

Camra Bolton Branch and its Pubs as seen by the What's Doing Contributors 1983

What's Doing January 1983 <https://greatermanchester.camra.org.uk/branch-magazines/whats-doing/#1983>

The 1983 GBG (£4.50) pubs were

Blackrod – Poacher

Bolton – Ainsworth Arms, Halliwell Road; Alma, Bradshawgate; George, Great Moor Street; Gilnow, Deane Road; Howcroft, Pool Street; Peel, Higher Bridge Street; Sweet Green Tavern, Crook Street; York, Newport Street. Try also Dog and Partridge, Manor Street; Falcon, Kay Street; Victoria British Queen, Blackburn Road.

Daisy Hill – Three Crowns

Farnworth – Bradford Arms, Buckley Lane, Rawsons, Peel Street

Horwich – Toll Bar

Little Lever – Horseshoe

Westhoughton – Brinsop Arms



CHURCH CHANGES

The Church Inn, Church Road, Farnworth, reopened on 21st December as a Thwaites house (ex-Greenalls). For many years this traditional pub has had the distinction of being the only one for miles around without a jukebox or gaming machines. Let's hope it stays that way! Handpumps have appeared and little else has changed.

Castle Eden has appeared at the Original Bay Horse, Horwich, also available by handpump is Bulmers Cider.

Landlord Bert Wright of the Victoria British Queen, Blackburn Road, is due to retire next year. Over the years he has always kept a good pint of Greenalls and has built up a collection of 86 water colours of Bolton's pubs, past and present, painted by the well-known R.E. Cooper. These paintings are now being sold for £20 each, which makes a very good buy. We wish Albert all the best in his retirement.

Whitbreads latest pub transformation reopened at the end of November. The Blue Boar, Deansgate, now sells Castle Eden and Duttons bitter by handpump. It is a welcome change from the boring standard House of Horrors pub. Exactly what theme is being conveyed is a little obscure; there is no

carpet on the floor and bar, walls and beams are made of rough timber. The ceilings are lacking in the usual over-abundance of junk, save for the odd farm implement and a series of chains. The inside door of the pub appears to be on the wrong way round as the letterbox flap is on the inside.



WIN SOME, LOSE SOME

The Fourgates on the A6 in Westhoughton, north of Bolton, now serves Greenalls via handpumps (mild at 55p a pint and bitter at 57). The handpumps were installed at the landlord's expense. This popular roadside pub provides good lunch and evening catering (Italian meals a speciality). Dance nights are Friday and Saturday - 8.00pm to midnight. There are now two Greenalls pubs in Bolton serving cask beer through handpumps - the other is the Boars Head on Churchgate in the town centre.

Down the road in Blackrod, the Victoria Inn on New Street has served its last pint and Greenalls (who else!) have put the premises up for sale, without a licence (surprise, surprise). Reason for closure:- too many pubs (mainly Greenalls) competing for too small a trade.

The Market Street Tavern, Stoneclough, has had a change of landlord and gained handpumps for the mild and bitter.

In Branch Diary the January meeting was at the George on the 5th and for February was at the Falcon on the 9th. In between there was a Social/Committee at the Ainsworth on 25th and a social at the Four Gates on February 6th.

What's Doing February 1983 <https://greatermanchester.camra.org.uk/branch-magazines/whats-doing/#1983>

In Letters from Bolton Branch Chairman Jim Hurst regarding the late Phil Drake

Sir – I would like to thank the friends of the late Phil Drake for their kind and generous donations. The money collected came to over £250. At the request of Phil's mum, the money will go towards the Coronary Care Unit at Bolton Royal Infirmary. Once again, many thanks.

The Prince Rupert, Holmeswood Road, has gone over to hand pumped Tetley mild and bitter. This estate type pub has some fine etched window; the number of pool tables is now reduced from four to two.

Three Bolton town centre pubs are or will be, undergoing major alterations. The Prince William, Bradshawgate already has a new toilet block, the old ones have been demolished to make way for a bar along the right-hand wall. A new small bar will serve the tap room. Across the road at the Gaiety will also be revamped. The pub will be extended into the two shops incorporated in the magnificent Edwardian building. It is hoped that other cask beers from the Vaux Empire will join the Samson on the bar. Further along Bradshawgate, the Alma Inn will be extended into the shop next door. The Alma is a small, popular GBG listed pub, serving excellent homemade meals at lunchtime.

Sawdust has appeared on the floor of the Blue Boar, Deansgate. Speculation has arisen as to whether it is actually sawdust or the scattered remains of J Thompson Design Co Ltd Blackpool, the House of Horrors specialists.

The Volunteer, 158 Darwen Road, Bromley Cross, Bolton, has been modernised a la Whitbread. The low ceilings have precluded the installation of the normal raised drinking areas and shelves full of junk, so visiting the pub makes one realise how unnecessary these features are. The conversion was done by a local Ramsbottom firm, rather than that trendy Blackpool mob. The real ales are Castle Eden (62p) and Duttons bitter (58p), both of which could have been of better quality. Don't just ask for bitter, you'll get Trophy, which is probably why the real ale was below par. If the beer improves and Whitbread don't put up their prices for a couple of years this will be a decent pub to go in, especially as Matthew Brown can't be bothered putting cask beer in the Railway down the road.

This month the Branch Real Ale Pubs listing Insert was for Bolton, featuring the Rock House, Duke Street on the cover.



REAL ALE in BOLTON



BOLTON

Ainsworth Arms	606 Halliwell Road	Halliwell	Walkers	M,BB(H)
Albert Inn	181 Derby Street	Centre	Tetley	M,B(E)
Alma Inn	152 Bradshawgate	Centre	Burtonwood	DM,B(H)
Ancient Shepherd	12 Bold Street	Centre	Thwaites	M,B(H)
Bolton Institute of Higher Education (Students' Bar)	Derby St/Deane Rd	Centre	Taylor's Landlord	(H)
			Thwaites	M,B(H)
			Tetley	B(H)
Artillery & Volunteer	276/8 Radcliffe Rd	Darcy Lever	Greenalls	M,B(E)
Black Horse	398 Bury Road		Duttons B, Castle Eden	(H)
Black Swan	Hough Fold Way	Bradshaw	Greenalls	M,B(E)
Blue Boar	96 Deansgate	Centre	Duttons B, Castle Eden	(H)
Boars Head	39 Churchgate	Centre	Greenalls	M,B(H)
Bobs Smithy	1448 Chorley Old Rd	B6226	Tetley M, Walkers	BB(H)
Bowling Green	271 Bury Road	A58	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Bowling Green	97 Eskrick Street	Halliwell	Greenalls	M,B(H)
Bradford Arms	101 Bradford St	Centre	Tetley	M,B(H)
Cheetham Arms	987 Blackburn Rd	A666	Duttons B, Castle Eden	(H)
Clifton Arms	94 Newport St	Centre	Tetley	M,B(H)
Colliers Arms	1053 Chorley Old Rd	B6226	Tetley	M,B(H)
Craven Heifer	452/4 Blackburn Rd		Astley Bridge Thwaites	M,B(E)
Crofters Arms	494/6 Halliwell Road	Halliwell	Greenalls	M,B(E)
Crofters Hotel	339 St Georges Rd	Centre	Greenalls B(E), Bulmers	(H)
Cross Guns	Blackburn Rd	Egerton	Duttons	B(H)
Cross Guns	272 Deane Rd	Centre	Walkers	M,B(H)
Derby Arms	98 Derby St	Centre	Chesters B, Castle Eden	(H)
Derby Hotel	218 Halliwell Rd	Halliwell	Tetley	M,B(E)
Doffcocker Inn	Chorley Old Rd	Doffcocker	Tetley	M,B(H/E)
Dog & Partridge	Manor St	Centre	Thwaites	M,B(H)
Duck & Firkin	Bradshawgate	Centre	Marstons Ped, C. Eden,	
			Hartleys XB, Bulmers	H)
Dunscar Arms	547 Darwen Rd	Dunscar	Wilsons	M,B(E)
Falcon	90 Kay Street	Centre	Tetley M, Walker B	(H)
Finishers Arms	487 Church Road	Doffcocker	Greenalls	M,B(E)
Flag Inn	Hardmans Lane	Dunscar	Duttons B, Bulmers Cider	(H)
Gaiety	Bradshawgate	Centre	Vaux Samson	(H)
Gardners Arms	1 Vallets La, off Ivy Rd	B6226	Tetley M, Walkers	BB(H)
General Havelock	110 Sidney Street	Great Lever	Boddingtons	B(H)
George	92 Great Moor St	Centre	Wilsons	M,B(E)
Gibraltar Rock	244 Deane Rd	A676	Greenalls	M,B(E)
Gilnow Arms	258 Deane Rd	A676	Boddingtons	M,B(E)
Globe	272 Blackburn Rd	Egerton	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Globe	76 Higher Bridge St	Centre	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Greyhound	146 Deansgate	Centre	Bass	4XM(E)
Gipsy's Tent	178 Deansgate	Centre	Tetley	M,B(H)
Halliwell Lodge	Mornington Rd	off A673	Greenalls	M,B(E)
Hare & Hounds	539 Bury Rd	A58	Walkers	M,B(H)
Howcroft	36 Pool Street	Centre	Walkers	M,BB(H)
Jolly Miller	Chorley Old Rd	B6226	Wilsons	M,B(H)

Jolly Ploughman	2 Doffcocker Lane	Doffcocker	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Kings Arms	177 Chorley Old Rd	B6226	Tetley	M,B(E)
Lamb	278 Halliwell Rd	Halliwell	Greenalls	M,B(E)
Last Drop	off Hospital Rd	Bromley Cross	Matthew Brown	B(H)
Lodge Bank Tavern	262 Bridgeman St	Centre	Lees	GBM,B(H)
Lord Clyde	109 Folds Rd	A676	Bass	4XM(E)
New Zealand Chief	5 Gt Moor St	Centre	Greenalls	M,B(E)
Oddfellows Arms	140 St Helens Rd	A676	Greenalls	M,B(E)
Old Three Crowns	14 Deansgate	Centre	Wilsons M,B	Bulmers (H)
Peel Hotel	52 Higher Bridge St	Centre	A666 Greenalls	M,B(E)
Prince Rupert	Holmswood Rd	Morris Green	Tetley	M,B(H)
Prince William	11 Bradshawgate	Centre	Boddingtons	M,B(E)
Queen Elizabeth	138 Fletcher St	Great Lever	Greenalls	M,B(E)
Rams Head	275 Derby St	Daubhill	Greenalls	M,B(E)
Rock House Hotel	65/67 Duke Street	Not Centre	Wilsons	B(E)
Rose Hill	122 Manchester Rd	Centre	Greenalls	M,B(E)
Royal Oak	Bradshaw Brow	Bradshaw	Greenalls	B(E)
Rumworth Hotel	512 Wigan Rd	A676	Greenalls	M,B(E)
Scamps Disco	Bradshawgate	Centre	Greenalls	B(H)
Stags Head	200 St Helens Rd	A579	Tetley	M,B(H)
Stanley Arms	99 Chorley Old Rd	B6226	Tetley	M,B(H)
Stork & Fox	548 Halliwell Rd	Halliwell	Tetley	M,B(H)
Swan Hotel	2 Churchgate	Centre	Burtonwood	DM,B(H)
Sweet Green Tavern	127 Crook Street	Centre	Tetley M, Walkers	BB (H)
Tanners	61/63 Lever Street	Great Lever	Greenalls	B(E)
Three Pigeons	587 Blackburn Rd	Astley Br.	Duttons B, C.Eden	(H)
Tippings Arms	362 Blackburn Rd	Astley Br.	Duttons B(H)	eve.only
Tramways Hotel	307 Blackburn Rd	Astley Br.	Greenalls	M,B(E)
Victoria	238 Bridgeman St	Centre	Greenalls	B(E)
Victoria British Queen	124 Blackburn Rd	A666	Greenalls	M,B(E)
Volunteer	158 Darwen Rd		Duttons B, Castle Eden	(H)
White Lion	169 Deansgate	Centre	Wilsons	M,B(E)
Wilton Arms	885 Belmont Rd	A675	Duttons B,Hartleys XB,	Bulmers Cider (H)
York Hotel	112 Newport Street	Centre	Burtonwood DM,LM,B(E)	
<u>LITTLE LEVER</u>				
Horse Shoe	71 Lever St	Centre	Hydes	M,B(E)
Jolly Carter	168 Church St	Centre	Chesters	B(H)
Queen Anne	26 High St	Centre	Thwaites	M,B(H)
Three Crowns	7 Fletcher St	Centre	Wilsons	M,B(H)
White Horse	30 High St	Centre	Duttons	B(H)
<u>FARNWORTH</u>				
Bradford	45/47 Buckley La	A5082	Boddingtons	M,B(E)
Bridgewater	27 Buckley La	A5082	Sam Smiths	B(H)
Canary	2 Mossfield Rd	off B6199	Duttons	B(H)
Church Hotel	61 Church Rd	Centre	Thwaites	M,B(H)
Church Inn	80 George St	New Bury	Walkers	M,B(H)
Golden Lion	18 Gladstone Rd	A575	Tetley	M,B(H)
Half Way House	69 Worsley Rd	A575	Boddingtons	M,B(H)

Market Inn 11 Brackley St
Moses Gate 5 Bolton Rd
Railway Inn 416 Egerton St
Rawsons Arms 133 Peel Street
Saddle 53 King St
Shakespeare 1 Glynne St
White Horse 10/12 Egerton St
White Hart 67 Albert Rd

KEARSLEY & STONECLOUGH

Antelope Manchester Rd
Clock Face Old Hall St
Hare & Hounds 13 Market St
Horse Shoe 395 Folds Rd
Lord Nelson Ringley Rd
Market St Tavern 131 Market St
Moss Rose 1 Manchester Rd
Spread Eagle 313 Manchester Rd

HORWICH

Amsterdam Bar 349 Chorley New Road
Albert Arms 114 Lee Lane
Bowling Green 175 Lee Lane
Bridge Lee Lane
Brown Cow 36 Church St
Jolly Crofters Chorley Old Rd
Nibblers 181 Chorley New Rd
Toll Bar Inn 2 Chorley New Rd

BLACKROD

Poacher 113 Scot Lane

WESTHOUGHTON

Alexandra 619 Hindley Rd
Brinsop Arms 590 Chorley Rd
Cross Guns 27 Bolton Rd
Four Gates 330 Chorley Rd
Grey Man 90 Hindley Rd
Grey Mare 152 Bolton Rd
Hart Common 490 Wigan Rd
Royal Oak 480 Chorley Rd
Three Crowns 132 Lower Leigh Rd
Waggon & Horses 170 Chorley Rd
White Horse 259 Bolton Rd
White Lion 2 Market St

LOSTOCK AREA

Bromilow Arms Alexandra Rd
Duke of Wellington 60 St Johns Rd

Centre Walkers M,B,BB(H)
Moses Gate Duttons B, Marst. Ped(H)
Moses Gate Greenalls M,B(E)
Centre Burtonwood LM,DM,B(H/E)
Centre Tetley M,B(H)
A575 Greenalls M,B(E)
Moses Gate Tetley M,B(H)
A575 Tetley M,WalkerBB(E)

A666 Greenalls M,B(E)
Centre Tetley M,B(H)
Stoneclough Tetley M,B(E)
Stoneclough Thwaites BM,B(E)
Stoneclough Thwaites BM,B(H)
Stoneclough Wilsons M,B(H)
A666 Wilsons M,B(H)
A666 Tetley M,B(E)

A673 Duttons B,Marstons Ped (H)
Centre Greenalls M,B(E)
Centre Tetley M,B(H)
B6226 Castle Eden (H)
Centre Greenalls M,B(E)
B6226 Greenalls M,B(E)
Centre Bass Cask(E)
Centre Thwaites M,B(E)

Centre Burtonwood DM,B(H)

Hindley Green Burtonwood DM,B(E)
A6 Bass, Bass Cask B,4XM,Boddingtons
B, Hartleys XB (H)
Centre Tetley M, Walkers BB(E)
A6 Greenalls M,B(H)
Daisy Hill Tetley M,B(H)
Centre Tetley M,B(H)
A58 Matthew Brown M,B(E)
A6 Wilsons M,B(H)
Daisy Hill Tetley M,Walkers BB(H)
A6 Burtonwood DM,B(E)
A6 Wilsons M,B(H)
Centre Holts M,B(H)

off A6027 Tetley M,B(H)
Chew Moor Tetley M,Walker B(H)

REAL ALE IN BOLTON

The last Bolton Beer Guide appeared in What's Doing around 18 months ago. Since then the number of real ale outlets has increased from 102 to 129. The pubs are distributed as follows:-

<u>BREWERY</u>	<u>REAL ALE</u>	<u>NON-REAL ALE</u>	<u>TOTAL PUBS</u>	<u>% REAL ALE PUBS</u>
Tetley Walker	30	46	76	39.5%
Greenall Whitley	29	43	72	40.3%
Whitbread	18	33	51	35.3%
Wilsons	15	4	19	78.9%
Bass	2	14	16	12.5%
Burtonwood	7	2	9	77.8%

Matthew Brown	2	7	9	22.2%
Thwaites	8	1	9	88.9%
Free houses	4	3	7	57.1%
Peter Walker	5	0	5	100%
Boddingtons	4	0	4	100%
Hydes	1	0	1	100%
Holts	1	0	1	100%
Lees	1	0	1	100%
Sam Smiths	1	0	1	100%
Vaux	1	0	1	100%
John Smiths	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>ZERO</u>
	129	154	283	45.6%

It is apparent from the above table that any significant increase in real ale outlets in the future is dependent on what the three largest pub owners, Tetleys, Greenalls and Whitbread, decide to do in their outlets:-

TETLEY WALKER Over the past year or so Tetleys have transferred five outlets to Peter Walker (now all real ale). In addition to that there has been a slow, but welcome, conversion to handpumped beer, though there is a long way to go before anything approaching an acceptable percentage of real ale outlets is reached in Bolton Metro.

GREENALL WHITLEY It is apparent that there is no pro-cask conditioned beer policy at the brewery, as a number of pubs have either been closed or converted to keg/tank beer. The new pubs which Greenalls have opened have been tank beer pubs. In order to double check the information contained on the list, all the breweries with a significant number of pubs were written to, asking for confirmation of the outlets. All the breweries replied with the required information except Greenalls, who couldn't be bothered to acknowledge the letter. All the Greenalls pubs have been checked out, but as some of the landlords have attitudes similar to that of the brewery, we apologise in advance for anybody being served up with keg/tank beer - things will have altered since our visit.

WHITBREAD The biggest increase in real ale outlets in Bolton has been courtesy of Whitbread who, 18 months ago, had a mere 2 real ale pubs out of 51. if the trend continues, before long Whitbread will have more real ale pubs than Greenalls or, for that matter, Tetleys. The only problems with the Whitbread real ale outlets are the price of the beer, the reluctance of the licensee to serve the customer with traditional bitter when "bitter" is requested and the appalling lack of taste in decor.

In Branch Diary the Four Gates social had become a Flexi hours meeting scheduled for the 2-hour Sunday rush. (12-2) February 14th was a Sunday lunch meal at the Worthington in Hindley. There was a social at the Cross Guns moving to the Gilnow on 22nd. Another train trip to Edinburgh was scheduled for March 5th.

The March branch meeting was on the 9th at the York followed by a move at 10.30 to Scamps Disco for the hand pumped Greenalls. There was a social on 20th at the Toll Bar, Horwich moving to the Amsterdam bar (Real Name - Victoria, Chorley New Road). Funny how times change!

What's Doing March 1983 <https://greatermanchester.camra.org.uk/branch-magazines/whats-doing/#1983>

Unusually two versions exist, one with a Pale-yellow cover and the other in plain white.



ANCHORS AWEIGH

The Anchor on Bury Old Road, Bolton, is opening up as a free house. This ex-Greenalls pub has been derelict for some time. The building has been repaired, sand-blasted and a sign proclaiming Boddingtons beers has appeared.

SPOT THE PRINCE



Don't Ask. No idea about this.

In Branch Diary the March Branch meeting had become a 10 year scroll presentation with Burtonwood speakers. On April 1st there was a Day Trip to Brighton. The April branch meeting was on the 6th at the George. April 17th there was a social on the 'Jumpin' Joes (?)' at the White Lion in Westhoughton.

What's Doing April 1983 <https://greatermanchester.camra.org.uk/branch-magazines/whats-doing/#1983>

The Bridge Inn, Wigan Road, Westhoughton, the only Whitbread pub in the town, now sells real ale in the form of Duttons bitter.

In Branch Diary the April Branch Meeting had moved to the 5th. However more interest had been shown to the April 1st visit to Brighton, this came from the local Brighton branch who had thoughtfully sent us details of some pubs to visit. These had been cloned from the Bolton GBG entries for 1983, but then slightly localised in Brighton. We wrote and thanked them for their efforts and commented how strange it was that some of their best pubs coincidentally had the same names as ours had. They obviously believed that because the trip was scheduled for April 1st that it was an April Fool's Day joke. Not so, as we knew and they didn't that British Rail were running a Merry-maker excursion at a cost of £7 to Brighton on that day. For the record for those who are interested haulage was provided by 47189, 86326 and 33054 and the train was routed round London via Mitre Bridge Junction – Kensington Olympia- Clapham Junction-Balham- Streatham Common and Selhurst. Unfortunately, the train was somewhat delayed and as it was a Sunday the lunchtime drinking time was reduced. However, Gale's Basketmakers just down from the station was one of

the pubs visited, here there was a poster on the notice board for a local branch campaign, the poster was duly signed and dated to prove our visit had taken place. With time to kill after the pubs had closed and before the return train, we visited the splendours of Brighton Pavilion and had a trip on the Volks Electric Railway, this goes past the famous nudist beach but as it was a rather cold there was thankfully nothing to see but pebbles and shingle. After our return we wrote to the local branch advising them that we had signed their campaign poster and gave them a list of the pubs and beers with their prices that we had drunk. We also expressed our surprise at having made such a long trip to visit them we were rather disappointed that they hadn't bothered to turn up as they had promised. Funnily enough we never received a reply.



Even on a Sunday in the early 80's it was quite possible to spend the lunchtime in Brighton, catch the train to Victoria after closing time at 2pm, underground to Kings Cross to arrive in Newcastle conveniently for opening time about 7pm have a couple of beers then move onto Berwick on Tweed for another couple before finishing off with another couple in the late opening pubs in enlightened Edinburgh city centre and sleep it off on the overnight train to Inverness and then up to Thurso or Wick by the following mid-morning. Cask beer had only reached these most northerly parts in 1982 though.

What's Doing May 1983 <https://greatermanchester.camra.org.uk/branch-magazines/whats-doing/#1983>

There will be a meeting in the York Hotel, Newport Street, to discuss the forthcoming Bolton Beer Festival on May 11th. The Beer Festival will be held in the BIT building on Manchester Road as part of Bolton Festival.

The Anchor on Bury Old Road has opened selling hand pumped Boddingtons bitter at 53p a pint. It is hoped that other cask beers will soon be available in what is the town's second only free house.

Marstons Pedigree will shortly disappear from the Moses Gate in Farnworth, to be replaced by Castle Eden Ale, on instruction from the brewery. This is thought not to be unconnected with the fact that Castle Eden is now being brewed at Salford.

In Branch Diary there was a social/committee meeting at the Poacher, Blackrod on May 1st, followed on the 4th by the branch meeting at the Derby Arms with a possible Whitbread speaker. There was a pub crawl of Manchester on May 13th with a social/committee at the Stags Head, St Helens Road on 25th. The June branch meeting was on the 8th at the Peel, Higher Bridge Street. Lastly, a pub crawl of Little Lever on June 22nd starting at the Queen Anne.

FARNWORTH

1 Moses Gate Hotel

2 Railway

3 White Horse

4 Golden Lion

5 Shakespeare

6 White Hart

5 Bolton Road

4/6 Egerton Street

10/12 Egerton Street

18 Gladstone Road

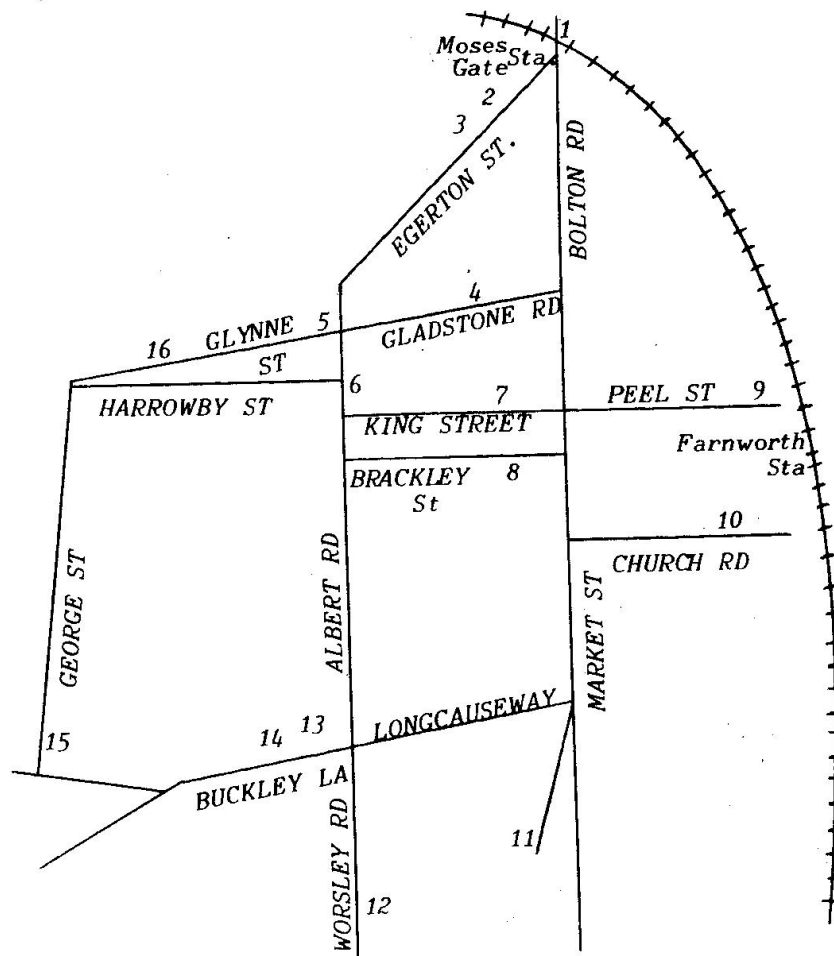
1 Glynne Street

67 Albert Road

Duttons Biter,
Marstons Ped (H)
Greenalls M,B(E)
Tetley M,B(H)
Tetley M,B(H)
Greenalls M,B(E)
Tetley M,B(E)



CLOCK FACE INN
65 OLD HALL ST
KEARSLEY



7 Saddle	53 King Street	Tetley M,B(H)
8 Market Inn	11 Brackley Street	Walkers M,B,BB(H)
9 Rawsons Arms	133 Peel Street	Burtonwood LM,DM, B(H&E)
10 Church Hotel	61 Church Road	Thwaites M,B(H)
11 Clockface	Old Hall Street	Tetley M,B(H)
12 Half Way House	69 Worsley Road	Boddington M,B(H)
13 Bridgewater	27 Buckley Lane	Sam Smiths B(H)
14 Bradford	45/47 Buckley Lane	Boddingtons M,B(E)
15 Church Inn	80 George Street	Walkers M,B(H)
16 Canary	2 Mossfield Road	Duttons B(H)

Farnworth is now an excellent place for a pub crawl, thanks mainly to Whitbread, Walkers and Thwaites's recent acquisition of the Church Hotel. In total, there are 17 different real ales available from 9 breweries. Buses are plentiful; the No. 8 Bolton-Manchester is one of many that pass through the town.

Jim Hurst

What's Doing June 1983 <https://greatermanchester.camra.org.uk/branch-magazines/whats-doing/#1983>

Whitbread have recently spent around £100,000 doing up three Bolton pubs, all of which now sell Castle Eden and Duttons bitter at prices varying between 59p and 64p. There is the Flag Inn on Hardmans Lane, where fairly dismal surroundings have been transformed into a pleasant, comfortable pub with a separate food servery (open lunchtimes and weekends). Car parking could be a problem at weekends. In the centre of Bolton there is the Cattlemarket, Orlando Street. It is a teeny bit more subdued than some earlier Whitbread debacles; no garden gates, no orange frogs, barrels, crates or sewing machines – not even the ubiquitous green paint. (They must finally have run out!) Instead, just a few books, an occasional barrel end, some scales, a couple of pots, a stuffed duck, a washbasin, a po, and a few bemused customers.

Meanwhile down the road, the Duck and Firkin, Bradshawgate has become one of those light and sound experience things. Hartleys, Marstons Pedigree and Castle Eden beers and Bulmers traditional cider are on sale in this illuminated epileptic fit.

The third of the new conversions is the Railway on St Helens Road, Daubhill, which was reluctantly one of the Special Cask pubs back in 1980. It has remained reasonably untouched, with few of the usual House of Horrors features in evidence. If the present rate of Whitbread conversions continues, then they will have more cask outlets than Greenalls or Tetleys in the Bolton area.

In Branch diary there was a beer festival update meeting on 29th at the George, with another one on July 20th at the same venue. In between on July 6th there was a guest speaker from Sam Smiths at the branch meeting at the Bridgewater in Farnworth, followed by a hike to the Black Dog at Belmont starting at the Three Pigeons in Astley Bridge.

What's Doing July 1983 <https://greatermanchester.camra.org.uk/branch-magazines/whats-doing/#1983>

In the first of two consecutive Bolton front covers



ONE MORE FOR HOLTS

The Rose Hill Tavern, Daisy Hill – known locally as "The Bug" – will soon serve its last pint of Tetley keg beers. The good news is that Holts are taking over. This represents a 100% increase in Holts pubs in the Bolton branch area (the other is the White Lion, just up the road in Westhoughton). The Rose Hill is adjacent to Daisy Hill station; 516 and 627 buses pass the door. The change at the Rose Hill leaves the Daisy Hill Hotel as Daisy Hill's last non real ale outlet. Who owns this last outpost for keg beer? Greenalls!

John Dickinson

Real ale (Matthew Brown bitter) has disappeared from the Last Drop, Bromley Cross.

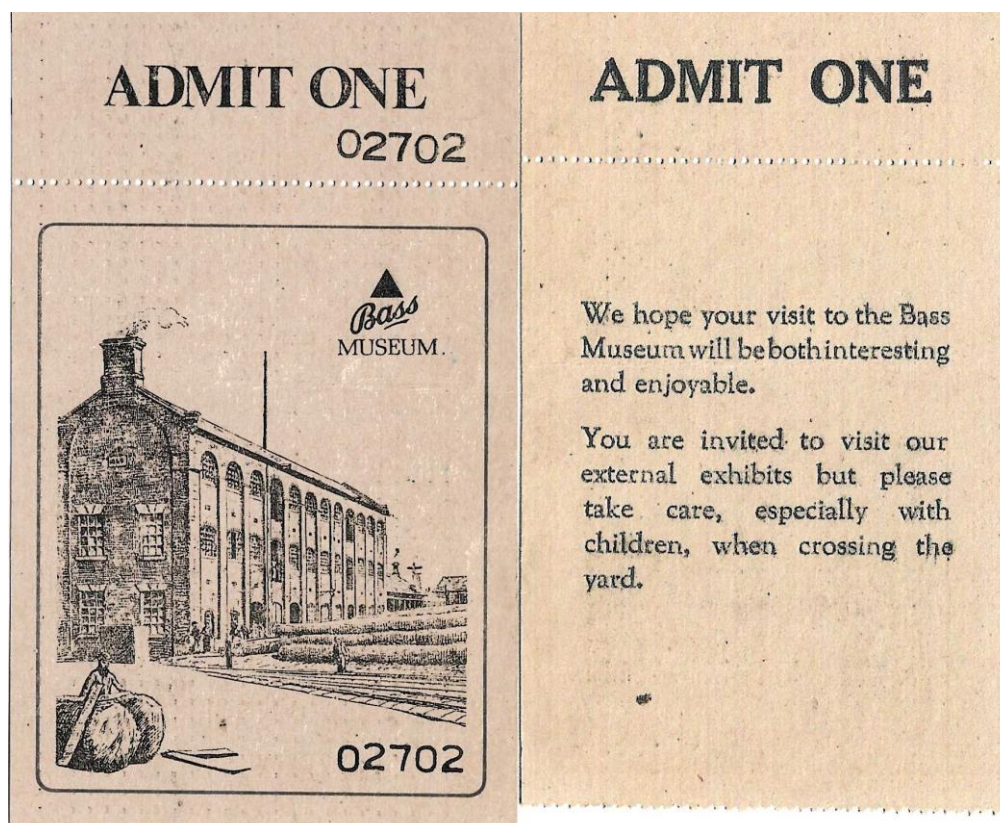
In Branch Diary in addition to those listed in June there was to be a visit to Wilsons brewery on July 11th, a committee meeting on August 3rd also at the George, with the branch meeting at the recently bought Thwaites pub in Farnworth the Church on 10th.

Bass had come to an agreement with Jennings whereby they would supply their bitter to a 100 Bass Pubs and Bass would supply keg Stones bitter to Jennings Pubs, none had been noted in Bolton's Bass pubs.



Last month the York Hotel, Bolton, was presented with its "10 years in the Beer Guide" certificate. In the photograph are Roger Dewhurst, the landlord, Angus Beaton, Area Manager, Burtonwood Brewery, and the sartorially elegant Jim Hurst, chairman of the Bolton branch of CAMRA.

On Monday 25th a few members went on a trip to the Bass Museum in Burton on Trent.



The following day even fewer branch members took up a British Rail offer of a day trip to St Helier, Jersey. This in fact took 3 days to accomplish. Day one you travelled down to Euston, had several beers at lunchtime, before travelling onto Weymouth, a few more beers before catching the overnight boat at 22.15 to Jersey. Arrival in Jersey was at a rather early hour, so what better than a long walk round the bay to the Old Portelet Inn which opened at 9am and sold Draught Bass, just what you want for breakfast, but preferably without the cornflakes. Back in St Helier a couple more beers and off on a coach trip down the narrow country lanes to an underground Nazi Museum. Overnight back to Weymouth into London for a couple more beers at lunchtime and back home.

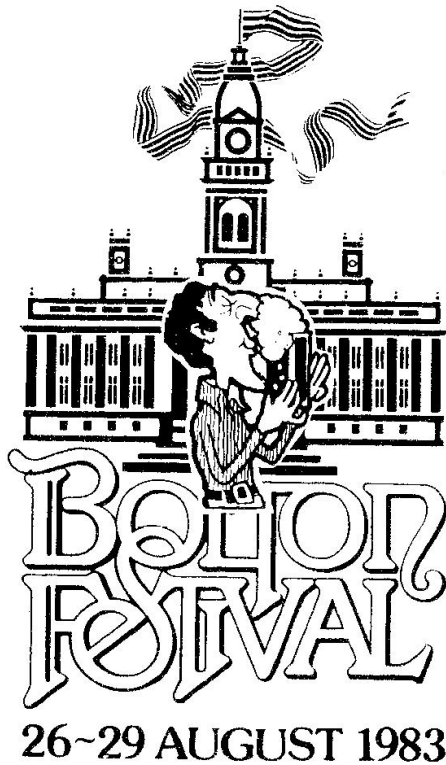
What's Doing August 1983 <https://greatermanchester.camra.org.uk/branch-magazines/whats-doing/#1983>

This was the month of the first Bolton Beer festival. At this time there was only one Beer Agency (Small Beer in Lincoln) to supply the beers, picking off many extensive lists as we can do these days is easy, having to collect the beers and return the empties is a very different matter. As can be seen below we had a range of beers from the Southwest, these were collected from various sources in the Bristol and Bath area. This entailed hiring a box van and driving down, setting off at teatime we reached Worcester for an overnight stop. This consisted of parking up on a large car park and sleeping in the back of the van. On arrival we set off to find food and drink or was it just drink. After closing time, we arrived back at the van now parked in the middle of a desolate car park. We climbed in the back and pulled down the shutter door. We soon realised that the van had very hard floors, was cold and lacked basic facilities like a toilet. Luckily, we had a new carrier bag with no holes in it which was used instead, it was hung up at the back. We woke early the following morning, only to find that when we had closed the shutter door the clasp had latched itself on and we were stuck in the back of the van. Kicking the bottom of the door was useless, however by pushing the shutter door further down the clasp eventually sprung off and we were free. Jumping out of the back we noticed a guy painting at the back of a nearby house, as he turned round to see what all the noise was about, he nearly fell off his ladder. We also noticed at the front of the van there was a trail of 'water' running down the car park it wasn't a leaking radiator, but a very slightly leaking carrier bag. We quickly left. The carrier bag is probably still down a nearby motorway embankment. We made our collections and all was well until we reached the Coeur De Lion in Bath around lunchtime, this was to collect the Devenish beers, this was their most northerly GBG listed pub described as tiny pub in attractive passageway (see WhatPub photo and details <https://whatpub.com/pubs/BAT/24/coeur-de-lion-bath>) Owing to the location our 18 gallon Kils were in the rather cramped cellar and we had to lift them back out through the cellar drop. This was more than hard work and really a healthy and safety non-starter.

Finally, we headed down the country lanes to Butcombe Brewery for their bitter where it took ages to sort things out. We eventually hit the M5 for our trip home at around the time we had expected being back in Bolton. By now we realised that we had never thought about the weight of the beer and the van was struggling on even the slightest uphill gradient and the steering was rather light.

We made it back to Bolton about 10pm. Those were the days!

BOLTON BEER FESTIVAL



At long last Bolton is getting its first Beer Festival. This is being held in the Metro College (BTC) on Manchester Road, Bolton, on the Friday, Saturday and Sunday of the August Bank Holiday weekend. (August 26th-28th). Opening times are 11am-3pm and 5.30pm-11pm on Friday and Saturday, plus the Sunday lunchtime 12noon-2pm - provided there is enough beer! Beers from about 28 different breweries will be available, which means you'll have to attend more than one session to get through them all. To whet your appetite, we won't be having Greenalls and Greenalls, but Adnams, Batemans, Abbey, Greene King, Hoskins, Everards, Ruddles, Taylors, Moorhouses, Failsworth, Devenish, Eldridge Pope, Butcombe, Felinfoel, Smiles, Wadworth, Archers, Gales, Ringwood, Chiltern, etc.

Faced with that choice can you seriously go anywhere else for the weekend? Admission prices are 30p at lunchtimes and 5.30-7pm; 50p 7pm onwards. There is also a 50p glass deposit. Of course, current card-carrying CAMRA members get in free. New CAMRA members joining at the festival will get £2 worth of beer tokens free. Entertainment and good food will be available at all sessions. The beer festival is part of the Bolton Festival and a wide variety of other events will be taking place. Don't miss out.

The Brinsop Arms, Chorley Road, Westhoughton has changed hands. The range of beers in this free house has changed slightly, with dropping of the Ruddles bitter, leaving Boddingtons bitter, Hartleys XB, Draught Bass, Hammonds bitter (Bass Cask bitter, really) and Bass 4X Mild. New stillages have been installed as well as nine handpumps. One of these was earmarked for OB mild but as Boddingtons refuse to supply Cask OB mild this is now a spare.

The list of all the Bass pubs now selling Jennings Bitter showed that none of these were in the branch area, Bass had carefully avoided creating any new Cask outlets in places like Bolton, where outlets were very thin on the ground.

Tourists and aficionados of the hop are being treated to tours of the cellar of the Three Crowns, Deansgate. It is the idea of landlord Ken Reardon, proud of his cask conditioned beers. Visitors are introduced to the mysteries of spiling, venting and tapping.

The only Vaux pub in Bolton, the Gaiety, Bradshawgate, has reopened after a three-

week closure for modernisation and extensions. It is now called Maxims and acceptably dressed persons are admitted by three bouncers on the door. Once inside, the modernisation is fairly tasteful, or very tasteful when compared to Whitbread's attempts. Seating capacity is rather low but most of the walls have shelves and padded bum rests. When the pub closed Samson was 64p a pint, now it is 70p, and served in unlined, unstamped, oversize glasses. So, the 70p will be for over or short measure.

There was also a Tetley list printed but this confirmed the Real Ale Listing already printed in February.

In Branch Diary there was a final festival meeting on 17th at the George, with the September Branch meeting held at Maxims on the 7th. There was a 'Jug at the Bug' social at the Rose Hill Tavern Daisyhill on 11th.

Oh, and the Beer Festival was on August Friday 26th to Sunday 28th.

What's Doing September 1983 <https://greatermanchester.camra.org.uk/branch-magazines/whats-doing/#1983>

The latest addition to the ever-increasing number of Bolton Real ale pubs (excluding Greenalls, of course) is Yates' Wine Lodge on Bradshawgate. Wilsons mild and bitter (56p and 58p) and Thwaites Best mild and bitter (56p and 58p) are available in basic traditional splendour, if somewhat spoiled by an overloud juke box.

In Branch Diary there were revisions to those listed in August, the Branch meeting at Maxims on September 7th had moved to October 5th. The September meeting on September 7th was changed to a social at the Lodge Bank Tavern, and the September 11th social was now a meeting at the White Lion instead of the Daisyhill. The Branch meeting was on September 21st at the York, followed by a social at the Poacher on October 2nd. A case of Post Festival Pub Disorder?

What's Doing October 1983 <https://greatermanchester.camra.org.uk/branch-magazines/whats-doing/#1983>

Whitbread introduced Cask Trophy; this was brewed in Samlesbury where they also brew the keg variety. The cask was transferred to Salford for racking, and then back to Blackburn for distribution to the Bolton pubs which were given as

Black Horse, Bury Road; Blue Boar, Deansgate; Flag Inn, Bromley Cross; Canary, Farnworth; Levers Arms, Darcy Lever; Railway Hotel, Daubhill; Victoria Hotel, Horwich; Volunteer, Bromley Cross.

Maxims, formerly the Gaiety, on Bradshawgate, now sells Lorimers 70/- alongside the Vaux Samson on handpump at 70p.

The Anchor, Bury Road, has replaced the Oldham keg mild with hand pumped Boddies mild.

The White Lion, Deansgate is now selling Wilsons Original bitter and mild on handpump.

The regulars of the Howcroft, Pool Street, have started a petition for their new landlord. Frank Hardcastle (68) who retires before Christmas and the regulars want Carol and Tony Bretherton to take over the pub. The couple have been pulling pints at the bar for the last 12 years. We wish them well.

The Brinsop Arms, Westhoughton, is set to extend into the cottages at the rear of the pub to provide more drinking space and an enlarged catering area. The range of beers is due to expand with the introduction of Matthew Brown John Peel, bitter and mild.

The latest good news for beer drinkers in Bolton is that Cromptons Mule has recently been granted a full licence. The new Mule will incorporate the current bar and eating area and a new extended area behind the existing Bistro. The Mule opened five years ago and has served Theakstons, Boddingtons, Draught Bass, but recently only White Shield has been available owing to low turnover of the cask beers. However, this situation will be rectified later this year when it is anticipated that several real ales will be on sale from various breweries. The plans also include a hot and cold buffet and a piano bar. Pool tables and all forms of electronic gadgetry are barred. Watch this space for more details.

In Branch Diary the Meeting at Maxims was not listed, there was a committee meeting at the White Lion, Deansgate on 19th, with the Branch meeting a week later on 26th at the George. The Branch AGM was at the York on November 9th.

In letters

I have been trying for two years to have handpumps installed in order to serve real ale. These were installed in June this year. Being interested in real ale and CAMRA, I thought 'Great' – until I read your September Issue, the first time I have read your magazine. It seems you do not regard Greenalls as real ale. Have I or have I not been serving real ale? I thought I was, I would be interested in your comments. P Turner Green Barn Inn Manchester Road Blackrod.

(The article about - The latest addition to the ever-increasing number of Bolton Real ale pubs (excluding Greenalls, of course) is - had been misinterpreted to mean no Greenalls pub sold real ale instead of no Greenalls brewery pubs were increasing their number of cask outlets. Just shows it is as important to visit the non-cask outlets as well as the GBG listed pub next door.)

However in November.....

GREENALLS CHANGE FOR THE BETTER



Have Greenalls finally given in to beer drinkers' demands? The thought of a CAMRA-led campaign against them must have proved too much, as it has brought about a major change in the company's pro-keg policies. With the launch of a new cask beer (Greenalls Original Bitter) and the reintroduction of handpumps, there is something to smile about in Greenall Whitley Land!

Greenalls Original Bitter is on sale in the following outlets in the Bolton area. It retails at 63-64p a pint.

Victory, Chorley Old Road, Bolton (E)
Oddfellows Arms, St Helens Road, Daubhill (E)
Queen Elizabeth, Fletcher Street, Bolton (H)
Fourgates, Chorley Road (A6), Westhoughton (H)
Boars Head, Churchgate, Bolton (H)

Some farther flung outlets are:

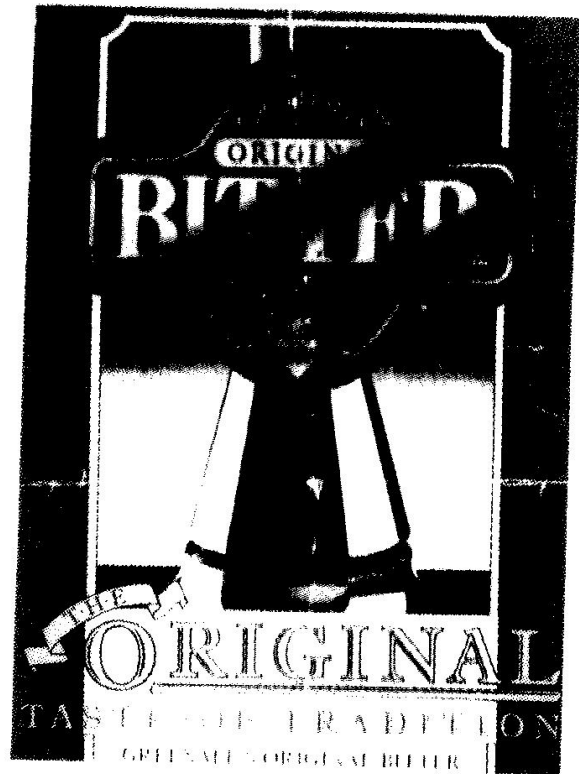
Cricketers, St Helens
Old Ball, Warrington
Punch Bowl, Atherton
Tudor, Wroughtington

Meanwhile, handpumps have appeared
in the following Bolton pubs:

Crofters, St George's Road
Green Barn, M/cr Road, Blackrod
Victoria (Fanny's), Victoria R
Loose Goose, Chorley Rd, W'h'ton
(All sell both mild and bitter)

The Crofters, St George's Road, has been tastefully modernised with many features of the old pub retained. The carved bar has been turned round, dividing the pub in two and one big lounge replaces the old lounge and pool room. The tap room stays. The Queen Elizabeth, Fletcher Street, has had its lounge tastefully extended. The Loose Goose, Chorley Road, Westhoughton, formerly the Dog & Pheasant and "Amigo's Fun Pub", has been tarted up and is still a "fun pub". At the Pack Horse, Nelson Square/Bradshawgate, Bolton - the town's most prestigious hotel the public bars are closed for a major renovation.

Jim Hurst



Three Tetley pubs in Bolton are up for grabs

The Gypsies Tent, Deansgate; Sunnyside, Adelaide Street; Daubhill and the Vulcan, Junction Road

Rumour has it that the Gypsies Tent has been purchased by a firm who run pool tables and who plan to turn it into a free house. The Sunnyside is also believed to have been purchased by a consortium.

After the retirement of Frank Hardcastle at the Howcroft, Pool Street (WD October), the new proprietors will be from the Raven, Wallgate in Wigan. Carol and Tony Bretherton (whom the locals wanted to take over from Frank) are going to the Ainsworth Arms, Halliwell Road. We wish Frank all the best in his retirement.

The House without a Name in Harwood now sells Castle Eden in addition to the Bulmers Cider.

The Rose Hill Tavern in Daisyhill has finally gone over to Holts from Tetleys. There are no signs, just a couple of handpumps dispensing Holts mild and bitter.

The Peel Arms, Halliwell Road, has finally had handpumps installed and now sells traditional Wilsons bitter and mild. The pub once had a reputation as a haunt of limp wristed gentlemen with handbags, but these have been sent on their merry way.

In Branch Diary there was a trying of the original 'new' original at the Boars Head on Churchgate on 22nd. The December branch meeting was on 7th at the Crofters on St Georges Road.

What's Doing December 1983 <https://greatermanchester.camra.org.uk/branch-magazines/whats-doing/#1983>

The Thomas Dutton on Blackburn Road, a plush Whitbread food emporium with a bar has started selling Castle Eden Ale at the now standard Whitbread managed house price of 67p.

Contrary to the impression given in last month's WD, the Loose Goose in Westhoughton only sells tank mild and bitter, though Greenalls did describe the beer as traditional in the local paper. Dishonest, that.

In Letters Sir, The Cask Trophy in the Levers Arms Darcy Lever (WD Oct) does in fact replace Duttons Bitter. Castle Eden has also been on sale here since at least last June, a fact previously unreported in What's Doing. Jim Davies.

In Branch Diary – nothing!

Appendix

Camra Bolton Branch Accounts to 31/10/1983

<u>Income</u>	£	<u>Expenditure</u>	£
Cash B/Fwd.	4.69		
Bank A/C B/fwd.	32.11		
What's Doing Sales	201.40	What's Doings Payments	221.79
Income From Raffles	2.67		
GBG's	225.00	GBG payments	213.00
Other Guide sales	4.86		
Camra Draw & Diaries	129.00	Camra Draw & Diaries	107.20
		Cash C/Fwd.	7.23
		Bank A/C C/fwd.	50.51
Total	599.73		599.73

Camra Bolton Branch Beer Festival 1983 Accounts to 29/01/84

<u>Income</u>	£	<u>Expenditure</u>	£
Beer Sales, Admissions etc	7,220.49	Cash Float	1,260.00
		Beer Cost	4,045.99
		Transport & Fuel	196.33
		Publications	417.05
		Publicity	60.00
		Entertainment	336.00
		Security	110.00
		Miscellaneous Items	241.25
		Bank A/C C/fwd.	553.87
Total	<u>7,220.49</u>		<u>7,220.49</u>

The Bolton Beer Festival 1983 Beer List of Cost and Selling Prices

Qty.	BREWERY & BEER	GOODS PER BARREL	VAT	TOTAL COST	SELLING PRICE
1036	ADNAMS BREW BITTER	109 ⁴⁸	16 ⁵⁰	126 ⁴⁸	60✓
1032	MILD	107 ³⁴	16 ¹⁰	123 ⁴⁴	54✓
1040	ARCHERS BEST BITTER	100 ⁵⁸	15 ⁰⁹	115 ⁶⁷	62✓
1036	ABBAY QUAIL BITTER	102 ²⁴	15 ³⁴	117 ⁵⁸	60✓
1037	BATEMAN XB	99 ⁹⁴	14 ⁹⁹	114 ⁹³	60✓
1032	MILD	90 ⁵⁴	13 ⁵⁸	104 ¹²	54✓
1039	BUTCOMBE BITTER	89 ⁰⁰	13 ³⁵	102 ³⁵	60✓
1036	CHILTERN ALE	99 ⁸³	14 ⁹⁷	114 ⁸⁰	60✓
1038	DARLEYS ^{THORNE} BEST BITTER				60✓
1042	DEVENISH WESSEX BB	106 ⁸⁰	16 ⁰²	122 ⁸²	66✓
1041	ELDRIDGE ROPE IPA	104 ⁶⁶	15 ⁷⁰	120 ³⁶	66✓
1041	EVERARDS TIGER	109 ²⁹	16 ³⁹	125 ⁶⁸	66✓
1041	FELINFOL DD	103 ⁶⁸	15 ⁵⁵	119 ²³	66✓
1036	FAIRSWORTH BITTER	100	15	115	56✓
1048	GREENE KING ABBOT	123 ⁰⁰	18 ⁴⁵	141 ⁴⁵	70✓
1038-6	HARDY & HANSON'S BITTER	97 ⁶⁸	14 ⁶⁵	112 ³³	60✓
1035-4	^{56.96-22} MILD	93 ²⁰	13 ⁹⁸	107 ¹⁸	54✓
1037	JAKES ^{19.24} BBB ^{VAT}	97 ⁵⁶	14 ⁶³	112 ¹⁹	60✓
1039	HOSKINS BITTER ^{84.51}	106 ⁹²	16 ⁰⁴	122 ⁹⁶	62✓
1074	LEES MOONRAKER ^{84.51}	147 ⁶⁰	22 ¹⁴	169 ⁷⁴	90✓ 45 1/2
1043	MARSTONS MERRI MOOK	100 ⁹⁸	15 ¹⁵	116 ¹³	62✓
1043	^{PEDDLEE}	100 ⁹⁸	15 ¹⁵	116 ¹³	62✓
1050 1036	MOORHOUSES ^{PEDDLEE} BITTER ^{WITCHES}				72✓
1039	PRIORY WES BELCHER	105 ⁶⁸	15 ⁸⁵	121 ⁵³	
1040	RINGWOOD BEST	96 ⁰⁰	14 ⁴⁰	110 ⁴⁰	62✓
1050	RURLES COUNTY	125 ⁶⁸	18 ⁸⁶	144 ⁵⁴	72✓
1041	^{FULLERS} LONDON PRIDE	113 ¹⁸	16 ⁹⁸	130 ¹⁶	68✓
1040	SMILES BEST BITTER	88 ⁰⁰	13 ²⁰	101 ²⁰	60✓
1033	TAYLORS GOLDEN BEST	92 ⁸⁰	13 ⁹²	106 ⁷²	54✓
1042	LANDLORD	101 ⁸⁸	15 ²⁸	117 ¹⁶	62✓
1043	PORTER				62✓
1041	WADSWORTH 6X	104 ³⁸	15 ⁶⁶	120 ⁰⁴	66✓
1053	OLD TIMER	123 ⁰⁴	18 ⁴⁶	141 ⁵⁰	80✓
1041	WOODFORD WHERRY	115 ⁰⁰	17 ²⁵	132 ²⁵	66✓
1038-7	WARDS ^{SHEFFIELD} BITTER ST				60✓
1032	DARLEYS MILD ST				54✓
1045	TREASTONS XB				68✓
1038	HERWARD				66✓
	WINE				
	GOER 6 MED 3 DRY	2.30/gall = 265			
	LEMONADE 3082	002 2 ¹⁰			
	11.5 GALL	5.5 GALL			

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Mr D K Merry
65 Hilden Street
BOLTON
Lancs
BL2 1JD



FROM: FRANK R WHITE OF MR



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Ref NH/81/82/F1

3 February 1983

Mr D K Merry
65 Hilden Street
BOLTON
Lancs

Dear Mr Merry

Please find enclosed the official reply that I have received following the representations I made on your behalf.

I trust you find the contents informative and of some help to you, but, if you think I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best wishes

Yours sincerely

Frank R White JP MP

F1. Enc.



HOME OFFICE
QUEEN ANNE'S GATE
LONDON SW1H 9AT

31 JAN 1983

Dear Frank.

Thank you for your letter of 18th December to Willie Whitelaw with which you enclosed this one from the Secretary of the Balham Branch of the Campaign for Real Ale urging greater flexibility in the opening hours of public houses.

The Government recognises that the present liquor licensing law (contained mainly in the Licensing Act 1964) may be in need of revision. The Erroll Committee's Report on liquor licensing (Cmd. 5154) in December 1973 contained a number of recommendations which would have had the effect of liberalising the law considerably, including the provision of substantially increased opening hours. A number of the recommendations contained in the Committee's Report, mainly those of a less controversial nature, have been implemented, but successive Governments have refrained from implementing the more controversial ones. The main reason for this has been that, since the Committee reported, the various indicators of alcohol misuse have all risen significantly. Concern about this growth has prompted a number of bodies to look in detail at the problem of alcohol misuse and to consider ways of controlling it. In 1977 the House of Commons Expenditure Committee and the Advisory Committee on Alcoholism both published reports which stressed that extreme caution should be taken over any relaxation of the licensing laws. Reports published subsequently by other bodies have underlined this need for caution. These reports have looked not only at existing licensing controls as a factor in explaining consumption trends and growth of alcohol misuse, but also the influence of taxation policy, advertising and health education. A number of recommendations have been made to curb misuse in some cases by limiting consumption of alcohol overall or restraining growth of consumption.

These recommendations raise a number of important issues which, in our view, need to be the subject of informed public debate. We think it would be irresponsible to take any initiative in the direction of relaxing licensing laws in isolation from the wider issues and without regard to our general strategy for helping to prevent alcohol misuse. In this connection we are observing with interest the discernible effects of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 1976. Section 64 of this Act empowers licensing boards to grant premises occasional or regular extensions of permitted hours where it is considered that the social circumstances of the locality make it desirable to do so. As a result, all-day opening of public houses is now common in some places in Scotland, particularly in the larger towns and cities. Provisional assessments suggest that average

/consumption

Frank R. White Esq., M.P.

consumption of alcohol has not been significantly affected by this extension of permitted hours and that those drinking have tended to do so at a more leisurely pace. Whilst these indications are encouraging, we consider that more time is needed to assess whether there is any improvement in the level of alcohol misuse in Scotland (which remains a serious problem) and also whether, in the longer term, there is any significant change in the numbers of offences of drunkenness and deaths due to alcoholism.

As an aid to further public discussion on this question, in December 1981 the Health Departments published a comprehensive document on alcohol misuse under the title "Prevention and Health: Drinking Sensibly". The document looks at the different issues and scope for action by individuals and the Government. Proposals considered in the document include those for more flexible licensing hours, lowering the drinking age and allowing children greater access to licensed premises. We hope that, in due course, the responses to the document will enable sensible decisions to be taken as to whether, and if so how, the licensing law ought to be reformed. In the meantime, however, we have no plans for legislation of our own in this area.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'D. Mellor', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

DAVID MELLOR

David Mellor was popular with the tabloid press after some colourful episodes (in Chelsea Blue!) and this finally brought about his downfall as a minister in 1992.

You may notice that the letter was addressed to a Mr DK Merry, the correspondence was actually with Dave Fleming our Branch Secretary, somehow along the way we also became the Balham branch. Nice to see such care and attention in Whitehall.