

CAMRA Bromley Branch

e - Newsletter

April 2024



Campaign
for
Real Ale

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Spring into action with Bob Keaveney's article

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



Our AGM was held on 23rd March. See our Acting Chair's report [here](#) and the updated list of Committee members [here](#). Photos: Bob Keaveney, David Wilcock



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, April 2024

Bromley pub photos by Chris Crowther

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

<p>Wed 3rd April Award Evening Bromley Pub of the Year</p>	<p>19:30 The Cockpit - 4 Royal Parade, Chislehurst BR7 6NR</p>	
<p>Sat 20th April London Cider Festival Social</p>	<p>12:30 Rocket Van Studio - 92 Brandon Street SE17 1AL</p>	<p>venue website</p>
<p>Thu 25th April Award Evening POTY joint Runner Up</p>	<p>19:30 Three Hounds Beer Café – 57 Beckenham Rd, Beckenham BR3 4PR</p>	
<p>Tue 30th April Committee Meeting</p>	<p>19:30 The Lord Holmesdale</p> 	<div style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 10px;"> <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> </div>

Photo(s) from last month's socials

11 March – Three Hounds Beer Café (the high viz jacket was not drinking)



Report from Bromley CAMRA AGM

Held 23rd March. Photos on [front page](#).

Almost 30 members, including our Regional Director **Ellie Eames**, gathered in the hall at Orpington Liberal Club for the 13th AGM, where **Bob Keaveney** as Acting Chair, led us through the highs & lows of the last 12 months.

He thanked **all** members of the 2023 - 2024 Committee for their fine work navigating this extremely challenging period. The full list of names of the outgoing committee can be seen on pages 8, 9 & 10 of the February Newsletter ([here](#)).

Particular thanks are given to **Anne Claridge** for being the Festival Coordinator for the 2023 festival, with the support of **Peter, Debs, Stuart** and **Matt** as the core organising team. Thanks were also given to the various other volunteers who took responsibility for managing various aspects of the festival.

Together we achieved the most successful Bromley Branch Festival to date, with:

- 115 beers and ciders available, including keg and alcohol free
- A total of 6,500 pints sold
- More than 1,400 attendees, the highest ever attendance, with two thirds being non-members.
- The festival exceeded its financial targets and we were able to remit £8,500 to CAMRA's central funds.
- Thanks to customers' donations of cash and unspent tokens, the festival was able to donate £500 to St Christopher's Hospice.

The other highly-significant achievement of the past 12 months, is that of the Good Beer Guide, Pub Promotions & Beer Scores team comprising **Bob Keaveney, Nick White & Richard Gadd**, who between them used our robust, well documented procedures to get us from:

- 153 members submitting a total of 3,177 beer scores for 87 real ale pubs and clubs.

To:

- a fully prepared **2025 GBG submission** and the result of the 2024 Bromley Pub & Club of the Year competitions:
 - The Cockpit in Chislehurst selected as the pub
 - Orpington Liberal Club selected as the club.

This year a total of 35 members nominated a pub and/or club with 12 members participating in the pub judging. Encouragingly we welcomed several new volunteers to the judging panel. Dates for the presentation events for the winners and runners-up are currently being finalised, please see Branch calendar on page 2 for the ones currently fixed.

In the absence of the Branch Treasurer, our secretary, **Kent Sadler**, took the meeting through the 2023 accounts, highlighting the total branch income of £35,283 less expenses of £25,964 leaving a net surplus of £9,319.

Including the surplus brought forward, a total of £10,000 was remitted to CAMRA central funds during the accounting period, leaving net funds of £5,416 before further remittances were made to CAMRA central funds, after the year end.

The Election of the new committee was completed and the resulting list can be seen on [this page](#).

With the 2024/25 committee we are adopting a novel approach, which sees several existing committee members, take on additional roles. In the case of **Kent Sadler**, he now has 4!

Nick White has been appointed as 'Vice Chair' with **Norman Warner, David Wilcock, Richard Gadd** and **Richard Martin**, serving as Acting Chairs, each for a period of 3 months rotation. Nick will be taking the lead on all 'National' and 'Regional' matters, with the other 4 managing issues within the branch. Nick will also be representing the branch at LLC and will be listed as Chair on the CAMRA membership system.

As the initial incoming Acting Chair, Norman then declared a beer break...



after which he took us through the Future Plan:

Our vision (by which we mean all 5 of us) is for the branch to become a “Collective,” where all local Bromley CAMRA members are encouraged to get involved, so that ideas can originate outside the traditional ‘Committee’ not just from within. Ideas, when adopted by the committee, will be developed with the originator, under the direction and support of the Chairing Team.

Without our own beer festival providing the centre piece of our campaigning activities, we believe we need to focus on achieving greater visibility for the Branch through increased activity promoting our pubs and clubs.

And this is where we ask members for their assistance - running a renewed agenda of awards does take time and volunteers would be very welcome to assist. We consider each presentation should be marked not only by the award of a certificate, but also by a social occasion, to provide further visibility etc.

It is hoped, that with help from the membership, the process for these additional awards could be essentially driven via Newsletter articles in conjunction with Comms Tool mailouts and online voting forms – supplemented by an increased use of social media and e Newsletters, as tools to create interest in the new awards, and to avoid possible “Click Delete” of Comms Tool mailouts.

Further, our pubs will be encouraged and supported to conduct their own Mini Beer Festivals, throughout the year, especially as part of the Summer of Pub campaign. Already Orpington Liberal Club are holding their Spring Beer Festival and the Greyhound at Keston their Easter festival, this weekend (as of 23 March date, Ed.). Look out for One Inn the Wood's 10th Birthday celebration, at the end of May.

Amongst many other topics discussed has been the frequency of our meetings and we propose that the March & April meetings will continue as published. However, an agenda item for April will seek acceptance of a move to less frequent FULL meetings, interspersed with CORE meetings of the key role holders (as defined by CAMRA) only. It is anticipated that the amount of committee business being conducted by email, will increase, particularly when there are 2 months between full meetings, as allowed in our Branch constitution.

In summary, through an increased visual profile & our "Branch Collective" approach, we expect to attract more branch members, both existing and new to CAMRA, to take an active interest in the running of the branch. A journey which commenced last year, with limited success, in modernising our Branch. The measures we are introducing aim to make our branch more cohesive and all the team look forward to working with increasing numbers of you, to this end.

After a brief pause for AOB, our Regional Director **Ellie Eames**, gave us an update of current campaign issues, both Regional and National, which initiated a lively discussion.

In bringing the meeting to a close, we all thanked the Orpington Liberal Club for giving us the use of their hall and having a splendid array of 6/7 cask ales on offer. Finally, a reminder of their Spring Beer & Cider Festival over the Easter weekend was given.

Norman Warner

Acting Branch Chair

CAMRA News this month

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

So, when is your pub open? (take two)

Last month I wrote regarding pub hours. I then checked the What Pub entries for the pubs round my way and found two out of date. Talk about throwing stones in a glasshouse! So, a reminder now that the evenings are brighter, if you hear of your local changing hours or see that the What Pub entry is wrong, please update on What Pub or drop us a line at: branch.contact@bromley.camra.org.uk

Pub Protection (take two)

And again, last month I mentioned the call for extra protection for our pubs, especially in the light of the demolition of the "Crooked House". So, blow me down with a feather, too late for last month, South Staffordshire Council have now issued an enforcement notice requiring the owners to rebuild the pub, brick by brick.

Of course, there are many more pubs in such a position and CAMRA is still investigating eight from 2023 alone which appear to have been demolished or converted without planning permission. If you suspect a pub closure near you may lead to demolition or change of use, let us know



without delay. We have assisted some pubs in their fightback (The Chelsfield springs to mind). As above, drop a line to branch.contact@bromley.camra.org.uk

The Spring Budget

Well, we all had our fingers crossed for a budget favouring our pubs. Was it to be? Well, err, nope. Sorry. OK, there was a freeze on alcohol duty until February 2025 but, as our Chair, Nik Antona said, “The Budget was a missed opportunity to show ‘backing for the Great British pub’ by significantly cutting tax on draught beer and cider served in pubs. Making duty on draught beer and cider significantly lower would promote drinking in the regulated setting of a community local and help small and independent producers who sell mainly into pubs and taprooms to compete against the global brewing giants and the likes of supermarket alcohol.

CAMRA will continue to campaign for the Treasury and all political parties to back our sensible ask of making tax on pints in pubs 20% lower than the general duty rate”.

For more on this see: [CAMRA reacts to the Chancellor’s Spring Budget announcement - CAMRA - Campaign for Real Ale](#)

The Meantime brewery

So, first of all, Asahi closed the Dark Star brewery (Partridge Green in Sussex (Greensand?)) and moved the brewing of Hophead and others to the Meantime brewery (London SE10 (London Clay?)). Now it closes the Meantime brewery and moves that brewery’s activities to a single site in Chiswick. You could not make it up! Each brewery usually takes its water locally and it is the salts and minerals in that water that give many brews their distinct flavour (yes, I appreciate differing hops etc). Now, to try and keep the same “flavour” these same breweries then have to add differing salts and minerals to reflect the original. Really makes you wonder what is in your pint eh?

Anyway, CAMRA have condemned this move, adding that “buying up and consolidating these brands in the name of profit not only strips communities of their brewing heritage, and creates redundancies for the brewers themselves, it often fundamentally destroys what made that beer special in the first place and reduces consumer choice to a meaningless selection between products owned by a single brand”. [CAMRA condemns Meantime brewery closure - CAMRA - Campaign for Real Ale](#)

I wonder who is next to go?

Is that handpump the genuine article?

Turning from Asahi to Carlsberg Marston (CMBC), we now have a true horror story for anyone who looks in a pub door, sees more than one handpump (with hopefully something unusual on the clip) and goes in, looking forward to trying a nice pint of cask ale.

These ARE the genuine article! >>



What is this horror story?

Well, CMBC are trying the ultimate “fast one” on cask ale drinkers. How? By serving keg beers through handpumps, rather than grotty little brightly lit taps. Now keg beer is not “live” beer. It has no viable yeast and is basically a factory produced product. Live beer develops its character in the barrel. It is not artificially stuffed full of gas, not cooled to sub-zero

temperatures and consequently each barrel has its own character.

One of my favourite pubs laid down some Westerham beers delivered previous to lock down and when it re-opened, the “God’s Wallop” was a delicious pint. It had developed, quietly, in the gloom of a cellar, awaiting the day of reopening!

So, if you see a beer tap with a clip advertising proudly that the beer is “brewery conditioned” tread carefully! See [Handpump “hijack” will confuse consumers says CAMRA - CAMRA - Campaign for Real Ale](#)

And finally

Don’t forget to keep up to date by checking in with “**What’s Brewing**” for the latest news, campaigning, pubs, beer and more. Did you realise for instance that the Hook Norton brewery is celebrating its 175th anniversary? And how? Rather surprisingly by a “Hook on Tour” promotion which will see the brewery visiting all its pubs using a variety of transport – walk, cycle, motorbike, Land Rover and even Shire horse. While it is in the pub, Hook Norton beers will be free so customers can raise a cheer and a pint. The brewers will be on hand to talk all things beer and give away prizes in a quick-fire, easy pub quiz!

I wonder if any of our local breweries will celebrate anniversaries so generously!

And that’s about it for this month. Enjoy April, with any luck the sun will shine (it needs to) and my soggy moss ridden lawn will have a chance to dry!

Kent Sadler

CAMRA Bromley Branch Secretary





In case you missed it....

Items from recent newsletters that are still relevant.

Your **2024** Committee - see next section for Area Pub & Club Contacts

Branch Chair is vacant ; there are four Acting Chairs	Norman Warner David Wilcock Richard Gadd Richard Martin Nicholas White Kent Sadler
Branch Vice-Chair	
Branch Secretary (inc. Minutes Secretary and Branch Contact)	
Beer Scores Coordinator	Bob Keaveney
London Drinker Distribution Coordinator	Richard Martin
Membership Secretary	Richard Gadd
e-Newsletter Editor	Paul Treleaven
Festival Coordinator	Vacant
Good Beer Guide Coordinator	Nicholas White
Pub Database Coordinator	Nicholas White
Website Co-ordinator	Paul Treleaven
Pub Protection Officer	Bob Gordon
Pub Promotions & Awards Coordinator (inc. LocAle rep.)	Richard Gadd
Public Affairs Officer	Maggie Hopgood
Social Secretary	Barry Phillips
Branch Treasurer	Kent Sadler
Social Media Coordinator	David Wilcock
Media Coordinator	Vacant
Also	
Branch Examiner (auditor)	John Horn
Branch President	Bob Gray

AGM 2024

Featured in the April 2024 issue, AGM report from [Norman Warner](#). Plus 2024 Committee list, see left, to memorise!

Pub of the Year and Club of the Year awards

From the January 2024 issue

[Past winners plus voting and judging for 2024](#)

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](#)



Now Beer Scoring for GBG 2025!

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 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 that postcode.

<p>BR1 Martin Weatherall</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crown and Anchor website for news of what's on • The Craft Beer Cabin has opened in the old Lock and Barrel premises – keg, but no cask • Thanks to Martin Gee who has looked after BR1 for some time.
<p>BR2 Richard Martin</p>	
<p>BR3 Graham Oglethorpe Photo: Graham Oglethorpe</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Homestead café in Beckenham Place Park has a range of keg, bottle and cask beers. WhatPub entry • Note the Three Hounds award ceremony (page 2) on 25th April for joint runner-up, Bromley branch Pub-of-the-Year 2024 
<p>BR4 Janet Freak</p>	
<p>BR5 Wendy Reynolds</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One Inn the Wood is going ahead with a beer festival on 26 May. It will be held in the memorial hall gardens. They also held a beer tasting event Wed. 13th March in conjunction with Mutineers. This was also a fundraiser for South East London Mind. It was limited to a maximum of 40 people and was very well attended. Andrew, who works in OITW, teamed up with Mutineers. They set him the challenge of marketing a style of beer that isn't usually found in Cask. Andrew chose a Biere de Garde, and they made it together. This became a case study for his final year project for university and the event was a result of that. The beer, Hopman Vs The Ancient Horse Cultists Biere De Garde (7.2%), was a very drinkable beer considering the ABV. Other beers that were part of the tasting were New Bhoys, Bill Stickers is Innocent, Black Flag Vanilla, Quad and Clove Actually. A great night and let's hope the beginning of similar events.

<p>BR6</p> <p>Norman Warner</p> <p>Photo: Norman Warner</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 ales at Black Horse, Locksbottom. Norman enjoyed the Golden Plover and Orangutan. Note: they'll have short refurb Apr 14th – early May. • The Chelsfield had Old Peculier (proving popular with locals) and Purity UBU as well as Doom Bar and Landlord. • Orpington Liberal Club beers / ciders - see website 	
<p>BR7</p> <p>Vacant</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do you live or drink in the Chislehurst area? If so, could you consider taking on the Area Pub and Club contact position that has just become vacant? After all, BR7 does include our Pub of the Year 2024 – the Cockpit! 	
<p>SE19 - SE20</p> <p>Peter Normington</p>		
<p>Biggin Hill, Cudham Downe</p> <p>Kent Sadler</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black Horse, Biggin Hill website for news of what's on. 	



Bromley Pub Walks

Bob Keaveney reminds us about the network of paths and tracks linking many of Bromley's pubs and clubs.

Whilst the last few weeks have been somewhat wet, hopefully April will see an improvement in the weather, which should mean that we can once again venture out walking, without the almost inevitability of getting covered in mud.

There are plenty of excellent walking routes available in the southern parts of our area, with many miles of paths and tracks linking 35 pubs and clubs in Bromley, plus routes to more than a dozen other pubs 'just over the border' in Kent, Surrey and Croydon.

Bromley CAMRA has produced a series of downloadable information sheets for you to be able to do 'self-guided' walking between the pubs and clubs in these areas. We have now published information sheets for more than 40 routes.

For more details, and to view the information sheets please visit: [Bromley Pub Walks](#) on the branch website.

Could you help us check and update the information for some of the routes?

The route information sheets can quickly get out of date, so the routes do need to be checked and refreshed on a regular basis. Since there are now more than 40 routes, this has become quite a serious task!



Many of the routes have not been checked since 2022. If you enjoy walking (and a pint or two), would you be willing to walk some of the routes, to check that the information sheet is still correct?

If you are interested in assisting us, or would like more information, please send an email to: walking@bromley.camra.org.uk.

A timely reminder

Hopefully everyone remembered to change their clocks to British Summer Time this past weekend.

In a previous issue of the e-Newsletter we featured Bromley CAMRA's British Summer Time walk, walking in the footsteps of William Willett, the campaigner for daylight saving time.

See Bromley Pub Walks [Route No 85](#).

