

Camra Bolton Branch and its Pubs 2012

Bolton Branch Pubs included in the 2012 Good Beer Guide were

Bolton – Alma, Bank Top Brewery Tap, Barristers, Bob's Smithy, Brewhouse, Finishers, Hen & Chickens, Kings Head, Spinning Mule,

Bromley Cross – Thomas Egerton

Horwich – Crown, Old Original Bay Horse, Victoria & Albert

Westhoughton – Robert Shaw

Bolton Beer Breaks 1 Spring 2012 Darcy Lever Pub Crawl [Link](#)

On a cold, wet and very windy Wednesday night in early December, a small band gathered on Bolton bus station; the bus (536), however, turned up on time, and after a ten-minute journey we arrived at the top of Darcy Lever; the alighting stop, right outside the Levers Arms.

The Levers Arms is quite a large pub, open-planned, but with three distinct areas, and very much a community feel. Usually there are two Hopstar ales (JC & guest) available, retailing at £1.85 a pint; however, this evening only *Autumn Leaves* was on tap, and sadly, it was barely drinkable: time for a short wander down the hill.

This brought us to the Farmers Arms, which is rather one large open-planned room with a small lower section in one corner for the pool table, but does boast an ice-cream parlour at the opposite end of the room. Of the three hand-pumps, for up to three rotating guest beers, again only one had a pump clip: Robinson's *Dizzy Blonde* £2.35 a pint. The beer was palatable, without being close to form; and so, it was, with disappointment, that we strolled a little further down the hill.

The Volunteer (an often GBG entry in recent years) is a free house, with central bar and distinct areas either side, that serves only Holts bitter at £1.90 a pint. The beer was fine, though it seems increasingly difficult to find it served on good form anywhere, so we lingered a little longer.

On our longest walk of the night, we checked out the Lever Bridge, which though having a hand-pump on the bar, hasn't seemed to bother using it for many-a-year.

Up the steep hill, the other side of Darcy Lever, and within 15, or so, minutes reached the Ukrainian Club, which generally offers a choice of two Bank Top ales. On this particular evening, we were presented with Bank Top *Pavilion* and Crouch Vale *Yakima Gold*, £2.25 a pint. Both beers were sampled (and re-sampled) and found to be on very good form (justifying its selection as branch Club of the Year 2011).

In conclusion: the Darcy Lever pubs, serving real ale, can be good to visit and offer real choice; we possibly hit on a more difficult night at this time of year.

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Stopes Tavern, Little Lever

The Bolton/Bury boundary actually runs through the main doorway, but once inside you are in Bolton. Take the 524 through Little Lever and alight just before you reach the Welcome to Bury sign, the Stopes Tavern is well worth a visit.

A traditional multi-roomed pub with a central bar, customers can enjoy different atmospheres depending on their mood. There is a small TV screen in one room, elsewhere a quiet lounge area, a beer garden, a dart board and a pool table.

The service is welcoming and despite the restrictions on choice imposed by the PubCo owners Enterprise Inns, the licensees at the Stopes serve some of the best Bank Top Flat Cap in Bolton and at a very reasonable £2.40 a pint. It is one of many local pubs signed up the CAMRA LocAle scheme aimed at promoting outlets which showcase locally brewed beers.

So, one night instead of sitting on your sofa drinking a can of mass-produced beer plucked from a supermarket shelf, why not try out your taste buds and take a trip out to try a quality beer made locally and perfectly dispensed just a short ride away.

A series focusing on the pubs at the furthest reaches of the Bolton Branch area.

Branch Meetings during 2012 were held at

Most dates and locations are not available

21/08/12 Kings Arms Farnworth Committee

19/09/12 Bowling Green Horwich Committee

The following pubs closed during 2012

Bromilow Arms Lostock Lane, Lostock. Delicensed 14/08/12, Landlord and owner (?) was Peter Wealthall previously delicensed 18/08/11 when landlord was Adrian Chadwick and owner Punch Taverns. It was then relicensed on 05/12/11. Planning application 90281/13 is for change of use to apartments and houses on the site.

Flying Shuttle 229, Highfield Road, Farnworth. Pub Closed 02/05/12 by Spirit Pubs who leased it from Punch Taverns. Pub was closed down by Bolton Council Licensing. Planning application 89040/12 is for a new shop front etc for the Nisa store the pub has now become. 96739/16 for conversion of part of the ground floor to be tyre fitting and car valet refused. 98133/16 planning application for a takeaway. New application 08119/20 to build 12 flats on old car park area (withdrawn) replaced with approved 10835/21 for 8 apartments and a dwelling. The local newspapers had a field day referring to it as Britain's toughest pub, which no doubt upset many other pubs including the Rocket. The pub name was also changed to the Lying Slut!

Volunteer (Green Bengal) 158 Darwen Road, Bromley Cross. Pub (as the Green Bengal restaurant) was closed 23/05/12 by Enterprise Inns. Pub is now demolished, approved but controversial planning application 92744/14 was for a Sainsbury's retail outlet on 22/12/14. The had closed as a pub in 2004 when it became the restaurant Green Bengal.

Wellington Inn 51 Bury New Rd. The pub had been previously sold by Enterprise Inns and bought by Pritesh Chauhan who refurbished the pub; however, it was listed on Pugh's Auction 29/11/12 but had been sold prior. It was delicensed on 24/01/13. Planning Application 89851/13 is for conversion to 6 self-contained flats plus an office.

Howcroft 36 Pool St. Pub closed 28/05/12 by Punch Taverns. Planning application 88298/12 was approved for 3 x 3-bedroom apartments. A rather faded Pub Sign was still at the entrance to the car park in 2024, 12 years after the pub had closed.



Queens Hotel 158, Market Steet Farnworth. Pub closed 17/02/12 by Trust Inns. Planning Application 88302/12 is for demolition of the pub and building two retail units.

Victoria British Queen 124-8 Blackburn Road. Pub closed 01/05/12 by Punch Taverns. Planning application 91470/14 is for change of use to 3 self-contained houses. Workmen were noted converting it to residential use in late 2014.

Tonge Ward Labour Club 336, Ainsworth Lane. See approved Planning Application 88759/12 now the Sensory Centre at Thicketford.

Revolution (Buffet King Restaurant, Bentleys, Chester Moonshines) 96, Bradshawgate. This nightclub bar became Buffet King after it closed as Revolution but has been empty premises since they closed in 2012, looking rather derelict now.

New Bar in 2012

Loco 25 Bradshawgate. This opened as the 101 Bar in 2012, as with many other late bars it changed its name a few times. New York New York, Corner Club, Riviera, Cocktails & Co, Luxe Lounge and finally Loco when it closed in 2023.

