

Camra Bolton Branch and its Pubs as seen by the What's Doing Contributors 1984

What's Doing January 1984 <https://greatermanchester.camra.org.uk/branch-magazines/whats-doing/#1984>

The 1984 Real Fire Sponsored GBG (£3.95) pubs were

Blackrod – Poacher

Bolton – Alma, Bradshawgate; Falcon, Kay Street; George, Great Moor Street; Gibraltar Rock, Deane Road; Howcroft, Pool Street; York, Newport Street.

Daisy Hill – Three Crowns

Farnworth – Bradford Arms, Bridgewater both Buckley Lane

Little Lever – Horseshoe

Westhoughton – White Lion, Market Street

The Brinsop Arms on the A6 at Westhoughton recently opened a function room in the latest improvement to the facilities. Matthew Brown mild has been added to the range of beers, four of which are available in the function room.

Matthew Brown have made a long-awaited move in the right direction by installing hand pumped mild, bitter and John Peel into the Railway, Chapeltown Road, Bromley Cross, right across the road from the station.

Three strong ales, are on sale in the Bolton area, Robinsons Old Tom in the Brinsop Arms, Westhoughton, Hydes in the Horseshoe in Little Lever (both gravity); Lees Moonraker at the Lodge Bank Tavern (Electric).

In Letters Sir, As a CAMRA member who found himself in the North West with a free evening on Tuesday 22nd November, I was pleased to see in 'What's Brewing' that Bolton Branch had a meeting in the Boars Head that very night. Your local newsletter confirmed this fact. Imagine my disappointment, therefore, when the only other people to appear were two local members who were as perplexed as I at the non-arrival of the rest of the branch. In future I shall attend North Manchester meetings as I understand they always take place on the date and at the place specified. 'Disappointed'

Sir, Do my taste buds deceive me or is the hand pumped Samson Bitter at Maxims (Bradshawgate) being served under blanket CO2, cask breather or similar device? And what became of the Lorimers 70/- (Oct WD)? Pete Cash

Sorry Pete, but it wasn't. Lorimers didn't sell well, did 70/- confuse the Bolton public that this was the price, we should be told as at the first Bury Beer Festival it had sold very well to a group of Post

Office delivery men. The pub had an enormous cellar, so big we held a branch meeting down there, probably the only branch in the country to hold a branch meeting in a pub cellar?

In Branch Diary the January Branch Meeting, Lodge Bank Tavern was on the 11th, and for February was on the 8th at the Falcon, Kay Street. On January 18th there was a visit to Samuel Smiths brewery. There was a Sunday social on 22nd at the Daisyhill, now that it really was a Holts pub. Finally, on February 14th, there was a social at the Victoria, Markland Hill.

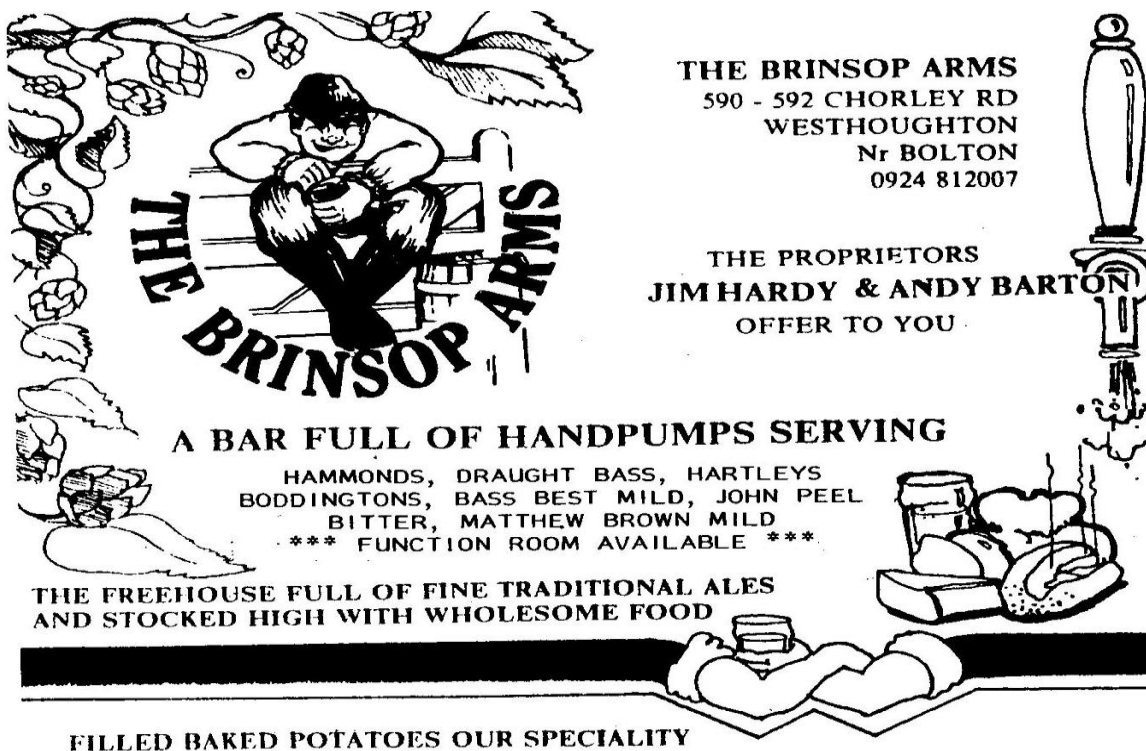
What's Doing February 1984 <https://greatermanchester.camra.org.uk/branch-magazines/whats-doing/#1984>

This was the 100th Edition and came with Gold Cover and its own hand numbered What's Doing Collector's Edition Number. From Copy number 000000, 000001, 000100, 000214 or a special unnumbered version made of sheets with blank sides we find that

Burtonwood Brewery have erected four signs on the outside of the Stags Head, Junction Road, proclaiming 'Burtonwood Traditional Ales', strongly leading one to believe that these are on sale inside. There are also handpumps on the bars inside the pub. These handpumps are of the trick variety and operate electric pumps. On top of this, the beer is of the cold and fizzy variety. It is particularly disturbing to note that now Burtonwood have killed off their light mild in cask form they are introducing handpumps and pump clips to sell the keg version. A couple of years ago they declared they were unable to provide any form of promotion to stop the cask light mild from being phased out – shoddy behaviour indeed!

Overall, it seems nothing less than an attempt to con the gullible young customers who frequent the Stags Head into believing they are getting a traditional cask beer. Most breweries realised this approach was a lost cause years ago. Are Burtonwood so naive as to think they can get away with it now?

There was also a letter of complaint about the Brinsop advert which listed their house beer Hammonds bitter which was Bass Cask bitter in reality.



THE BRINSOP ARMS
590 - 592 CHORLEY RD
WESTHOUGHTON
Nr BOLTON
0924 812007

THE PROPRIETORS
JIM HARDY & ANDY BARTON
OFFER TO YOU

A BAR FULL OF HANDPUMPS SERVING
HAMMONDS, DRAUGHT BASS, HARTLEYS
BODDINGTONS, BASS BEST MILD, JOHN PEEL
BITTER, MATTHEW BROWN MILD
*** FUNCTION ROOM AVAILABLE ***

**THE FREEHOUSE FULL OF FINE TRADITIONAL ALES
AND STOCKED HIGH WITH WHOLESOME FOOD**

FILLED BAKED POTATOES OUR SPECIALITY

In Branch Diary the March branch meeting was at the Queen Anne in Little Lever on the 7th, there was a Sunday social on the 11th at the No Name in Harwood, a social at the Alma on 21st followed by a Sunday social at the Four Gates on the A6 in Westhoughton on the 25th.

What's Doing March 1984 <https://greatermanchester.camra.org.uk/branch-magazines/whats-doing/#1984>

The Weavers Arms, commonly known as, 'The Mop' off Halliwell Road, now sells Youngers IPA (65p), alongside Castle Eden on Handpump. This is the only outlet for IPA in the Bolton area.

The Rose Hill Tavern (Greenalls), Manchester Road, Bolton is up for sale. Rumour has it that it will be bought by the same firm that has bought the Gypsies Tent. Let's hope this means a better choice of beer for the Bolton Drinker.

In Branch Diary the March 21st social at the Alma had been cancelled in favour of attending the 10th anniversary of the founding of North Manchester branch to be held at the Horseshoe, Ringley on the same date. There was no exotic trip this year on April 1st, but a social at the Poacher in Blackrod instead. April 3rd saw a visit to the Pack Horse at Affetside, followed by the Branch meeting at the George on the 10th. A week later on the 18th (?) there was a meeting at the Market in Farnworth. May branch meeting was on the 2nd at the Lodge Bank Tavern. A visit to Burtonwood Brewery was on May 16th.

What's Doing April 1984 <https://greatermanchester.camra.org.uk/branch-magazines/whats-doing/#1984>

Greenalls have found a taker for the Rose Hill Tavern, Manchester Road, and the pub is now selling Boddingtons bitter.

In Branch Diary a repeat of the items already listed above.

What's Doing May 1984 <https://greatermanchester.camra.org.uk/branch-magazines/whats-doing/#1984>

There was a list of the Wilsons managed house pubs included, these were now known as Pennine Host pubs having had several other names since the previous list had been printed when they were Tudor Taverns. In Bolton there were no changes to the list and they were:

Bowling Green, Bury Road; Jolly Miller, Chorley Old Road; Moss Rose, Kearsley; Queen Anne, Junction Road; Royal Oak, Westhoughton; Spinners, Brownlow Way; Three Crowns, Deansgate; White Horse Westhoughton.

The Weavers Arms (the Mop) mentioned a couple of months ago, has now stopped selling Castle Eden. The handpump remains in use for the Whitbread (not Chesters) Mild.

Hand pumped Greenalls Original Bitter is now available at the Antelope, Manchester Road, in Kearsley.

In Branch Diary June 3rd saw a social at the Toll Bar in Horwich. The branch meeting was at the York on the 13th, followed by a social at the Thomas Dutton, Egerton on 17th and another social at the White Lion Westhoughton on 20th.

What's Doing June 1984 <https://greatermanchester.camra.org.uk/branch-magazines/whats-doing/#1984>

Only Branch Diary this month, July 6th was to see a 'Friday Special' Halliwell Road crawl starting at the Ainsworth, stragglers to be at the Peel at 9pm. The June Burtonwood brewery trip had been rearranged for July 11th, with the branch meeting at the Derby Arms on the 18th. There was to be a Sunday social on Bury Road starting at the Hare and Hounds at midday and the Bowling Green at 1pm.

What's Doing July 1984 <https://greatermanchester.camra.org.uk/branch-magazines/whats-doing/#1984>

Following on from last July's successful day trip to St Helier in Jersey, a similar visit was planned this year, but going to the smaller island of Guernsey instead. This also involved a walk to a pub in the middle of the island, here a group of visitors from France were giving a demonstration of how to play darts. Obviously not having ever seen the game played before is a slight disadvantage, first take the dart in both hands high above your head and ignoring the marker line on the floor, throw as hard as you can in the general direction of the board. Knowing how to score is irrelevant as there appears to be no scores for hitting, the ceiling, walls, tables, chairs, floor and other non-participating customers.

Getting over excited, shouting and screaming is all part of this novel experience. Tell me again why is there a board on the wall, it doesn't seem to be part of the game?

Only Branch Diary again this month, new items were the branch meeting at the Peel Arms on August 8th, on August 12th an alternative to Grouse Shooting was a rail trip to Scarborough. Please bring shotguns with your bucket and spade. There was a meeting at the Pennine Hosts Sinclairs on Junction Road, which we all knew previously as the Queen Anne.

What's Doing August 1984 <https://greatermanchester.camra.org.uk/branch-magazines/whats-doing/#1984>

NEW BAR FOR BOLTON

Bolton's latest pub opened in mid July in what was formerly part of the premises of Crompton's Mule on Spa Road, opposite the Nevada. The new pub is a combination of the original Crompton's Mule, which was a bistro with a restaurant only licence, and a modern upmarket trendy pub, of a type which Whitbread and Pennine Joke have been failing to create for some time. The main difference is that music is **not** provided by electronic and computerised gimmickry with co ordinated lights, but by a pianist playing a grand piano. Unfortunately, this must be rather expensive as the Bass Cask Bitter with the new flashy pump clip is sold for 80p a pint in over tall Bavarian glasses. However, there is a happy hour from 5.30 to 6.30, when the beer is a respectable 60p. As you might have expected, the name has changed - to "Hawthorns Piano Bar and Bistro" - just the place to impress the boss's secretary (or his wife)!



BOLTON GAINS

Pennine Hosts have altered the Queen Anne on Junction Road, Deane, Bolton. The pub, now known as Sinclair's, has been completely revamped with the bar moved to the opposite side of the pub, walls painted pink and white and assorted plants dotted about the room. Wilsons Original mild and bitter are on sale at 62p and 64p.

Meanwhile, at the top of Junction Road, Tetley have done up the Vulcan in a similar manner, but with the added attraction of doughnuts and ice cream made on the premises. Handpumped Tetley mild and bitter are available. Both Sinclair's and the Vulcan are real ale gains for Bolton.

In Branch Diary there was a Sunday Lunchtime Pub Crawl along the A6 starting at the Four Gates and finishing at the Ridgeway on September 2nd. The Branch Meeting was at the Church Inn in Farnworth on the 5th, with a Football Social at the York on the 12th where rattles were optional. On Sunday 23rd there was a social at the Millstone in Adlington.

What's Doing September 1984 <https://greatermanchester.camra.org.uk/branch-magazines/whats-doing/#1984>

Readers shocked to read in last month's WD that Bass Cask bitter was available at Hawthorn's, Spa Road, for 80p a pint no longer need to worry. The beer is no longer on sale as the suitability of the cellar has proved less than amenable to cask beer. Presumably the onset of winter will change this. The Jolly Millar on Chorley Old Road, a Pennine Joke pub built in 1979, has undergone its first transformation and ended up as a 'Barnaby's' identikit establishment. Cask Wilsons mild and bitter have remained.

Whitbread have given the nasty treatment to another of their Bolton pubs. The Painters on Crook Street which was a rather run-down boozer, has been transformed into a dark, noisy disco with prices to match. There are no raised areas, except behind the bar so that the bar proppers can get a better view of the scantily clad barmaids. Service seems to be restricted to when the barmaids aren't bashing tambourines and dancing around behind the bar. Apart from this the only conceivable reason for visiting this pub is if you want to drink Guinness bottled by Morlands of Abingdon! (The article itself didn't mention that the pub was now called Scandals, though the article heading was Scandalous)

The Brinsop Arms, Westhoughton, has introduced Robinsons best bitter, Theakstons best bitter and XB and Jennings bitter. Matthew Brown mild and bitter have been dropped from the range.

The Waggon and Horses (Greenalls) Albert Road, Farnworth is shut and boarded up.

No Bolton Branch Diary this month

What's Doing October 1984 <https://greatermanchester.camra.org.uk/branch-magazines/whats-doing/#1984>



SAM'S LION

Sam Smiths have opened their second pub in Bolton – the Lion of Vienna on Chorley New Road, opposite Bolton School. This is a new pub, converted from a large house which was previously in use as flats. An extension at the rear houses a games room and the "Sportsman's Snug" (that pub concept long since forgotten by Pennine Joke pub designers). The pub is a pleasant change from the gaudy, mirrors-and-plastic-plants image which the national brewers believe to be fashionable these days. Tadcaster Bitter is not available as yet, but the Old Brewery Bitter is good value at 59p a pint, especially when compared with the Greenalls in the nearby Halliwell Lodge, which has recently been refurbished a la plastic and converted to tank beer.

Readers who have become disillusioned by recent dreadful pub refurbishments are recommended to pay a visit to the Howcroft, Pool Street. Peter Walker recently modernised the pub, leaving it more or less intact and at the same time improved. Follow that Whitbread and Pennine Joke.

The Cross Guns, Bolton Road, Westhoughton, now sells Tetley mild and Walkers Best bitter on handpumps. It had been electric.

In Branch Diary there was a Sunday Social at the Horseshoe Little Lever on November 4th, with the branch meeting and AGM at the Lodge Bank Tavern on the 14th. November 30th was Charisma night meet at Yates, fancy dress optional.

What's Doing November 1984 <https://greatermanchester.camra.org.uk/branch-magazines/whats-doing/#1984>

Only Branch Diary this month which was limited to two new items, the branch meeting on December 5th was at the Falcon, Kay Street, with a Christmas social at the Lodge Bank Tavern on the 14th.

What's Doing December 1984 <https://greatermanchester.camra.org.uk/branch-magazines/whats-doing/#1984>

Yates Wine Lodge on Bradshawgate has been given the full posh treatment, this has included the removal of the cask Thwaites and Wilsons. Have Yates really got the market weighed up?

Branch Diary was the same as in November

Appendix

Camra Bolton Branch Accounts to 31/10/1984

<u>Income</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>	<u>£</u>
Cash B/Fwd.	7.23		
Bank A/C B/fwd.	50.51	Misc. Expenses	0.75
What's Doing Sales	230.10	What's Doings Payments	227.55
Income From Raffles	13.00	Food at Meeting	5.00
GBG Sales	136.05	GBG payments	204.00
Other Guide sales	5.20	Refund for paid GBG's	19.50
Camra Draw & Diaries	11.00	Camra Draw & Diaries	11.00
Burtonwood & Sam Smiths Trip	18.70	Cash C/Fwd.	0.63
		Bank A/C C/fwd.	3.36
Total	<u>471.79</u>		<u>471.79</u>

