

CAMRA Bromley Branch e - Newsletter August 2026



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*The next e-Newsletter will be published on **1st September 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](https://twitter.com/CAMRABromley)

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Enquiries:

branch.contact@bromley.camra.org.uk

All officers of the branch can be contacted direct by email, see [branch website](#)

Stop Press – Bromley wins both Regional Pub of the Year and Regional Club of the Year

The results are just announced.



Our Chair, Norman Warner, announces the results:

*We, in Bromley CAMRA, are cock-a-hoop at having both our Pub of the Year, the **Cockpit** and Club of the Year **Orpington Liberal Club**, as double winners of these regional awards for 2026.*

It is a testament to the hard work put in by both venues, continually upping their game! The last time we achieved this (2015), we self-declared our branch - 'Bromley, the London Borough of Beer!'



For Pub of the Year there were 12 entries. Bob Keaveney did a linked photo-shoot of 6 of them in last month's newsletter [here](#); the remaining 6 are pictured in Bob's article in this [newsletter](#).

August 2026	Branch Calendar	Details of all events, including addresses and suggested public transport options, can also be viewed on the branch website – click on the event		Bromley pub photos by Chris Crowther
Thursday 6 Farnborough Social	19:30 Change of Horses	20:00 Woodman		
				
	21:15 Ye Olde Whyte Lyon	22:15 Black Horse		
				
Friday 14 Cider Festival Social	19:00 Orpington Liberal Club			
				
Saturday 22 Annual Crystal Palace Triangle Social with Croydon & Sutton & SEL Branches	12:00 The Douglas Fir	12:50 The Alma		
				
	Further pubs to be visited may include : White Hart , 96 Church Rd SE19 2EZ; Sparrowhawk , 2 Westow Hill, SE19 1RX; Bull & Finch , 126 Gipsy Hill SE19 1PL; Royal Albert , 42 Westow Hill SE19 1RX; Planned finish: (6pm) Westow House , 79 Westow Hill SE19 1TX.			

Looking back: July's branch socials.

Come and join us *this* month!

Saturday 4

Crayford to Dartford - Joint social with OLC. First stop in Crayford, Penny Farthing. Then to Dartford for The Ship (top two pictures), Malt Shovel (bottom left), the Flying Boat and finally Dartford Working Men's Club (bottom right).



Monday 13

Green Street Green Social
Left: Buff
Right: Queen's Head. Planned finish at Rose & Crown was curtailed due to late hour.



Member News / Letters to the Editor

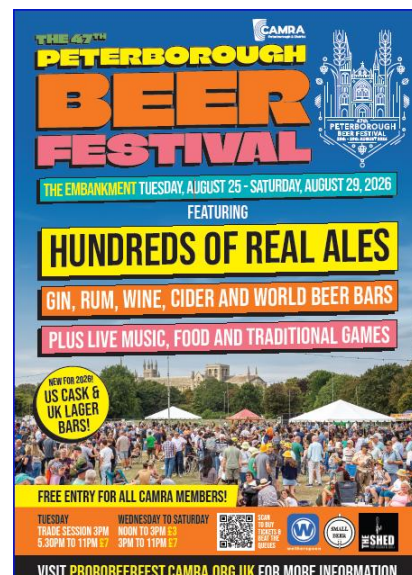
This is a section where members are invited to share their news. It is a bit experimental and depends on submissions from members – send them [here](#). No politics, advertising...

Visit from West Kent Branch

Our friends at West Kent Branch have informed us that they will be visiting The Cockpit and One Inn The Wood at lunchtime on Friday 7 August. If you would like to go along and join them, see details on their website [here](#).

Peterborough Beer Festival

We received a request to publicise this month's Peterborough Beer Festival. The poster they provided says it all! Warning: there is a partial clash with the Crown and Anchor Beer Festival – see below.



Festivals in Bromley

We will list any beer / cider festivals planned in the **Bromley** borough area. Details mostly provided by our area reps, but anyone, including the festival organizer, is welcome to [submit](#).

As the summer proceeds, our listing of Bromley festivals has shrunk!

Date (2026 unless noted)	Place	Details
14-16 August	The Orpington Liberal Club, 7 Station Road Orpington Kent BR6 0RZ	The OLC Cider Festival 2026 Friday 14th August 5:30pm – 11pm Saturday 15th August 12pm – 11pm Sunday 16th August 12pm – 5pm Note our branch social (page 3), Friday 7pm.
28-31 August	Crown & Anchor, 15 Park Road, BR1 3HJ	See poster details above, or go to www.crownandanchorbromley.com
Saturday 12 September	Chislehurst & West Kent Cricket Club	Cockpit Beer and Music festival Will feature live music throughout day, wide range of beers and ciders, food stalls and children's activities Tickets



Palindrome's Progress

Bromley's newest brewery is getting up and running and they were kind enough to open their doors to Bromley CAMRA in mid-July, cofounder Paul McTernan taking time to show BR3 rep Ian Syngé around and talk about their plans for the future.

It's an impressive space. The brew kit is installed in a bright and airy industrial unit on Kangley Bridge Road, near Lower Sydenham station and on the Waterlink Way running from Beckenham to Greenwich. A taproom which will have 22 lines is being built and they're optimistic of being open by the end of August.

Paul has a background of brewing with Verdant, but he and his co-founder Alin Sas had both long wanted to do something for themselves, with a desire to be in South London, and being focused on being community led. Having lost friends to mental health issues, Paul wanted to create a safe space for people to commune over a beer - this provided the catalyst to launch Palindrome. The location works well for the style of building they wanted - accommodating their brewery equipment, plus what promises to be a very appealing taproom area. It also contributes to the brewing centre-of-gravity around Sydenham, Penge, and Beckenham, sitting neatly alongside Ignition, Southey, Br3wery, and Three Hounds as breweries all within easy walking distance.



Paul - rightly proud of the bar area behind him coming together



Part of the brew kit installed and ready to get going

Led by their head brewer Shawn (who has moved from the US to be part of the project), they want to focus on three core areas - Lagers (which, in the taproom, will be served through two Czech sidepour taps), Hazy IPAs, and barrel aged Imperial Stouts. They're also very much looking to do collaborative brews which could explore different styles, and the taproom will generally have four lines dedicated to that. Continuing their link with the past, a collaboration with Verdant will be coming out later this year. Most of the output will be served at the taproom, but they're looking to distribute to local independent bars, and have already had some on at the Star and Garter. Their horizons extend a bit beyond SE London too - they're already booked to serve beer at festivals in Poland and Belgium between now and the end of the year.

All in all, it's excellent to see a new brewery opening in the area and we look forward to holding a social there when

they're up and running.



Judging for the Regional Pub of the Year – Part 2

[Last month](#) Bob Keaveney provided linked pictures of 6 of the 12 pubs in the competition. Here, Bob describes the process and we complete the picture parade with the remaining 6. Hopefully, you've seen the good news for Bromley branch on the [front page](#)! Photo credit for first four pubs below: Bob Keaveney.

How is the Greater London Regional Pub of the Year selected?

More than 60 members were involved in judging pubs for the 2026 Greater London Regional Pub of the Year (PotY) award. All 12 branches in London were represented, including six members from Bromley. It seems that some branches arrange their judging as social events, with the judges attending as a group. However, the Bromley regional judges mostly made their visits individually, or with friends who were not judges. [Note. At the branch judging stage (in Jan/Feb), we insist that judges do not visit any of our candidate pubs in a group.]

Every CAMRA branch is expected to select a PotY (and also a Club – for the CotY, if there are eligible clubs in their area). The winners from each branch then go forward into the regional competition. Greater London is one of 16 CAMRA regions. Some regions cover vast areas and visiting some PotYs might require using ferries or planes, however we are fortunate in London to be a compact area with excellent public transport. This makes it feasible to be able to invite all London members to participate in the regional judging process if they wish. Each branch appoints a 'Lead Judge' whose role is to collate the scoring of the judges from that branch, and to submit the scores to the Regional Coordinator. They also attend the Lead Judges' Meeting, where the total scores are made available for the judges and the winner is confirmed.

All six of the Bromley judges said that they enjoyed the experience of being a regional judge, and several intend to volunteer to judge again next year. All commented that it took them to pubs that they had never previously visited or had not been to for many years. This year included 2 recently reopened pubs which had never previously reached the regional judging stage, and both were excellent.

So, if you want a good reason to visit some new pubs, why not volunteer to join us for judging in 2027? Regional judging normally takes place during April, May and June, so you would have about 3 months to visit the 12 pubs.

So what happens next?

During August and September our Greater London winning pub will be judged against 3 other regional winners, in what is called the 'super-regional' stage. The winners from that stage then compete in the final. You can read more about how CAMRA selects PotYs on the CAMRA website, [via this download link](#).

Bob Keaveney (Bromley Regional Lead Judge)



Kingston: [Antelope](#)



E London & City: [Cock Tavern](#)



Croydon & Sutton : [Dark Horse](#)



SW London: [Trafalgar, SW19](#)





Bexley:
[Long Haul](#)
Photo credit
Bexley
CAMRA

SE London:
[Hand & Marigold, SE1](#)

Photo credit SE
London CAMRA



CAMRA News this month

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

Well, after a brief spell away to Birmingham – conveniently at the same time as the first anniversary of Ozzy Osbourne's death – so plenty of good ales going around including (plug) some commemorative brews by Hobsons and a visit to one of the Black Country Ales pubs – up to ten cask ales on! Having said that, it's now back down in the Southeast in time for yet another week of heat.

Looking at CAMRA activities, it has been an interesting month – some of the headlines follow.

Beer Independence; do you know your brewery's owner?

A reminder of the new report circulated by CAMRA on 6 July. Edited by Tim Webb, it's a comprehensive and authoritative report on the state of the UK beer market.

Do you appreciate that your pint of Wychwood is a Carlsberg drink? As are Shipyard, Ringwood and Banks's? That Beamish is Heineken? As are Brixton, Murphy's and Newcastle? That Sharps (as in Doom Bar) is Molson Coors?

CAMRA's main 'demand' is for the Competition and Markets Authority to launch a Market Investigation into the UK on-trade beer market, or for the incoming Prime Minister to instruct them to undertake this.



This report is all about why CAMRA supports independent brewers over 'big beer'. That CAMRA was founded to fight against bland beer brewed by big brewing interests, and it's why we have done things like campaign for the introduction of Small Brewers' Relief, for Guest Beer Rights and for licensing reforms to help independent brewers.

At the Members' Weekend 2025, CAMRA passed a motion to pledge "preferential support to producers and suppliers that are independent of the international brewers".

We've always championed independent producers, but this formalises our natural instincts to campaign for independent brewers over global brewers.

For more on this see: [What do we mean by independent, and why does it matter? - Learn & Discover](#)

And (log in required) [CAMRA | Beer in the UK — a CAMRA consumer report](#) The toolkit includes details of who owns what – Very interesting!

Business Rates

A positive bit of news for once. The new PM has announced a reduction in business rates for our pubs. Although not huge, as our CAMRA Chair put it “This is a brilliant start to the new Prime Minister’s tenure, living up to the statements that he’s made before about pubs, pints and people. Our business rates system is grossly unfair to pubs and social clubs, bricks and mortar businesses that are also vital social institutions for their communities and desperately needs reform. As always, we need to see the details at the Budget, but another year of rate relief will provide vital breathing space to publicans in England, while the work to review the rating system for hospitality businesses presumably continues.

So, wait and see what happens in the Autumn Statement, eh?

And what of the rest of the country?

Well, just to confirm that CAMRA has also called for the cuts in business rates to be reflected in Wales, Northern Island AND Scotland (You mean you did not know that the reduction did not apply to all the UK?)

Stonegate – A PubCo and an investigation.

The Pubs Code adjudicator (PCA) has confirmed that they are investigating Stonegate over suspected breaches of the Pubs Code between July 2021 and July 2026. To assist, licensees have been asked to submit evidence. CAMRA is supporting this by asking Branches (such as Bromley) to ensure current or former Stonegate licensees know this is happening, so that they can take part. The investigation will cover matters including Stonegate’s duties to provide a full and clear description of the premises, a list of initial works of maintenance, repair or improvement which must be done, and a rent proposal including a reasonable and justified profit projection, as well as Stonegate’s duties in relation to its Business Development Manager and to ensure prospective tenants have a sustainable business plan.

For the full details see “Notice of investigation” [here](#).



Cider & Perry – is it real?

I know I have touched on this before. Whilst many UK producers make cider and perry products with 100% juice, it isn’t fair that industrial drinks by global companies are made from as little as 35% juice but can still be taxed and sold as cider and perry.

CAMRA needs your help to urge the Government and MPs to require a ‘minimum juice content’ of 50% in cider and perry. (CAMRA would prefer 85% but small steps, small steps!) For more on this see: [CAMRA | Ask your MP to back authentic UK grown and made cider and perry](#)

and, Finally

Remember – **Cask Ale Week** is taking place over ten days this September (17th to 27th to be precise). If you know of any events happening in your local, please let us know and we can publicise them.

See you next month

Kent Sadler

Bromley CAMRA 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.

BR1 Martin Gee BR1 LD deliveries: Richard Martin	- The Red Lion garden is nicely in bloom. Swan and Mitre Bromley has re-opened, following refurbishment. Freelands Tavern is under new management; opening hours changed. - 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	
BR2 Richard Martin	Fox Inn, Keston reopened following a recent fire. - BR2 pub/club websites: Fox, Keston Greyhound, Keston Shortlands Tavern Chequers Bricklayers Arms New Inn Hayes Royal British Legion George, Hayes Crafty Bok	
BR3 Ian Synge	- See Ian's article on new BR3 brewery Palindrome, page 7. - Bob Keaveney found Timothy Taylor's Blonde amongst the cask beers at the Bricklayers – pictured. - BR3 pub websites: Bricklayers Arms Three Hounds Chancery Jolly Woodman George Inn Elm Tree Kelsey House	
BR4 Janet Freak	- Bob Keaveney snapped this notice in the window of Real Ale Way West Wickham around 24 July; no sign of anything happening. - BR4 pub websites: Wheatsheaf Swan Railway	
BR5 Wendy Reynolds	OITW have updated their seating and re-done the planters. Please keep an eye on their facebook page for new beers arriving and also events. Sovereign of the Seas – the carpet has been replaced. Tim Martin popped in last month. Daylight Inn – more events seem to be happening and they are now dog-friendly in the pub. - BR5 pub websites: Sovereign of the Seas Daylight Inn One Inn the Wood Bull Inn (St Pauls Cray)	
BR6 Norman Warner	- See Green Street Green social pictures page 3 Ye Olde Whyte Lyon is now open under the name "Piglet", with a restaurant emphasis (no cask at the moment; expected to be put on). The Five Bells held a "Chelsfest" beer & music festival 18th July. - BR6 pub/club websites: Royal Oak Woodman OLC Five Bells Rose and Crown Queens Head Maxwell Cricketers Bo-Peep Ye Olde Whyte Lyon (Piglet) British Queen Black Horse Bulls Head Buff Chelsfield White Hart	
BR7 Colin Brooks	BR7 pub websites: Bulls Head Crown Tigers Head Cockpit Gordon Arms Imperial Arms Ramblers Rest Bickley Arms Queens Head Sydney Arms	
SE19 - SE20 Vacant	SE19/SE20 pub websites: Moon and Stars Goldsmiths Arms Southey Brewing White Hart Pawleyne Arms Crooked Billet	
Biggin Hill Cudham Downe Kent Sadler	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! 	Any pictures included 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 2027 - see previous section for Area Pub & Club Contacts	
Chair	Norman Warner
Vice-Chair	Vacant
Secretary (inc. Minutes Secretary and Branch Clontact)	Kent Sadler
Beer Scores Coordinator	Abi Harris
London Drinker Distribution Coordinator	Richard Martin
Membership Secretary	Norman Warner
e-Newsletter Editor	Paul Treleaven
Festival Coordinator	James Lee
Good Beer Guide Coordinator (and submissions officer)	Ian Syngé
Pub Database Coordinator	Yin-hai Cheung
Website Co-ordinator	Paul Treleaven
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	Colin Brooks
Media Coordinator	Vacant
Young Members Contact	Matt Walden
Also	
Branch Examiner (auditor)	John Horn
Branch President	Bob Gray

Please consider putting your name forward for any Committee positions that are currently vacant, which can be filled at any time.

Greater London Regional Pub of the Year 2026 contest – Part 1

Bob Keaveney article from the [July 2026 newsletter](#)

Branch Pub / Club of the Year 2026

Bob Keaveney article from [March 2026 newsletter](#)

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](#)

