

CAMRA Bromley Branch

e - Newsletter

September 2023



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Our Cramble on 12th August. Breaking the journey in the garden of the Queen's Head, Downe.

Photo: Paul Treleven

Contacting Bromley CAMRA

Website: bromley.camra.org.uk/

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, see details on the branch website:

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





Branch Calendar, September 2023

Bromley pub photos by Chris Crowther

Full details of all events, including map, addresses and suggested public transport options, can be viewed on the [branch website](#) – click on event in calendar and details will be presented.

NOTE: A planned social to East Malling Beer Festival has been cancelled due to strike action. [More details.](#)

Mon 4th September Central Bromley Social Organised at short notice to replace the East Malling beer festival trip	19:30 Red Lion	20:45 Partridge
		

Sat 9th September Rye day trip social	Agenda not finalised Here are some of the pubs we may visit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Standard Inn • The Ship Inn • The Mermaid Inn • The Ypres Castle Inn • The Waterworks 	The Waterworks 
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Wed 20th September Orpington Social	19:00 The Maxwell	20:10 Orpington Liberal Club
		

Tue 26th September Bromley CAMRA Committee Meeting	19:30 – 22:00 Imperial Arms Chislehurst 	Members of Bromley CAMRA who are not on the committee are welcome to attend committee meetings. Non-committee members planning to attend may request the Secretary to print a pack of relevant committee papers to be made available for them at the meeting.
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Plus: Sat 30th September Joint social with Orpington Liberal Club to Faversham – details will be posted [here](#)





‘More festivals like this please’

Remembering Bromley CAMRA Beer and Cider Festival 2023

‘More festivals like this please.’ The view of one attendee encapsulates all that has been achieved in this year’s Bromley CAMRA Beer and Cider Festival.

Here’s the story in stats:



- A record number of attendees. We reached people the branch has never engaged before. Two-thirds of festival-goers weren’t CAMRA members.
- More beer and more choice than ever before. Staggeringly we offered more than 115 beers and ciders over the course of three days.
- Beer and cider enough for everyone for three whole days, with over 6,500 pints poured. We did **NOT** run out, vitally important to restore faith in our festival as a three-day event.
- Delivered on financial targets for costs and surplus. This festival exists because it returns money to CAMRA national activities and campaigning.

If you came along, and even more so if you volunteered, this success and these achievements are yours. A BIG “Thank You” to all. Without every contribution this festival would not be possible.

We also pay tribute to our Beer and Cider of the Festival, voted for by festival-goers. This year the beer honours go to Marlix for their chilli chocolate stout, Where’s The Bloody Vindaloo, Hippy? Best cider was Port Wine of Glastonbury by Hecks. We also remembered our friend Paul Thomas, by selecting Brodie’s Old Street as the inaugural Paul Thomas Memorial Beer.

We know that there’s more to do. Lots more tables and chairs were added, but it wasn’t enough. The popularity of stouts and porters, especially on the third day, was unexpected. Standing water in the marquee rather dirtied the Mayor’s splendidly shiny shoes. We can all do more to make everyone feel welcome. And converting beer lovers into CAMRA members will require a more compelling offer than we could make (certainly something for the national organisation to consider).

To do this work and more in 2024, help is needed. If you’d like to contribute to making future festivals happen, please contact: festival.coordinator@bromley.camra.org.uk. The organising committee is made up of people who proactively offered to help, with the vast majority having no previous festival experience. If we can do it, so can you.

The Festival Organising Team

More on our “looking back” [website page](#).

CAMRA News this month

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

Happy September everyone! As you read this, the kids are going back to school, the nights are drawing in and it has probably stopped raining! Oh well, it is the UK after all and the cider apples are ready to be picked.

Me, fixated on the weather? No, never!

And of CAMRA? Well, it being August it has been pretty quiet - except for the mysterious destruction of a much loved (but apparently little used) pub in the midlands.

The Crooked House

Never have I seen such publicity on the reduction of a pub to a pile of rubble as we experienced at the start of August and CAMRA has not been quiet on this, regardless of an apparent lack of press coverage.

As CAMRA Chair, Nik Antona, has put it, “The destruction of this iconic pub has brought a nationwide scandal to the forefront of people’s minds. Despite the Government granting full planning protection to pubs in 2017 – meaning that change of use or demolition requires planning permission – we continue to see developers flouting the rules with pubs routinely converted or demolished without that permission in place”.



In fact, figures released by CAMRA previously showed that up to a third of closures and demolitions may be happening without the required planning permission, denying the local community the opportunity to save their local pub.

So are you aware of any closed pubs in your area that could be at risk (and in Biggin Hill we are aware of one at least!). If so, please let us know and we can follow up with the local Councillors, Residents Association, as needed. Do you know for instance that your CAMRA Branch monitors the planning applications, decisions and appeals lodged with Bromley Council?

For more on the Crooked House see: [CAMRA comments on the case of the Crooked House, South Staffordshire - CAMRA - Campaign for Real Ale](#) and [CAMRA pub closure figures expose ‘nationwide scandal’ in wake of unauthorised demolition of the Crooked House - CAMRA - Campaign for Real Ale](#)

Developers flout vital pub protection

I will not labour further on this but for more on pub closures, see [Developers flout vital pub protection regulations in a third of pub closures - CAMRA - Campaign for Real Ale](#)

Extension of COVID rules for takeaway pints

Now you may have seen the press coverage on this supposed good news. What it does not mention is the change in draught takeaway sales as highlighted in this very newsletter just last month under “Alcohol Duty changes – no more takeouts”.

Yes, your local pub can still sell takeaway bottled and tinned beers but don’t go asking for a 2 pint take out of your favourite cask ale or still cider. To get this you need to ask for 20 litres in one container – and that would please your local publican! CAMRA has commented and we await further news on this. See [CAMRA responds to the decision to extend COVID rules for takeaway pints - CAMRA - Campaign for Real Ale](#)



Can you afford your pint?

Well, regardless of the changes in taxation, research commissioned by CAMRA shows that only a small minority (10%) feel that a pint is affordable. Although, on reading this, it seems that 15% of Londoners said they found a pint affordable! Us Londoners must be an affluent bunch, as I have just returned from Northumberland and can definitely confirm that a pint is a lot more £££ down here!

As Nik Antona mentions, “A pint down the pub with friends is one of life’s simple pleasures, as well as being a unique part of our cultural heritage. It’s devastating that so few of us feel that this is affordable. Our campaigning priorities over the next few months will be calling for a shakeup of the punishing Business Rates systems, action to address energy costs, seeing the draught duty rate refined to work better for pubs, and working to secure increased access to market for small UK brewers.”

See: [Just 1 in 10 Brits say a pint is affordable - CAMRA - Campaign for Real Ale](#)

Let’s hope we can get the Government to address the draft duty anomaly!

Dark beers

As anyone who knows me will confirm, I am partial to dark beer, a Porter, Stout or Dark Mild is my dream on entering any pub with cask ale. Sadly, it is usually a shattered dream as I am faced with a vast array of modern pale ales prepared with New World hops and nowadays unfinned too.

Horses for courses, of course, but at our recent beer festival it was a dark beer which was voted Festival Beer and now I see that Elland’s 1872 Porter was crowned Champion Beer of Britain. Congratulations!

For more on this and to see who were the runners up, see: [Elland’s 1872 Porter crowned the Champion Beer of Britain - CAMRA - Campaign for Real Ale](#)

Books and reading material

Ooh, I like this headline “Campaign for Real Ale announces world-first publication”.

Okay, I hear you ask, what is it then? Well, it concerns the relation of Cider; English Perry, and the news that CAMRA has announced the upcoming release of its groundbreaking new perry book from writer Adam Wells, which will be the first consumer guide to one of the UK’s most traditional drinks.

Space precludes me covering this further apart from advising that the book is slated for publication in 2024.

See: [Campaign for Real Ale announces world-first publication - CAMRA - Campaign for Real Ale](#)

So that’s about it for this month. Remember, you can read more following these links and, by exploring the full CAMRA website. Go on, give it a try.

Kent Sadler

CAMRA Bromley Branch Secretary





In case you missed it....

Your Committee - see next section for Area Pub & Club Contacts	
Acting Chair	Bob Keaveney
Beer Scores Coordinator	Bob Keaveney
Branch Contact	Kent Sadler
Branch Secretary	Kent Sadler
e-Newsletter Editor	Paul Treleaven
Festival Coordinator	Anne Claridge
Good Beer Guide Coordinator	Nick White
London Drinker Distribution Coordinator	Richard Martin
Membership Secretary	Richard Gadd
Pub Promotions & Awards Coordinator	Peter Norwood
Pub Database Coordinator	Nick White
Pub Protection Officer	Bob Gordon
Public Affairs Officer	Maggie Hopgood
Social Media Coordinator	David Wilcock
Social Secretary	Barry Phillips
Treasurer	Debs Corcoran
Vice-Chair	Stuart Mayell
Webmaster	Paul Treleaven
Media Coordinator	Stuart Mayell
Also	
Branch Examiner (auditor)	John Horn
Branch President	Bob Gray

Items from recent newsletters that are still relevant.

CAMRA Learn and Discover

From the August 2023 Branch Secretary report (bottom of page):

[Downloads available here](#)

CAMRA Good Beer Guide 2024

From the July 2023 Branch Secretary report:

[GBG](#)

CAMRA Podcasts and Great British Beer Festival

From the May 2023 Branch Secretary report:

[Podcasts](#)

[GBBF](#)

AGM 2023

From the April 2023 issue, [AGM account from Bob Keaveney](#). Also, Committee list, see left, to memorise!

Pub of the Year and Club of the Year awards

From the [March 2023 issue](#). Presentations were given this month – CotY 6th April, PotY 19th April.

[Webpage](#) also updated.



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](#)

More scoring tips [here](#) on our website

WHAT?PUB
National Beer Scoring System

Please see the branch website for more information about Beer Scoring



Local Pub, Club & Brewery News

Snippets gathered from our Area Pub and Club contacts – for instance, beers that were on during visits, photos of any new pub features... All members are invited to [submit information](#) or discuss local issues with the Area Contacts (below). The pictures usually have enough resolution to be zoomed to read detail.

<p>BR1 –</p> <p>Area Contact: Martin Gee</p> <p>Photos: Paul Treleven</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Partridge is now open again following a closure for minor refurbishment. Beer and Music coming soon...(Dark Star APA was on 26 Aug.) 		
<p>BR2 –</p> <p>Area Contact: Richard Martin</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bitter End Bar is now “Cork and Cask” and it has been redecorated – should be open now 		
<p>BR3 –</p> <p>Area Contact: Graham Oglethorpe</p> <p>Photo: Graham Oglethorpe</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bricklayers Beckenham “What’s On” board (right) 		
<p>BR4 –</p> <p>Area Contact: Janet Freak</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Real Ale Way (WW). Gregory and Kariss have become proud parents to a baby boy, Henry. Parents, siblings and grandparents are doing well!!! 		

BR5 –

Area
Contact:
Wendy Reynolds

Photo:
Paul Treleven

- Pumps at **Sovereign of the Seas** (right, mid Aug)
- **Daylight Inn** – 3 real ales on – Doom, Sharps Solar and London Pride
- **British Legion** – Greene King IPA
- **The Bull**, St Paul’s Cray – London Pride



BR6 –

Area
Contact:
Norman Warner

Photos:
Norman Warner,
Paul Treleven



- **Five Bells** beer festival (top left) - in one of the garden huts (Norman was moments too late for photo)
- **Five Bells** beer festival (top right) - stillage – a selection of Westerham ales, plus some ciders.
- Pumps at the **Maxwell** (bottom right)
- Shepherd Neame Bishop's Finger is available in the **Woodman** Farnborough and **Whyte Lyon** – good reports of the quality
- **Mighty Oak** will be visiting **OLC** for a Meet The Brewer/Tap Takeover on Thursday September 14th.



BR7 –

Area
Contact:
Alan Hunt

Photos:
Alan Hunt

NAME	BREWERY	ABV	TYPE	PRICE
PIT	THE COCKPIT	3.8	HOUSE ALE	£4.20
SOMETIMES	FOOT	5.0	MICK STOUT	£5.30
THE ORDINARY BITTER	ANSRACH & HOBBIAN	3.7	SESSION BITTER	£4.90
PAMPLEMOUSSE	KENT	4.9	RED GRAPEFRUIT IPA	£5.50
JOINED AT THE HOP	IRON PIER	3.8	SESSION ALE	£4.70
BITTER	IRON PIER	4.0	BEST BITTER	£4.70
DESIRE	DURATION	4.4	PALE ALE	£5.90



- **The Crown** – Spitfire, Masterbrew, Whitstable Bay
- **The Cockpit** – Top left for beers during Alan’s visit
- **The Bull’s Head** – Top Right handpumps
- **Tiger’s Head** – Bottom right handpumps

<p>SE19 - SE20</p> <p>Area</p> <p>Contact: Peter Normington</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Douglas Fir Usually 1-2 casks on. Last visit they had Burning Sky's Aurora and Anspach & Hobday's Bitter. 8-10 keg lines, recently all have been Gipsy Hill. • The Alma Last visit they had Verdant's Penpol Pale & E London's Foundation Bitter. • The Goldsmiths Arms Last visit they had Landlord & Greene King's Al Fresco Pale.
<p>Biggin Hill, Cudham</p> <p>-</p> <p>Area</p> <p>Contact: Kent Sadler</p>	

Aylesford "Little Gem" Trip in Pictures

A social outside of our area together with Orpington Liberal Club. The [Little Gem](#) is a grade II listed pub and is now an outlet for Goachers beers which are brewed nearby.

Photos: Norman Warner





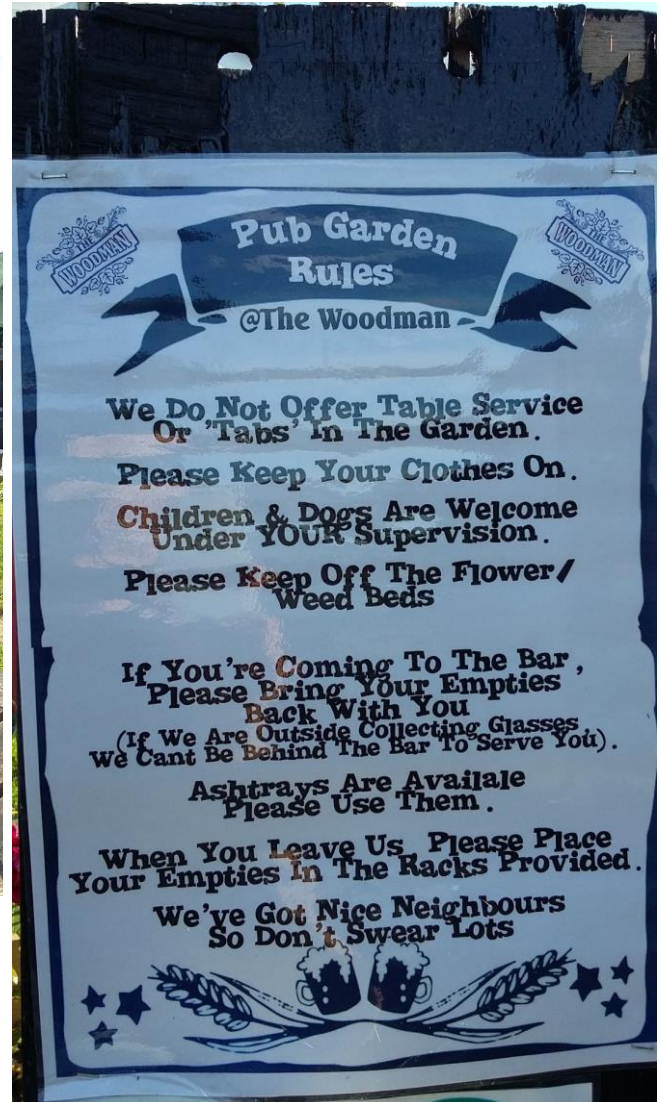
Summer of Pubs

Last of the summer? Nick White visits the pub garden at The Woodman, Farnborough

Left: My slightly devoured pint of Bishop's Finger (surprised to see this on along with Spitfire, Masterbrew and Whitstable Bay, all Shepherd Neame)



Right: The true spirit of the "Summer of Pub", especially the rules on keeping clothes on and no jumping on the weeds (and no swearing). Maybe the good folk of Farnborough get up to all three at the same time? Must be something they put into those S/N beers ...





Bob's Beermats

Some memory-joggers that Bob Keaveney found during a clear-out of his loft.

This month's installment is held over to next month – meanwhile an appropriate placeholder photo.





Bromley CAMRA Quiz September 2023

This month's quiz is on the theme of General Knowledge

Answers bottom of page

- 1) What might you do in East Africa if you had a kanzu?
- 2) In which city was the mime artiste Marcel Marceau born?
- 3) Which letter of the Greek alphabet is the equivalent of the letter "K"?
- 4) Which Texas town was established in 1849 to protect settlers from attacks by the Comanche tribe?
- 5) What is the correct form of spoken address to a pope?
- 6) From which country was the sixth Secretary General of the United Nations, Boutros Boutros Ghali?
- 7) What is the meaning of the common abbreviation "BAFTA"?
- 8) What is the colour of the cross on the flag of Finland?
- 9) Name one of the five British Foreign Secretaries who served under Margaret Thatcher.
- 10) In which town is the headquarters of the UN agency, The International Labour Organisation?

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

The October e-Newsletter will be published on **1st October 2023** – your contributions are welcome!

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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1) Wear it, it's a garment 2) Strasbourg
 3) Kappa 4) Fort Worth 5) Your Holiness
 6) Egypt 7) British Academy of Film and Television Arts 8) Blue
 9) Peter Carrington, Francis Pym Geoffrey Howe, John Major or Douglas
 Hurd 10) Geneva, Switzerland