch members in this way.

If I have achieved anything at all, it has been because of the support and help from my fellow committee officers and from you, our branch members. I would like to thank you all for accompanying me on my journey. I leave behind a strong CAMRA branch and a very accomplished committee. I wish you all well for the future and look out for me at the Branch socials where we can enjoy a pint together.

Charles Tucker, Outgoing Chair, Bromley CAMRA

Branch Annual General Meeting

Orpington Liberal Club on Saturday 18th March 2023.

Members are asked to arrive by 2.45 pm, for a prompt 3.00 pm start.

More information about the AGM is available on the branch website.



The Branch AGM is once again being held at Orpington Liberal Club.

The bar will be open both before and after the meeting, so members attending the AGM will have a good opportunity to sample some of the regularly changing ranges of beers and ciders.

Please note that the bar is card only.

Follow this link to see the current ranges of beers and ciders available at the club bar.

Pub Protection Officer

Bromley Branch is still seeking a candidate for the crucial role of Pub Protection Officer.

Please do not be put off by the grand title of the role. What we are looking for is for someone who is prepared to put their enjoyment of pubs and pub heritage to greater use, thus ensuring all our branch members continue to have the best possible choice of drinking establishments available to them.

In general, the role is about making sure Bromley Council maintain and enforce pub protection policies in their plans. It will need someone who is good at collecting and presenting information about what is happening, or going to happen, to pubs in our area. Our Committee is spread far and wide in our branch area and will be able to act as your information resources in this respect. So, the new postholder will have a team of people who can give advice and assistance on how to deal with the local authority, as well as on handling CAMRA procedures. We also have strong contacts with neighbouring CAMRA branches and CAMRA Regional Officers, so guidance on the day-to-day functions and activities in the role are readily available. Previous skills in this area are not necessary, just a commitment to support the branch in maintaining our pub assets. Click HERE for the CAMRA Role Summary and HERE for the Role Guidance.

Please have a read and raise any questions or queries you may have. I stress again, that although you will be expected to lead the initiatives in this area, you will be working as part of a friendly team and assistance is readily available. Please contact me for further information or for an informal chat.

Charles Tucker, Outgoing Chair, Bromley CAMRA chair@bromley.camra.org.uk.

Photos (from top): <u>Porcupine</u>, Mottingham; <u>Rising Sun</u>, Eden Park; <u>Mitre</u>, Anerley; <u>Chelsfield</u>, adj. Chelsfield Station. All photos by Chris Crowther









Bromley CAMRA Pub & Club of the Year, 2023

The results have now been announced.

Club of the Year

Congratulations to **Orpington Liberal Club**, which has again been awarded the title of Branch Club of the Year.

The presentation will be made to the club on **Thursday 6th April** (from 19:30)





There will be more information about the winners in the April issue of the e-Newsletter

Pub of the Year

Breaking News! (28th February 2023)

Bromley has a new Branch Pub of the Year!

Congratulations to the <u>Cockpit</u>, Chislehurst BR7, which has been awarded the title of Branch Pub of the Year.

(The date of the presentation event has yet to be announced)

Pub of the Year (Runner-Up)

Star & Garter, Bromley BR1.







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

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

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

Beer Festival News

Work continues on planning for the 2023 Beckenham Beer & Cider Festival.



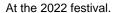
Volunteers are an essential part of every festival and we have been listening to our communities' views and feedback. A new online form has been created, which should be easier and quicker to complete for all. So I'm inviting all budding volunteers to fill it in, and I look forward to hearing your opinion of our updated form.

If you plan to join in the festivities this year, maybe think about helping out for a few hours beforehand? We have lots of knowledgeable people willing to give their valuable expertise across the week, so you can learn how festivals work, or you might have a hidden talent you want to show the world. They say giving back make us happier, so why not give it a go?

The new online volunteer form is <u>here</u>.

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







Photos by David Wilcock

Bromley CAMRA's 2023 Beckenham Beer & Cider Festival

 $27^{th}-29^{th}\ July$

Beckenham Rugby Football Club Balmoral Avenue, BR3 3RD

Please put the date in your calendar

The Fellowship Inn, Bellingham

This month, we have a branch visit to the Grade II Listed Fellowship Inn adjacent to Bellingham Station.



Photo by SEL CAMRA

Description from WhatPub:

Grade II listed, mock Tudor style, built as a 'improved' public house in 1923-4 by F.G. Newnham, house architect of brewery Barclay Perkins and Co. It was built as part of the London County Council's Bellingham Estate. By the mid-20th century, it was renowned for attracting many famous live bands of that era. It had many rooms including a theatre and off sales, although by the early 21st century only one room was open. It was then only the saloon, with a wood panelled interior, that was being used.

In early 2016 major plans were announced to use lottery grant funding to transform the site to be 'something special for the community' – a cinema, a café, a music hub with rehearsal spaces and live music stage, plus the pub. Works progressed well with the pub closed, and it officially re-opened in June 2019 re-named the Fellowship & Star. Seating is at a mish-mash of high tables and chairs, bench seating and low tables and chairs around all sides of a central bar servery, with some booth seating towards the rear. Lots of the original dark wood panelling remains.

Having closed once again in March 2020, the pub reopened under new management on 21st September 2022, and reverted to its original name. 3 handpumps for cask ales.

Fellowship Inn

Randlesdown Road, Bellingham. SE6 3BT.

WhatPub
Pub website

Read more about the pub:

<u>Listed Building</u>
<u>National Inventory of Historic Pub Interiors</u>
More about Barclay, Perkins & Co

Join the Bromley Branch social at the pub:

Wed 22nd March 19:00 to 20:00

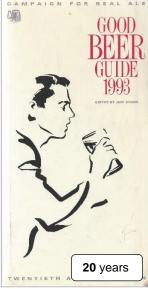
Suggested travel includes:

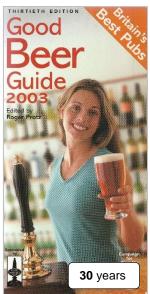
- Rail (Thameslink) to Bellingham
- Buses 54, 136,208, 320 to Bellingham Rd
- Bus 336 to Brookehowse Rd

Fifty Years of the Good Beer Guide

A brief look at some of the listings in previous GBGs over the past fifty years.









Bromley

9F7

10.30–2.30: 5.30–10.30 (11 F. S)

Bricklayers Arms
143 Masons Hill (A21)

Shepherd Neame Bitter ⊞

Small pub with local

atmosphere J♣

Red Lion

10 North Road © 01-460 2691 Fremlins Tusker Wethered Bitter ⊞ Plush residential area pub with Edwardian style decor ♪♣৬®

Chislehurst 9G6

10.30–2.30; 5.30–10.30 (11 F, S) **Bull's Head**Royal Parade (A208)

© 01-467 1727 **Young Bitter, Special Bitter H Winter Warmer H & G**Large ivy-clad pub with restaurant and ballroom facilities fy

St. Mary Cray

10.30-2.30: 5.30-10.30 (11 F, S)

Royal Albert

127 Lower Road

Courage Best Bitter,

Directors H

Corner pub with folk club on

Fridays 「J ◆ 图 § ®

1983

The tenth edition saw nine Bromley pubs in the GBG.

Sadly three of those listed no longer exist:

- Golden Lion, Penge.
- London Tavern, Penge.
- Royal Albert, St Mary Cray.

1993

Eleven Bromley pubs were listed. Sadly, yet again, not all have survived.

Beckenham

Coach & Horses

Burnhill Road
11-3, 5.30 (7 Sat)-11
Courage Best Bitter,
Directors ℍ
Popular local just off the High
Street, rather noisy at times.
Weekday lunches served.

③ □ ★ (Beckenham Jct)

Jolly Woodman

Two of the pubs are now permanently lost:

- Arkwright's Wheel. BR1 (most recent name was the Compass)
- London Tavern, Penge.

Also, the Bird in Hand is currently closed (see p 11)

Bitter End (Off-Licence)

139 Masons Hill (A21) 12-3, 5-10 (9 Mon; 11-10 Sec. 7-9 Sun) Bateman XXXB; Fuller s

Bateman XXXB; Fuller s London Pride; Greene & Abbot G The beer festival continue

The beer festival continever-changing variety cool room in full view shop. Up to nine ales weekends, plus a house Q ⇐ (South) ⇔

Bricklayers Arms

143 Masons Hill
11-2.30, 5.30-11
Shepherd Neame Mas
Brew Bitter, Spitfire
One-bar local, friendly
comfortable, adorned
racehorse pictures. Rusame landlord for over
years. No food Sun.

☐ ➤ (South) ♣

Freelands Tavern

Bromley Commo

Bird in Hand

Gravel Road

© (081) 462 1083
11-2.30, 5.30-11 (11-2.30 5
Courage Best Bitter,
Directors; Ruddles Best Bitter H

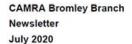
best of the past, off the road in a one-way stream to best of the past, off the road in a one-way stream to be the road in a first of the road in a one-way stream to be the road in a first of the road in a



See the Branch website for the full list of Bromley's GBG pubs & clubs (1974 to 2022).

Change of Editor

The Bromley CAMRA e-Newsletter will have a new editor after the AGM.







CAMRA Bromley Branch e-Newsletter February 2021





CAMRA Bromley Branch e-Newsletter September 2021





After three years, and 36 issues of the e-Newsletter, I will be standing down as Editor at the AGM. I'm pleased to be able to announce that I will be handing over the role into the capable hands of Paul Treleaven.

I took over as Editor at the AGM on 14th March 2020. That was just six days before the Prime Minister announced that all pubs, bars etc must close, at the start of the first of the several periods of lockdown and other restrictions. As a result, the main focus of the newsletter for my first 15 issues was Covid-19, and its impact on Bromley's pubs/clubs and our drinking habits.

Fortunately, the later issues were able to report on the resumption of Bromley CAMRA's social calendar, the return of beer festivals, and on the campaigning work of the branch plus features on some of the excellent pubs & clubs in our area.

Do please continue to support the branch, and your new editor, by submitting news items, features and photos for publication in the newsletter. NB, the 'editorial' email address will transfer to Paul.

Bob Keaveney, e-Newsletter Editor



You can contact the **new** editor by email:

newsletter.editor@bromley.camra.org.uk

Beer Photos

In a new feature for 2023, we are asking members to submit photos of what they have been drinking.







One Inn the

Wood







This month's photos supplied by Peter Norwood, Norman Warner, Tim Wilding and the Editor.

All the photos on this page were taken during February 2023.

The beers:

(Greyhound) Cellarhead Session Pale; (RAW) Tonbridge Velvet Raven and Musket Fife & Drum; (3H) Drop Project Choppy; (QH) Bexley BOB; (Cockpit) Drop Project Verve and Kent Pale; (OITW) Drop Project Choppy and Shiny Affinity Hoppy Pale; (S&G) North Riding Jamaican Rum Stout



Local Pub, Club & Brewery News

The Editor's round-up of news from around the area.

BR1, Bromley

We are sad to hear that the Lock & Barrel is due to close at the end of this month. This micropub/bar, which first opened in 2019, offered a range of cask and keg ales. Many of the cask ales were LocAles, including beers from Bromley brewers Mutineers and Marlix.





BR2, Bromley Common

We understand that the Bird in Hand appears to currently be closed; we are trying to find out more information about this. Although the pub has not served cask ales for several years, it is always matter for concern when any pub closes

BR6, Orpington.



Orpington Liberal Club

Spring Real Ale and Cider Festival.

Thurs 31st March to Sun 2nd April.

30 real ales and ciders.

- Preview Thurs 30th Mar 6pm 11pm (Club and CAMRA members only)
- Fri 31st Mar 12pm 11pm
- Sat 1st Apr 12pm 11pm
- Sun 2nd Apr 12pm 4pm

More information available via this link.

BR6, Orpington.

The Maxwell is currently closed and undergoing extensive refurbishment work.

At the time of preparation of this newsletter Greene King's Hive Pubs were advertising the pub being available under a 'Pub Franchise Agreement', see:

https://www.greenekingpubs.co.uk/pub-to-let/maxwell-hotelorpington.



Pub news continues on the next page...

SE20, Anerley

Breaking News. The Mitre on Croydon Rd closed in approx. 2019 after being sold to developers. Various Planning applications for extensions and the conversion of the upper parts into flats were submitted to Bromley Council. An application approved in 2022 included the retention of the pub on the ground and first floors.

A recently submitted application is now seeking to convert the former into a non-public house use.

Bromley CAMRA will be submitting an objection to the proposals which we believe contrary to the Bromley Local Plan and the London Plan.

You can view the application (Ref. No: 23/00267/FULL2) at: https://searchapplications.bromley.gov.uk/online-applications/.







SE20, Penge

The taproom at Southey Brewery in Penge has reopened after a brief closure in relation to the ongoing refurbishment and enlargement of the taproom. The taproom is normally open Wednesday to Sunday. See the brewery website for more information. https://www.southeybeershop.com/

And on the subject of their website, it now carries a 90 second video of the brewing process, from the raw ingredients, all the way through to canning, pouring and serving pints to customers. (I must admit that I was thirsty after watching the video...)



TN16, Biggin Hill

Unfortunately, there is yet another closure to report, this time one of Bromley's rural pubs, the Old Jail, on the edge of Biggin Hill. The building is currently boarded up with internal security grills and the car park is fenced off. We have no further information at this time.

Even though the building is Grade II Listed, we need to be aware that it might be at risk of permanent closure, with the large garden and car park having development potential.



Make sure that you receive those updates that you do want from CAMRA

(But NOT those that you don't.)

The categories you can choose are:

- Branch
- News

- Offers

- Fundraising
- Festivals & Events
- Third Party - Trade
- Campaigns - Ale & Cider

Go to the **CAMRA Membership** website.

CAMRA News

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

Seems like only yesterday we were drinking Christmas this and Santa's that and now we are looking at the clocks 'going forwards', birds singing and warmer sun! An hour of daylight extra to be in the pub garden (with jacket and thermals of course!)

Looking towards spring, what surprises have CAMRA "sprung" on us in the last month?

Best club in the country

A little too late for last month, sadly our own Orpington Liberal Club (*not politically affiliated*) did not make the cut, but at least a Kent Club did and went on to win the Club of the Year Award. So, our congratulations go to the Marden Village Club which, following renovation back in 2017, now boasts six cask ales generally from local breweries. If you are in that area, pop in, show your CAMRA card and say hello for us! You can read more about this here.



Pub closures

These continue to make the headlines, with 554 pubs being closed in the last six months of 2022. Round my way we have recently (temporarily?) lost the Old Jail which hopefully will re-open but many of our pubs are now really having to tighten their belts to avoid closure, **for ever**.



So, with this in mind, CAMRA is calling on the Prime Minister and Chancellor to put together a support package to save the UK's pubs.

Similarly, CAMRA is calling on all pub goers to join the campaign for urgent help to save our (your) pubs which includes giving more help with energy bills from April, making the business rates system fairer for pubs and cutting tax on draught beer and cider by 20% to give our

locals a fighting chance to compete with the likes of supermarket alcohol. More information is here.

Have you emailed your local MP yet? I have!

Alcohol advertising

Not here as yet, but did you know that pub goers and beer drinkers across Scotland are being asked to join the fight to stop a ban on advertising alcohol from ruining the choice of good beer and the future of small breweries across that country?

CAMRA has commented that the proposals in the Scottish Government's consultation on banning alcohol advertising could spell the end for consumer choice, independent breweries and local festivals – but also be devastating for all alcohol producers and drinks festivals in Scotland. It could catch on here too!

Scottish beer drinkers and pub goers vow to take on 'totally devastating' alcohol advertising ban.

Read more about this here.

The Great British Beer Festival Winter

Did you go? Sadly, I did not, but I do expect this weekend to catch up with some who did. But what was the winning beer?



Well, for all those dark beer aficionados out there (and I count myself as one) it was the Elland Brewery's 1872

Porter. As one of the judging panel commented "the porter is citrus, sweet milk chocolate on a smooth full flavoured palette, complex but easy drinking. The fruitiness fades to a roasted dryness where the sweet chocolate lingers and spiciness builds".

Crumbs, I wish I could identify that from a beer but it does sound scrumptious!

The runners up were Robinson's Old Tom (which thankfully you can get down here, albeit in bottles) and Dancing Duck's Dark Drake.

And not a pale ale with overtones of grapefruit etc to be seen!

An interesting write up of thhttps://www.ellandbrewery.co.uk/cask/1872-porter/is may be found via this link.

What's Brewing

And for those that miss the receipt of this through the post, the link to the latest on-line copy, summarising all the up to date topics, may be found here https://wb.camra.org.uk/



Reading on, I was pleased to see that Roger Protz has an article on 'Beer style of the Year: Stout. Whilst he obviously starts with a reference to Guinness, I have just seen that even Brewdog are on the bandwagon with a challenger called Black Heart. Tried some myself the other week. Very nice too (and yes, I appreciate that it is not Cask).

Pub heritage

And now something a little different for you – have you visited the latest Pub Heritage bulletin? This covers Heritage pubs and is well worth a visit to fill in the time between work and play (or at work, if the Firewall allows).



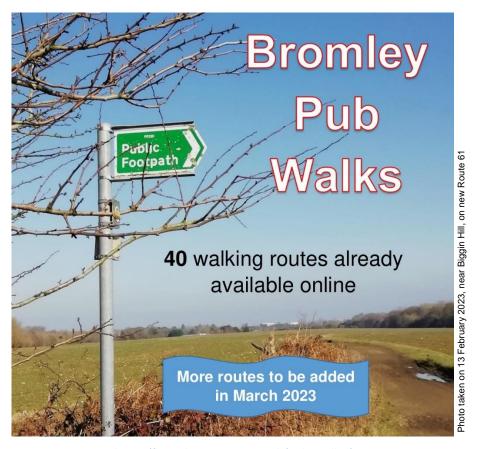
SUPREME CHAMPION REES

The bulletin may be found here and allows you to subscribe for further bulletins as they arise.

So that's about all for now. See you at our AGM

Kent Sadler, Branch Secretary

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



https://bromley.camra.org.uk/pub-walks/

More information about the five new routes will be in the April e-Newsletter.

Contacting Bromley CAMRA

■ Website: <u>bromley.camra.org.uk/</u>

Twitter: https://twitter.com/CAMRAbromley
 Facebook: facebook:com/bromleycamra/

General enquiries about the branch should be sent to: branch.contact@bromley.camra.org.uk

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

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

You can contact the **new** 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.

© 2023 Bromley CAMRA