

CAMRA Bromley Branch e - Newsletter March 2026



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The next e-Newsletter will be published on **1st April 2026** – 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.

Contacting Bromley CAMRA

Website: bromley.camra.org.uk/

Bluesky: [@bromleycamra.bsky.social](https://bsky.app/profile/@bromleycamra.bsky.social)

X / Twitter: x.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 [branch website](#)

Branch Pub and Club for 2026

The judges have spoken!

Bromley CAMRA is pleased to announce the results of our Pub and Club of the Year, as follows:

Pub of the Year 2026

The Cockpit [link](#)

4 Royal Parade, Chislehurst, BR7 6NR

Previous awards:

- Bromley PotY 2023, 2024 & 2025
- Greater London Regional runner-up 2025

Pub of the Year - Runner-up

One Inn The Wood [link](#)

209 Petts Wood Road, Petts Wood, BR5 1LA

Previous awards:

- Bromley PotY 2015, 2016, 2022
- Bromley runner-up 2017, 2018, 2025
- Greater London Regional PotY 2015

Club of the Year 2026

Orpington Liberal Club [link](#)

7 Station Road, Orpington, BR6 0RZ

Previous awards:

- Bromley CotY 2013 to 2025
- Greater London Regional CotY 2013, 2015, 2017-2019, 2024, 2025
- National finalist (i.e. in the 'final four'), 2014, 2016, 2020, 2025



Pub of the Year - Finalists

- Partridge, Bromley BR1 ([Link](#))
- Queen's Head, Downe BR6 ([Link](#))
- Red Lion, Bromley BR1 ([Link](#))



Club of the Year - Finalist

- Royal British Legion Hayes Club ([Link](#))

See [this article](#) on moving on to the Regional awards

March 2026	Branch Calendar	<i>Details of all events, including addresses and suggested public transport options, can also be viewed on the branch website – click on the event</i>		<i>Bromley pub photos by Chris Crowther</i>
Monday 2 Locksbottom Social	19:30 Whyte Lyon 	20:45 The Black Horse (Locksbottom) 		
Saturday 14 Bromley CAMRA AGM	14:45 for 15:00 Orpington Liberal Club Your branch needs YOU! Please attend and enjoy a great selection of real ales from the club bar.			
Thursday 19 Biggin Hill and Downe Social	18:30 Black Horse (Biggin Hill) 	19:50 Queens Head (Downe) 		
Tuesday 24 Hayes Social	19:30 British Legion Hayes Club 	20:30 Real Ale Way (Hayes) 		
Saturday 28 Ramsgate day trip	This is a joint trip with Orpington Liberal Club. The plan is to visit Conqueror Alehouse at 12pm and then Artillery Arms at 1pm. Further GBG pubs will be visited throughout the day.			

<p>Tuesday 31 Committee Meeting</p>	<p>19:30 Star and Garter</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>	
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February's branch socials. Join us and be famous!

Saturday 7
Branch social at the Tonbridge Juddians RFC Winter Beer Festival

Barry (arrowed) comments:
About 12 in attendance at the social at The Juddians Beer Festival in Tonbridge. A great venue that consistently holds excellent beer festivals. From there a number of us adjourned to The Nelson Arms, which also had a great range of ales available.



Thursday 12
Bromley Common Social
L-R: Hit or Miss, Bricklayers Arms, Cork n Cask

Photos:
Chris Crowther



Festivals in Bromley

We will list any beer / cider festivals planned in the Bromley area. Details mostly provided by our area reps, but anyone is welcome to submit.

Date	Place	Details
Sunday 1 March	The Three Hounds	March Mini Cask Festival Will have a Welsh brewery focus and line up is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Big Hand Brewing - Spectre / 4.5% Welsh Dry Stout • Bragdy Dwy Afon - Caban / 4.1% Cwrw Citra Pale • Bragdy Dwy Afon - Darkgate / 4.9% Dark Ale • Brains Brewery - Rev James / 4.5% Premium Bitter • Brains Brewery - SA Gold / 4.3% Golden Ale • Conwy Brewery - Welsh Pride / 4.0% Bitter • Tiny Rebel - Sin Bin / 4.1% Session IPA • Tudor Brewery - Cwrn Am Byth / 4.0% Welsh Red Bitter • Tudor Brewery - Blorange / 3.8% Golden Ale • Wilderness Brewery - American Pale / 5.2% American Pale Ale
Thursday 12	The Three Hounds	April Cask Festival Details to come
Friday 3 April to Sunday 5 April 2026	Greyhound, Keston	The Greyhound Easter Beer Festival More details expected soon, or visit their facebook page
Friday 3 April to Monday 6 April 2026	Orpington Liberal Club	OLC Easter Real Ale and Cider Festival Many stunning real ales, ciders & perry, plus craft keg, cans and bottles. Plus, snacks & rolls. Free entry for Club/CAMRA members, else £1.00/day entry on the door. Card payments only. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thursday 2nd April 6pm – 11pm (Preview night for Club/CAMRA Members Only) • Good Friday 3rd April 12pm – 11pm • Saturday 4th April 12pm – 11pm • Easter Sunday 5th April 12pm – 5pm • Easter Monday 6th April 2pm – 11pm
Sunday 24 May	Memorial Hall Gardens, Petts Wood.	One Inn The Wood beer festival It runs from noon-8pm. For further information please check their Facebook page. Tickets are limited and are available from Ticketsource for £10.00 plus a booking fee.
Thursday 18 June to Friday 19 June	Star and Garter, Bromley	The Star and Garter Summer 2026 Beer Fest Early details here on X
Saturday 27 June	Royston Field, Penge	N.B. This is just a proposal at the moment from Southey Brewing ; more if it develops.



Would you like to judge for the Regional Pub of the Year?

Having made our Branch awards, we can now focus on the next stage – Regional awards

All twelve CAMRA branches in Greater London are now selecting their branch Pub of the Year (PotY) for 2026; some have already been announced, the remainder will need to be declared by the middle of March.

The next stage will then be judging the twelve pubs to select the Greater London Regional PotY. All the branches in London participate in this judging and as many members as possible are invited to be involved, therefore we are seeking volunteers to join the panel of Bromley judges. Might you be interested?

- The regional judging period will be from approx. 25th March to 30th June (*precise dates yet to be confirmed*)
- The names of the 12 pubs will be announced on or about 24th March
- Judging is carried out using the CAMRA standard judging criteria (as used to select the Bromley PotY)
- If possible, we need as many judges as possible to visit all 12 pubs, although if you can only manage to do a minimum of 6, then your contribution will still be very welcome
- You can choose to visit the pubs on any day at any time of your choosing (*we do aim to supply as accurate as possible information about the pubs' opening times*)
- All the pubs will be in Greater London and will be accessible from Bromley using public transport

If you might be interested in judging, or would like further information, please send an email to PPAC@bromley.camra.org.uk



Some previous winners of the Regional Award have included the following, all of which have won the title on more than one occasion:

- Hope, Carshalton
- Little Green Dragon, Winchmore Hill
- Hop Inn Micropub, Hornchurch
- One Inn The Wood, Petts Wood

A full list of the Greater London Regional Pubs of the Year since 2010 can be viewed via this link:

<https://www.london.camra.org.uk/viewnode.php?id=1255>

Bob Keaveney

	<p>In 2015</p> <p>Bromley Branch venues won <u>both</u> the Regional Pub and Club awards:</p> <p>One Inn The Wood</p> <p>Orpington Liberal Club</p>	
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CAMRA News this month

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

Later this month “sun up” hours exceed night hours for the first time this year – a reason to be cheerful and perhaps plan your trip to the pub garden? Just which pub will have the first barbecue I wonder?

So, what has happened over the last, albeit short, month?

National GBG Club of the Year 2025

Hot in the heels of last month’s reveal of the Pub of the Year, at the close of January CAMRA confirmed the “Billingham Catholic Club” in County Durham as the Club of the Year for 2025.



This former Roman Catholic school has featured in CAMRA’s Good Beer Guide for almost twenty years, in itself an incredible achievement.

Its dedicated volunteers make sure the club’s reputation remains at the top of its game, serving 150 different beers a year, offering three well-kept cask beers at one time – with eight on offer during the club’s regular bank holiday beer and music festivals.

And what of the other clubs? These included The Appleton Thorn Village Hall, The Cheltenham Motor Club and our very own **Orpington Liberal Club**. Congratulations to all (Especially the OLC!)

See [CAMRA names popular Good Beer Guide club as best in UK | CAMRA](#)

The Champion Winter Beer of Britain

After a year of local and regional blind judging heats, the Campaign’s winter winners have been crowned. The category winners now go forward to the final judging in May at CAMRA’s Cambridge Beer Festival where they’ll battle it out to take the crown of Supreme Champion 2026

The judging and announcement took place at the Liverpool Beer Festival, in the Lutyens Crypt at Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral.



So, who won? Well, it was an Amber Rye Bitter by **London Brewing** called “Beer Street” with Silver being taken by **Cairngorm** with its session stout, Black Gold and Bronze being taken by **Green Jack** with its Baltic Trader Export Stout.

Also, near to the Southeast, Gadd’s Black Pearl took Silver in the Strong Ports and Porters and Harvey’s Old Ale took Gold in the Brown, Red, Old and Strong Milds.

All of these and more can be seen at [Beer Street crowned CAMRA’s Champion Winter Beer of Britain | CAMRA](#)

Pub Protection – changes to planning laws?

As it stands, pubs are offered protections in the planning system including the need for planning permission to be granted before a pub can be demolished or converted into houses, shops or takeaways.

But under the Government's new plans, protections would only apply if a pub were the **last one** in the local area. CAMRA is warning that this could see thousands of pubs converted into flats, houses, shops or takeaways by greedy developers – even when local people want to save it as a community local.

The proposal comes shortly after a Government rethink on business rates bill increases for pubs in England which threatened thousands of local pubs across the country. CAMRA argues that it doesn't make sense for the Government to give help with business rates bills to stop pub closures and then change planning rules which could lead to more pubs being lost forever.

As our National Planning Policy Advisor, Paul Ainsworth, comments, "We strongly object to these plans which could spell the end for thousands of viable pubs across England".

Going on to say, "Strong planning protections are needed to give local people the right to try to save their pub if it is under threat of demolition or conversion. Crucially, this must apply to all pubs so that communities can save their local even if there are other pubs in the same area. Without protections for every pub, we risk seeing greedy developers cash in and try to turn pub buildings into other uses like houses, shops or takeaways. This would be devastating for communities who would lose a vital part of their social fabric.

CAMRA wants Government ministers to rethink this proposal and keep strong protections for all pubs in the planning system so our locals can keep serving their communities instead of being lost forever."

For more on this see: [New threat to pubs as planning law change could see thousands of locals lost | CAMRA](#)

Your Rights at the Pub

Not exactly a press release but worth highlighting anyway is the current CAMRA guidance concerning our rights at a pub. This useful guide covers subjects including price lists, (when was the last time you saw one?); ingredients, full measures and much more.

Quite a useful guide although (my view), good luck if you have a "traditional" licensee whose word is law! And, as it closes, "We do not support anyone who is being rude or demanding of hospitality workers in CAMRA's name". See [Your rights at the pub | CAMRA](#)

And that's about it for this month. Enjoy the lighter evenings, a bit of warmth from the sun and some good cask ale (or real cider!). But keep the hot soup; ploughman's are for later in the year!

Kent Sadler

CAMRA Bromley Branch Secretary




Now Beer Scoring for GBG 2028!

Bromley CAMRA uses beer scoring to identify and shortlist pubs/clubs for possible inclusion in the Good Beer Guide

Beer scoring is simple by finding the pub on [Camra Experience](#) and supplying the score
More scoring tips [here](#) on our website

Local Pub, Club & Brewery News

Snippets gathered from our Area Pub and Club contacts. Members can also [submit information](#) and are encouraged to discuss local issues with the Area Contacts (name and link below). Pictures usually have enough resolution to be zoomed to read detail.

<p>BR1 Vacant</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The BR1 area rep position is currently vacant. A fine opportunity to visit the great pubs in BR1 and claim that you're working! Send us a note if you are interested. BR1 pub websites: Red Lion Anglesey Arms Crown and Anchor Greyhound Richmal Crompton Star and Garter Swan and Mitre Partridge Crown in Sundridge The Railway The Lord Holmesdale
<p>BR2 Richard Martin</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See the pictures from Bromley Common social p3. Richard reported that the beer was very enjoyable in all three venues. BR2 pub/club websites: Fox, Keston Greyhound, Keston Shortlands Tavern Chequers Bricklayers Arms New Inn Hayes Royal British Legion George, Hayes
<p>BR3 Ian Syngé</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Note the Three Hounds Welsh-themed mini cask festival p4. They also have a Duration tap takeover featuring both cask and keg offerings on 12 March. Ian reports that the Jolly Woodman has 5 cask lines on. BR3 pub websites: Bricklayers Arms Three Hounds Chancery Jolly Woodman George Inn Elm Tree Kelsey House
<p>BR4 Janet Freak</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BR4 pub websites: Wheatsheaf Swan Railway
<p>BR5 Wendy Reynolds</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One Inn the Wood will be holding a tap takeover/tasting once a month. On 25 Feb they had Drop Project and coming up are Kernal and Cloudwater. For more info keep an eye on face book. All the BR5 pubs looked really busy when Wendy went in to deliver London Drinkers. BR5 pub websites: Sovereign of the Seas Daylight Inn One Inn the Wood Bull Inn (St Pauls Cray)
<p>BR6 Norman Warner</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Note our combined trip to Ramsgate with OLC, p2. OLC also have their Easter Beer & Cider Festival commencing with preview night on Thursday 2nd April. BR6 pub/club websites: Royal Oak Woodman OLC Five Bells Rose and Crown Queens Head Maxwell Cricketers Bo-Peep Ye Olde Whyte Lyon British Queen Black Horse Bulls Head Buff Chelsfield White Hart
<p>BR7 Colin Brooks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Cockpit presentation evening for Regional Pub of the Year Runner-up (2025) was well attended. They marked the occasion with a wooden cask which proved popular. BR7 pub websites: Bulls Head Crown Tigers Head Cockpit Gordon Arms Imperial Arms Ramblers Rest Bickley Arms Queens Head Sydney Arms 
<p>SE19 - SE20 Bill Butler; becomes Vacant at 2026 AGM</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sad news: The Maple Tree, last of the many pubs in Maple road, was scheduled for closure 28th February and is on the market. SE19/SE20 pub websites: Moon and Stars Goldsmiths Arms Southey Brewing White Hart Pawleyne Arms Crooked Billet

[Biggin Hill](#)
[Cudham](#)
[Downe](#)
[Kent Sadler](#)

- The Queens Head Downe has tasting notes below each pump, as well as a small jar allowing you to see the beer colour. Nice idea.
- Websites for pubs in these areas: [Black Horse](#)
[Aperfield Inn](#) [Crown Inn](#)
[George & Dragon](#)
[Blacksmiths Arms](#) [Kings Arms](#) (Leaves Green)
[Queens Head](#)



If you're not sure where each area covers, click the postcode and a Google map will show you that area.

Now go down to the pub!



Pictures above usually have enough resolution to be zoomed to read detail.

In case you missed it....

Items from recent newsletters that are still relevant.

Your Branch Committee until AGM 2026 - see previous section for Area Pub & Club Contacts	
Chair	Norman Warner
Vice-Chair	Vacant
Secretary (inc. Minutes Secretary and Branch Contact)	Kent Sadler
Beer Scores Coordinator	Bob Keaveney
London Drinker Distribution Coordinator	Richard Martin
Membership Secretary	Vacant
e-Newsletter Editor	Paul Treleven
Festival Coordinator	Vacant
Good Beer Guide Coordinator	Ian Syngé
Pub Database Coordinator	Yin-hai Cheung
Website Co-ordinator	Paul Treleven
Pub Protection Officer	Vacant
Pub Promotions & Awards Coordinator (inc. LocAle rep.)	Bob Keaveney
Public Affairs Officer	Maggie Hopgood
Social Secretary	Barry Phillips
Treasurer	Tim Wilding
Social Media Coordinator	David Wilcock
Media Coordinator	Vacant
Young Members Contact	Vacant
Also	
Branch Examiner (auditor)	John Horn
Branch President	Bob Gray
<p>Please consider putting your name forward for any Committee positions at the next AGM; especially those currently vacant, which can be filled ahead of the AGM</p>	

Beer Scoring (AKA Goodbye to WhatPub)

Bob Keaveney has two articles, bringing us up-to-date with Beer Scoring in the CAMRA Experience era:

Part 1 from [September 2025 newsletter](#)

Part 2 from [October 2025 newsletter](#)

See also [website page](#)

Richard Gadd's themed series on Bromley pubs

This series is packed with information on the featured Bromley pubs and is presented in an amusing way.

May 2024 theme: [Dogs](#)

June 2024 theme: [Work Part 1](#)

Aug. 2024 theme: [Work Part 2](#)

Sept. 2024 theme: [Equine Part 1](#)

Nov. 2024 theme: [Equine Part 2](#)

June 2025 theme: [Farming Part 1](#)

Pub / Club of the year – Bromley history

From the December 2024 newsletter

[Item here](#)

Handpump Hijack

From the May 2024 Branch Secretary report (bottom of page):

[Item here](#)

Pub Heritage Group

From the May 2024 Branch Secretary report (also bottom of page):

[Item here](#)

Remembering Bromley Beer and Cider Festival 2023

From the September 2023 issue.

[Festival review article](#) See also [website page](#)

