

Camra Bolton Branch and its Pubs as seen by the What's Doing Contributors 1979

What's Doing January 1979 <https://greatermanchester.camra.org.uk/branch-magazines/whats-doing/#1979>

Off to a good start in the new year with a big edition for Bolton with almost 4 pages, plus a mention of the January branch meeting on January 24th held at the York with a guest speaker, Mr Gordon Leek from Robinsons. (I don't think he was too impressed with the choice of venue, being used to a plush Robinsons pub in the heart of the Cheshire stockbroker belt, this was before that area was invaded by affluent and overpaid footballers.)

The 1979 GBG (£2.35) pubs were

Bolton – Craven Heifer, Blackburn Road; Farmers Arms, Chorley Street; General Havelock, Sidney Street; Globe, Higher Bridge Street; Howcroft, Pool Street; Rose Hill, Manchester Road; Stanley Arms, Chorley Old Road; York, Newport Street.

Farnworth – Market, Brackley Street; Original Halfway House, Worsley Road

Horwich – Toll Bar

Little Lever – Queen Anne

Stoneclough – Lord Nelson

Westhoughton – Duke of Wellington, Chew Moor; White Lion, Market Street



WHAT'S DOING IN BOLTON

The Dog & Partridge on Manor Street reopened just before Christmas selling handpumped Thwaites ales. It was a Bass Charrington house (ex Cornbrook) until it was sold at a public auction several months ago.

On the other side of town the Lodge Bank Tavern on Higher Bridgeman Street is up for sale as a free house. This leaves the Prince William on Bradshawgate as the only Boddingtons pub in Bolton. Higher Bridgeman Street has lost two pubs recently to the redevelopment of the area. The first to go was the Farmers Arms, once a Munro's house (see the article on Farnworth & Kearsley) and last year Bass Charrington's New Inn was closed and demolished.

A new Wilsons pub has appeared on Chorley Old Road. As a token gesture to its suburban situation it has a nice, landscaped car park. It is called the Jolly Miller. It does not sell real ale.

Former regulars of the Black Dog in Horwich will probably wish to remain so. It has reopened as 'Nibblers' and a notice over the door proclaims that gentlemen will only be admitted if they are over 21 and wearing a tie or smart casual attire. God knows what goes on inside since another notice within requests the be-tied elite to leave quietly and in an orderly manner. It is a free house and so we should like to hear about the ale from anyone possessing a smart casual and capable of containing his screams until he is on the bus.

THE PUBS OF FARNWORTH & KEARSLEY

Farnworth and Kearsley have a wide variety of pubs, ranging from old coaching houses through pubs associated with the growth of industry to pre-war developments. Most of the older pubs are still there and several still bear marks of breweries which are now just memories. With a few hideous exceptions, today's breweries have treated the old buildings with some respect, although traditional beer is at present available in less than a third of the pubs.

Tetleys have the most pubs in the area, all of which came from their takeover of Walkers Warrington Brewery. 'Walkers Warrington Ales' is still quite a common sight on the pubs, but more unusual are the Sharmans windows of the White Hart and the relief stonework and moulded windows on the Market, which is now the only perfect example of a William Tong's frontage. Some of the Worsley Brewery Company's buildings can still be seen in Pendlebury but the Hare and Hounds on Stoneclough Road, with its 'WB Co' tiled step is the only pub to bear the brewery's name today. The step is as far as the real ale drinker need go - only three of the thirteen Tetley pubs sell traditional beer; the Market, the Clock Face and the Saddle. The first two are well worth visiting.

Greenall Whitley is next on the list, with eight pubs. All these came from their takeover of Magee Marshall's Crown Brewery, and the Shakespeare is a well preserved example, both inside and out, of Magees' 'brewers Tudor' style. The Railway at Moses Gate still has Magee's Crown emblems etched into the windows. Not long ago 'Magees Antelope Hotel' could be seen above the first floor windows of the Antelope. Greenalls have thoughtfully removed the word 'Magees' so that passers-by can admire the rusty nails which once held the letters. Until last year the Shakespeare, the Antelope, the Railway and the Waggon and Horses were serving real ale. In the last six months bright beer has been sold in each of these pubs, and in view of Greenalls' policy none can now be recommended.

The seven Bass Charrington houses include two of the oldest pubs in the area and the newest, the Flying Shuttle (a popular name for new pubs, possibly because a shuttle is easy to draw). Both the Grapes and the Old Three Crowns once had breweries attached to them. It is likely that Bass gained five of the pubs through their acquisition of Cornbrook Brewery property - a somewhat cracked Cornbrook window can still be seen in the Three Crowns. The Freemasons is now the only pub to bear the insignia of George Munro, a company which once owned several pubs in the Bolton area. The Freemasons is still known locally as 'Munro's'. In several cases Bass have done their worst to the interiors of the pubs but there are signs that a degree of taste is creeping back with the recent renovation of the Unity Brook. Unfortunately Bass's promotion of their cask beer hasn't yet reached this area - none of the seven pubs sells real ale.

Whitbread have five pubs in the area, all inherited in their takeover of Duttons Blackburn brewery, and the Rose and Crown, although recently

refurbished, still has its 'Duttons' lamp over the door. None of the Whitbread pubs sells real ale.

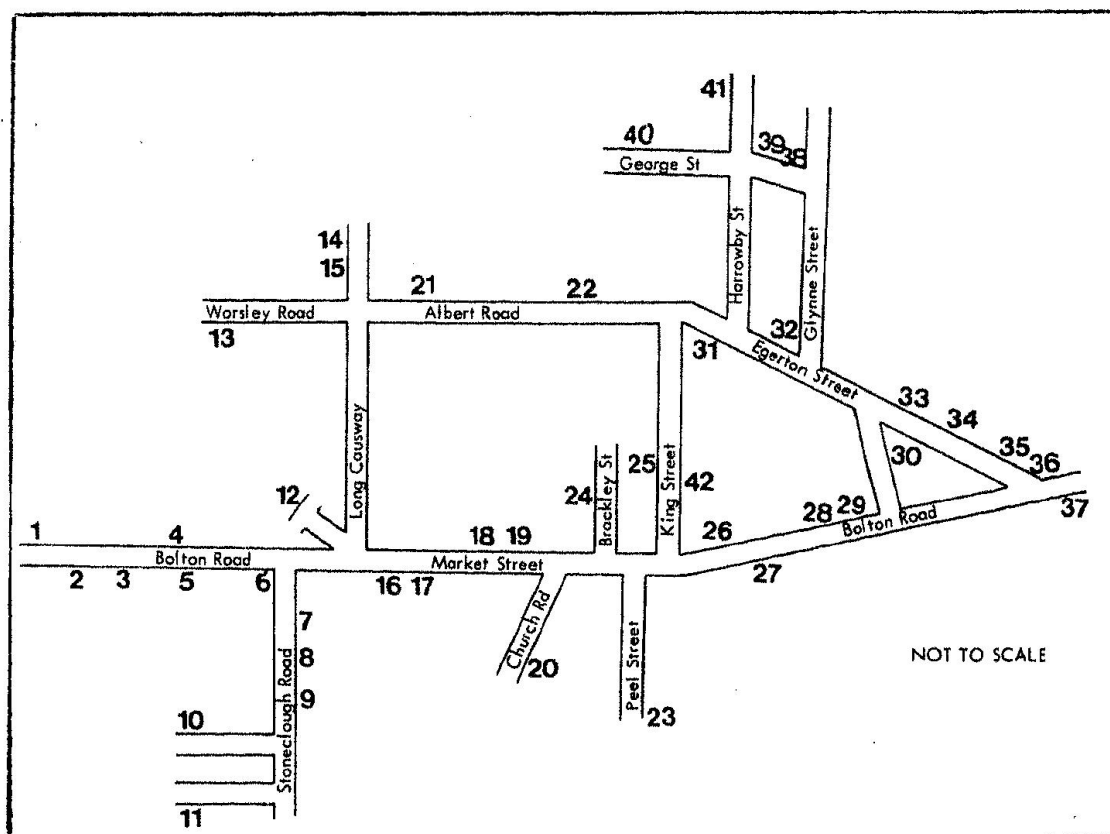
Wilsons, Boddingtons and Thwaites each have two pubs, all selling traditional beer. The Moss Rose shrugged off its Watney image last year and now serves bitter and mild on handpumps. Of the two Boddingtons houses, the Bradford is a typical modern two-roomed pub replacing an older building and the Half Way House is a candidate for this year's Good Beer Guide. Thwaites' Lord Nelson in Stoneclough will be remembered by many Camra members as Percy and Mary Booth's pub, where the North Manchester branch was formed a few years ago.

Three other breweries have one pub each, two selling real ale. One, the Rawsons Arms, is an ex-Threlfalls house bought by Burtonwood from Whitbread two years ago. The other is Farnworth's latest real ale outlet, the Bridgewater. Sam Smiths are to be congratulated for their efforts in transforming the Bridgewater into a well furnished, comfortable pub. Traditional Old Brewery Bitter is available on handpumps.

Over the years the area has lost several pubs. Among the most recent are the Lord Nelson on Market Street, sold off by Greenalls and now a furniture shop, and the Horseshoe on the corner of King Street, once a Threlfalls house. At the top of the locks which once raised the Manchester arm of the Manchester, Bolton and Bury Canal still stands the Nob Inn, now a private house. The legend 'Nob Inn Wilsons' can still be seen on the side of the building. The house overlooks the triangle of land between the Croal and the Irwell where Rawson's vitriol works once stood. Rawson was a major shareholder in the canal company and traces of the cut from the main canal to his works are still visible. As well as the pub, his name is commemorated in two Farnworth Streets today and many years ago there was a Vitriol Makers Arms on Albert Road. The family's coat of arms can still be seen in the entrance of the Rawsons Arms.



Bridgewater Hotel - Sam Smiths real ale



- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 Unity Brook, Bass | 22 Waggon & Horses, Greenalls |
| 2 Spread Eagle, Tetley | 23 Rawsons Arms, Burtonwood |
| 3 Man & Scythe, Greenalls | 24 Market, Tetleys |
| 4 Antelope, Greenalls | 25 Saddle, Tetleys |
| 5 Moss Rose, Wilsons | 26 Freemasons, Bass |
| 6 White Horse, Bass | 27 Rose & Crown, Whitbread |
| 7 Hare & Hounds, Tetley | 28 Wellington, Whitbread |
| 8 Grapes, Bass | 29 Victoria, Tetley |
| 9 Market Street Tavern, Wilsons | 30 Golden Lion, Tetley |
| 10 Lord Nelson, Thwaites | 31 White Hart, Tetley |
| 11 Horse Shoe, Thwaites | 32 Shakespeare, Greenalls |
| 12 Clock Face, Tetleys | 33 Park, Matthew Brown |
| 13 Half Way House, Boddingtons | 34 Egerton, Tetley |
| 14 Bradford Arms, Boddingtons | 35 White Horse, Tetley |
| 15 Bridgewater, Sam Smiths | 36 Railway, Greenalls |
| 16 Black Horse, Greenalls | 37 Moses Gate, Whitbread |
| 17 Old Three Crowns, Bass | 38 Canary, Whitbread |
| 18 Post Office, Bass | 39 Grapes, Tetley |
| 19 Queens, Tetley | 40 Church, Tetley |
| 20 Church, Greenalls | 41 Flying Shuttle, Bass |
| 21 Royal, Greenalls | 42 Britannia, Whitbread |

What's Doing February 1979 <https://greatermanchester.camra.org.uk/branch-magazines/whats-doing/#1979>

In an update to the article the previous month (above) the Unity Brook had started selling Draught Bass. There had been a Tetley strike and it was noted that most Bolton pubs had opted for Thwaites

as an alternative, whereas on the previous occasion some had been rather more adventurous and been up to Cockermouth for Jennings Bitter.

What's Doing March 1979 <https://greatermanchester.camra.org.uk/branch-magazines/whats-doing/#1979>

Boddingtons have sold the Lodge Bank Tavern, Bridgeman Street, to John Willie Lees. This will be the fourth Lees pub in Bolton. The first three were acquired from a slightly less reputable company, the Whitefield Brewery Co (see Manchester Breweries No 5 in What's Doing February 1979). The Hare and Hounds Bank Street was closed in 1911 for being 'ill conducted', the Victoria and the Union Arms were sold to Hamers Brewery over 50 years ago (in 1979, so 1929), and the Union is still standing on Eskrick Street, now a Whitbread pub.

There was a list of the 83 Holt's pubs but none were in Bolton, though many members of the day wandered just over the branch boundary to the Black Dog at Belmont on a regular basis. There was a challenge to see if anyone could visit all of them in a week.

What's Doing April 1979 <https://greatermanchester.camra.org.uk/branch-magazines/whats-doing/#1979>

An old building on Spa Road, latterly used as a joiner's shop, has been converted into a Bistro restaurant which also sells real ale. Called the Cromptons Mule it offers a varied menu ranging from 60p to £2 – and what better way to wash down that Terrine of Pork (65p) or Coq au Vin (£1.25) than a few pints of hand pumped Boddingtons Bitter.

Since the news last month of the sale of the Lodge Bank Tavern, to Lees further information has come from Boddingtons. The pub was sold for £17,000 because extensive work costing several thousand was required, especially on toilet facilities. The pub was only selling three or four barrels a week and opened irregularly. Although Boddingtons now only have the Prince William on Bradshawgate, they are always in the market for pubs in the area. They were outbid by Thwaites last year when Bass put the Dog and Partridge up for sale.

Bridgeman Street has lost several pubs in recent years and when Lees complete their renovations the Lodge Bank stands a good chance of success.

In the Branch Diary there was a Social at the Spread Eagle on Hulme Street on April 11th and another with East Lancs Branch at the Black Bull, 167 Bury Road in Edgworth (at 8.00 pm but no date)

What's Doing May 1979 <https://greatermanchester.camra.org.uk/branch-magazines/whats-doing/#1979>

Two articles see below

The branch Diary shows a Social/Committee Meeting on 14th May at the George on Great Moor Street, the branch meeting a week later at the Dog and Partridge. A brewery visit to Thwaites was planned for July 2nd details at the meeting.

BYE BYE BASS

Traditional 4X mild is no longer available at the New Inn, Halliwell Road, Bolton, and the pub now sells only keg beer. The five handpumps are to remain, however, and the landlord, who prefers real ale to keg, says that traditional beer will be sold again but doesn't say when.



The New Inn stands in a redevelopment area and most of the adjoining terrace has already gone. The Indian take-away is due to go in about five years but the pub itself is safe for at least ten.

Information: Bert Kerks

SWEETER GREEN

Several visitors to the Sweet Green Tavern, Bolton, in recent months suffered from severe disorientation when faced with a blank wall where the bog used to be. Readers will be relieved to know that alterations to the toilets and catering room are almost complete.

There are also plans for further extensions during the next 18 months or so. The lounge will be extended into the house next door, which was once the Old Sweet Green Pie Shop. The bar will be moved and extended and the handpumps retained. There are plans for another cellar and the new pub will have facilities for meals and snacks at lunchtime.



It is hoped that some of the character of one of Bolton's last street corner pubs will remain after alterations.

Information: Bert Kerks

What's Doing June 1979 <https://greatermanchester.camra.org.uk/branch-magazines/whats-doing/#1979>

It was noted that 3 people had completed the Holt's 83 (March 1979) in only 6 days not the 7 days in the challenge.

On Chorley Old Road, the Stanley Arms better known as Sally up th' steps, will not be selling any real ale for the first two weeks in June.

The cellar floor is being resurfaced and keg Tetley's will be sold through the handpumps for the duration of the work. The pub was included in the GBG for the first time.

The Farmers Arms, Chorley Street, also in the GBG, should be deleted as it no longer serves real ale.

Since opening as a Thwaites pub in December 1978, the Dog and Partridge Manor Street has returned 11 out of twelve 22-gallon keg mild containers which the brewery thought might sell well, as the pub formerly sold Bass keg beers.

In branch Diary the branch meeting was being held on June 12th at the George on Great Moor Street with Peter Cole Head Brewer at J W Lees as guest speaker.

What's Doing July 1979 <https://greatermanchester.camra.org.uk/branch-magazines/whats-doing/#1979>

Whilst Wilsons clearly lead the field in the handpump stakes, Tetley's are still in there somewhere. A recent conversion is the Bowling Green in Horwich.

Branch diary had a social at Sally Up Steps (Stanley Arms) Chorley Old Road on July 12th with the Branch meeting on July 19th at the Peel Hotel, Higher Bridge Street

BOWLING IN BOLTON

As the spring/summer weather is here, what better to work up a thirst than a game of bowls? The Howcroft, Pool Street, and the Sunnyside, Bloom Street, both have greens. At a cost of 10p and 15p respectively to use the greens (bowls provided) it must be the cheapest game around. Both are Tetley pubs serving real ale. The Howcroft has handpumps and serves Walkers bitter; the Sunnyside dispenses via electric pumps.

Only four other pubs in Bolton have greens; the Hare and Hounds, Bury Road, the Kings Head, Junction Road, the Brooklyn Hotel, Green Lane and the Halliwell Lodge Hotel, Mornington Road. The Bowling Green, Eskrick Street, although serving a good pint of Greenall Whitley, lost its bowling green many years ago to make way for garages. The Stags Head, Junction Road, which sold real Burtonwood until modernisation a few years ago, had a beautiful green, which made way for a car park, like so many others.

Bert Kerks

PIKE VIEW



The Pike View, a traditional well-kept locals' pub on Derby Street, Bolton, will soon change from serving Greenall Whitley beers in traditional form to serving tank beers. Internal alterations on a large scale are now in progress and should be finished in the next couple of months. This will be a sad loss in an area which has lost many 'real' Greenalls pubs.

Bert Kerks

What's Doing August 1979 <https://greatermanchester.camra.org.uk/branch-magazines/whats-doing/#1979>

Nothing in about Bolton

What's Doing September 1979 <https://greatermanchester.camra.org.uk/branch-magazines/whats-doing/#1979>

Greenall Whitley's unpleasant habit of steadily closing down their pubs continues. Their latest victim in the Bolton Area is the Alma, Bradshawgate which has regularly appeared in the GBG since 1974.

September 21st and 22nd marked the Manchester Beer Festival held at Houldsworth Hall on Deansgate (Manchester not Bolton) where several branch members were part of the staffing. Most local breweries were present except Greenall Whitley Warrington whose offerings were replaced with the superior Greenalls Wem Bitter. In those early days if you wanted a distant beer you had to go and get it, no such thing as choosing beers from an agencies national beer list and it being delivered. Out of town beers were Camerons Strongarm from Hartlepool, Gooseye Bitter from Keighley and Hook Norton Bitter. We even had to collect and pay cash for the Whitbread Special Cask from their Blackburn Distribution depot rather than it being delivered from Cook Street in Salford for reasons that only they understood. The hall was part of the local Methodist head office and it is rather ironic perhaps to be rolling casks of beer into the hall at the same time as their clergy were visiting the offices above. It was also used for examinations purposes and more than one customer remarked on their bad memories of the place, which were now being washed away pint by pint. The one challenge with the event was having to close at 10pm with everyone including the staff having to be out of the hall by 10.30. Normal closing time was 10.30 back in 1979.

What's Doing October 1979 <https://greatermanchester.camra.org.uk/branch-magazines/whats-doing/#1979>

It was noted that 2,500 people drank 10,000 pints at the Manchester Beer Festival held at the Houldsworth Hall on Deansgate, most popular beers were from Timothy Taylors, Saxon Cross, Theakstons and Greenall Whitley Wem.

In Branch Diary there was a social at the Strawbury Duck Entwistle on October 10th and the branch meeting was at the White Lion in Westhoughton on 24th.

What's Doing November 1979 <https://greatermanchester.camra.org.uk/branch-magazines/whats-doing/#1979>

This month saw the arrival of a new beer from Tetley Walker called Walkers Warrington Ale, a list was printed including the following in the branch area.

Bolton – White Hart on Deane Road, White Horse in Harwood, Albert on Derby Street, Bradford on Bradford Street, Church on Crook Street, Crofters on Bradshaw Road, Gaiety on Bradshawgate and Prince Rupert on Holmeswood Road.

Farnworth – White Hart on Albert Road, White Horse on Egerton Street, Saddle on King Street and Church on George Street.

In Branch Diary there was a Pub Crawl on November 16th starting at The Gipsy's Tent, then Howcroft and then the Globe. The branch meeting was on 20th at Rawsons Arms in Farnworth. On December 4th there was a social at the Bowling Green in Horwich with the branch meeting at the Sweet Green Tavern on 13th.

What's Doing December 1979 <https://greatermanchester.camra.org.uk/branch-magazines/whats-doing/#1979>

This issue saw the publication of a rather long list of Bass North West cask outlets from Cumbria to North Wales, those listed in Bolton were

General Havelock Sidney Street (Brew Ten and 4X Mild), Greyhound Inn Deansgate (4X Mild only), Unity Brook Kearsley (Draught Bass), Brinsop Arms Westhoughton, (Brew Ten, 4X Mild and Draught Bass)

In Branch Diary in addition to the December 13th branch meeting, a pub crawl was scheduled for December 21st starting from the Falcon, Kay Street, to the Spread Eagle, Hulme Street, Dog and Partridge, then The Swan followed by Prince William, the remainder to be announced later.

There was also to be a visit to Robinsons Brewery on January 9th, meet at Moor Lane, in those days it was outside the Keg only Albion not inside as we would have done later on, well until it was closed, shortly after Moor Lane moved to the interchange.