

CAMRA Bromley Branch

e - Newsletter

October 2026



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*The next e-Newsletter will be published on **1st November 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/

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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](#)

A straight 30 years in the Good Beer Guide – Congratulations to the Red Lion

...and management has stayed the same for 33 years!

That's how long Chris and Siobhan have been serving up cask ale in top condition from their 5 pumps.

If there's anyone who doesn't know, the Red Lion is tucked away in the backstreets of Bromley North – at 10 North

Road, Bromley, BR1 3LG ([View on Google Map](#))



Red Lion handpumps, photo from Pete Ravenscroft, Bexley CAMRA on a visit in late September.

The 30-year achievement comes with the publication of CAMRA's 2027 Good Beer Guide – info [here](#).

October 2026	Branch Events	See the branch calendar for details of all these events, including addresses and suggested public transport options		Bromley pub photos by Chris Crowther
Wednesday 7 Greater London CAMRA Pub of the Year Presentation social	19:00 The Cockpit 			
	19:00 Orpington Liberal Club 			
Saturday 17 CAMRA London Pubs Group Daytime Tour of Bromley, Petts Wood and Orpington	12:00 The Partridge 	13:30 Royal Bell 	14:15 Star & Garter 	
	15:30 Daylight Inn 	16:15 One Inn The Wood 	17:15 Orpington Liberal Club 	
Saturday 24 Visit to the Marden Village beer festival	12:00 Marden Village Club			
Thursday 29 Social at Redhill beer festival Details	Merstham Village Hall Meet East Croydon station 11am			



Redhill Beer Festival
Presented by CAMRA East & Mid Surrey

Sponsored by
★★★
PILGRIM BREWERY

Marking the 50th Anniversary of Concorde's entry into service
Thursday, Friday & Saturday 29th - 31st October 2026
 Merstham Village Hall, Station Road North, Merstham, RH1 3ED

Thursday & Friday: 12pm - 10.30pm
 £4 (FREE for card-carrying CAMRA members)
 Saturday: 12pm - 6pm or while stocks last **FREE FOR ALL**
OVER 65 BEERS, CIDERS & PERRIES
 150 metres from Merstham Station and 405 bus
 Hot and cold food and free soft drinks at all sessions
 Beer list will be posted at ems.camra.org.uk/festival
 Redhill Beer Festival @redhillbeerfest
 Enquiries to redhillbrf@ems.camra.org.uk

Looking back: September's branch socials. Come and join us *this* month!

Wednesday 9

Started Royal British Legion (right), then Real Ale Way (left)

Photos: Chris Crowther



Monday 14

Bromley social starting at Bricklayers, then Cork 'n Cask, Richmal Crompton (left), Partridge, Star & Garter (right)

Photos: Chris Crowther



Saturday 19

Tour of Bexley micropubs

Photos: Barry Phillips



Wednesday 23

Autumn Equinox social in Downe. Started at George and Dragon (left) and then Queens Head (right)

Photos: Chris Crowther



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](#) – they'll only be listed if we are told about them!

Date (2026 unless noted)	Place	Details
Friday 9 October to Sunday 11 October	Orpington Liberal Club	Autumn Real Ale and Cider Festival – see our preview social page 2 OLC festival info



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...

Monday “Outings” Invite

Some members of the branch visit venues outside the borough on a Monday lunchtime, and other members would be welcome to join us.

The group visits a pub that is of interest on the third Monday of the month, from 1pm for a few beers and some friendly conversation. Recent venues include:

- Robin, Stroud Green <https://camra.org.uk/pubs/robin-stroud-green-124839>
- Trafalgar, Wimbledon <https://camra.org.uk/pubs/trafalgar-merton-140433>
- Dark Horse, Croydon <https://camra.org.uk/pubs/dark-horse-croydon-141549>

On 19th October we will be going to King's Arms <https://camra.org.uk/pubs/kings-arms-london-158375>

If you want to be added to the group's mailing list, or want any more information, feel free to contact Stephen at stephen.camra@btinternet.com



Three Hounds - Community Pub Hero

Since 2009, Pub Aid has been championing the cause of pubs across the UK, communicating that pubs act as a positive force in communities, both in terms of being focal points for people to meet and interact, but also in how they are an engine for raising money for charity and supporting other community activities such as sports.

In this latter category Bromley CAMRA was delighted that Three Hounds in Clock House was a finalist in the Community Pub Hero awards for England Community Sport Hero Pub, seeing off hundreds of other nominated pubs across the country.

These awards are backed by the All-Parliamentary Beer Group, and the awards ceremony took place on 8 September in the House of Commons. Local MP Liam Conlon, who nominated Three Hounds in particular for their work with Beckenham Rugby Club said it showed that pubs “do much more than pull pints. They bring people together, build community, and support other local groups too”.

Ultimately, Three Hounds came in as runner up to the Royal Dyche in Burnley, but as Matt Walden acknowledged, “they do a cracking job with grassroots sport, and overall, an immense amount with their community, coming second to that is pretty bloody awesome.”

Matt's already looking forward to more community events across the next year, continuing grassroots sport, but also fund raising for Living Well Bromley, Bromley Homeless, and Foal Farm Animal Rescue through initiatives like an “Invisible Half” on the bar menu and other regular events and initiatives including a charity five-a-side football tournament coming up on 24 October.

More details are available at <https://www.threehoundsbeerco.com/post/charity-five-aside-football-tournament>

Coming on the back of the Cockpit winning CAMRA London Regional Pub of the year this continues to show that the pub environment in Bromley is healthy, and thanks to the support of the membership we've got some great community pubs to celebrate. Not only does Bromley have CAMRA's London Pub of the Year, but also Orpington Liberal Club is London Club of the Year.

The Cockpit – Bromley Branch and London Regional Pub of the Year

Colin Brooks, our BR7 Area Contact, pays tribute to the Cockpit ahead of our celebration social there this month

Since opening in late 2020, The Cockpit has cemented itself as firm favourite with the locals of Chislehurst and beyond. Since opening during the COVID pandemic, when restrictions only allowed beers for home delivery, they have gone on to integrate themselves with all aspects of their local community.

They are often found running the beer tent at local events such as Chislehurst Motor Show, as well as those organised with other independent shops and restaurants on the Royal Parade. And that's all before you start to consider the incredible time and effort they put in supporting and raising money for charities!

The pub itself shares it's premises with a florist; flowers at the front, beer at the back. Beers are served on gravity from a cold store behind a small bar. Having up to eight casks on at any one time allows Adam, the manager, to ensure all styles are covered. Cider drinkers are also well catered-for with a decent range of bag-in-a-box offerings.

Many of the beers are locally sourced, with the house beer, Pit, brewed by Tonbridge Brewery. Coming in at just 3.8%, this is an easy-drinking pale ale that proved very refreshing during the summer heatwaves.

There is attention to detail in everything they do, so it comes as no surprise that the Cockpit has been in the CAMRA Good Beer Guide for five consecutive years, been Bromley CAMRA's Pub of the Year three times, and this year was awarded Greater London Pub of the Year.

This last award will be presented on **October 7th** (see branch events, [page 2](#)), and puts the pub in the top 16 in the country! Judging for the next round is still ongoing, and we wish them every success.



CAMRA News this month

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

Personal update: Old shed down, many visits to the local dump completed (funny how I seem to have to stop at a pub when returning!...). Various berry alcohols soaking nicely for Christmas and hops now decorating the conservatory.

So, Autumn, and a polite request to Publicans. Can you now start stocking milds, porters and stouts, please? No excuses now. Summer flowery pales can be kicked into touch until next year.

I digress; what of CAMRA?

Pub Heritage Awards

These were announced in the September Heritage Bulletin. The award recognises pubs or pub operators who have renewed the fortunes of a pub on CAMRA's National Inventory of Historic Interiors, by preserving its heritage features, benefiting the business and having a positive impact on its local community.

The winner is the North Star, Steventon with the runners up award going to the Beacon Hotel, Sedgley. Our congratulations to both of the winners.

Award Coordinator, Paul Ainsworth, commented "Both these pubs have truly precious historic interiors. At the North Star, it's brilliant that the serious structural issues have been fully addressed but equally great to find it in the hands of management committed to making it a real community hub".

For more on this, see [CAMRA | Heritage Pub Revival Award](#)



Heritage for Sale

And, if the above grabs you, CAMRA's Pub Heritage Group is appealing to experienced pub owners and operators from across the UK to consider taking on the Star Inn, Netherton before the present marketing period comes to an end.

CAMRA's Pub Heritage Group, said "Entering Netherton's only pub is like stepping back in time, with parts of the current building dating back to the 19th century. Losing such a treasure would not only strike yet another blow against our ever-depleting national pub heritage, but deprive the Netherton community, present and future, of a social hub that has served them for generations.

Interested?



Pubs Code review

Responding to the Government's announcement that the Pubs Code for England and Wales will continue and be strengthened, CAMRA Chairman Ash Corbett-Collins has commented that CAMRA is glad the code will be kept in place, observing ordinary drinkers are being denied choice and value by the global brewers that dominate the UK beer market. Adding that this supply-leading market means that licensees, independent brewers and ordinary drinkers lose out. He went on to say, "We need to see bolder reforms like guest beer rights for tied tenants, (Yes please!) and the Department for Business must stop dragging their feet and publish the outcome of the review of access to the beer market for independent brewers".

Go West Young Man, Go West.

Why? Well, the Welsh Government has confirmed that Welsh pubs will receive a 30% discount on business rates in the next financial year from April 2027.

Whilst welcoming this news, Chris Charters the CAMRA Director for Wales added "The UK Government also need to act in their upcoming Budget to cut VAT and alcohol duty charged on pints served in pubs to encourage pub going and make sure our locals can compete with cheap supermarket alcohol."



Budget 2026

Heck, it's that time of year again. Remember the budgets of the past? 5p on a packet of fags (and shops selling pre increase packets for days afterwards), 6 pence on a gallon of petrol "from midnight" and the mad rush to the pumps? Oh, and an increase in the personal allowances...

Well (and I crib this straight out of the CAMRA update), CAMRA continues to campaign for pubs, pints and people ahead of Chancellor (and CAMRA member) John Healey's Budget on Wednesday 28 October.

The team has made its official submission to the Treasury which includes calls for action on VAT, beer and cider duty, business rates, energy costs and Employer National Insurance contributions. You can find the full submission here: [01M25FJ879XK43BEXKB38F9EQF.pdf](#) It's six pages and covers rates, draft duty rates, VAT, other reforms such as the red tape on take away pint and the minimum juice content of cider, amongst others!

Have a read – you know it makes sense!

Beer scoring and "Site Unseen" the latest improvements to camra.org.uk

An update on beer scoring and noting what beers are available or not in your local or that elusive pub that the locals always say is "just round the corner" from your holiday accommodation, has been made.

Beers shown on venue listings can now be marked as 'no longer pouring' - very handy if you have just found Titanic Plum Porter Reserve on at the "Ferrets Tail", spent hours getting there, only to find it ran out last week.

Spotting and scoring beers on the website helps other members see what is likely to be available on the bar. You can now remove beers that are not available by clicking the orange 'plus' icon on a beer shown at the bottom of a pub listing and selecting "No longer pouring". Please note, some beers are listed as 'regularly served' because they form part of the venue's core range and the 'No longer pouring' option will not show here. Only beers that have been added because they have been spotted or scored at that venue can be removed. Just remember to do that beer score!

And, Finally

A reminder – the 2027 Good Beer Guide was published just a few days ago. Have you got your copy?

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 Vacant BR1 LD deliveries: Richard Martin	- See Red Lion congratulations, front page - 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	Bricklayers Arms is under new management, and is now a Marlowe's pub. - 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 Three Hounds article, page 5. Also, these events: Belgian Beer Tap Takeover - 15th to 18th Green Hop Festival - 18th to 21st - BR3 pub websites: Bricklayers Arms Three Hounds Chancery Jolly Woodman George Inn Elm Tree Kelsey House	
BR4 Janet Freak	Hoptics Some committee members visited. Bob K was very impressed with the Exeter Darkness Stout. His picture shows beers coming soon. - BR4 pub websites: Wheatsheaf Swan Railway 	
BR5 Wendy Reynolds	BR5 pub websites: Sovereign of the Seas Daylight Inn One Inn the Wood Bull Inn (St Pauls Cray)	
BR6 Norman Warner	- Note OLC Autumn Beer and Cider festival page 4 and our social there page 2 - 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 Synge
Pub Database Coordinator	Vacant
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 Also	Matt Walden
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; Bob Keaveney articles:

Part 1 article from the [July 2026 newsletter](#)

Part 2 article from the [August 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](#)

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](#)

