

# ELEPHANT AND CASTLE

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BOLTON BRANCH OF THE CAMPAIGN FOR REAL ALE  
ISSUE 3 SPONSORED BY THE SWEET GREEN TAVERN



## Licencee

Lillian Longmire

## Address

127 Crook Street

## Phone number

(0204) 392258

## Beers

Tetley Mild

Tetley Bitter

Tetley Imperial

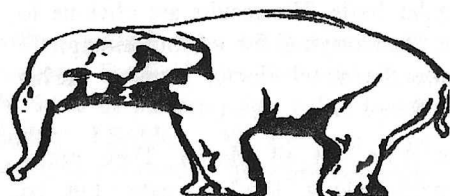
Plur up to 2 guests.

## Travel

opposite rail/bus interchange

## Description

An excellent town centre local close to the town centre for all the amenities. The pub is served by a super bar, yet the various drinking areas make it seem a much bigger place. The Sweet Green is a deserved entry to the 1994 Good Beer Guide and was this branch's Pub of the Year 1992.



# marshall magee

".. There is nothing which yet been contrived by man by which so much happiness is produced as by a good tavern or inn..."

Dr Johnson

Time was when few would have disagreed with the good doctors judgement. Now things are less simple and pubs are not the focus of all our attention. O.K. we still go out and get blathered on Friday night, but what about the rest of the week? Well, there's the off-licence, the BYO kit, all that cheap stuff you brought back from Dunkirk in the transit van. These days, in the town centre especially, an Innpreneur "to let" might greet you as often as a landlords smile. The difference on Sunday evenings is particularly marked. When I first arrived here in 1979 I was startled at the vitality of the Sunday evening sessions. Any worries about Monday morning were dissipated as punks surged along Bradshawgate. Now it has been replaced by a deadly calm. Cynics might argue that there are fewer people to worry about work on a Monday morning. But surely there is more to it than that. Caught in a "triple whammy" of recession, brewers greed, and TV/video saturation, fewer people seem able or willing to enjoy pub going on a regular basis. The results are obvious to see. Its worrying for us, but enough to make the good doctor revolve in his grave...

Yet it is not all gloom. They might struggle along Bradshawgate, but its

showtime at The Cattle Market in Thynne street. A steady trade, enlivened by weekly gatherings of Wanderers fans has been transformed by the opening of "Orlando Village", the long overdue B.I.H.E. student halls of residence. Its not exactly "dreaming spires", but it provides basic accommodation for 380 students and is dead opposite the pub. The results are obvious, I found it packed recently on a Monday night, with Thwaites Bitter at £1 a pint and the ubiquitous "old Speckled Hen" as a guest. The best of luck to Margaret and lets hope that the new concentration of students here and in Chadwick Street will have a beneficial effect on boozing in Bolton.

I note that the Deane Campus Bar has been refurbished (again) and Steve Kerry informs me that regular guest beers supplement the house ales. Irritated at being refused entry to watch the recent England vs Holland debacle, I later returned to glumly swill a pint of Tetleys. I was however discomfited by the apparent (and disgraceful) lack of sympathy shown to our plight by a largely gaelic clientele, and slunk off to the Gilnow for a pint of "old Shilling" ("boys beer" perhaps, but hard to ignore at 95p/pint)

"by eck its gorgeous..." nothing wrong with the adverts but surely something wrong with the hard sell? Indeed, had the recent vote gone our way, might we now be bracing ourselves for the "Bodingtons Olympics"? A recent article in

the Sunday Independent confirmed the recent remorseless progress of "the Bodken". Production of bitter has risen from 200,000 to 500,000 barrels p.a. Between 1989-1993 sales outside the North-west have rocketed from 5% to 50%. In 1989 boddingtons bitter was not even in the national top ten, now it is third behind tetleys and John Smiths (both not exactly averse to self-promotion). Ten years ago locals told me that its quality and strength had declined. Recent tastings seem to confirm this view. One fears that the customer is being asked to pay not for a quality product but for a cultural experience. Does the Marshall Magee "red Barrel" law begin to apply? - "The more

widely available a bitter becomes, the less one might wish to consume it"...

Finally, best of wishes to Tony and Rose Thompson who recently left "The Dog and Partridge". Tony has borne his recent illness with remarkable dignity and good grace, and one hopes that new landlord Vinnie can continue to make the dog one of the best and most unpretentious pubs in Bolton. Unfortunately the pubs "B" quiz team's recent form has been encouraging.....not. Still without a win, skipper Des Nogalski wearily concedes that if his lads could talk themselves into a correct answer as speedily as they talk themselves out of it round they could be world beaters...

*Now Under New Management*

*Vinny and Sheila welcome you to the*  
**DOG AND PARTRIDGE**

**Manor Street, Bolton**

*Traditional Thwaites Beers*

*Bar Snacks Served 12pm - 2pm*

**Acknowledgements-** I would like to thank all the people listed below for their effort in making this issue possible and hope that the list will grow in the future as more members contribute articles.

Richard Spedding, Jonathan Seddon, Steve Kerry, Pieman, Marshall Magee, Des Nogalski, Dave Fleming.

Also Hi to Lynne at the S.G.T who complained last issue.



# Great North Western

It was decided at a meeting to which all interested parties were invited, and thus should have been represented, that the Great North Western Beer and Cider Festival of 1993 would be the last of its kind. This is due to problems which arose in connection with the staffing of the event and also with the loss of the hall as a venue. Although the hall would have been available for a 1994 event it was decided not to take up this option but instead to look at establishing a smaller event at another venue. At this

time the venue and date of a possible Bolton Beer Festival have not been finalised but it is hoped that the event will take place in late April/early May. Hopefully many of you who have attended the Great North Western will be able to attend this new event, and it only remains to thank all those people who have helped at the Festival over the past years and also those people who helped to drink the beer that was on offer.

*Thanks for your support.*

## Pub of the Year 1993

At the Annual General Meeting of the Bolton Branch of the Campaign for Real Ale at the York on Thursday 11th November the new pub of the year was chosen.

This was done by averaging the marks given to the 6 short-listed pubs on the visits of branch members over the last two months. The final six being chosen at a previous meeting for their appearance, beer quality and other factors that the branch considered important in a pub.

After the results had been averaged it was found that the Sweet Green Tavern had won the title for the second year running. This pub serves beer of an excellent quality and has up to two guest beers on all the time, three if you count the Imperial as a guest as it is listed on

the Guest ale board. The pub also serves a good selection of food at lunch times, these generous portions are at a reasonable price and of high quality.

Congratulations go out to Tony, Lilian and all their staff for keeping the Sweet Green Tavern as the best pub in Bolton in the eyes of CAMRA's Bolton Branch members.

The award of Pub of the Year 1993 will be presented to the licence at the January branch meeting. But for those who wish to visit the pub before that and meet the branch members the December branch meeting will also be held at the Sweet Green Tavern so check the branch diary for details

Next year I hope more of you will become active members and vote for your favourite pub.

# student bit

Hello all.

This is your friendly (well sometimes) student liaison officer here mumbling on about local beer matters.

have you been to the Deane Road campus yet. A really good place to drop in. They have good real ale at reasonable prices and an active guest beer policy. Upcoming guest ales include Fullers Chiswick, Flowers Original and McEwans 80/-, the regular beers are Boddingtons and Tetley Bitter. All this and cheap food too (I really like the pizzas)(You would- Ed.)

I've discovered that the Malt and Hops bar (part of the Swan Hotel) have a real ale promo on at the moment. On Tuesdays and Sundays one of the beers will be at a reduced price. I don't know the full details or for how long this lasts so check it out soon. The Malt and Hops

has a good range of constantly changing guest beers so it is well worth a visit anyway.

Also there is a rumour that Vaux are selling some of their Beers, Vaux and Wards Bitter at 99p a pint, is this a result of Holts being available at £1 a pint in pubs like Man and Scythe, where it is a guest and 95p a pint at Holt pubs, like the Castle.

There is a real ale society at BIHE so if you are interested in getting involved check out the notice board near the Deane Rd. canteen. If you have computer access at BIHE check the BB or Mail me COM0360125 also known as BEER HOUND. For those of you further afield Email COM0360125@UK.BOLTON.ACS.BASIL. If you want full Camra membership students get it hal price (£5) until the end of this year.

Be Seeing you

Stephen Kerry

## PUB NEWS

As reported in the Student Bit above Vaux are selling some of their ale at 99p a pint but this offer is only available at selected outlets during the month of November, so if a pint of Vaux appeals to you get your self down to your nearest vaux pub running the offer.

In connection with the Malt and Hops article it would now appear that the bar is safe and is going to continue to sell real ale,. This is good news although it makes you wonder where the rumours started and if there was any truth behind them.

The Blue Boar on Deansgate is now selling Whitbread Castle Edan ale alongside Boddingtons Bitter.

# Town Centre Ale

This article constitutes the guide to real ale available in the town centre pubs that was promised in the last addition. The list is only that and it is not meant to be a guide to which are the best pubs, because taste differs this is left up to the reader to decide. I apologise for any errors that may occur.

For those of you who also like to partake of a real cider - *Real Cider*, not Strongbow, Woodpecker, etc. There are two pubs within Bolton Borough which serve real cider. These are:-

## The Flag, Bromley Cross

Westons Old Rosie

## The Man and Scythe

Bulmers Traditional

Thatchers Medium

Biddendens Medium

## ALBION,

Tetley Bitter

## ALMA,

Burtonwood Bitter

Burtonwood Forshaws

## ANCHOR,

Draught Bass

## ANCIENT SHEPHERD,

Thwates mild

Thwaites Bitter

## BEARS PAW,

Tetley Bitter

## BLUE BOAR

Whitebread Boddingtons

## CATTLE MARKET,

Whitebread Boddingtons

plus Guests

## CHESTER MOONSHINES

Whitebread Boddingtons

## CHURCHILLS

Whitebread Boddingtons

Joseph Holts Bitter

## CLIFTON ARMS

Tetley Bitter

Tetley Mild

Tetley Imperial

Moorhouses Premier

Walker Bitter

Jennings Bitter

## CORKS WINE BAR

Worthington Bitter

## DERBY ARMS

Burtonwood Bitter

Burtonwood Forshaws

### **DOG AND PARTRIDGE**

Thwaites Best Mild

Thwaites Bitter

Thwaites Craftsman

### **FOUNDERS ARMS**

Burtonwood bitter

### **GRIFFIN**

Stones Bitter

### **GYPSYS TENT**

Websters Yorkshire Bitter

plus Guests

### **HOWCROFT**

Ind Coope Burton Ale

Walker Best Bitter

Walker Mild

### **LORD CLYDE**

Hydes Light Mild

Hydes Dark Mild

Hydes Bitter

### **MAXIMS**

Vaux Samson

plus Guests

### **OLDE MAN AND SCYTHE**

Boddingtons

Holts Bitter

Flowers IPA

plus Guests

Bulmers Trad. Cider

plus Guest Cider

### **OLD THREE CROWNS**

Websters Yorkshire Bitter

Ruddles Bitter

### **OSCARS**

Walker Best Bitter

### **DONAGHYS**

Tetley Bitter plus guests

### **SAMS BAR**

Boddington Bitter

### **STUDENT UNION BAR**

Boddington Bitter

plus Guests

### **SWAN HOTEL**

Burtonwood Mild

Burtonwood Bitter

Burtonwood Forsaws

### **MALT AND HOPS BAR**

Burtonwood Bitter

Plus upto 6 Guests

### **SWEET GREEN TAVERN**

Tetley Mild

Tetley Bitter

Tetley Imperial

plus Guests

### **WAGGON AND HORSES**

Tetley Bitter

Boddingtons

plus Guests

### **YORK HOTEL**


Burtonwood Bitter

# Malt and Hops

The Malt and Hops bar at the Swan Hotel slashed its guest beer prices by upto 20p a pint in July. It was originally thought that this was just to celebrate its first birthday but prices have remained at this level since. Recently an excellent pint of Morrell's Bitter from Oxford was on sale at £1.25 a pint, probably cheaper than in its home town. On the negative side two handpumps have now been removed but there is still a choice of seven real ales: Burtonwood Mild and Bitter, plus Five guests.

Des Nogalski.

Ed.- Further to this article it has been recently rumoured that the staff changes at the Swan Hotel may lead to the closure of the Malt and Hops bar as the real ale establishment it is now and revert to selling only Burtonwood beers. If this is true then it will be a big loss to both Bolton and the Burtonwood group, as this pub is popular with both Bolton drinkers and Camra members from other branches who visit this pub to "score" beers they have not had before. If these rumours are not true then we should be told because all this uncertainty cant be a good way to run a pub.



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COMMERCIAL . COTLEIGH . CROUCH VALE . DENTS . ELDRIDGE POPE . EVERARD'S . ELGOOD'S .  
EXMOOR . FELINFOEL . FLOWERS . FULLER'S . GIBBS MEW . GOLDFINCH . GREENEYING . ETC . ETC

## PUB NEWS

The White Lion in Westhoughton has recently been refurbished in Victorian Style.



# Boar's Head To Go

The Boar's Head, one of Boltons oldest pubs, is expected to make way for an office block. The owners, Greenall's, put forward a planning application in september to demolish the Churchgate pub, the adjoining Chip Inn takeaway and Gatehouse cafe on safety grounds. All three properties have been empty for some time and the application is expected to be passed.

The Boars Head was built in 1721 and was once the towns principal inn being used as a post office and a magistrates court. It came into Greenall's hands in 1958 following the takeover of local brewers, Magee Marshall & Co.

After a refurbishment in 1982 it became Bolton's first Greenall's pub in some years to serve real ale through hand-pumps, it had previously served cask-conditioned beer electrically using the diaphragm system. It became an early outlet for Greenall's premium beer of the time, Original Bitter (not the same as Thomas greenall's Original), and appeared in the Good Beer Guide in 1095 and 1986.

During the late 80's Greenall's were forced to strengthen the pub's living quarters and in 1989 they lodged a planning application to demolish the pub and the two adjoining properties and replace them with a new pub and four stories of offices. The plan was rejected after the Borough Surveyor visited all three properties. He found that although both the Gatehouse Cafe and the Chip Inn required some atten-

tion the Boar's Head itself was in reasonably good condition. In March 1992 Greenall's closed the pub and in September this year the current application was made to replace the three properties with a four storey office building. Unlike the 1989 application however, there is no provision for a new pub. Bolton Civic Trust, who had publicly opposed the earlier redevelopment scheme, have withdrawn their opposition on safety grounds following an inspection.

It is particularly sad that we are now to lose much of a conservation area in an attractive part of Churchgate. What was once a pleasant street in the shadow of the Parish Church will soon be a collection of ugly office blocks and isolated period buildings like the Old Pastie Shoppe and the Man & Scythe.

Of course it should be argued that an unsafe building mustn't be allowed to stand, but in 1989 the Boar's Head was said to be reasonably sound. Now it is unsafe. Yet Greenall's do appear to have gone out of their way in the last four years to do anything to save the pub or the adjoining properties and their thinking has been that, if left, it was only a matter of time before the properties became unsafe and at that stage any application for their demolition could not be refused.

Sadly the designation "conservation area" that used to describe that end of Churchgate has, in this case, proved to be worthless. It will continue to be so

until there is some responsibility on the part of the owners of properties like these to **conserve**. Conservation does not and cannot mean waiting for the property to fall into a sufficient state of disrepair to warrant its demolition and as long as this kind of attitude is allowed to prevail property developers will go on tearing down part of our cultural and architectural heritage before our very eyes.

This is the second Greenall's pub in

Bolton to be demolished in the space of a year. Last October the Clarence Hotel on Bradshawgate was demolished along with much of the adjoining row of shops. The Hen and Chickens on Deansgate was recently rumoured to be under threat of demolition with the site to be turned into a car park, but that threat has receded with the decision of the manager to take on the pub as a tenancy.

DES NOGALSKI

# Social Review

## A brief trip to some of the pubs of Little Lever

On a fine late summer's eve on Thursday 23rd September a party of explorers from the inner sanctum of BOLTON CAMRA proceeded on a crawl and social of Little Lever.

First stop was the Jolly Carter Inn on Church street where a choice of five real ales awaited the thirsty traveller. Beers on offer were Morland Old Speckled Hen; Taylor's Landlord; Cains Bitter; Boddingtons Bitter and Chester's Mild. Beers sampled were the Cain's Bitter and Morland Old Speckled Hen (complete with authentic glasses.) Landlord Rhys keeps all his beers in excellent condition and is worth his entry in the 1994 Good Beer Guide.

Next stop was the Church Inn, this pub is very much a younger persons pub and on the date of our visit a disco the volume of which was just below the threshold of aural pain, blared out into the street. The beer, the ubiquitous Bod-

dingtons was palatable.

After a five minute stroll we reached the Horseshoe this excellent boozer serves Hydes Anvil light mild and bitter via electric pumps. The Horseshoe is run by an ex rugby league player Michael J Hennigan and is well worth the journey from Bolton town centre to sample the proud Little Lever village atmosphere.

At this point the writer had to return home due to work commitments the following morning. However, there are other pubs in Little Lever which is worth the twenty minute bus ride from

Bolton centre.

NB.

The Three Crowns on Coronation Square has Holts Bitter.

The Stopes Tavern on Stopes Rd. has Taylor Landlord.

PIEMAN



# SWEET GREEN TAVERN

CROOK STREET

TRADITIONAL PUB

TRADITIONAL BEERS

TRADITIONAL GRUB

**TETLEY'S AND GUESTS**

BOLTON BRANCH CAMRA

PUB OF YEAR 1992

## membership month

During the month of November membership to the Campaign for Real Ale is available at a special reduced price, with £2 off single and joint membership, the special prices being £8 and £10 respectively for the year. It should also be noted that as from Jan. 1 1994 the membership fee for membership is going up to £12 for single and £14 for joint so take advantage of this

special offer while it is available. If you require more information about the branch please feel free to phone the Branch Contact, whose number is given on the back page.

If you wish to join please use the form overleaf and cross out the normal price and write November Membership on the bottom of the form.

**BOLTON  
CAMRA  
BRANCH**

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# BRANCH DIARY

FRIDAY 26TH NOVEMBER

HALLIWELL CRAWL

7.15 AINSWORTH ARMS

7.45 FOX AND STORK

then on thru to

10.30 SHARMAN

optional curry to follow !!

TUESDAY 28TH DECEMBER

XMAS CRAWL AND CURRY

7.00 LORD CLYDE

DOG AND PARTRIDGE

MAN AND SCYTHE

8.30 MALT AND HOPS

10.00 SWEET GREEN TAVERN

CHURCHILLS

11.00(ISH) SUNAR GAW

THURSDAY 2ND DECEMBER

BRANCH MEETING 8.30

SWEET GREEN TAVERN

WEDNESDAY 8TH DECEMBER

REGIONAL MEETING 8.00

UNICORN, CHURCH ST.

MANCHESTER

Branch Chairman

Richard Spedding

Branch Contact

Judith Spragg (0204) 595342

APPLICATION FOR CAMRA MEMBERSHIP.

I/We wish to join the Campaign for Real Ale Limited, and agree to abide by the Memorandum and the Articles of Association of the Campaign.

NAME(S).....DATE.....

ADDRESS.....

..... POSTCODE.....

SIGNATURE ..... Tele No. ....

I/We enclose remittance for individual/joint membership for 1 year.

U.K. £10 / £8

☐

Joint £12 / £10

Overseas £14

☐

Joint £16

Student/Retired/Unemployed/Disabled £5

Joint £6

Please send remittance (payable to CAMRA Ltd.) and this Form to The Membership Secretary, Camra Ltd., 34 Alma road, St. Albans, Herts. AL1 3BW.