

CAMRA Bromley Branch

e - Newsletter

December 2023



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The next e-Newsletter will be published on **1st January 2024** – 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.

Barry Philips reports:

On the evening of Wednesday 15th November, Marlix brewery were presented with the award for Beer of the Beckenham Beer Festival 2023, for their 'Where's The Bloody Vindaloo Hippie?' Chilli Chocolate Stout.

Pictured are Alex Mears (left) and Mark Irwin (right), the proprietors and brewers of Marlix brewery, and Anne Claridge, Beckenham Beer Festival coordinator (centre).



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, December 2023

Bromley pub photos by Chris Crowther

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

<p>Wed 6th December West Wickham Social</p>	<p>19:30 Railway Hotel</p> 	<p>20:20 Real Ale Way (WW)</p> 	
<p>Mon 11th December Petts Wood & Bromley Social</p>	<p>19:00 One Inn The Wood</p> 	<p>20:30 Hit or Miss</p> 	<p>21:30 Cork n Cask</p> 
<p>Sat 30th December Bromley North Social</p>	<p>13:30 Crown and Anchor</p> 	<p>14:20 Anglesey Arms</p> 	<p>15:10 Red Lion</p> 

Photo(s) from last month's socials	13 November Queens Head (Downe)	13 November Two Doves
		
	18 November Real Ale Way, Hayes	...
		

CAMRA News this month

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

December is upon us. Mind you judging by the shops it has been upon us for weeks already!

Anyway, before you wind down for the Christmas Holidays and, hopefully, a little over-indulgence, a quick summary of CAMRA activities follows.

A missed opportunity

Regretfully (as far as CAMRA are concerned), the Government has announced that there is to be no change to the laws governing the relationship between pub owning businesses (PubCos) and the tied tenants who run those pubs.

CAMRA wanted to see changes to give tied pub tenants more choice over which beers they offer including the right to a guest draught beer or cider from local and independent brewers – a move which would benefit us, the consumers, as well.

As a consequence, it is feared more pubs will be forced to close and be lost to their communities. See : [Government Review “missed opportunity” to improve choice of local and independent beers at the bar - CAMRA - Campaign for Real Ale](#)

A missed opportunity – take 2

And we had the Kings Speech too – but, as the CAMRA Chair Nik Antona put it, “The King’s Speech was an opportunity for the Government to make a firm commitment to pub protection and announce legislation to bolster the planning enforcement tools available to local authorities to deter unscrupulous developers from flouting planning rules, Unfortunately, we are still uncertain about whether the Government will act, and they have already ruled out making legislative changes to the Pubs Code, to better balance the relationship between pub companies and their tenants, and to improve consumer choice in the tied pub estate.”



So how many more examples of “The Crooked House” will occur I wonder? Do you know of a pub in your area which could make a nice building estate? I know I do. [Government agenda lacks action for pubs and brewers - CAMRA - Campaign for Real Ale](#)

British Guild of Beer Writers

Now let’s drop the politics! Did you know that there is a Guild of beer writers? No? Nor did I. Must go to the Lord Mayor’s show next November and see what presence is in the procession!

Anyway, I am pleased to confirm that a host of content has been shortlisted for the 2023 awards including from the Learn and Discover platform, What’s Brewing and the various published books about pubs, beer, brewing, cider and perry. See [CAMRA shortlisted for the British Guild of Beer Writers awards 2023 - CAMRA - Campaign for Real Ale](#)

Shortlisting includes (and this is a long list!): Best book about beer or pubs; Best corporate beer communications; Best communication about pubs; Best video beer communication and Best communication about cider. For full details of the shortlist see: [2023 Shortlist | The British Guild of Beer Writers \(beerguild.co.uk\)](#)

By the time you read this the awards will have been decided so fingers crossed for any of your favourites.

The Autumn Statement

Okay, any wishes for good news for pub-goers, pubs and breweries has been in short supply. Yes, the duty freeze helps as does the discount on business rates bills, but the feeling at CAMRA is that there has been a missed opportunity. Oh well – see [Business Rates help to protect pubs welcome – but duty freeze ‘missed opportunity’: CAMRA - CAMRA - Campaign for Real Ale](#)

Best live beer and live music pubs request

CAMRA is drawing up an article covering such pubs. If you know of a decent pub with cask beer and live music, let CAMRA know – emma.haines@camra.org.uk

A few words about the venue would also be great. The pubs don’t have to be in the 2024 Good Beer Guide, but bonus points if they are. (lager & keg pubs need not apply!)

Hey, I know of one and have already submitted an email recommendation!

Members’ weekend

Just a reminder that if you wish to attend at the Members’ Weekend, AGM & Conference, you do need to register! The event takes place next year at the Caird Hall, Dundee on 26 to 28 April 2024.

For more information on this contact membersweekend@camra.org.uk

Heritage pubs

Do you enjoy a pint in a traditional pub? Do you like finding out more and perhaps visiting them? Well to assist you there is a regular Pub Heritage Bulletin, issued by CAMRA, summarising Pub Heritage and historic pub interiors. The latest is the October 2023 bulletin 248 and can be found at: [Pub-Heritage-Bulletin-248-Oct-2023 - Bulletin - Pub Heritage \(camra.org.uk\)](https://www.camra.org.uk/pub-heritage-bulletin-248-oct-2023)

Photo: Five Bells, Chelsfield



Enjoy the Christmas shopping – you know a quick visit to your local will assist in the decisions to be made about who gets the gloves and who gets the socks on the 25th. Anyone remember filling a bottle with scented bath crystals of differing colours for their granny, *every year*? How times change (for the better)!

Kent Sadler

CAMRA Bromley Branch Secretary



Committee Posts and Vacancies

The list of Bromley branch Committee posts is on the next page as well as the area reps listing on pp 7-8

Our branch has a number of posts whose current holders have notified their intention to step down at the 2024 AGM. In addition, we have some posts that are currently vacant. Both are indicated on [this website page](#); please consider whether you are able to step forward for any of these posts.

For most of the vacancies, the present post-holders have done a write-up of what the post involves. The write-up document can be downloaded [here](#).

The election of post-holders is done at the AGM. Details of the 2024 AGM can be found on [this website page](#); make a date in your diary!





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	Currently Vacant
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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crown and Anchor has a regular event schedule: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Tuesdays 3-7pm Vinyl records from 50's, 60's, 70's played ○ Tuesdays 7:30 Quiz night ○ Plus music Fridays and Saturdays • Martin reports that he enjoyed a very good Dark Island from Orkney Brewery in Richmal Crompton. Then, at The Partridge, they had Nano Cask Session Bitter and Arbor Shangri La IPA as well as the usual range – the ESB was on top form. Expect Fullers London Porter and Gales Prize Old Ale beginning of December.
<p>BR2 –</p> <p>Area Contact: Richard Martin</p> <p>Photo: Chris Crowther via whatpub</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nick White noticed this: The Fox pub is currently closed for refurbishment with a sign stating "The Fox Brasserie & Pub Coming Soon". Further information suggests that this may open on 31st December. • GREAT NEWS – Bird in Hand has reopened after refurbishment. Harvey's Sussex Best Bitter and Young's Bitter available; whatpub page here. 
<p>BR3 –</p> <p>Area Contact: Graham Oglethorpe</p> <p>Photo: Bob Keaveney</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bob Keaveney, Three Hounds, November 10th for their 'Siren Craft Brew, Caribbean Chocolate Cake launch event' 
<p>BR4 –</p> <p>Area Contact: Janet Freak</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note the West Wickham social (page 2) at the Railway Hotel and Real Ale Way.

<p>BR5 –</p> <p>Area Contact: Wendy Reynolds</p> <p>Photo: Wendy Reynolds</p>	<p>Wendy reports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mutineers has brewed a special beer in collaboration with One In The Wood called New Bhoys. It's a 4.3% pale. It's a cracking citra and Mandarina Bavaria hopped beer. Coming back are cheese and charcuterie from Owley Farm in the heart of the Kentish Weald. Newsshopper article on OITW. Photo shows stall outside with owners Martin (left) and Elliot (right) 	
<p>BR6 –</p> <p>Area Contact: Norman Warner</p>	<p>Norman reports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See photo – Queen's Head GSG - beers 20th Nov. • Cricketers had Harvey's Sussex and Bexley's Own Bitter • Orpington Liberal Club Winter Ales week 4-10 Dec. list here 	
<p>BR7 –</p> <p>Area Contact: Alan Hunt</p>	<p>Alan reports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enjoyed Queen's Head Hogs Back Tea (pumps right, plus Tribute) • Gordon Arms – enjoyed the London Pride and Timothy Taylor 	
<p>SE19 - SE20</p> <p>Area Contact: Peter Normington</p> <p>Photo: Norman Warner</p>	<p>November's Branch Committee meeting was held at Southey Brewery.</p> <p>Pictured is Anne Claridge (left) presenting the joint runner-up award for the Beer of the Festival to Southey Brewing</p>	
<p>Biggin Hill, Cudham Downe</p> <p>Area Contact: Kent Sadler</p>	<p>Kent reports: The Black Horse See my photo of the beers that they have had in the last 8 weeks. St Austell Cornish Best on at the moment and was one of the nicest pints I have had in a long time at this venue. Next on will be By The Horns, 36 Barrels, a smoked amber ale.</p>	

The Pub-of-the-Year and Club-of-the-Year selection process

Do you wish to make nominations?

Every year, most CAMRA branches select a pub to be their branch Pub of the Year. Those branches with any eligible clubs can also select a club to be their branch Club of the Year. Winners of the branch awards then progress to be judged in the relevant regional competitions and potentially ultimately for the national awards.

There is more information about the Bromley CAMRA Pub & Club of the Year awards on the [branch website](#). Details of the current (2023) winners can be viewed [here](#).



Nominate your favourite Pub and/or Club

All members are invited to **nominate a pub and/or a club** for the 2024 awards.

Members are also being asked to volunteer to be on the **judging panel**.

[Follow this link to the on-line form.](#)

The final date for receipt of nominations is **21st January 2024**.

Bromley CAMRA Quiz December 2023

This month's quiz is - of course - all about the Festive Season - answers below

- 1) Santa Claus is also known as Saint what?
- 2) Which iconic brand was responsible for Santas red suit?
- 3) On a Christmas wreath what does holly represent?
- 4) Name all Santa's reindeer.
- 5) What is the best-selling Christmas song of all time?
- 6) Which drink is the descendant of the medieval drink Posset?
- 7) Stollen originates from which country?
- 8) What was the first Christmas song ever to be broadcast on radio?
- 9) Which Royal sent the first Christmas card?
- 10) Chrismukkah is the merging of Christmas with which other celebration?



1) St Nicholas 2) Coca Cola 3) The Crown of Thorns
 4) Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid,
 Donner, Blitzen Rudolph 5) White Christmas 6)
 Eggnog 7) Germany 8) O Holy Night 9) Queen
 Victoria 10) Hannukah