

CAMRA Bromley Branch

e - Newsletter

January 2024



Campaign
for
Real Ale

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



A pre-Christmas
celebration – 16th
December - at the
Queen's Head,
Downe

Contacting Bromley CAMRA

Website: bromley.camra.org.uk/

X / Twitter: <https://twitter.com/CAMRAbromley>

Facebook: facebook.com/bromleycamra/

Enquiries: 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, January 2024

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>Sat 6th January GBG Selection Meeting</p>	<p>14:30 Orpington Liberal Club</p>		
<p>Mon 15th January Penge Social</p>	<p>19:00 Goldsmiths Arms</p>	<p>19:50 Southey Brewery Tap</p>	<p>21:30 Moon and Stars</p>
<p>Sat 20th January Bexley area micropubs Social</p>	<p>12:00 Kentish Belle</p>	<p>13:20 Door Hinge</p>	<p>14:20 Bolthole</p>
<p>15:40 Broken Drum</p>	<p>17:00 Hackney Carriage</p>		
<p>Tue 30th January Committee Meeting</p>	<p>19:30 – 22:00 Star and Garter</p>		

<p>Photo(s) from last month's socials</p>	<p>30 Dec White Horse (added due to Anglesey not open)</p>	<p>30 Dec Red Lion; 2 table areas needed!</p>
		

The Chislehurst Christmas Crawl Ode 2023 *Alan's Ode for 2023*

Christmas speeds around once more
Thought of Ales our landlords will pour
Lots of local pubs to drink and have fun
My Chislehurst Christmas Crawl has just begun

The Bickley, large pub, at the bottom of the hill
The winter garden, stylish and brill
Snug and warm and cosy and chic
Share beers with friends, weekends or midweek

The Imperial Arms is just a stroll up the street
Good ales good food, friendly faces to meet
Meals in the bistro or sat the bar
Sit where you like to enjoy a jar

I love a pub Christmas with open fires
With bar staff made up in Christmas attire
Candle in bottles flickering away
A beer a carol and song and a sway

The Ramblers Rest is just around the lane
Ideal for some beers whilst watch the game
Split level bar divides this pub
A friendly place, a community hub

A bit of a stroll to the Tigers Head
To moisten the tonsils and to get fed
Lots of groups enjoying their Christmas functions
Liquid lunches, Ales and working luncheons

Across the Common the Crown awaits
Recently refurbished for family and mates
Ales are flowing and diners are eating
Loving families, good friends, here they are meeting

The Bulls Head is just around the next road
With two large bars to lessen the load

Christmas celebrations night and day
Ales being supped come what may

Next is Bromley's Pub of the year
This jewel in the crown is full of cheer
Wide ranging Ales to sort all tastes
Great atmosphere for Christmas here with mates

Great pub menus full of Turkey and trimmings
With Veggie and vegan alternative offerings
All washed down with your favourite Ales
Or wines of your choice taken with pals

A slight diversion takes us down the road
To the Sydney Arms all out on its own
A pleasant mix of locals and those out walking
Lots of Ale suppers laughing and taking

The Queens Head is next on this Christmas crawl
Daily offers on food and drinks is the rule
Bands and singers are booked to enjoy
Beers with friends over Christmas, oh boy

The refurbished "Gordons" is our final call
For us to finish off our Christmas crawl
Good beers on tap and a welcome smile
Make this Chislehurst Christmas crawl well worthwhile

As I sit here and enjoy and Ale with the wife
Please remember the pubs just not for Christmas, but for life!
As we near this end of this Christmas crawl ode
Enjoy your Ales and have one for the road!

Alan Hunt
BR7 Pub Contact

Pub and Club of the Year

Every year Bromley CAMRA members select the branch's Pub and Club of the Year. Bob Keaveney looks back at our previous winners.



Bromley CAMRA was relaunched as a branch in late 2011, so our first Pub of the Year (PotY) was selected in 2012, with the first Club of the Year (CotY) being in 2013.

The branch has selected a PotY and CotY every year since then, although due to Covid lockdowns etc, the 2020 winners became the 2020/21 winners.

In 2015, the Bromley PotY went on to be selected as the Greater London Regional winner.

The selection process has already started for the 2024 awards, please see the next page for more information.

Bromley Pub of the Year Winners

- 2012. [Red Lion, BR1](#)
- 2013. [Grape & Grain, SE19](#)
- 2014. [Queen's Head, BR6](#)
- 2015, 2016, 2022. [One Inn The Wood, BR5](#)
- 2017. [The Greyhound, BR2](#)
- 2018, 2019, 2020/21. [Star & Garter, BR1](#)
- 2023. [The Cockpit, BR7](#)



See the [Branch website](#) for details of PotY runners-up
Next page for CotY

Your chance to be involved with selecting the 2024 Bromley CAMRA PotY & CotY

Members are invited to nominate a pub and/or club for the 2024 awards. We also need members to volunteer to join the judging panel.

For more information, please follow this link to the [Google Form](#).

The closing date for nominations and volunteering is 21st January 2024.



Judging of the pubs is carried out using the CAMRA standard judging categories: (See [this link](#) for more info)

1. Quality and Condition of Product
2. Promotion and Knowledge of Product
3. Cleanliness and Staff Hygiene
4. Community Focus
5. Service and Welcome
6. Style, Décor and Atmosphere
7. Sympathy with CAMRA's Aims
8. Overall Impression and Value



Club of the Year

If you use [WhatPub](#) to find out about a club, you will see this wording: *'This is a club, which means that the bar may be only open to members'*.

As far as we are aware, there are currently **14** clubs in Bromley which serve real ale, compared with almost **90** pubs, bars and taprooms. CAMRA has managed to negotiate with four of these clubs to allow access to CAMRA members (subject to certain conditions). The four clubs are: [Beckenham RFC](#); [Orpington Liberal Club](#); and the Royal British Legion Clubs in [Petts Wood](#) and [Hayes](#). These are the only clubs eligible to be considered for any CAMRA awards, or for inclusion in the Good Beer Guide.



[Orpington Liberal Club](#) has been awarded the title of Bromley CotY every year since 2014. The club has also won the Greater London Regional title in 2013, 2015, 2017, 2018, & 2019. In addition the club has then gone on to be judged in the national competition, finishing within the 'final four' in 2014, 2016, & 2020 (note that the National Award is made in the year following the branch and regional judging stages)

Good Beer Guide

Nick White, our GBG Coordinator, with a reminder about the GBG selection meeting

With the Good Beer Guide 2024 edition now published and hopefully appearing in some lucky drinker's Christmas stocking, our attention is now focussed on starting the process for selecting entries for the Good Beer Guide 2025 edition. The Good Beer Guide wheel still keeps on turning ...

As part of the selection process, we are having a Good Beer Guide Selection Meeting open to all CAMRA members:

Saturday 6th January
at 2.30 pm (prompt)
in the function room at the
Orpington Liberal Club
7 Station Road, Orpington, BR6 0RZ

This will be a good-natured meeting with cask ales available from the bar to help with the proceedings.

We will be selecting 10 entries from a shortlist of up to 25 pubs and clubs. These candidates on the shortlist will have already been selected beforehand from the total of 100 pubs, micropubs, bars and eligible clubs that serve cask ale within the Bromley CAMRA area.

To make it onto the shortlist, candidate pubs and clubs must have received a sufficient quantity of beer scores during 2023, from enough members, over sufficient months. We also have to reject any potential candidates that do not overall have sufficiently high beer scores to warrant being considered.

We will also be selecting two "reserves", just in case any of the 10 successful entries have to be withdrawn for any reason, such as a change of management, cask ale no longer being served or, worse still, pub closure.

Alas, the deadline for the beer scores for 2023 was at 23:59 on Christmas Eve. Any scores submitted since then will now go forward into the "2024 beer scoring year", for the eventual Good Beer Guide 2026. And the Good Beer Guide wheel continues to turn ...

Nick White

Good Beer Guide Coordinator

A reminder: Beer is for everyone - Experiences of 2023

With the ending of 2023, a look back over the year reveals some unfortunate negative feedback regarding the reported behaviour of some members towards others, especially to women and young or black people. Only a few instances, but even one is too many. It is well worth remembering that we all need to be welcoming.

'It would be better if the volunteers did not assume that, as a woman, I don't know what a stout is. They did not question the man before me.'

That was a quote from feedback at the festival.

If we say or allow insensitive, crass, or offensive words, then we not only disrespect another human being, we disrespect the aims of CAMRA and the volunteers who give up their time for the organisation. Words can hurt and help.

Please remember that we should speak up and speak out if we hear others behave poorly towards other people at any CAMRA event. We can all do more to welcome people into our passion.

‘As a young CAMRA member, I was questioned on my choices of beer like I was being stereotyped based on my looks.’

That was from another festival goer, suggesting a discussion more based on the attendee's looks than an open question about what beer they liked.

Of course, such issues are not just applicable only at a festival but can and do crop up in socials and general meetings. The cliché that "only blokes quaff pints" is completely outdated. For instance, 47% of women asked by consumer research organisation "Mintel" drank beer or cider in a pub in the last three months. Put that another way, half of the women in pubs are drinking the same drinks that we in CAMRA love.

If CAMRA is to survive, let alone thrive, it must attract and retain new members. One feedback form said that they were no longer considering joining CAMRA. We risk damaging that which we claim to love when we exclude or marginalise. The other person at the bar, whoever they are, is a potential ally in our fight for more and better beer. Don't push them away.

Beer is for everyone. Pubs are for everyone. CAMRA is for everyone. We can't make it clearer.

Debs Corcoran
Branch Treasurer

CAMRA News this month

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

Happy New Year. Hope you all had a good holiday and were able to visit your local. Do not forget your beer scores – without them your local cannot be considered for Bromley Pub of the Year or the Good Beer Guide.

If you did not get a chance to get out, remember that many breweries will sell direct, by post or Taproom, from as little as 4 tins or bottles to a 9 pint carry out or even larger. Ideal for birthdays and other celebrations!

So, what has happened throughout the last month?

British Guild of Beer Writers

Last month I reported on the large amount of content up for award. This month I am pleased to confirm that books published by CAMRA won the Gold and Silver prizes in the "Best Book About Beer or Pubs" category and the Learn and Deliver platform also won gold for "Best Corporate Beer Communication" with one of the videos being awarded silver in the "Best Video Beer Communication" category.

Gold – Desi Pubs, written by David Jesudason. This book covers British-Indian pubs, food and culture, taking the reader on a journey to parts of Britain that are seldom visited.

Silver – Cask, written by Des de Moor. This book covers the origins and history of cask ale and how the drink has developed and changed over time. A Good read!

For more on these awards see: [CAMRA wins big at the British Guild of Beer Writers awards 2023 - CAMRA - Campaign for Real Ale](#)

Club of the Year

If you are out and about, how about considering trying one of these finalists for a change?

- Dobcross Band Social Club – Greater Manchester



- Parwich Royal British Legion Club – Parwich
- Marden Village Club – yes, our almost local club, winner last year, has made it to this year’s final four!
- Cheltenham Motor Club – a previous three times winner (and they aim to keep one dark ale and one cider on tap at all times!)

All of the clubs in the competition are selected by CAMRA volunteers and judged on their atmosphere, decor, welcome, service, value for money, customer mix and most importantly – quality of beer. The four finalists will now have a chance to win the National Club of the Year title for 2023, which will be announced in early 2024. Let’s hope, going forwards, for similar success from our number one club, The Orpington Liberal Club or, further afield, The Orient Supporters Club.

And More on Clubs

Hot on the trail of Club of the Year, CAMRA has also recognised outstanding achievements in clubs, announcing three joint winners of its inaugural “Club Recognition Award”. The award celebrates and recognises a person, group, or organisation which has made an outstanding achievement, commitment, or contribution to the promotion of real ale, cider or perry in social clubs over the last 12 months – or ongoing outstanding work.

The winners are Phil Cowtan of [Ladybarn Social Club](#), Manchester; Kay Drummond of [Tanfield Lea Working Men’s and Community Club](#), County Durham; and Nigel and Teressa Pickering of [Wortley Club](#), South Yorkshire. For further details see: [CAMRA recognises outstanding achievements in clubs - CAMRA - Campaign for Real Ale](#)

Podcast – Pubs. Pints. People

I am pleased to confirm that this popular podcast returns for its seventh season with an all-new and bumper sized episode complete with interesting reviews and special guests. The new seventh series kicks off with a deluxe extra-long episode, [Marvelous Mild](#), celebrating this wonderful beer style, (you mean you have not tried it?) with the podcast team travelling to the Black Country in search of the delicious malty brew.

The episode puts a spotlight on West Midland brewers and pubs. Brewer Alice Batham and operations manager Clare Batham of [Bathams](#) brewery and brewer Ricky Follos of [Sarah Hughes](#) brewery, plus general manager Alex Marchant of the [Beacon Hotel](#) in Sedgley, lift the lid on the Dudley beer scene.



Highly recommended, the full episode is now available on [Acast](#), [Spotify](#) and [Apple Podcast](#), and wherever you get your podcasts from. You can listen now by visiting <https://camra.org.uk/podcast/>

Again, for more on this see [CAMRA podcast returns for season seven - CAMRA - Campaign for Real Ale](#)

Learn & Discover – “Understanding Hop Compounds”

One for the more discerning amongst us. You may note that the beer clip or pub description mentions the hops used but do you want to know more and why? Do you know your Caryophyllene from your Humulene for instance? Well, the latest update to this website is a bespoke educational article giving a detailed, scientific understanding of hop chemistry, flavours and aromas. [Understanding Hop Compounds](#) by Charlotte Cook is arguably the most in-depth Learn & Discover article to date. It is key for a brewer to understand how to best utilise the hops available to them, and that requires a knowledge of the chemistry of hops. Learn all about alpha acids, terpenoids, thiols and how they affect the flavour of beer. See: [Understanding Hop Compounds - CAMRA - Campaign for Real Ale](#)



Give it a try – it’s quite a read!



And Last – The Great British Beer Festival

Yes, you did not hear wrong. The GBBF is postponed for 2024. For a number of reasons, the Events Director has had to cancel 2024, hoping for a return with a bang in 2025. Fingers crossed for its success.

So, a Happy New Year everyone – let's hope for a great 2024. Perhaps even one where pub closures become a thing of the past (and pubs stock more Porters and Stouts and less lagers – oh I dream!)

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.

Committee Vacancies Still important!

From the November 2023 issue.

[Committee Vacancies](#)

See also [website page](#)

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 2024!

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?UB
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 can also [submit information](#) and are encouraged to discuss local issues with the Area Contacts (name and link below). The pictures usually have enough resolution to be zoomed to read detail. If you're not sure where each area covers, click it and a Google map will show you.

<p>BR1</p> <p>Martin Gee</p>	
<p>BR2</p> <p>Richard Martin</p>	
<p>BR3</p> <p>Graham Oglethorpe</p> <p>Graham sent us this festive view of the Bricklayers</p>	
<p>BR4</p> <p>Janet Freak</p>	
<p>BR5</p> <p>Wendy Reynolds</p>	
<p>BR6</p> <p>Norman Warner</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orpington Liberal Club current beer list
<p>BR7</p> <p>Alan Hunt</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See Alan's Chislehurst Ode
<p>SE19 - SE20</p> <p>Peter Normington</p>	
<p>Biggin Hill, Cudham Downe</p> <p>Kent Sadler</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 January 2024

This month's quiz concerns science and nature - answers below

- 1) Which is the inner and longer of the two bones of the human forearm?
- 2) In computing, what does PCMCIA stand for?
- 3) In which century did British biologist Thomas Henry Huxley live?
- 4) What sort of blood cells are also known as leucocytes?
- 5) What unit of distance used in astronomy is equal to 0.3066 of a parsec?
- 6) Edward Whymper led the first team to climb which famous Swiss peak?
- 7) What name is given to the winter dormancy of certain mammals?
- 8) Do male or female seahorses carry the eggs until they hatch?
- 9) Against which disease can the BCG vaccination offer protection?
- 10) Which poison is represented by the letters Cn?

1) Ulna 2) Personal Computer Memory Card
International Assocation 3) 19th 4) White blood
cells 5) A light year 6) The Matterhorn 7)
Hibernation 8) Male 9) Tuberculosis 10) Cyanide

