

Camra Bolton Branch and its Pubs as seen by the What's Doing Contributors 2006

Bolton Branch Pubs included in the 2006 Good Beer Guide were

Bolton – Ainsworth, Bobs Smithy, Dog & Partridge, Hen & Chickens, Kings Head, Lodge Bank Tavern, Sweet Green Tavern

Bromley Cross – Flag

Farnworth – Britannia

Harwood – House with No Name

Horwich – Crown

Stoneclough – Market Street Tavern

Westhoughton – Brinsop, Rosehill

What's Doing January 2006 <https://greatermanchester.camra.org.uk/branch-magazines/whats-doing/>

Halfway House

The Halfway House (*WD last month*), on the border of Walkden and Farnworth, reopened just before Christmas. The pub has been completely refurbished and it is now primarily a restaurant, run by John Stowell and Susan Jolly. John has run several pubs in Preston.

A large kitchen has been fitted out and a top class chef looks after the meals. On the beer front, there is handpulled Boddies and there is the possibility of a guest beer from time to time. The pub is part of the Punch Taverns group.

Bolton cuisine

After a thorough makeover, the building that was the Painters Arms (aka Scandals, Mr D's, Academy Bar and latterly a Chinese chippy) has emerged as an Indian restaurant called the Achari. The interior is smart and bright, and menu is interesting, with house specials and chef's specials supplementing the usual suspects.

The Achari is on Crook Street, across from the Sweet Green Tavern.

What's Doing February 2006 <https://greatermanchester.camra.org.uk/branch-magazines/whats-doing/>

Nothing about Bolton Branch or its pubs.

What's Doing March 2006 <https://greatermanchester.camra.org.uk/branch-magazines/whats-doing/>

Nothing about Bolton Branch or its pubs.

What's Doing April 2006 <https://greatermanchester.camra.org.uk/branch-magazines/whats-doing/>

Nothing about Bolton Branch or its pubs.

What's Doing May 2006 <https://greatermanchester.camra.org.uk/branch-magazines/whats-doing/>

Down in Ringley Dell

Staggerin' Man

The Lord Nelson, a Thwaites house, stands next to the old stone bridge over the River Irwell in Ringley village. Up to three beers are on - bitter, Lancaster Bomber and a seasonal from the Blackburn brewer. The pub has a restaurant and separate drinking areas, including a no-smoking area, and a heated patio. The decor includes wooden panels and bare wood floors, cosy carpeted corners and a 'double' modern fireplace between the bar and a side room. On the beer front, I had the bitter, which was good and fully conditioned.



A short walk over the bridge is another Thwaites house, the Horseshoe. Two real ales were on - the bitter and a very tasty Lancaster Bomber - an excellent amber, full malt strong bitter. The pub has four distinct drinking areas and a large dining room annexe. The large patio area is ideal for drinking in better weather. It is a friendly house, and for customers with other ideas there are the village stocks next to the bridge.

This corner of England is between Bolton, Bury and Manchester. The No.8 bus from Shudehill Interchange to Bolton stops at the Spread Eagle on Manchester Road, Kearsley, and from there it's a ten minute walk down Slackey Brow.



What's Doing June 2006 <https://greatermanchester.camra.org.uk/branch-magazines/whats-doing/>

Nothing about Bolton Branch or its pubs.

What's Doing July 2006

PLEASE NOTE

There will be no What's Doing next month (**July 2006**) owing to essential maintenance work on the printer.

The next issue will be for **AUGUST 2006**.

Grey Man

Brian Gleave

Things are looking up in Daisy Hill. The **Grey Man** on Hindley Road is under new ownership and Deuchars IPA has replaced Tetley as the regular cask beer, with Black Sheep Bitter appearing as an occasional guest. The pub opens from 4.00pm until 12.00pm weekdays and 12.00 until 12.00 Sat/Sun. Karaoke occurs Friday and Sunday from 9.00pm, when the pub is very busy.

All pubs in Daisy Hill sell real ale, with the **Rose Hill Tavern (Bug)** on Holts Mild and Bitter and the **Daisy Hill (Blue Lion)** selling Thwaites Lancaster Bomber. The former Three Crowns is now an Italian restaurant, which appears to have more customers than when it was a pub. Just outside Daisy Hill, the **Alexandra** on the Hindley Green border has a regular guest beer and the **Bridge** at Hartcommon stocks Summer Lightning, plus a Coachhouse beer.



Regeneration game

Bolton Council have announced a lottery-funded makeover for the Little Bolton district. One of the areas earmarked for improvement is bounded by Folds Road, St Peters Way, the River Croal and Manor Street and includes the **Dog & Partridge** pub at the bottom of Manor Street. The Council say they would like to see 'buildings of local distinctiveness' retained and blended in with the redevelopment, and there are 'opportunities for heritage-led regeneration.'

The Dog & Partridge is certainly distinctive and as one of the oldest surviving pub buildings in Bolton, it ought to be preserved. On the other hand, there's lots of money to be made in building blocks of flats and car parks, so what will the developers do?



After hearing very good reports of the Sunday lunch they do there, I recently revisited the **Brooklyn Hotel** on Green Lane, just a mile or so outside Bolton Town Centre.

The last time I was at the Brooklyn was about ten years ago, when Holts had taken over running it from Greenalls. The Brooklyn is set in its own grounds, not unlike the **Woodthorpe** at Prestwich, and it was



originally a private house. It was converted into a pub in the 1920s by Bolton brewers Magee Marshall and later fell into Greenalls' hands.

Local Works

Local Works - the campaign for the Sustainable Communities Bill - is holding a public meeting in Bolton in October. Local MP and Secretary for Communities and Local Government, Ruth Kelly, will be speaking.

CAMRA is one of the national supporters of Local Works. If made law, the Bill will help promote local independent pubs and beers. The campaign is going very well. The Bill has the support of over half the House of Commons and there are also 15,000 individual supporters. To sign up (for free) and for more information visit the Local Works website: www.localworks.org



CAMPAIGN FOR REAL ALE North Manchester Branch

What's Doing

Neil Richardson, the editor of What's Doing died on Monday 21st August 2006. Neil had edited the magazine for 30 years. He was not only editor but also typesetter and printer and played a central role in its publication. He will be sorely missed and it is unlikely, in the immediate future at least, that the magazine will continue.

I would like to thank all of you for your subscriptions. Some of you have subscribed for almost as long as Neil edited What's Doing. I have returned cheques to those of you who have renewed or subscribed recently. I will, of course, return a proportion of subscriptions to those of you who want me to do this. To avoid having to write out scores of cheques for small amounts, I would like to invite you to donate any outstanding monies to What's Doing so that the North Manchester Branch can provide a suitable tribute to Neil. We have not discussed what this might be, perhaps a donation to a charity or a memento for his widow, Sue, but it would be something to demonstrate the appreciation of all What's Doing's readers for Neil's invaluable contribution to the success of the magazine.

If you write back to me I will refund anything that is owing. Otherwise, I'll tot up the outstanding subscriptions and use the sum as the tribute fund. I will, of course, pass on any letters of appreciation to Sue Richardson.

Neil has been associated with the North Manchester Branch since its early days in 1974. Neil ended up living almost next door to the Lord Nelson in Ringley where the branch was founded. He took up the editorship of What's Doing in 1976 when the magazine had a cover charge for the first time. The August edition was the 369th. It is, I think, the only CAMRA publication that had a cover charge. WD did accept advertising but it was not sought. This allowed a fearless editorial policy, which at times got the magazine into trouble with oversensitive publicans and their briefs. WD has had a loyal readership for a long time and much of this is due to Neil and his editorship. We shall miss him.

Roger Hall

<https://www.theguardian.com/news/2006/nov/15/obituaries.mainsection>

Obituary

Neil Richardson

By Michael Powell

Wed 15 Nov 2006 00.15 GMT

The history of the north-west has lost a central figure with the death from cancer of the printer and publisher Neil Richardson, aged 58. Born in Bury, he completed a BSc in physics at Salford University in 1971. He abandoned work on his PhD to become a printer; his earliest publications included the Salford student newspaper and What's Doing, the newsletter of the North Manchester branch of Camra, the real ale lobby group.

Neil's first booklet on local history, about Salford pubs, appeared in 1978. Books on local breweries and gazetteers of public houses were followed by more general histories, all rooted in the experiences of people whose voices were, at best, marginal in the conventional historical record.

Assisted by his wife Sue, he edited, designed and printed his distinctive publications with speed and sensitivity, and they were soon occupying increasing shelf space in bookshops - at prices affordable to people who would not normally have bought a history book. Increasingly aware of the difficulties of obtaining particular types of documents, Neil made available nearly 300 out-of-print guide books, directories, maps and other publications, and changed the world of local history publishing. He helped to establish a more democratically produced history, based on the lives of ordinary people.

Much of this passed unnoticed in the academic world, though historians who discovered Neil's publications found them an invaluable source in their own teaching and researches. Indeed, some found in Neil a more appropriate outlet and congenial publisher for their own work.

He was a shy, modest man with a dry sense of humour, who peppered What's Doing with spoofs and satires of landlords and breweries. This resulted on three occasions in solicitors' letters on behalf of upset licensees. His commitment ensured that the newsletter appeared every month for 30 years - and 368 issues - until surgery in June prevented its publication. Neil announced that this was "owing to essential maintenance on the printer". Sue survives him.

The following pubs had closed during 2006 –

Church Hotel 172-174, Crook Street Bolton, it was delicensed on 21/12/06 but had closed prior to this. Landlord was Mr Antony Gough Aston, owner ESG (Licensing) Co (part of Alan Bowes group). It did not sell any cask beer at the time of its closure.

White Hart 67-69, Albert Rd, Farnworth it was delicensed on 05/10/06, Landlord Alan Sykes, owner Newlord Ltd. It did not sell any cask beer at the time of its closure.

Schooner Inn, Hollin Hey Road, Montserrat, Bolton. Pub was closed on 19/05/06. It took until 12/08/09 before it was delicensed and had been demolished during 2008! landlord Chris McNamara and owner Hydes Brewery. Site rebuilt on with residential property see planning application 73566/06. It never knowingly sold any cask beer.