

CAMRA Bromley Branch

e - Newsletter

November 2023



EDITOR'S NOTE ABOUT COMMITTEE VACANCIES

Please consider if you can take on any of these roles. Bromley CAMRA is a volunteer organization; we don't expect Committee members to be experts – don't be afraid to enquire, we don't bite!

In this issue:

[Branch Calendar](#)

A variety of social events, festivals and meetings are planned for November.

[CAMRA News](#)

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

[In Case You Missed It](#)

Items from past newsletters that are still relevant

[Bromley Pub, Club and Brewery News](#)

News from Pubs and Clubs in our branch area

[Bob's Beermats](#)

Bob Keaveney's flashback to 1970s

[A warming trip along the borders of Bromley](#)

Kent Sadler does the rounds

[Bromley CAMRA Quiz](#)

Martin Gee sets our quiz on the theme of Bonfire Night

The next e-Newsletter will be published on **1st December 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.

At the March 2024 AGM, several key roles (marked * below) will become vacant. **We need YOUR assistance to avoid the risk of the demise of your local CAMRA Branch.** We are especially keen on hearing from anyone with relevant experience.

The current list of roles:

- [Branch Chair*](#)
- [Branch Vice Chair](#)
- [Branch Treasurer*](#)
- [Social Secretary*](#)
- [Pub Promotions & Awards Coordinator*](#)
- [Festival Coordinator 2024*](#) (without whom, no 2024 Beer Festival!)
- [Pub & Club Contact for BR7](#)

But all Committee positions are available for election annually so please have a look at [page 6](#) of this newsletter for the full list of Committee roles.

For any further information on vacant Committee positions please contact our Branch Secretary at secretary@bromley.camra.org.uk. The sooner we know of your intent or possible interest, the sooner we can work with you for a seamless transfer of responsibility come March 2024.

Contacting Bromley CAMRA

Website: bromley.camra.org.uk/

X / 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, November 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.

<p>Mon 6th November Locksbottom Starting and Continuing</p>	<p>14:30 Olde Whyte Lyon</p> 	<p>15:30 Black Horse Locksbottom</p> 
<p>Mon 13th November Biggin Hill & Bromley Common Social</p>	<p>19:30 Black Horse Biggin Hill</p> 	<p>21:30 Two Doves</p> 
<p>Sat 18th November Hayes Starting and Continuing</p>	<p>13:30 Royal British Legion</p> 	<p>14:40 Real Ale Way</p> 
<p>Mon 27th November Bromley CAMRA Committee Meeting</p>	<p>19:30 – 22:00 Southey Brewery Tap</p> 	<p>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.</p>

More socials on next page!



<p>Thu 30th November <u>Social</u></p>	<p>17:00 – 21:00 The Hope Carshalton</p>	<p>Autumn dark beer festival</p>
		<p>Location: 48 West Street Carshalton SM5 2PR</p>

<p>Photo(s) from last month's socials</p>	<p>18th October Three Hounds Beer Cafe</p>	<p>...</p>
		
	<p>...</p>	<p>...</p>



CAMRA News this month

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

November – mists, early morning frosts, the smell of next door’s log burner doing its worst, what more do you need to tempt you into a visit to your local (unless you have already been a regular, regular during the rugby that is)!

Given all this, time for my usual summary of CAMRA activities in recent weeks.

Cider and Perry Month

Did you know that October was CAMRA’s Cider & Perry month? No? Well instead of both Cider and Perry, CAMRA chose to highlight the delights of Perry with the forthcoming publication of the first consumer guide to Perry. See [Perry: A Drinker's Guide - CAMRA - Campaign for Real Ale](#)

Of course, many of us remember Babycham, but there is a lot more out there than small bottles of commercial fizz.

Also, in case you missed it, have a look on the [Learn & Discover - CAMRA - Campaign for Real Ale](#) website where brand new content is being published covering the ecological importance of perry pear trees as well as looking at labelling requirements (yes, as previously mentioned here, both cider and perry really do need an update on what is contained within!)



And the Cider pub of the year is?

As part of the October celebrations, CAMRA is pleased to confirm that the “Tom Copley Tavern”, in Spreyton, Devon has been crowned National Cider and Perry Pub of the Year 2023. This prestigious national award recognises the best pub or club that promotes and encourages the sale of quality real cider and perry across the UK.

On the edge of Dartmoor, this family run 16th-century pub is the hub of Spreyton village life, with a keen focus on supporting its community. Featuring around 25 real ciders and perries, the newly crowned pub is a worthy winner, attracting visitors from far and wide.

So, if you are in or around Exeter, just have a little trip up the road! [Cider & Perry Pub of the Year - CAMRA - Campaign for Real Ale](#)

And finally, on Cider, at least

The Director of the Museum of Cider in Hereford (did you know we have one - [Museum of Cider - Hereford](#)), Elizabeth Pimblett, has been named by CAMRA as this year’s winner of the prestigious Pomana Award winner for her commitment and dedication to the cider community. Elizabeth was one of the founding members and original co-chair of Cider Women; a group celebrating women involved in all aspects of cider, spanning production, sales, education and advocacy. For more on Elizabeth and this award see [CAMRA awards ‘key player’ in Britain’s cider community - CAMRA - Campaign for Real Ale](#)

Manchester beer?

A new book, entitled Manchester’s Best Beer, Pubs & Bars by Matthew Curtis, has been published, putting a spotlight on the city and its beer scene.

The book covers traditional pubs through to latest trendy bottle shops, bars and taprooms and includes reviews of nearly 200 outlets. So, if you are from Manchester, or intending visiting there shortly, give this a try! [Manchester's Best Beer Pubs and Bars - CAMRA shop](#)



And further afield

The Champion Beer of Scotland has been decided and it is....

wait for it....

Cairngorm Brewery's Black Gold. A session stout, (yippee), described by judges as having a roast malt which dominates throughout, with a slightly smoky aroma leading to liquorice and blackcurrant flavours for a subtle sweetness. I am jealous of anyone at the Ayrshire Real Ale Festival at the start of October!

For more on this see [Cairngorm Brewery's Black Gold is crowned Champion Beer of Scotland - CAMRA - Campaign for Real Ale](#)

The top 4 pubs in the UK

The National Pub of the Year campaign continues its inexorable progress and CAMRA has now announced the top* 4 pubs in the country – finalists for the 2023 national Pub of the Year competition.

Whilst The Hope in Carshalton did not go through, the Nelson Arms in Tonbridge has. As mentioned last month, this is on my list of must visit and should be on yours too, if only to see what our Bromley pubs are up against!

FYI, the others are The Tamworth Tap, Tamworth; The Trafalgar Hotel in Ramsey (IofM) and The Beer Engine in Skipton. The overall winner will be announced in January 2024. Fingers crossed for our (near) local representative! [CAMRA announces top four pubs in the country - CAMRA - Campaign for Real Ale](#)

* I know, wording cribbed from last month!

Lastly – the Autumn Statement – and a plea from me

Back to serious news – CAMRA has called upon the Chancellor to cut the duty on beer and cider served in pubs, extend help with business rates and deliver a fair deal on energy costs to save the future of UK pubs. Let's hope that the Statement, due 22 November, goes some way to achieving those goals. [Extend tax cut on pints to save our pubs, CAMRA urges Chancellor - CAMRA - Campaign for Real Ale](#)

Of course, you can help too. How? Well, I could not help but notice that many of my local pubs committed to serving cask ale* (and excluding those who only serve it because they are told to – yes you know who you are!), are, during the week, pretty much empty. Evening as well as day. They cannot survive like this. With the number of hairdressers, barbers, nail shops and coffee shops increasing daily, there IS spare money out there. So, if you are a user of these, next time you fancy a coffee, perm or hot towel shave, consider visiting your pub instead. You know it makes sense!

*Yes, I will drink keg too if it's good. But fizz lager? Blurgh..

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.

Beer Scoring in Bromley Branch

From the October 2023 issue.

[Beer scoring article](#)

See also [website page](#)

Remembering Bromley Beer and Cider Festival 2023

From the September 2023 issue.

[Festival review article](#)

See also [website page](#)

CAMRA Learn and Discover

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

[Downloads available here](#)

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 2023

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>BR2 –</p> <p>Area Contact: Richard Martin</p>	
<p>BR3 –</p> <p>Area Contact: Graham Oglethorpe</p> <p>Photos: Graham Oglethorpe</p>	<p>Graham has sent us:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Br3wery beer range • Bricklayers Arms entertainment • Three Hounds entertainment • Link to Erin's 
<p>BR4 –</p> <p>Area Contact: Janet Freak</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Real Ale Way WW – Janet presents GBG 2024 certificate to Lisa (as well as one for Hayes RAW) 



<p>BR5 –</p> <p>Area Contact: Wendy Reynolds</p>	
<p>BR6 –</p> <p>Area Contact: Norman Warner</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Norman reports that “Late Red Olde Whyte Lyon & at the Woodman is absolutely gorgeous IMO” • Also that 20 beers were enjoyed at the Orpington Liberal club, during their Autumn BF a couple of weeks ago. Their Winter Ales festival is planned for a couple of months’ time.
<p>BR7 –</p> <p>Area Contact: Alan Hunt</p> <p>Photos: Alan Hunt</p>	<p>Alan reports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sydney Arms - London Pride and Doom Bar; Scadbury Manor walk over the road - lap takes 40 mins with a nice pint awaiting the finish line... • Bulls Head - Youngs Ordinary and Special on tap along with Proper Job • The Cockpit – The Pit plus ever-changing board; Adam plans talk on IPAs • Queens Head - Doom Bar, London Pride and Tea on tap with new ales being rotated • Gordon Arms - London pride and Timothy Taylor on tap • Bickley – top pic • Imperial Arms – 2nd pic from top • Ramblers Rest – bottom left pic • Tigers Head – bottom right pic • Crown - Master Brew, Spitfire and Late Red on tap; newly refurbished restaurant
<p>SE19 - SE20</p> <p>Area Contact: Peter Normington</p>	
<p>Biggin Hill, Cudham Downe</p> <p>Area Contact: Kent Sadler</p>	<p>See Kent’s article below featuring Blacksmiths, Cudham; Queens Head, Downe; Crown, Leaves Green.</p>



Bob's Beermats

In this instalment of our series, Bob K looks at another selection of the 1970s beermats found during a sort-out of his loft. This month it's more mats from breweries which have long since disappeared, although in some cases the name does still live on.



Greenall Whitley. Warrington, Cheshire. Ceased brewing in 1990 and became a PubCo. The pubs were later sold to other operators.



Burtonwood, Cheshire. Not sure when this disappeared, as there seem to have been various mergers etc. However the brewery site was sold to Molson Coors in 2015.



Davenports, Birmingham. Taken over by Greenall Whitley in 1986. Brewing ceased in 1989. However, a brewery and PubCo with this name operates in the West Midlands.



Hardys & Hansons, Kimberley, Nottinghamshire. Acquired by Greene King in 2006 and brewery closed.



Hancocks. I have no idea where I obtained this mat, since the brewery appears to have been acquired by Bass Charrington in 1968 (before I had started going to pubs!).



Usher, Edinburgh (not to be confused with Ushers of Trowbridge). Taken over by Vaux in 1959. Vaux brewery closed in 1999. A new brewery now operates under the name of Vaux.



Joules, Stone, Staffs. Acquired by Bass Charrington in 1968 and brewery closed in 1972. A new brewery based in Shropshire now operates under that name.

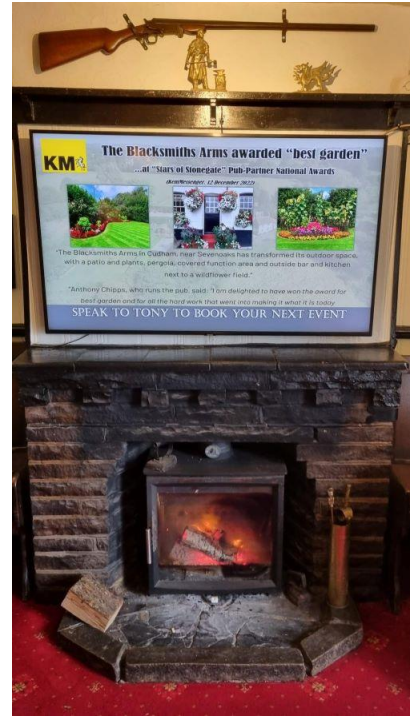
Disclaimer.

All the information about the breweries on this page was sourced from the internet, and therefore may not be totally correct...

A warming trip along the borders of Bromley

With the weather turning cold and wet, what better time to travel the borders of Bromley delivering essential reading - London Drinker! Kent Sadler does the rounds.

First off was **The Blacksmiths** in Cudham. Pretty remote by Bromley standards, the pub had a couple of very drinkable cask ales along with a cider for those preferring the apple to hops. Well known for its wonderful Summer gardens, you are reminded of this when admiring the warmth of the log fire!



So, from there - where to? Dropping down through the lanes we stopped off at the **Queens Head** in Downe. Sadly, no warming fire just yet but, as usual, a good choice of beers available, served in our 2023 festival glasses plus, in the absence of wood crackling in the grate, a selection of warming soups for our delectation!



Bidding the QH farewell, following a quick trip further through the lanes of Biggin Hill, past the sadly closed Old Jail (still no evidence of refurbishment), we make a final stop for the day at the **Crown** in Leaves Green. A nice half of Late Red was to be enjoyed whilst settling down and reading London Drinker in front of a welcoming fire.



And so completed a quick tour of some of our outlying pubs! All reachable by bus, bicycle, on foot or by car (if you can get the driver!)

Kent Sadler

Pub contact for Biggin Hill, Downe and Cudham.



Bromley CAMRA Quiz November 2023

This month's quiz is all about Bonfire Night - answers below

- 1) What was Guy Fawkes real first name?
- 2) Who was the leader of the group that planned The Gunpowder Plot?
- 3) What year did the Gunpowder plot take place?
- 4) Who is the Catherine Wheel name after?
- 5) What speed in mph will a typical rocket firework reach?
- 6) Where in the world, in the 2nd Century BC, were fireworks invented?
- 7) The uninhabited Guy Fawkes island, is located in which group of islands?
- 8) What is the Yorkshire cake traditionally eaten on Bonfire Night called?
- 9) In which museum can you find Guy Fawkes' lantern on display?
- 10) Which King was the first to host a fireworks display for a celebration?



1) Guido 2) Robert Catesby 3) 1605 4) St. Catherine
of Alexandra
5) 150mph 6) China 7) Galapagos 8) Parkin
9) Ashmolean Museum in Oxford 10) King Henry
VII in 1486