

Camra Bolton Branch and its Pubs as seen by the What's Doing Contributors 1982

What's Doing January 1982 <https://greatermanchester.camra.org.uk/branch-magazines/whats-doing/#1982>

The 1982 GBG (£3.95) pubs were

Bolton – Ainsworth, Halliwell Road; Alma, Bradshawgate; Howcroft, Pool Street; Lodge Bank Tavern, Bridgeman Street, Old Three Crowns, Deansgate; Peel, Higher Bridge Street; Sweet Green Tavern, Crook Street; York, Newport Street. With try also's Ancient Shepherd, Bold Street; Falcon, Kay Street; Victoria British Queen, Blackburn Road.

Farnworth – Market, Brackley Street; Bradford Arms, Buckley Lane

Horwich – Toll Bar, try also Poacher

Little Lever – Horseshoe

Stoneclough – Lord Nelson

Westhoughton - Brinsop

The clever Mr Pollard has moved into the Derby Street Labour Club with his dark and light mild, which are available at 40p a pint, 6p less than the keg competition from Bass, Greenalls and Whitbread. Other outlets are rumoured to be Radcliffe British Legion and Astley Bridge British Legion.

Whitbread's latest real ale 'free house' is the Duck and Firkin, Bradshawgate, formerly known as the Trotters. It was built in the sixties by Duttons, replacing two previous pubs, the name was chosen to honour some local first division team. The Trotters sold cask beer until the early seventies, when the Whitbread keg and tank revolution took over.

The pub is even more gimmicky than the Moses Gate (see last month's WD). The decor is definitely outlandish, complete with vomiting red frogs on the ceiling and a cask peep show. Is this gimmickry really necessary to draw people in, when Hartleys XB, Castle Eden Ale and Duttons Bitter are on sale? This now brings the total number of cask beers available on Bradshawgate to 15, plus the cider in the Man and Scythe.

This was the first of what became known as the 'House of Horrors' pub conversions by Whitbread.

Also noted were the number plates on two Rolls Royce's parked outside with chauffeurs in attendance at Whitbreads Salmesbury Chemical Plant, sorry Brewery – KEG 31 and KEG 32.

In Branch Diary the January Branch Meeting on 13th was at the Rock House on Duke Street, with a committee/social at the Bowling Green in Horwich a week later. There was another social at the Duck and Firkin on the 28th so that everyone could see for themselves what a pub should (not) look like.

What's Doing February 1982 <https://greatermanchester.camra.org.uk/branch-magazines/whats-doing/#1982>

Following the recent change in landlord at the Derby Arms on Derby Street, the Duttons Bitter has been replaced by Hartleys XB. Supplies of cask bitter, then Duttons bitter were always intermittent and the problem continues with the Hartleys.

Nibblers in Horwich has now added Bass 4X mild to the Cask bitter already on sale. It nibbles a nice hole in your pocket too, at 54p a pint.

Tetleys have installed handpumps at the Grey Man, 90 Hindley Road, Daisyhill

No Branch Diary

What's Doing March 1982 <https://greatermanchester.camra.org.uk/branch-magazines/whats-doing/#1982>

Tudor Taverns a subsidiary of Chef and Brewer which is the managed arm of Grand Metropolitan, which to us mere mortals meant they were Wilsons managed pubs, provided a list of their pubs with an indication of their cask beer status, those in Bolton were

Existing Cask Outlets - Bowling Green, Bury Road, Jolly Miller, Chorley Old Road, Moss Rose, Kearsley, Three Crowns, Deansgate, White Horse, Westhoughton

Potential Cask Outlets – Queen Anne, Junction Road

No Hoppers – Royal Oak, Westhoughton, Spinners, Brownlow Way (What's Doing in June 1981 had noted that the Royal Oak was selling hand pumped Wilsons mild and bitter and it still was)

In Branch Diary there was a double helping starting off with a Pub Crawl of Ramsbottom starting at the Good Samaritan (now Hearth o'th Ram) and finishing off at the Hare and Hounds in Holcombe Brook at 10pm which gave very little time for that last pint before catching the last bus back to Bolton. The Hare and Hounds was a Tudor Taverns pub but was listed on their list (see above) as a no hopper for cask beer, but was already selling it as was the case at the Royal Oak! (It only has 12 handpumps on the bar these days.)

On the 7th we hosted a Light Mild meeting at the York.

The March Branch meeting was at the Falcon, Kay Street on 10th, followed on 17th (St Patricks Day) by a backward crawl (only in the list of pubs?) starting at Derby and finishing at the Old Three Crowns. On April 2nd (should it have been the 1st) there was a very rare Camra Disco to see 'Boppin Bert' at Scamps Disco, meet at the Alma, 10pm.

For those who recovered from this experience there was the April Branch Meeting on the 7th at the Derby. For St Georges Day a Pub Crawl of Manchester was planned. Finally on 30th there was a social at the Ainsworth followed by a crawl down Halliwell Road.

What's Doing April 1982 <https://greatermanchester.camra.org.uk/branch-magazines/whats-doing/#1982>

The introduction of Duttons bitter had reached the Volunteer and Sportsmans Arms on Darwen Road, Bromley Cross and the Cheetham Arms (now Brewhouse) Blackburn Road.



VOLUNTEER, BROMLEY CROSS

The Victoria, Horwich a fine old Threlfalls pub has tried Castle Eden and Saxon Cross alongside its hand pumped Chesters Bitter. The latest 'guest' beer is Marstons Pedigree.

There was another Bass Cask List, where Bolton was a notable blot on the landscape with two pubs, the Greyhound and Lord Clyde selling 4X mild only.

In Branch Diary there was an additional social to those listed above at the Dog and Partridge on the 14th though it could have been a rearranged Branch Meeting.

BOLTON

Bolton is fast becoming a beer drinkers' paradise, particularly the town centre. Though it is dominated by Greenalls and Tetley, other breweries have a good showing, particularly around the Churchgate area. The map shows pubs within a mile of the town hall.

Duck & Firkin-Hartleys XB, Castle Eden,
Duttons Bitter (H)

Alma-Burtonwood bitter, light mild, dark
mild (H)

Camps - disco serving only handpumped
Greenalls in Bolton

New Zealand Chief-Greenalls mild and
bitter (E)

Sweet Green Tavern-Walkers Best Bitter
& Tetleys mild (H)

York-Burtonwood bitter, light mild, dark
dark mild (E)

Clifton Arms-Tetley Bitter & Mild (H)

George-Wilsons mild & bitter (E)

Ancient Shepherd-Thwaites bitter and
best mild (H)

White Lion-Wilsons bitter & mild (E)

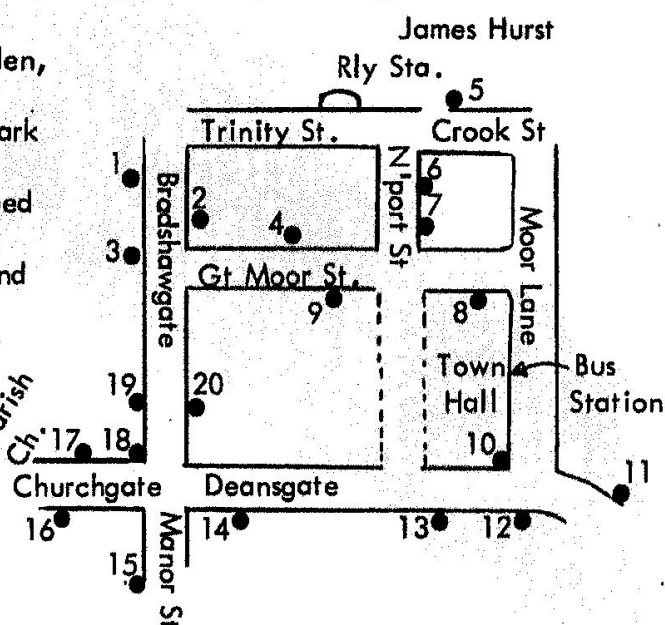
Cromptons Mule - bistro serving only
draught Bass in Bolton (H)

Gypsies Tent-Tetley mild & bitter (H)

Greyhound-Bass 4X mild - no bitter
yet - cask Stones? (E)

Old Three Crowns-Wilsons bitter, mild
and DPA (H)

Dog and Partridge-Thwaites bitter and
best mild (H)



16 Old Boars Head-Greenalls bitter & mild

17 Old Man & Scythe- Cider house,
Bulmers medium sweet (E)

18 Swan Hotel-Burtonwood dark mild and
bitter (Malt&Hops & Chamber
Pot bars only) (H)

19 Prince William-Boddingtons mild &
bitter (E)

20 The Gaiety-Vaux Samson (H) Only
Samson in Gtr Manchester

What's Doing May 1982 <https://greatermanchester.camra.org.uk/branch-magazines/whats-doing/#1982>

An update to the Bolton Centre pubs above, noted that Pub no 1 Duck and Firkin was now selling Marstons Pedigree instead of Duttons Bitter, Pub no 14 Old Three Crowns was not selling Wilsons DPA as it was no longer being brewed. Pub no 16 had made a rare switch from electric to Hand pumped Greenalls.

The Poacher Blackrod had stopped selling Burtonwood Light Mild, because of low demand.

There was a Matthew Brown Cask list included which had just the one Bolton pub, the Hartcommon Hotel listed. The Brewery were not good on geography as included in Lancashire were Southport (Merseyside) several places in Greater Manchester, Luddenden Foot (West Yorkshire) and Kirby Lonsdale which should have been in the Cumbria section, and it was Edgeworth not Edgworth.

In Branch Diary on the May Day Bank Holiday there was an Awayday to Edinburgh (£9), and for those that caught the train back the branch meeting on 12th at the Sweet Green Tavern. On the 23rd there

was a lunchtime drink in Little Lever starting at the Horseshoe. (Now Henighans.) The June Branch meeting was on the 2nd at the Derby Arms with a possible speaker from Whitbread.

What's Doing June 1982 <https://greatermanchester.camra.org.uk/branch-magazines/whats-doing/#1982>

'Have you heard there's a place in Bolton selling Theakstons,' said John, 'It's a place near the top entrance to the Arndale, at the back of the Wimpy, it's called Matty's, I think.'

John went off to the Derby for Hartleys. Jim and myself, set out to find the place. Back Mawdsley Street, it turned out to be, and it was called Masseys. There was a very impressive downstairs entrance, we went down and through the door, 'Well, at least we haven't had to pay to get in,' I thought. Sure, enough Theakstons was available, bitter and Old Peculiar on Pillar taps. 'Beer from the wood' it said on the pumpclips. 'Two pints of bitter, please,' I asked. 'Sorry we only sell halves.' the barmaid replied. 'Two halves then, please.' I said. She served the beer into two half pint oversize Stella Artois glasses. I had run out of smallish change and took out a tenner. 'That's just a pound, please,' she said, smiling. I casually tossed the tenner across the bar, thinking to myself, 'Thank God they don't serve pints.' We sat down. There was live Jazz playing in the other room, but not many people about, hardly surprising. We didn't stay for another round/pound's worth. 'That should keep the riff-raff out, anyway,' muttered Jim. I suppose the only consolation was that lager was 60p a half,' I replied with a sigh. (This would be equivalent to paying £8 or £9 for a pint today)

In Branch Diary the guest speaker was noted as the Whitbread Area Manager, there was a committee/social at the York on 16th.

What's Doing July 1982 <https://greatermanchester.camra.org.uk/branch-magazines/whats-doing/#1982>

The Bulmers Rep has been busy in Whitbread pubs recently, with handpumps sprouting on bars at the Lamb, Bradshaw Road, House Without a Name, Harwood and Lord Raglan Halliwell Road.

The landlord of the Old Three Crowns, Deansgate has left for the White Lion (not Lion but Horse), Westhoughton. He has been promised Websters beers to sell alongside the Wilsons. Websters is also promised for the Jolly Miller, Chorley Old Road.

The General Havelock, Sydney Street, is up for sale. It is a former Bass house and one-time GBG entry and is being offered complete with license.

The newly laid bowling green at the Howcroft, Pool Street, is now in use. Although it won't be ready for matches until next year, at the moment one can enjoy a quiet game of Barnes Wallis.

In Letters

Sir, When I chaired the Bolton CAMRA branch meeting at the Derby Arms last month. I announced the completion of the Greenalls Survey. 'Yippee! Hurrah!' were the cries. I have never seen so many happy faces at a CAMRA meeting before. Jim Hurst

In Branch Diary the July meeting was at the George, Great Moor Street on the 7th and in August at the Peel Higher Bridge Street on the 4th. On July 18th there was a joint meeting with South Lancs as

part of the Save the Park campaign and on 25th a Social at the Bradford Arms and Bridgewater in Farnworth. On August 7th there was a Peak Wayfarer Awayday to Buxton and Macclesfield.

What's Doing August 1982 <https://greatermanchester.camra.org.uk/branch-magazines/whats-doing/#1982>


Back on the front cover with

MORE TRADITIONAL TETLEYS FOR BOLTON

Tetley Walker have introduced handpumped traditional mild and bitter in the following Bolton pubs:

Doffcocker	Chorley Old Road
Colliers	1053 Chorely Old Road
Hare & Hounds	539 Bury Road

The last named is soon to be converted to Walkers beers along with the Howcroft, Pool Street and the Ainsworth Arms, Halliwell Road.



A new pub opened its doors this month- The Tansy Green, Brightmet, a fizzy Greenalls outlet. The name means, 'flowering meadow', which seems a little odd for the suburban sprawl of Brightmet. The name was chosen by a competition run by the local evening paper (First prize a years' free Greenalls, 2nd prize 5 years free Greenalls?) The Bolton branch's suggestions, 'The Farting Fred' and 'The Domestos Arms' didn't seem to get far. Perhaps the Tansy Greenalls is best.

The Peels Arms, Halliwell Road, (Wilson's) has now returned to normal after having been a 'mixed clientele' (nudge, nudge) pub for some years. The new signs on the outside proclaim traditional mild and bitter, but this was not in evidence inside recently. Presumably the handpumps installation team will catch up with the sign writers shortly.

The Black Horse, Bury Road now has Castle Eden as well as Duttons Bitter.

It is pleasing to note that Whitbread have now found a home for the other half of the farm cart which is glued to the wall of the Moses Gate in Farnworth. (It was in The Bitter End in Burnley, which is now demolished in favour of a certain US Franchise Fast food outlet)

The General Havelock, Sydney Street, has been sold to some chappie who is going to convert it into a Free House – hand pumped Molestranglers and gravity Drabs perhaps?

In Branch Diary on August 12th there was to be a CAMRA mirror presentation at Tetley Walker. On August 18th, a social to try the Walkers at the Howcroft, Pool Street. September 1st was the branch meeting at the York advertised as a Light Mild meeting, followed by a Light Mild Sunday Social at the Poacher in Blackrod on the 12th. (To create a demand as it no longer sold the Light Mild)

In the Letters

Sir, We would all dearly have loved to visit Tetley Walker for the CAMRA mirror presentation thrash. However, we noted that branch drunks were not allowed and, in a vote, to decide who this might be, there was a 16-way tie for first place. Roger Hall (Secretary, North Manchester Branch)

The North Manchester members present on the photo below must not have been included in the 16.



What's Doing September 1982 <https://greatermanchester.camra.org.uk/branch-magazines/whats-doing/#1982>

The Alma Inn, Bradshawgate has stopped selling Burtonwood Light Mild due to lack of demand. This is the second setback for the light Mild campaign. (The first was at the Poacher in Blackrod). Light Mild is still available at the York on Newport Street and Rawsons Arms Farnworth.

Harry Eastham, landlord of the Ainsworth Arms, Halliwell Road, for many years has just retired. The pub has been a regular GBG entry and the Bolton Branch wish Harry and his wife all the best in their retirement.

A Peter Walker list was included, all the existing outlets were in Scouseland, but the Bolton pubs due to change over by August 18th were

Cross Guns, Deane Road; Hare and Hounds, Bury Road; Howcroft, Pool Street, Ainsworth Arms, Halliwell Road and Church Inn, George Street, Farnworth.

In Branch Diary in addition to those above there was a social on the 28th of September at the White Lion in Westhoughton, followed by the branch meeting at The Derby Arms on October 6th.

What's Doing October 1982 <https://greatermanchester.camra.org.uk/branch-magazines/whats-doing/#1982>

No Bolton news.

In Branch Diary the branch meeting was held at the Derby Arms on October 12th with train trip to Morecambe and Lancaster on October 23rd, followed by a meal at Cromptons Mule on 29th.

What's Doing November 1982 <https://greatermanchester.camra.org.uk/branch-magazines/whats-doing/#1982>

The General Havelock, Sydney Street, is now selling Timothy Taylors Dark Mild alongside Boddingtons Bitter. It is hoped Taylors Best Bitter will soon join the Mild.

Draught Bass has been taken out of the Crompton's Mule bistro. This was the town's only outlet for the beer. White Shield will be available for the Bolton Branch Feed the Mule on Friday 29th October.

Chesters Bitter is now on sale with the Castle Eden at the Derby Arms, Derby Street.

The doors of the Three Pigeons, Astley Bridge have been closed recently. Is this the next victim for the House of Horrors treatment? Will Whitbread be able to get round the problem that this pub is already on two levels? How many of their high-priced beers will they get on the bar? Will the pub have wickerwork frogs vomiting, bunches of grapes? Will Whitbread have used up all their Dark Green paint? See next month.

Light fingered persons have pinched the new nameboard from the Howcroft, Pool Street. Some 8'x6' and situated 20 foot off the ground, it was indeed a very cheeky deed. If anyone knows where it is, please could Frank have it back.

The Marathon pub crawl shows the improving availability of cask beer in Bolton town centre. In 14 pubs there are 26 different beers from 16 breweries. Friday 5th of November is the date for your diary.

The crawl started at 6.30 and allowed 20 minutes for your drink or three and walking to the next pub, the pubs were

Howcroft, Greyhound, George, Derby Arms, Lodge Bank Tavern, Queen Elizabeth, General Havelock, Sweet Green Tavern, York, Duck and Firkin, Masseys, Gaiety, Prince William and finally Dog and Partridge.

In Branch Diary after recovering from the Marathon Pub Crawl above the Branch AGM was on November 10th. On Sunday 12th with a crawl back into town from Breightmet, calling at the Hare and Hounds, Black Horse, Bowling Green and the Bradford. There was a visit to Bury Beer Festival on November 26th.

What's Doing December 1982 <https://greatermanchester.camra.org.uk/branch-magazines/whats-doing/#1982>

Whitbread have at last managed to modernise a pub and install cask beer without resorting to the House of Horrors treatment. The Levers Arms, Darcy Lever, now sells Duttons bitter and Castle Eden Ale (both 60p). The Inside of the pub has been left more or less intact, particularly the local's bar area, and there is also a separate darts area. Though why the false beams end midway along one of the walls is a mystery – did they just run out of planks?

Sam Smiths have successfully applied to turn a rambling house on Chorley New Road, into a pub. In the Bridgewater, Farnworth at present the only Sam Smith pub in Bolton area the vault has been carpeted and turned into an extension of the lounge. A wider range of food will soon be available at lunchtimes and Saturday evenings.

The Peel Arms, Halliwell Road, still has a sign outside proclaiming in larger letters 'Traditional Beer' but inside (as reported in August WD) the beer is still keg. It's about time Wilsons made up their minds and decided whether to install said traditional beer or change the sign to 'Keg beer here'.

The Bolton Institute of Higher Education Students Union Bar is now selling Timothy Taylors Landlord alongside Thwaites bitter and mild and Tetleys bitter on handpumps. Taylors has now gone from the General Havelock.

Masseys on Back Mawdsley Street has stopped selling Theakstons bitter and Old Peculiar. The asking price of 50p per half of bitter was probably too much for most customers.

In last month's WD we were warned about the Three Pigeons, Astley Bridge was going to become the latest in a regrettably long line of House of Horrors pubs. Well, it's happened. The beers are Duttons bitter (59p) and Castle Eden (60p). They have also installed a wall of cut down telegraph poles, the wickerwork vomiting frogs (without the grapes though) and an olde worlde oil can (pre-Britoil)

Visitors to the Black Horse, Bury Road, are warned that the Castle Eden Ale handpump may well be dispensing Duttons bitter, even though there is a working Duttons bitter handpump on the bar. You also get charged the Castle Eden price. (There was a world of difference in colour and taste of the two beers)

In Branch Diary the December branch meeting was on the 8th at the Rawsons in Farnworth, with a Christmas social at the General Havelock on the 22nd.

Appendix

It's Embarrassing Picture Time

Aye, when I we're a lad we used to drink proper tasting beer, none of this fancy, trendy, citrussy stuff with a daft name that tastes like grapefruit juice and is made in a back street industrial unit

under t'railway arches, costs an arm and a leg, is cloudy as xxxx and gives you the xx1ts.....



Shows Left - Don Chattwood, Branch Treasurer

Right - the late Jim Hurst, Branch Chairman

And with his back to the camera Dave Fleming, Branch Secretary



In February 1982 a full list of Bolton Pubs was produced, this numbered 282 of them, only a few more had closed since the Branch had been formed. The listing is available to view on the Branch Website.

Camra Bolton Branch Accounts to 31/10/1982

<u>Income</u>	£	<u>Expenditure</u>	£
Cash B/Fwd.	11.24	Postage on Extra What's Brewing	25.20
Bank A/C B/Fwd.	10.21	What's Doings Payments	165.20
What's Doing Sales	165.51	Meeting Food	5.00
Income From Raffles	11.32	Postage and Other Expenses	1.23
Coach/Brewery Trips	29.23	Donation to Camra Ltd	20.00
GBG Sales	207.25	GBG payments	200.00
Other Guide sales	23.25	Other Guide Payments	20.40
Camra Draw & Diaries	100.15	Camra Draw & Diaries	84.33
		Cash C/Fwd.	4.69
		Bank A/C C/Fwd.	<u>32.11</u>
Total	<u><u>558.16</u></u>		<u><u>558.16</u></u>