

Camra Bolton Branch and its Pubs 2013

Bolton Branch Pubs included in the 2013 Good Beer Guide were

Blackrod - Poacher

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

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

Westhoughton – Robert Shaw

BEER BREAKS

Bolton Branch of the Campaign for Real Ale

The House Without A Name

Winter Pub of the Season 2012

The House Without a Name is a small pub in the village of Bradshaw, to the north of Bolton. It is the only pub with that name in the entire country, and the origins of its name are a little unclear. In 1832 two cottages were knocked together to form a brew house and the publican at the time needed a license. At the licensing hearing the judge asked him what the name would be and whether too drunk or just forgetful, he said he didn't have a name. From then onwards it became the House without a Name, although to those in the area it is known universally as The No Name.

The pub changed hands when Jon & Beth Nolan took over in March 2012, with plans to improve the pub, having spent 12 years in the trade in Bolton Centre. When they were granted the lease in August they started a full refurbishment programme reopening late September. The refurbishment went down well with locals and newcomers alike, with the general consensus being that the refurbishment was very well done and little of the original character was lost.

Jon said that the refurbishment increased the customer base and in response started theme nights throughout the week, with live music Sunday & Thursday, a quiz night Monday and a poker league on Tuesday. There are unobtrusive televisions which regularly show major sports events, particularly football. A wine list is available, which Jon has specified with knowledge gained from his time in the industry and there is a small selection of food always available.

Throughout all of the changes, one thing has remained consistent - the quality of the ales on offer is excellent. There are six hand pumps on the bar



Cliff Burgess presents Jon and Beth with the certificate

and these are rotated regularly. Three of the pumps are tied to Punch Taverns, whereas the other three are left to the choice of Jon & Beth. Robinsons Unicorn is generally on, there was a good variety of Christmas ales available and a short while ago, there was even (*whisper it!*) a cask lager available. The Lancaster 1842 Pilsner went down very well!

The dearth of pubs like the No Name is a loss to many communities and Jon & Beth have worked hard to create a proper pub for the Bradshaw area. Traditional beams, flag flooring, the restored open fire giving the house a warm, cosy atmosphere and welcome along with the good range of well kept ales, all meant that CAMRA members had no hesitation in awarding the No Name the Winter pub of the Season 2012.

www.housewithoutaname.co.uk
@HouseWithNoName



CASK ALES		
Black Sheep Best Bitter	3.8%	£3.00
Robinsons Unicorn Premium Ale	4.2%	£2.70
Dunear Bridge Brewery Rialto 47	3.9%	£2.60
Prospect Brewery Nulty Slack	3.9%	£2.60
Joseph Holts West Bitter	4.0%	£2.50
Lancaster Brewery Amber	3.7%	£2.40

Ales on the bar presentation night

BEER BREAKS

Bolton Branch of the Campaign for Real Ale

The Wanderer

Stoneclough

Having caught the last bus of the day down to Stoneclough (512 at 17:35) I start my drinking in The Hare & Hounds with a decent pint of Joseph Holt's "Bitter" and a friendly welcome. The pub is quite large and has a long central bar dividing the space into two separate, roomy areas. The pub often has karaoke, or live music, at weekends, but I'll be off to the The Grapes before then.

The Grapes, another largish pub, has a central bar around which are four distinct areas. It was already quite lively with locals, when I ordered a fine Moorland "Old Speckled Hen". A strong community feel gives the pub a welcoming atmosphere.

Next up is the Market Street Tavern, where the, nationally available, Theakston "Best Bitter" is perfectly pleasant. A smaller pub, with two, almost completely, separate sides and the bar open to each, has a more, cosy ambience.

Finally, after a little stroll to the far end of Stoneclough, I reach the The Horseshoe, which serves a good range of Thwaites beers and usually a guest ale. "Lancaster Bomber" is found to be on very good form, and though the pub is very much geared toward being a food outlet (*there is a restaurant area at the back*) the casual drinker is still warmly welcomed. The bar area, on entering, has a few bar-stools, but there are two smallish rooms to either side where one might sit with a drink and chat.



On the walk back up to the main road, for a bus, I pass by an Italian Restaurant that was, until recently, The Nelson, another lost pub; but I've enjoyed my little wander and the pubs and beer here.



BOB'S SMITHY INN & OLD FORGE RESTAURANT



With Six real ale's on all the time from:

Timothy Taylors, Bank Top, Wainwrights, Salamander, Allgates, Cottage, Blackedge, Dunsar Bridge & many more
Plus continental lagers: Mahou, San Miguel, Staropramen

NOW SERVING LUNCHEES

WED - FRI 12.00-2.30pm • SAT & SUN 12.00-4pm

OLD FORGE RESTAURANT

OPEN WEDNESDAY TO SATURDAY NIGHTS from 6pm

MID WEEK SPECIAL - 2 Courses £13.95

SUNDAY LUNCH - 12.30-6.45pm - Two Courses £12.95

1452 CHORLEY OLD ROAD | BOLTON | BL1 7PX
t: 01204 842622 | www.bobs-smithy.com

Four pubs, two presentations & a brewery visit

Gill Smart



Crown Hotel, Horwich

On a bright Saturday at the end of May about twenty of us from Bolton CAMRA met at the Crown Hotel in Horwich for a trail and brewery visit. We were there to acknowledge fifteen consecutive years in the Good Beer Guide, an amazing achievement. The Crown is a Holts pub with bitter and mild always available plus seasonal beers from the Holts range. The Two Hoots was on great form, as always, and a good way to start the day. We were also treated to a buffet lunch by the landlord Gary and Bev so thanks to them for their hospitality.

We then made the short walk to Blackedge Brewery where the brewers Wayne and Sean along with their wives Rowena and Kerry made us very welcome. The beers on offer were the superb BLACK, a rich velvety stout, a wheat beer, and BLONDe, a full flavoured blond beer. An informative tour of the brewery was given by Wayne alone with the history of the brewery and their recent

move to the new larger premises. We were able to sit outside the brewery in the warm May sunshine swapping yarns and drinking the beer. Reluctantly we left Blackedge and made the short journey to the Original Bay Horse (known locally as the 'Long Pull'). A good selection of ale with a mild, maybe Moorhouses Black Cat and a bitter, from J W Lees along with a couple of changing guests a real cider. Moving on again for another short walk, you don't have to go very far at this end of Horwich to find a real ale pub, we arrived at the Bowling Green. A good selection of ever changing real ales is always on offer with the following selection found on the bar recently Privateer Vanilla, Hornbeam Galaxy Pale and Voyager, Marble Pint and Red Bank Cider.

Finally our last port of call was the Victoria and Albert for the presentation of Bolton CAMRA pub of the year 2013, a worthy winner for the second consecutive year. We were welcomed by Dave



Blackedge Brewery, Horwich



Bowling Green, Horwich

and his staff who not only served us with beers from the ever changing range but also plied us with food. Not only was this the presentation but it was also the announcement that the V&A had become the official brewery tap for Blackedge brewery. Since Wayne and Sean started brewing in early 2011 Dave has always been the first to try out new beers from the Blackedge stable, so it seemed logical that the two businesses formed this link. Drinkers will find beer from the Blackedge range, a Moorhouses beer and three ever changing guests plus a real cider. On the bar recently were Blackedge Summer, Moorhouses White Witch, Castle Rock Harvest Pale, Deeply Vale DV8 and Golden Vale, Orkney IPA and haymaker cider.

After having our fill at the V&A most of us were ready to go home. It had been a very pleasant day spent good company with great weather added in for good measure. So good was the day that we think this will become an annual Horwich ale trail and brewery visit.



The Victoria & Albert



Gary & Bev are presented with a certificate to mark 15 years in the GBG

The Wanderer

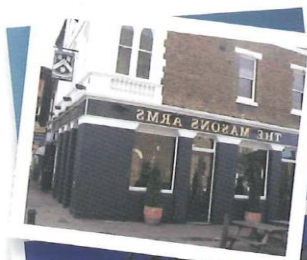
Egerton & Dunscar

The bus (No 1 {daytime} 538, or 539 {evening}) drops me off just beyond **The Cross Guns** where I begin my evening with a good pint of Morland "Speckled Hen", though Bank Top "Flat Cap" is also available. The pub has been refurbished recently and is now carpeted, but with a more modern feel, whilst generally maintaining its interior architecture. Live music is hosted most weekends in the "hidden" room beyond the lounge.

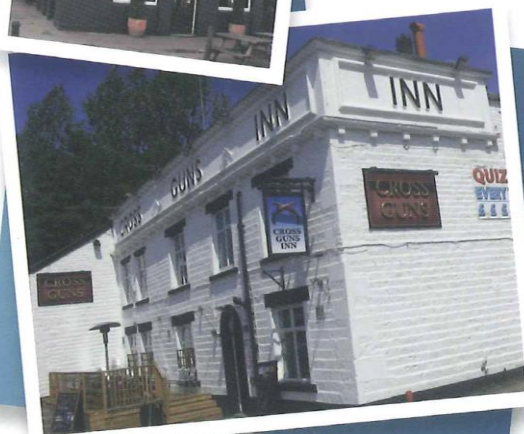
Within a couple of minutes I enter **The Thomas Egerton**, and have a choice of 3 Dunscar Bridge brewery beers: I plump for the pleasant "Bombay IPA". Again, refurbished not too long ago, there is a modern feel and the place is, perhaps, more geared toward serving food. However it's comfortable, and in nice weather there is a very ambient beer garden out the back.

It takes less than 5 minutes to stroll to the

Masons Arms, where upon entry I was faced with a choice of 4 beers (normally 2



Masons Arms



Cross Guns



Thomas Egerton

nationally available and 2 from micros). I sampled a very tasty Old Mill "Blonde Bombshell". A smaller pub than the 2 previous, it has a more traditional feel and cosy ambience.

Longest walk of the night, but less than 10 minutes, was downhill to **The Dunscar Arms**. Offering a choice of 2 beers from local micros, the Copper Dragon "Sun Chaser" was on very good form. The pub has had a checkered history of recent times, but is hopefully on the up again. Open planned with a central bar, it boasts a real fire to the right side, which is very welcoming on colder nights than this.

Finally, just across the road and up the avenue, I quickly arrive at **The Flag**, which serves a range of several beers and a couple of real ciders. I sample the very refreshing Brains "Peleton". This is an altogether different pub, with many more traditional features maintained (including the flagged floor).

A swift walk back to the main road for the bus into town; but it's been another very pleasant little wander, down through the pubs and beer on offer, Egerton to Dunscar.

REACH 6000+ REAL ALE DRINKERS & PUBGOERS

Full Page: £225 +vat

Half Page: £125 +vat

Quarter Page: £65 +vat

Book all four editions & receive a 10% discount
Free Design

To book call Capital Media on 01636 302 302

The rebirth of a local hero

The Three Pigeons is saved

Back in issue No 4 - June- August 2013 we had an article in our magazine called "Campaign Corner" which was all about saving our local pubs. We are pleased to announce that one of the closed pubs featured in the article is due to be re-opened after undergoing a £250,000.00 extensive refurbishment of the property.

The Three Pigeons on Blackburn Road, Astley Bridge fell on hard times some years ago and eventually closed its doors for good in September 2011. In the good old days this popular community pub was a thriving successful establishment but coupled with the smoking ban, beer escalator (government yearly Tax on Beer as it was) and lack of sufficient maintenance trade declined and the building became dilapidated, closed down and de-licensed. The Pub then

made its sorry way to the auction house (as many do) and then probably onto a complete change of use. Well that's what was supposed to happen until a local property developer drove past and saw the auction sign and also the buildings potential. The large and imposing building was bought prior to auction by Nick Howcroft and planning consultation was then carefully carried out in conjunction with Bolton Council Planning Department and local councilors to decide the future of the property. After much discussion it was agreed that part of this large building could be converted into "The Island Apartments" (7 separate modern apartments) and the oldest part of the property dating back to 1804 would become a new public house as the planners wanted to keep some form of retail use from the building and also valued its key Landmark location within Astley Bridge.

The new proprietor then set to work at the task in hand. The whole building is currently undergoing refurbishment and the new carefully



Lawson's Arms, pic from 1900s



Three Pigeons

refurbished historic public house will be due to re-open during 2014. Mr Howcroft himself is from a family of brewers his Grandfather & Great Grandfather owned Howcrofts Brewery on Spa Road, Bolton and exported ale as far as South Africa during the mid part of the 20th Century. Mr Howcroft currently operates the successful Henighans Chain of pubs in Bolton and once the refurbishment has been completed this Sensational New Henighans Venue will create 15 new jobs for the area, boast a great range of 6 locally brewed Traditional Ales along with a large selection of competitively priced Wines, Spirits and Lagers, the pub will even feature a themed restaurant on the first floor of the building along with regular live music events at the weekends. A new name for the Pub has not yet been decided, although many years ago the pubs original name was The Lawsons Arms named after local landowners the Lawson Family from Astley Bridge. Locals believe a former Landlord of the pub decided to change the name of the public house and mistakenly identifying the three swallows adorning the Lawson coat of arms as pigeons, hence the name The Three Pigeons. The rebirth of this local

Hero deserves a fitting name so should anyone have a name in mind please contact Henighans Freehouses through there website.

It's refreshing to know that some of Bolton's oldest pubs are getting a new lease of life and that the Bolton Community will still have places to socialize, laugh and cry in this great town of ours.

For further updates and information on developments at the former Three Pigeons please check out www.henighans.com or their facebook page.



Despite all good intentions in 2026 the pub has not yet reopened! Though the flats to the rear have been occupied for several years now, the pub area was itself available to let, in April 2025 it was under offer and showed as let in May 2025. Watch this space....

Beer, Brewery & Pub News

Congratulations to Bank Top Brewery & Blackedge Brewing Company

Sharpley-based Bank Top Brewery landed the top prize in the bottled speciality beers category with their Port O'Call ale, while Radcliffe's Brightside won the overall championship with Amarillo, an American-style single hop IPA. Irwell Works from Ramsbottom also finished third in the standard mild ales section with their Tin Plate brew.

More than 60 judges sampled the beer at the Hawkshead Brewery Beer Hall in Staveley, Cumbria where the Society of Independent Brewers and Associates (SIBA) were staging the competition.

Bank Top boss Dave Sweeney - a trustee of the North West SIBA - said in advance of the event he would be delighted if any of the local breweries received awards, and he was not disappointed.

"It's a great feeling," he said. "Everything is rosy for the micro brewers in and around the Bolton area, and it's fantastic.

"It was a massive surprise, because although we have won awards for Port O'Call before, it was the first time we entered the bottled category.

"The judging is very fair. No one knows which brewery is which when they are being tasted throughout the day, with the winners' identity only revealed at the end."

Family-run Brightside, meanwhile, were caught on the hop by their own success.

The company run by Neil Friedrich, wife Maxine, with their children Lance and Carley could not spare anyone to attend the event.

Carley said: "It was total surprise. The reason we didn't go was that we had so much going on the day before, it was impossible. Then I got a text message from someone at Irwell Works, saying we



Blackedge are presented with their SIBA certificate

had won, and we were over the moon."

The Friedrichs only started brewing beer from the back of their bakery in 2011, and have only become a full-time brewery within the last few months.

There was also a bronze for Horwich brewers Blackedge for their Black Port in the speciality beers category. Blackedge are now selling bottled ales, gift packs, branded polo shirts & glassware direct from the brewery. For details, contact the brewery - www.blackedgebrewery.co.uk

Pub & Club News

The Ainsworth Arms, Halliwell Road - the licence has been taken over from Punch Taverns by Convivial Management Services, parent company for Dunscair Bridge Brewery who are understood to be carrying out a major refurbishment to open as a new Dunscair Bridge Brewery tap house.

Congratulations to **The Dunscair Arms**, Darwen Road, on winning the Bolton CAMRA Autumn Pub of the Season award.

The Bleachworks, in conjunction with **Dunscair Bridge Brewery**, is running a competition to name a seasonal Christmas beer. The prize is two tickets to the Bleachworks New Year's Eve Ball, and a pin of Dunscair Bridge beer. For information visit www.bleachworks.com

The end for **The Red Lion** in Westhoughton looks to be near. Planning permission has been granted to open a care facility on the site, and a further application to demolish part of the pub, which has been closed for about two years, has been submitted. A decision on the partial demolition is due to be made in the new year.

Bank Top Ale House - the former Brown Cow in Horwich is currently undergoing major

refurbishment and will open in early December as the second Bank Top Brewery tap.

The Park in Farnworth – the owners, Trust Inns, have sold the pub to developers and it has closed its doors as a pub for the last time.

The Windmill in Westhoughton sold By Punch Taverns in 2012 to Platinum Projects Europe Ltd has been demolished to make way for new housing.

The **Cross Guns in Westhoughton** has been sold by Admiral Taverns to developers and is being demolished. The **Cross Guns on Deane Road** in Bolton was delicensed by owners Punch Taverns in July. The remaining Bolton **Cross Guns on Blackburn Rd** in Egerton is alive and well and has had a recent refurbishment, usually has 3 cask beers available.

The **Waggon & Horses** on the A6 in Westhoughton is closed until further notice following a change of licensee by Marston's.

The **Kings Arms Hotel** in Farnworth now has an additional handpump, bringing the total to 6. Bank Top and Cross Bay are usually on the bar, generally with beers from other local micros.

The Wellington on Market Street in Farnworth has reopened after a refurbishment and is now serving real ale, recently Thwaites Lancaster Bomber. This follows the pub being sold by Punch Taverns to Western UK Hilton Park Ltd.

The former Royal British Legion Club in

Blackrod is now open as **Heroes Bar**, serving real ale from two handpumps.

The boarded up Cattlemarket on Brunel St in Bolton was delicensed by owners Enterprise Inns in July.

The **Ellesmere Road Rec Club** is serving Real Ale, currently: Thwaites Original - 3.6% ABV, Wychwood Hobgoblin – 4.5%, Adnams Ghostship – 4.5%, Non-members of the club can sign in for £1. Contact Marcus at the club for details. Ellesmere Road Rec Club, 22 Ellesmere Road, Bolton BL3 3JT.

Latest entries to the **Branch LocAle** scheme aimed at promoting venues serving quality real ale brewed within 25 miles of the town are the **Ellesmere Club** in Morris Green, the **Fox & Stork** on Halliwell Rd, the **Hope & Anchor** at Doffcocker and the **Stopes Tavern** in Little Lever. For the full list of 22, visit the Branch website.

All Branch Pubs serving real ale and/or real cider are now listed on the new online CAMRA WhatPub database at whatpub.com and details or changes can be updated using the Submit Changes option. Camra members can sign into the site with their membership number and Postcode password and score beers whilst drinking their pint using their mobile, no need to wait until you get home. Use the search facility to find details of the nearest pubs too!

Real Cider & Perry In Bolton

When I arrived at the Greater Manchester Cider and Perry Festival in June, I was extremely surprised to discover that two of the ciders on offer were produced in Bolton. Red Bank Cider, run by Lee Thorne, went into production last autumn. Lee has used cider apples from the West Country to produce two ciders, Proper Cider at 6.1% ABV and Real Cider at 7.8% ABV. Both were available at the Cider and Perry Festival, where Proper Cider was the first to sell out and Real Cider was voted Cider of the Festival.

Lee produced 4000 litres of cider, 3000 of which have been bottled. The rest is available in 5 litre, 10 litre or 20 litre bag-in-boxes. In the Bolton CAMRA

area, Red Bank ciders first appeared at The Bowling Green, Horwich and Downtown on Bradshawgate. More recently, a specially commissioned 4.4% version has been on sale at The Levers Arms. The ciders have also been available from a number of off-licences, including Here To Please You, Manchester Rd, Westhoughton.

Red Bank ran a successful stall at Bolton Food and Drink Festival, where sales covered the cost of bottling the ciders. Lee is hoping to increase production to around 24,000 litres in this next season. The ciders also went down very well at the Bolton Lads and Girls Club Beer Festival at Bolton Rugby Club, for which Lee produced some flavoured ciders using rum and natural fruit flavourings (Note -ciders containing added flavourings do not qualify as real cider according to CAMRA's definition).

Barristers on Bradshawgate has introduced real cider - Thatchers Heritage cider is available.

If you have any info on the availability of real cider and perry in Bolton, contact Alison Whitaker, Cider Officer on cider@boltoncamra.org.uk.

The Wanderer

Little Lever

On the easterly most edge of Bolton lies the **Stopes Tavern** (served regularly by the 524 bus, every 30 minutes through the evening up until 23:45) and this is where I begin with a good pint of **Outstanding Blonde**. As you enter the pub there's a cosy parlour to your right, the tap room is to the left down to the front of the pub, and the bar, with a single hand-pump, is to the right of this. For many a year the pub has served good form **Bank Top Flat Cap**, only, but beers from Outstanding and Brightside breweries have made recent appearances. It's a lovely local, but time now to stroll, just down the road.

The **Queen Anne** is a large, imposing, **Thwaites** house, on the left side of the road heading toward the village. On entering, to the right is a large lounge area, with the tap room straight ahead to the back of the pub, but I'm going to the bar area on the left. The 3 hand-pumps serve: Wainwright as standard; Original, or Lancaster Bomber; and usually a seasonal. Can't go wrong here, as I plump for the **Little Bewdy** to enjoy the last



Henighans

tastes of summer! The pub has a community focus and various games teams; including, so I'm led to believe, a darts team for donkeys?

It's a 10 minute walk to my next port of call, **Henighans**, which is through the centre and on the right up Lever Street. This is a very open pub, with TV screens all around for the sports loving locals, who can also play a bit in representative teams. Again just the one beer, but a good **Bank Top Flat Cap** always goes down a treat.

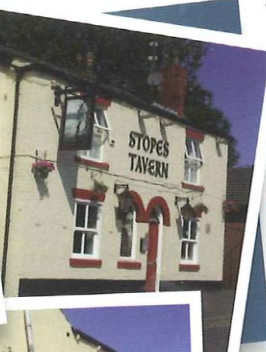
Back round the corner onto Church Street and I'm soon in the **New Inn**, which has a central bar dividing the two distinct areas of the pub. Once again it's a sports oriented pub, with a couple of large TV screens, but regularly has entertainment in the area to the left of the bar. Two beers here: **Bank Top Flat Cap** and **Holt's Bitter** are both usually served well, and I enjoy a pint of the latter.

Finally, it's a short saunter down to the **Jolly Carter**, which has come back to form over the last few months. I choose to go through the door on the right into the lounge side of the bar, which has a raised snug area and hand-pumps on that bar, though the tap room on the other side is spacious. Whilst there are still 3 hand-pumps the pub is allowed to serve only one beer, which is a rotating guest from **Bank Top**, and this evening happens to be a tasty pint of **Old Slapper**. However, as with so many pubco owned establishments, there will be a change of tenant soon (sometime in October) and we can only hope the improvements continue.

It takes 5 minutes to get across the main road and down for the bus back to town; our eastern outpost isn't "the badlands" for real ale, as it's been a very enjoyable little wander, and one worth doing again, and again, and again.



New Inn



Stopes Tavern



Jolly Carter

The Masons Arms

Egerton

Somewhat difficult to see by people passing, the Masons Arms stands on Blackburn Road in Egerton. It is part of a terrace of houses and if you have time to drop in for a pint, you step into a warm, welcoming atmosphere, where the ale was on top form on my visit.

The landlady Jolene assisted by her mother Vivien have been in charge for the best part of 10 years and have managed to cultivate a proper pub. Jolene said "We sometimes get lost in the battle of the local micropubs", although for the last world cup they decorated the exterior of the pub and won a national award, the prize for which was the only large screen TV in the place. There is one large bar in the middle of the room where the beers on offer are always Jennings Cumberland and Theakstons



Best Bitter and 2 further hand pumps which rotate with guest beers, on this occasion from Theakstons and Fullers. These beers are from the Star Pubs list to which the pub is tied. The Masons is a proper pub, where you will enjoy good beer and friendly service. Take some time to give it a try.

BRANCH MEETING Pub News including other Pub News between the Meetings

30 January 2013, Old Man & Scythe

Pub News

- Smithills Conservative Club now has 3 handpumps, although only 1 was in use at a recent visit, serving Thwaites Wainwright.
- The Lamb, Astley Bridge Richard Blagg said that he went in and spoke to the landlord who said he would get some cask ale in if he thought there was demand. Richard asked that other members should also go in to request cask ale. There is also a chance to comment online at the Bravo Inns website.
- Brierfield, Astley Bridge has varied cask ales, typically Greene King IPA, Bombadier and Old Speckled Hen.
- Spread Eagle, Eagley is now under a temporary manager and had beers from Lancaster on a recent visit, although cask ale is not always on the bar.
- Tansy Green, Brightmet on a recent visit there was no cask ale despite there being 3 handpumps on the bar.
- Bowling Green, Bury Road a recent look through window suggested Theakstons Black, XB and Lightfoot and one empty handpump.
- The Tempest, Chorley Old Rd one handpump but no cask ale
- Ainsworth Arms 6 handpumps, although on a recent visit only one real ale. The licensee had said that they were looking for new beers to try, and Bert Kerks had informed the local BLOs.
- Fox & Stork, Halliwell Rd recently had Holts Bitter and Dunscair Bridge Rialto47
- Weavers Arms (The Mop) recently has Caledonian 80/- and Theakstons Old Peculiar on the bar
- Colliers Arms, Chorley Old Rd there is a cask ale sign up outside but none on the bar at the moment.
- Blue Boar the landlord had said that there was no cask ale on in January due to lack of demand, although there may be some on later in the year.

Bob's Smithy 20/02/2013 Committee Meeting

27 February 2013, held at the Spinning Mule

Pub News

- The Windmill at Westhoughton is closed

- Greyhound at Westthoughton has no cask ale
- The Brooklyn – Bert Kerks reported that Holts Mild was being served on a recent visit and there is 20p off Mild and IPA in all Holts pubs until the end of March.
- Wellington on Bury Rd – shutters now removed
- Wellington in Farnworth – closed but not boarded up
- Clock Face at Kearsley – 3 handpumps served free from Admiral Taverns tie. On a recent visit by Graham Walsh these were Bank Top Barley to Beer, Brains SA and Hydes Finest. The licensee explained that they were hoping to buy out the lease soon so that they could refurbish the property.
- Bowling Green, Horwich is arranging to have Meet the Brewer nights soon, one with Dunham Massey and one with Privateer

The Gateway on Newport St (formerly the Clifton) is currently being converted to a Post Office to compensate for the loss of the one opposite.

The Victoria on Chorley New Rd in Horwich has a planning application to be a Nisa Supermarket. The Victoria is closed and boarded up, probably never to open again.

The Brown Cow is still open at the moment, with a short-term lessee.

The Spread Eagle in Kearsley had Cross Bay Sunset on yesterday plus another handpump with the pumpclip turned round, also a new looking Cask Ales sign outside.

The Antelope up the road is now closed and boarded and up for sale.

Apparently, Christine who runs the Bridge in Horwich has moved up to the Brown Cow. The Bridge is still open but available to let with Enterprise inns.

The Saddle in Horwich has one handpump serving Holt's IPA and sometimes Bitter. It is owned by Amber Taverns.

Bolton CAMRA Branch Pub of the Season and Cider Pub of the Year to the Bank Top Brewery Tap next Tuesday 16th April at 8pm. Everyone is welcome (encouraged!) to attend. Just turn up, support the Branch and enjoy the pub.

Paul Hartley, Bolton MBC's Conservation Manager, he was alerting me to the planning application seeking retention of the painting of the panelling in the Shakespeare. He also wanted to know if CAMRA would be attending and speaking at the planning committee meeting on 28 March which will consider the application. The branch put in an excellent objection to the application.

No Info for March as it was all hands to the handpumps at the Beer Festival

For 24 April 2013, Dog & Partridge

Pub News

- Crofters, Harwood is now called Crofters Bar & Restaurant with 2 handpumps but as yet no cask beer is available on them.
- The Albion, Moor Lane, Bolton intends to get cask beer in. Looking to have 2 or 3 on by May/June. (need to keep a check)
- Cherry Tree, Blackrod is serving Blackedge beers.
- Old Three Crowns, Bolton is serving Theakstons beer.
- Dog & Partridge, Bolton is holding mini beer festivals throughout the year as follows:

25th-27th May 2013.

8th & 9th June 2013. (Free entry)

25 & 26th August 2013.

It is hoped that they will have @16 beers & ciders on at these festivals.

- Bank Top Brewery Tap is celebrating their 3rd birthday on 4th – 6th May and hope to have available 21 different beers from 17 breweries.
- House With No Name, Harwood is having a mini beer-festival on the August Bank Holiday.
- Astley Bridge Conservative Club has no handpumps now.
- Ellesmere Club (Morris Green) has Thwaites Original on handpump.

29th May 2013, The Old Three Crowns

Pub News

- The Albion, Moor Lane now has 2 handpumps with a changing range but were Moorhouse's PoP and Flowers IPA recently.
- Wilton Arms, Belmont Rd on a recent visit they had BT Flat Cap, Oakham Citra, York Guzzler all at £3.15 a pint. The pub was owned by the ex-Mitchells Brewery in Lancaster who also had interests in York Brewery.
- Commercial on Church St, Westhoughton was closed and boarded up.
- Curley's Fishery Cafe/restaurant at Horwich is advertising Bank Top real ale, it is actually, bottles only and these are not bottle conditioned.
- Dave Sweeney said that the 3rd anniversary event at the Brewery Tap had been a great success and that the pub was very pleased with and grateful for their recent Branch awards.

The Farmers Arms (which briefly became Darcy Bistro) seems to be reverting back to a pub, that serves food rather than a restaurant with a bar!

The Landlord of Balmoral Hotel on Bradshawgate Bolton had at last after lots of trying with Enterprise Inns started selling real ales. He was limited to only Marstons ales until he could show that there is a market for them in the pub.

Crown 19/06/2013 Committee Meeting

DOWNTOWN, 26TH JUNE 2013

Pub News

Daisy Hill Hotel Westhoughton is due to close (Thwaites house with no cask)

The Queens Head in Horwich is to be closed by Star Pubs and Bars.

The Crofters in Bradshaw has Moorhouses Pride of Pendle and they are keen to put on more ales.

Ellesmere Social Club in Great Lever has 3 handpumps, recently Bank Top and Black Sheep beers were on the bar.

Fox and Stork Tavern was serving Joseph Holt Bitter, Thwaites Wainwrights with Guest Varies between: Lancaster Bomber, Bank Top Old Slapper and Golddigger

The Brass Cat on Churchgate has real ale on, Wychwood Hobgoblin and an empty handpump.

The Alexandra at Hindley Green there are 6 hand pumps but, on my visit, only average to poor beer quality.

The Clock Face is a hidden gem for real ale fans. 3 hand pumps dispensing a mix of local beers and unusual guest ales, traditional features survive inside including the multiroom layout. Speaking to Andy, who is Sam's partner, he said that he knows the bloke from Kensington Holdings who have taken out ownership of the pub. He claims that he has a few pubs around Salford and seems to buy out old Admiral Taverns pubs. He reckons that it will be staying as a pub and that they are now free of tie and may get to do the place up a bit so it should be good news (indeed they have already done some painting of the outside).

The Bolton Ukrainian Club has won the Greater Manchester Regional Club of the Year in 2013.

BOLTON UKRAINIAN CLUB 31ST JULY 2013

Pub News

- Farmer Arms, Darcy Lever - 3rd handpump now added. One Dunscar Bridge, one Timothy Taylors Landlord and one other
- House Without a Name – holding an August BH Beer Festival
- Bradshaw Cricket Club – now have 4 real ales

- Clock Face Kearsley – recent change of ownership to Kensington Maintenance Logistics Ltd, same licensee
- Finishers Arms – now £2 a pint Monday-Wednesday
- Beaumont Arms – has not had real ale for 3 weeks
- Brightmet Cricket Club – has one handpump recently doing Everards Tiger

The Sportsmans on Chorley Old Road has been closed for a while and is being refurbished. The sign on the outside has now changed to Chianti Bar & Restaurant. It's not open yet but sounds a bit upmarket for Johnson Fold.

Barristers Blackrod seems to have closed, as all signage has been taken down.

The Red Lion, Blackrod, seems only to serve real ale sporadically

THE OLD THREE CROWNS, 7TH AUGUST 2013 Committee Meeting

Agreed LocAle venues: Existing Pubs - Dog and Partridge, Brewhouse, Jolly Carter, Little Lever, Kings Arms Hotel Farnworth, Brooklyn Great Lever. The Crown Horwich, Original Bay Horse Horwich, Victoria & Albert Horwich, Bob's Smithy, Rosehill Tavern Daisy Hill, Bank Top Brewery Tap.

New Pubs for Locale = Bolton Ukrainian Club, Nicks Restaurant Chequerbent, Ellesmere Club Morris Green, Kings Head Deane, Railway Inn Farnworth. The Clock Face Kearsley, Queen Anne Little Lever, House Without A Name Harwood, Hope & Anchor, Stopes Tavern Little Lever.

Possible addition Fox and Stork

Deleted Cattle Market – no longer sells real ale, Britannia Farnworth, – no longer sells LocAle, Blue Boar – no longer sells LocAle on a permanent basis.

After extensive refurbishment The Wellington (wellie) Farnworth now open. There's 1 handpump serving Lancaster Bomber.

Also, the Park at Farnworth is back to 2 handpumps, Old Speckled Hen and Thwaites Lancaster Bomber.

The Cross Guns, Westhoughton was about to be closed as the site had been sold to developers for an office block.

Ellesmere Road Social club was selling Thwaites Wainwright, Wychwood Hobgoblin and Adnams Ghost Ship.

28th August 2013 Albion No Pub News

25th September 2013, Old Man & Scythe

Pub News

- Windmill, Westhoughton has now been demolished
- Brass Cat, Bolton has a change of management and is due to be re-opened in mid-October.

- The Flag, Bromley Cross is having a beer festival on 24th – 27th October and it will be German themed.
- The Sportsmans, Bromley Cross is having a mini ale festival in October.
- Ainsworth Arms, Halliwell Rd, Bolton has been bought by Dunscar Bridge Brewery and is being re-furbished.

THE DUNSCAR ARMS, 23RD OCTOBER 2013 Committee Meeting

There had recently been a considerable amount of work in the database for the new WhatPub database to clean up some of the data, in particular ensuring that pub co-ordinates were correct and that they related correctly to other geographic locations such as train stations. More updates were in hand and included updates on some town centre pubs and some of the more outlying pubs. The most important details are opening times and a short description of the pub. Many photographs have been added but where there are some missing, contributions are welcomed. The next step would be to cover some new real ale venues including the various clubs and also other non-real ale outlets which are not currently covered if they meet the national pub criteria.

The Victory on Chorley Old Road is closed but reopened with another new landlord.

The Daisy Hill has now reopened, but there was no cask ale that evening, though they are supposed to be doing it.

Blackrod Heroes Bar, the old British Legion Club is now open as a pub. It advertises real ale and is not a member's club anymore, It only had keg beers before.

This time from the Park, Farnworth Facebook site!

"Ok for all those who don't know, The Park will be closing its doors next Saturday (09/11/13) the pub has been sold to developers. A massive thanks too you all for all your custom and for making me welcome. I hope I made The Park a great friendly local."

The Feathers/Withins pub (Brightmet Fold Lane) is now a pizzeria restaurant called Pizza Me. but ownership is still with Enterprise as they made the application, this was the 4th change of landlord this year. I guess it is even less likely to sell cask now than when it was a normal pub, not that it had done for some time, though I think it did have an unused handpump on the bar quite a while back.

BARRISTERS BAR 30TH OCTOBER 2013

Pub News

It was confirmed that the Ainsworth Arms has been bought by Convivial Management, the owners of Dunscar Bridge Brewery

The Courtyard Bar at the Last Drop Inn is serving Dunscar Bridge Beers (although they are not always available)

The Jolly Carter in Little Lever has a new manager in place, believed to be from the Old Man & Scythe

The Waggon & Horses on the A6 at Westhoughton has a notice up saying "Closed until further notice"

Roundhouse - I have heard of this place but thought it was a club, but now seems to be a pub. It is a bit of a music venue.

Cotton Kier did have one Greene King IPA cask on the bar.

Scotts Bar exists and has no cask beer

Horwich Park - that is the Harvester but has no cask.

Beehive - has one hand pump with changing beers it was Wells Bombardier recently.

The Venue is a late bar on Churchgate, there was a new licence issued to it on 11/10/13, this is in the same premises as the 'Number 15' which was delicensed in 2010.

Tavern Fayre at Hungerhill, had the Wainwrights and 2 guests on as expected.

The Three Pigeons further down the road, had no beers on the two handpumps, but instead had two Santa jackets on them, which may be seasonal perhaps but rather odd and not what we want!

At the Beaumont Arms on Ladybridge estate this had no beers on either of the two banks of three handpumps, they do have an open application to open the pub at 8 am, though I have some doubts this will get any cask beer back on.

The Dragonfly and Capitol are included on the last tranche of Bramwell pubs to be sold by the administrator, bids are about to close! Stonegate have passed on them.

The Queens Head in Horwich is still shut. It has a sign in the window saying, "Opening Shortly". It has been there a while and there isn't any sign of activity.

The Original Bay Horse in Horwich is up for let. Eileen the landlady is not saying anything but looks like she might be leaving sometime soon, Enterprise Inns are the owners.

Bank Top Ale House in the ex-Brown Cow is not open yet but there were joiners working there all weekend. Looked like they were constructing the bar and the seating. It should be opening in 2/3 weeks though there is no pub sign outside yet.

The Brass Cat is open again. Two handpumps are still on the bar, both with turned around pumpclips.

Three Pigeons - last time I was in (months ago) it was one handpump with GK IPA, and the time before it was just a hand pump with no beer. It's more of a food place which does cask when it can be bothered.

The No Name in Harwood have an advert for staff at the Grey Mare on their Facebook page. It seems that No Name Leisure Ltd has taken over this pub too. The website says opening December.

The Crofters was in darkness as I drove past last Saturday night, I now notice in the Bolton News that this was a result of a fire the previous late Wednesday/early Thursday.

The Griffin no longer seems to do real ale, as I've called in on several occasions, but to no avail since hearing about the Doom Bar that they had on the bar for what must have been a very short period!

Dave Sweeney from Bank Top advises that the Revamp at the 'Ale House' won't be complete until late November or early December, there have been delays caused by the lack of maintenance on the building under its previous ownership, such as damaged arches in the cellar and unsafe chimney stacks. The new bar is currently being fitted followed by rest of the fittings and carpet etc.

The Brown Cow reopened last Friday (06/12/13) as the Bank Top Brewery Ale house, it now has 8 handpumps serving 7 Bank Top beers plus a guest.

Hope & Anchor 20/11/2013 Committee Meeting

SPINNING MULE 27TH NOVEMBER 2013

Pub News

The Daisy Hill Hotel is now open and is being run by the former landlord of the Grapes in Farnworth. On a recent visit there was one hand pump with Thwaites Lancaster Bomber.

The Bowling Green in Horwich is host for the launch of a new Allgates beer in association with AFC Masters Disabled Football team on 1st December.

Eileen Holden, landlady of the Original Bay Horse in Horwich is leaving on 1st December. The future of the pub is uncertain.

The Grey Mare Inn in Harwood has been taken over by the licensees of the No Name and will open again in mid-December with an increased range of real ales.

The Volunteer in Bromley Cross which has been closed for some time and is to be demolished.

The Brewhouse is to close for a short period during December to allow for the removal of the brewery equipment, to the new brewery location just up the road.

The Sportsman's on Chorley Old Rd is now Chianti's Restaurant.

The Park Inn in Farnworth is closed for good and has been sold for development.

The former British Legion Club in Blackrod has reopened as Heroes Bar and is open to all. It serves real ale but needs a survey.

The Brass Cat has reopened. On a recent visit the single handpump was not in use and the bar staff said that they have no real ale at the moment but may get some on if the price is right.

The former Cross Guns in Westhoughton is now delicensed.

Beer Breaks Guess the Pub - I doubt that anyone will get it right, I think that most Camra members will never have visited the Rocket as it has never sold cask beer in my memory and does not match the description anyway. I did visit on 31/10 on my tour of checking out about 40 of the Bolton non real ale outlets, that was a night to forget! I visited the Rocket in the summer while delivering Beer Breaks, and let's just say it was everything I expected it to be.

DOG & PARTRIDGE 18TH DECEMBER 2013

Pub News

The Branch is now 61% complete on WhatPub which is well above the threshold for green status, but urged members to continue to gather missing details on pubs.

Dan Buck who is due to open a micro-bar in the new Lifestyle Hall in Bolton Market during January. The aim is to serve a range of cask beers and bottles during the day and as late into the evening as possible on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday when the market is open.

The beers at the Hen & Chickens included a House beer which is one of those rebrands of Tetley (which itself doesn't really exist anymore so no idea who brews it and it is a concept to be frowned upon I think), Lancaster Blonde and Robinsons Unicorn. There are a couple of other Handpumps that can have others on at busier times Black Sheep Bitter was listed on the board as next on. The licensee said they had been quiet over Christmas.

Closed Pubs in 2013

Green Barn (Barristers at Blackrod) 359, Manchester Road Blackrod. Closed in August 2013 - Listed on Pugh's Auction 29/11/12 not sold listed again 18/07/13 sold prior with planning permission for 7 dwellings, guide price was £250K. Closed and signs taken down August 2013 but not delicensed until 25/02/14. Planning application 91229/13 is for demolition and replacement with houses.

Park Inn 180-182, Egerton Street, Farnworth. Closed by Trust Inns 02/11/13. The pub had sold cask beer until it closed but had reputedly been sold for development but remained advertised as being for sale during the whole of 2014. Approved Planning Application 93671/15 is for conversion to 4 self-contained flats.

Queens Head 249 Lee Lane Horwich. The pub had closed in June 2013 and had not reopened; Star Pubs and Bars were selling the pub for £150,000 by the end of the year. No longer listed as for sale 09/09/14, asking price still £150K. Beer Garden at the rear earmarked for 5 Houses according to Miller Metcalfe Commercial when being sold for £225K May 2016. Planning application 96625/16 approved for 3 dwellings in the pub 18/07/16.

Antelope Hotel 18, Manchester Road Kearsley. Closed 16/03/13 by Punch Taverns and delicensed 18/12/13. For Sale (Fleurets) Boarded up 16/03/13, now up for auction 29/11/13, sold prior to Auction. Delicensed 18/12/13 landlord was Stephen Porter and owner Punch Taverns. Planning application 92889/14 is for flats and retail units, planning permission refused 12/03/15 despite 90% of work already completed over last 12 months. Refused again on 94006/15 on 04/06/15 but approved by Planning Inspector on appeal 18/11/15.

Cattlemarket 6 – 8 Orlando Street. Closed and delicensed by Enterprise Inns 16/07/13. Planning application 91788/14 is to demolish and replace with 6 storey building with offices, retail and cafe, this was not progressed though the demolition was. 15693/23 is for a similar 6 storey building, but with 10 off 4-bedroom HMO to house overseas trainees withdrawn by applicant September 2024. Land for sale September 2025.

Church Inn (Hare & Hounds) 79-81, Market Street, Little Lever. Closed by Enterprise Inns 17/04/13. Planning Application 90546/13 is for conversion to apartment block at the rear of the pub, 90547/13 for an Estate Agency on the ground floor of the pub with flats upstairs.

Cross Guns 25-27, Bolton Road, Westhoughton. Closed by Enterprise Inns 30/10/13. Sold to Developers. Approved planning application 92067/14 to demolish pub and replace with 3 storey office building for IT support firm.

Cross Guns 272, Deane Road. Closed by Punch Taverns 24/07/13. Approved planning application 92881/14 is for change of use to Ground floor A3/A1 use with additional flat upstairs. Noted that some work began well before planning approval and some details not as approved requiring an enforcement notice. The Passion Canopy Restaurant opened 24/11/15, but didn't last long see 97938/16 for remedial works etc.

Victoria Tavern 349, Chorley New Road, Horwich. Closed by Admiral Taverns 08/05/13. Licence transferred to retail outlet from Pub; landlord was Leslie Harrison. Planning Application 56529/13 is for a number of items relating to change of use to a NISA supermarket retail outlet.

Windmill 112, Chorley Road, Westhoughton. Pub Closed 28/11/13 by Punch Taverns. Pub had been bought by developers Platinum Projects Europe in June 2012 for demolition and conversion of the site to housing. Planning application 90228/13 for apartments and houses and later 90693/13 for the demolition of the pub which was only submitted during its demolition.

Commercial Hotel 222, Church Street, Westhoughton. Closed by Trust Inns 04/10/13. Approved planning application 90814/13 is for houses on the car park, but this is not actioned. By mid-2015 Pub is now a Cost Cutter supermarket. Planning application 02107/17 is for a two-storey Physiotherapy Centre on the rear car park.

Saddle 43, King Street, Farnworth. Closed and delicensed by Trust Inns 06/11/13. Site left vacant for many years. Building work commenced 2023/24, for housing. Unable to trace Planning Application!

