

Camra Bolton Branch and its Pubs as seen by the What's Doing Contributors 1996

Bolton Branch Pubs included in the 1996 Good Beer Guide were

Blackrod – New Inn (Goose & Gander)

Bolton – Bob's Smithy, Clifton Arms (Gateway), Lodge Bank Tavern, Lord Clyde, Park, Pilkington Arms, Sweet Green Tavern

Bromley Cross – Flag

Farnworth – Market

Kearsley - Clockface

Stoneclough – Nelson

Westhoughton – White Lion

What's Doing January 1996 <https://greatermanchester.camra.org.uk/branch-magazines/whats-doing/>

Wallaby and chips?

1995 was the year of the Irish theme bar, so what exciting new leisure concept will 1996 bring? Well, Bolton could be leading the way this year as it now has an Australian theme bar. Yes, really. It is called Matilda's and is in the old Pink Panther premises on St Georges Road.

Our roving correspondent also tells us that there's now an Indian café in Bolton town centre - the Rice'n'Three on Great Moor Street.

Anvil Tales

Keith Egerton

4X Anvil Strong has been well received and the second batch has been brewed and distributed. If demand is sustained, more batches will be brewed and it is hoped that the beer will appear annually. The following outlets were supplied with 4X in Mid-December:

Horseshoe Inn, Lever St, Little Lever

Branch Meeting – Sweet Green Tavern Thursday 4th January 8.30pm

GBG 1997 Selection Meeting – Dog & Partridge Thursday 23rd January 8.00pm

Bolton News

Des Nogalski

The **Shamrock** on St Helens Road looks like being Bolton's next pub closure. The former Railway Hotel was deemed surplus to Whitbread's requirements a few years ago and was sold off. Despite the introduction of real ale, the pub is again surplus to requirements and in December plans to convert the building into a homeopathic clinic were put before Bolton Council.

Lower down the road, Lees bitter is on sale at the **RAOB Club** (formerly the Rams Head) on Derby Street, but the **Derby** seems to be closed more than it is open and there are fears for its future. A number of licensees have failed to make a go of it in the past couple of years, the last throwing in the towel before having had the chance to take down the 'Under New Management' signs.

Other pubs closed and boarded up are **Magee's** at the junction of St George's Road and Chorley Street, the former **Wheatsheaf** on Great Moor Street and the **Duke of Clarence** on Bath Street (below), which suffered a fire early last month after being invaded by squatters. It is highly unlikely that any of these will reopen as a pub.

Indeed, the only new outlets seem to be café bars or eateries. Greenalls, owners of both Magee's and the Wheatsheaf, have opened one of their **Henry's** café bars on Mawdsley Street (no real ale there), Tetley are planning to open **Harvey's Café Bar** in the former Kwik Save supermarket on Churchgate, while there are plans to open yet another café bar near the Cannon cinema on Bradshawgate. One trusts that the above will avoid the fate of another new high-class café bar on Bradshawgate, **Cheers**, which is notable only for its fights. Over on Green Lane, the former **Walker Institute** has been sold to Whitbread, who have turned it into a 'Brewer's Fayre' outlet.



What's Doing February 1996 <https://greatermanchester.camra.org.uk/branch-magazines/whats-doing/>

Nothing about Bolton Branch or its pubs.

Branch Meeting – Lord Clyde, Wednesday 7th February 8.30pm

What's Doing March 1996 <https://greatermanchester.camra.org.uk/branch-magazines/whats-doing/>

Holts like to take over really big pubs so that they can shift a lot of beer, so it is expected that the Brooklyn (below) on Green Lane, Great Lever, near Bolton, will end up as one of theirs.

Also rumoured to be on the Holts shopping list are the Kingsway, Levenshulme, the Abbey, St Helens, and the Angel, Knutsford.



The palindromic Regal Lager is no more. Holts will be introducing a premium lager called Diamond (about 5% ABV) and this will be available in May. The price will be around £1.20 or £1.25 a pint.

Branch Meeting and GBG 1997 Voting Meeting – Thursday 7th March 8.30pm. But where??

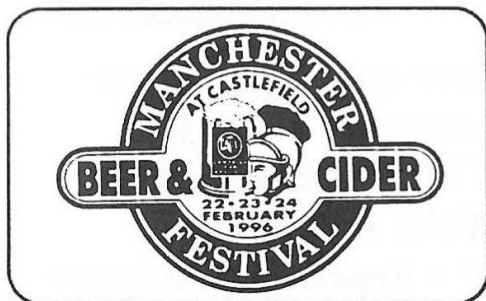
What's Doing April 1996 <https://greatermanchester.camra.org.uk/branch-magazines/whats-doing/>

Clocking off

The Clock Face in Kearsley, a Good Beer Guide pub for many years, is to close. Apparently the high rents mean that licensees can't make it pay. Where have we heard that one before?

Beer Festival success

Rumours, largely unsubstantiated, abound about beer festivals losing the odd few bob. Happily, the first Castlefield Beer Festival was a success and not only in financial terms. Early indications are that the festival broke even or made a small profit. It also recruited well and was well received for the quality, range and price of beers on sale.



The organisers are keen to build on this success and have a second Castlefield Beer Festival next year. Yet there are suggestions that the Great North Western Beer Festival should re-emerge at Bolton's

new sports centre, also in March 1997. Too many beer festivals and not enough volunteers is a problem which needs a speedy resolution.

Holts Corner

Stewart Revell

During March the brewery took over ten outlets from Greenalls (see WD last month). Five are managed houses and no doubt these will fit in well with the rest of the Holts estate:

Brooklyn, Great Lever, Bolton
Kingsway, Levenshulme
Angel, Knutsford

Abbey, St Helens
Cock o'Budworth, Great Budworth

The other five pubs are tenanted and since Joeys are progressively phasing out their tenanted outlets, I expect they will be making a decision about these in due course:

Pack Horse, Higher
Openshaw
Duke of York, Chorley
Railway, Moses Gate,
Farnworth
Volunteer, Darcy Lever
(right)
Chapel House, Dukinfield

A few weeks ago Holts became the proud owners of Traditionals on Woodhouse Lane in Wigan. No more news yet on their attempt to buy the Imperial Hotel in Manchester.



What's Doing May 1996 <https://greatermanchester.camra.org.uk/branch-magazines/whats-doing/>

Nothing about Bolton Branch or its pubs.

What's Doing June 1996 <https://greatermanchester.camra.org.uk/branch-magazines/whats-doing/>

North Manchester

Wed June 5, Bolton Crawl. Sweet Green Tavern, Crook Street, 7pm; Man & Scythe, Churchgate, 9.30.

New bar in Bolton

'Durdy Nellie's' Irish theme bar was due to open at the end of May. The building is on Bradshawgate and our Bolton correspondent reports that it has been painted a rather bilious shade of green, or maybe that was just the undercoat.

Holts Corner

Stewart Revell

Of the five tenanted pubs Holts bought from Greenalls (WD April), two have now been converted to managed houses - the Pack Horse, Higher Openshaw, and the Duke of York, Bolton Street, Chorley. There has been no decision as yet on the other three tenancies (Railway, Moses Gate; Volunteer, Darcy Lever; Chapel House, Dukinfield).

I hear that the Brooklyn on Green Lane, Bolton (ex-Greenalls managed pub) is to have a major refurbishment next year. The outside of the building needs cleaning up after years of neglect and the rooms are in need of redecoration.

Bolton briefly

After standing derelict for some months, the Duke of Clarence, Bath Street, has been pulled down and the site is now a car park. The Shamrock (ex-Railway) at Daubhill has closed for good and the building is now being used as a doctors' surgery. The imposing Magees (ex-Crofters) on the corner of Chorley Street and St Georges Road has new owners and the licence was transferred to other (keg) premises in the town centre. On the other side of town, the General Havelock on Sidney Street is boarded up.

Fred's Cap from Bolton's Bank Top Brewery is regularly on sale at the Britannia in Farnworth and the Weavers Arms (Mop) at Halliwell. Fred's Cap and Bridge bitter have also been seen at the Malt & Hops on Bradshawgate. Further along Bradshawgate, Sam's Bar (ex-Prince William) is being extended into the shop next door.

Holts in the free trade

Stewart Revell

Some 55 pubs and 16 clubs are currently on the Holts free trade list. These are the pubs...

Bolton area

Bowling Green, *Bury Road, Tonge*
Hare & Hounds, *Market Street, Stoneclough*
House without a Name, *Harwood*
Kings Arms, *Chorley Old Road, Bolton*
Man & Scythe, *Churchgate, Bolton*
Old Original British Queen, *Blackburn Road, Bolton*
Park, *Bridgeman Street, Bolton*

Bolton News

Des Nogalski

The concept of the 'Irish' pub has hit Bolton with the opening of two in the town in recent months. First of all the Cotton Bar at the **Pack Horse Hotel** on Bradshawgate was converted into **O'Leary's**, offering live traditional Irish music on most nights. The pub has become popular with Bolton's Irish community and a number of cultural activities now take place there.

A couple of hundred yards up the road, **Durty Nelly's** has been created out of former retail premises. The decor is similar to O'Leary's, with wooden fittings and bare floorboards dominating, although it is hard to see what is Irish about the design of either pub. Unlike the keg-only O'Leary's, Durty Nelly's has a choice of real ales: John Smiths, Tetleys, Theakstons and a house beer. Again, live Irish music is a feature on most nights.

After being closed for two years, the **Saddle** on Lee Lane in Horwich is open again now that it has been sold by Bass. A licence application has been lodged for the former **Crofters Hotel** (*below*) on St Georges Road, which was closed by Greenalls over two years ago and subsequently de-licensed. A refurbishment is under way at the former **Prince William** on Bradshawgate and Allied Domecq are developing a



new wine bar to be known as **The Brasshouse** at the former Kwik Save on Churchgate. The £1.1 million conversion of the **Watergate Toll** on Salford Road (A6) into a 'Brewers Fayre' is now complete. Soon after its re-opening, Boddington's Bitter, Morland Old Speckled Hen, Whitbread Castle Eden Ale and Flowers IPA were on sale.

The former Ben Topp's/McGinlay's/Absolutely Fabulous has had a change of identity yet again and it is now known as **Bar Babylon**. The **General Havelock** on Sidney Street is still closed and boarded up, as is **Fern's Wine Bar** on Market Street in Farnworth. The **Millstone** on Crown Street is also boarded up, which is odd as the pub only closed to allow a refurbishment to take place.

Real ale has disappeared from **Oscar's Cafe Bar** at the Wellsprings, while the **Bowling Green** on Bury Road has replaced Holts bitter with Peter Yates bitter, brewed by Moorhouses for Yates's Wine Lodges. The same beer is also on sale at the **Greyhound** on Deansgate. Another pub to lose its guests is the **Gypsies Tent** on Deansgate - the guest ale handpump has been replaced by a nitrokeg pump. Cask Worthington Bitter is still available.

Finally, the Tom Cobleigh pub chain has revealed that it is looking for an outlet in Bolton as part of a push into the North West. The chain, which specialises in converting existing properties into new pubs, has three sites under consideration.

Holts Corner

Stewart Revell

Holts have sold on one of the pubs they acquired from Greenalls. The Volunteer at Darcy Lever continues to dispense Holts bitter, but the pub is now being run by Greenwood Leisure (who also own the Original British Queen in Bolton and the House Without a Name in Harwood).

Alfresco in Farnworth

From Friday to Sunday, 6th to 8th September, the Britannia on King Street will be holding Farnworth's first-ever outdoor beer festival. The beer range is yet to be decided, but there will be a good sprinkling of independents. The pub is easy to get to, being right opposite Farnworth bus station and only a short walk up from the railway station. And if there is anyone out there who can lend landlord Dave Lawson an awning for the event (seriously!), please contact Dave on (01204) 571629.

The other GBBF

As reported last month, the Britannia Hotel, King Street, Farnworth, will be holding the town's first ever outdoor beer festival. The event begins at 7.00pm on Friday 6th September and finishes on Sunday 8th, or whenever the beer runs out. (Open all permitted hours.) There will be approximately fifteen beers on most of the time, selected from a wide variety of breweries throughout the UK, from Caledonian to Greene King and Jennings to Batemans.

The Brit is easy to get to, being opposite Farnworth's one and only bus station, which is served by the following buses: F1, 25, 27, 30, 31, 68, 501, 502, 512, 513, 521 550 and 557. The 8, 9, 22, 28, 500, 551, 553 and 554 also stop nearby.

Wetherspools in Bolton

A notice stuck on the former Scholes & Scholes shop in Nelson Square announces that J D Wetherspoon will take a lease on the premises if they can get a licence. The building has been derelict for years. There are already a lot of licences in the Bradshawgate area, but the prospect of unloading the eyesore in Nelson Square might well predispose the authorities to grant another one.

Holts briefly

Stewart Revell

Holts continue to monitor the three remaining tenanted pubs they acquired from Greenalls earlier this year - the Pack Horse on Ashton Old Road, Openshaw, the Railway at Moses Gate, near Bolton, and the Chapel House at Dukinfield. I hear the Pack Horse is doing very well. There is expected to be an announcement regarding one of the others soon, so watch this space.

The Volunteer at Darcy Lever, one of the ex-Greenalls pubs sold into the free trade (still selling Holts bitter) may be in for a major refurbishment soon.

Branch Meeting – Sweet Green Tavern Thursday 10th October

Approval had been given for the branch to hold a Beer Festival at the new Excel Sports Centre (This was the replacement sports centre on Lower Bridgeman St for the now closed Silverwell St)

Branch Social – Howcroft Beer Festival Thursday 17th at 7.30pm

Wetherspoons blitz

There's no news about their planning application in Bolton (WD Sept), What's Doing November 1996 <https://greatermanchester.camra.org.uk/branch-magazines/whats-doing/>

Wetherspoons turned down again

Bolton council has refused planning permission for J D Wetherspoon's proposed outlet in Nelson Square on the grounds that the area is over-pubbed. Some local authorities have yet to cotton on to the fact that Wetherspoon pubs - no music, no pool tables, no kids - are a much safer bet than some of the places they license.

The independent brewers in the Greater Manchester section of the list are:

Bank Top Brewery, Unit 1, Back Lane, off Vernon Street, Bolton

Heritage Pubs

Last month CAMRA published its National Inventory of 'pubs with unspoiled interiors of outstanding heritage importance'. The following Greater Manchester pubs are on the list:

Howcroft, Bolton

AGM and Branch Meeting – Maxim's Thursday 7th November

Branch Social – Visit to Bank Top Brewery Tuesday 22nd November

What's Doing December 1996 <https://greatermanchester.camra.org.uk/branch-magazines/whats-doing/>

Branch Meeting – Lodge Bank Tavern Thursday 5th December

Holts Corner

Stewart Revell

Holts have decided to keep the Railway at Moses Gate. In the last few weeks this ex-Greenalls outlet has been given a much needed facelift and transformed into a Holts managed outlet.

